

# Ramblin' Rose "Outtakes"



## The Charleston Rose Society

*A Member of the Colonial District*



Volume VII No. 2

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*Ramblin' Rose Outtakes* is an abbreviated version of the Charleston Rose Society's newsletter. Published monthly from March to June and September to December, *Outtakes* appears on the Colonial District's website. ([www.colonialdistrictroses.org](http://www.colonialdistrictroses.org))

The Charleston Rose Society, a member of the American Rose Society and part of the Colonial District, was founded in 1923. Its membership is dedicated to the growth of roses, the education of the public in rose culture, and fellowship with rose growers locally and across the country.

Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month from March to June and September to November at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Charleston and begin at 7:30 p.m. If you are interested in learning more about roses and their culture, we would like to invite you to join us at any of our meetings. If you are interested in joining the Charleston Rose Society, please contact:

Dick Hanlon, Treasurer  
Charleston Rose Society  
28 Gaylor Lane  
Charleston, WV 25312.

Membership dues for the Charleston Rose Society are \$8 for an individual and \$12 for a family. This includes the newsletter.

### ROSE OF THE MONTH

## *Hot Cocoa*



*courtesy Jackson & Perkins website*

It's been a while since I recommended a floribunda, so this month I'm going to tell you about *Hot Cocoa*. The most interesting thing about this rose is trying to describe the color.

It's been said to be smoky cinnamon, brick, russet, or chocolate-orange with a purple to burgundy cast. Whatever color it is (and I think some of it depends on weather and soil conditions), this disease-resistant floribunda sends out great sprays with dark green glossy foliage. She has a moderate fruity fragrance and repeat blooms quickly. Many of our exhibitors have this rose and even though it doesn't have the high center, it still has great garden display and competes very well.

Tom Carruth introduced this rose in 2001. Its proud parents are *Playboy x Altissimo x Livin' Easy*, and she has won many awards including the AARS in 2003. The American Rose Society gives her a garden rating of 7.9 and an exhibition rating of 7. The upright growth keeps her in her place and just for her color alone she's worth a space in your garden. I've seen her at nurseries the last couple of years and you can also find it online. Jackson & Perkins lists it for \$15.95. Every floribunda garden should include this beauty.

*Donna Smoot*



## THINGS I DO NOT UNDERSTAND



By Dick Hanlon

Why do rose cuttings that were doing well in the beginning of winter and still look good in the spring die a quick death?

It seems over the years that this disheartening loss of seemingly healthy plants has occurred a fairly large number of times to my cuttings. I usually put the potted cuttings into the ground and cover them with a mound of oak leaves. This year I had *Life Lines*, a single miniature, in a pot and kept it in the garage with frequent exposure outside. In early April, the rose looked green and a few small leaves began to appear. Almost overnight, the plant began to look sick and a few days later the green stem had turned nearly black. I took the rose out of the pot and examined the root system. All the roots were dead and looked as if they had been dead for some time. My theory is the plant had been nearly dead for a while but the stem stayed green because during its dormant period there had been no stress on the stem. As soon as it was outside in warm weather stress became a factor, the stem asked the roots for energy but since the roots were dead they could not supply any energy. The stem then used the energy in itself to try to grow. The energy lasted a few days then ran out. Is this theory worthy of a Nobel Prize for science?



Registered trademark of  
the Nobel Foundation



The last couple of weeks have been taken up with two trips to the Carolinas. The first was a non-rose adventure to Pinehurst to play golf. Two old and dear friends accompanied John & me on the trip. Warm weather, no rain, golf, beer, wine, good food, and a thousand laughs were had during the trip. I will tell my tale of a near hole-in-one and John can tell you about all my bad shots.

The second trip concerned roses. If you remember in some of my previous columns I said no more roses, I had enough, I needed to reduce the number. This was all lies! I ordered 3 roses last fall; they were replacements for 3 roses that were starting to show age. When I started uncovering my roses this spring I saw some other roses that had not survived the winter. I ordered replacements for these roses. All of the orders were from Roses Unlimited in Laurens, South Carolina. This is the nursery owned by Mrs. Pat Henry and Mr. Bill Patterson.



courtesy Roses Unlimited  
website

As fate would have it, Donna Smoot also ordered a number of roses from Pat. We decided to save the postage and go to South Carolina and pick them up. The visit to the nursery and Pat's personal garden at her home were outstanding. Eight hothouses full of blooming roses of every type & color imaginable! Needless to say we purchased more roses than we had ordered.

Pat's private garden at her home has been talked about a couple of times in the ARS magazine. The latest being the 2009 ARS Annual which described the aftermath of a violent storm last summer which destroyed a large part of Pat's property. It was amazing to see huge uprooted trees only feet from both sides of Pat's house, yet no damage to the house. It is impossible to describe Pat's gardens; they must be seen to be appreciated. Some of us have heard Pat give talks at rose gatherings, and they are always informative and enthusiastic. She will be speaking at the Atlanta national convention.

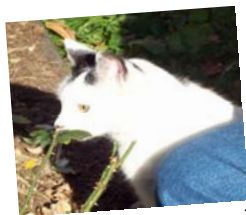
Jackson & Perkins is a part of Park Seed Company, which has recently filed bankruptcy. At this time it is too early to tell how this may affect the supply of roses from J&P. This could be one of the "big guys" in the rose industry in financial trouble.

### ***THIS AND THAT*** ***Lynda Grass***

SPRING! What a wonderful time of year, when everything is changing from brown to shades of green, forsythia and weeping cherry trees are blooming, buds are forming on dogwoods, and our roses are ready to break dormancy and reward us with beauty after a long, hard winter.



On March 27, a warm and sunny Saturday, Steven started removing the mulch from around our roses. He had already taken all of the rose cones off the plants and moved the pots in our foam box to the appropriate places around the yard. Uncovering the roses has long been Steven's purview; I don't intrude in his spring communion with his "children". But it was amazing to see how healthy our roses were after such a cold winter. So much new growth down low and basals on so many bushes! If there was ever a doubt that roses going completely dormant in the winter is the best thing for the bushes, this winter put that to rest. For the first time in many years the bushes did not have stops and starts because of warm/cold periods during the season. The snows acted as they were supposed to--as a blanket to protect the plants. Ample moisture, whether it was rain or melting snow, provided a steady water source. And the earthworms!!! I don't know who was more excited--me in seeing how many there were, or them trying to get back into the soil after being disturbed. It's just another sign that our soil is healthy and benefitting from the organics that Steven has been feeding the roses.



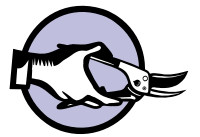
But back to Steven's uncovering: our oldest cat Spot and I stayed in the backyard for a while enjoying the sun and watching him work. When I told him we were going in, he actually asked me to stay--said he enjoyed hearing my reactions as the new growth was revealed. Sly dog; he was really flattering me so that he could launch his next salvo: "While you're out here, why don't you go ahead and help me? You're probably more careful than I am anyway." You

know what they say about flattery--it'll get you anywhere. What it got him was half his job done by someone else (shades of Tom Sawyer and that picket fence).

Last month I talked about our hybrid tea *Falling in Love* and my hope that beneath the rose cone and its accompanying mulch the canes would be green and healthy. I'm happy to report that is just what happened, along with a good deal of growth at the bottom of the canes. With the sole exception of *Shameless*, we didn't lose any roses this year. However, *St. Patrick* and *Marilyn Monroe* look a little worse for wear. These two may need to be replaced after this season is over.



On Easter weekend Steven put together his chipper/shredder. We used it to chop up the branches from our Christmas tree that had been used throughout our beds as protection for the roses. Originally the tree was a 9' Fraser fir, and the branches were reduced to perhaps a paper grocery bag of chippings. Steven can't wait to send his spring pruning waste through the chipper! He's already done minor pruning of dead canes and blind growth on some of the bushes. Getting rid of blind growth can be done at any time because it's not going to produce anything but a thick cluster of leaves that will block air flow through the bush. Since a number of our roses take a long time to re-cycle, the first pruning that they will receive will be made with the June rose show in mind. Full-scale pruning should wait until all chances of frost have passed, which is mid-April to early May in most of our area. We're a little hotter in our yard so we'll get started on the early side.



Our fertilization and spray programs are underway. The past few years Steve's really concentrated on organics, and a combination of urea and Epsom salts was put around the bushes April 1. If you garden in pots, remember that the pots only have so much dirt, and when it rains or you water, the nutrients are flushed out and therefore need to be replaced more often. Remember again that we exhibit and are striving to get the roses into great shape for the June show. If you don't exhibit, you don't need to worry about feeding until mid-April or so, and can still have a beautiful garden by feeding every two or three weeks. As for spraying, he's been at that since Easter weekend. Look elsewhere in the newsletter for his recommendations for fertilizing and spraying a non-exhibition garden.

For those of you who planted new bushes in the spring, here's a tidbit: the "experts" say that any bush that you planted this spring should not be allowed to flower until the second bloom cycle. Why? It forces the bush to produce a better root system and stronger canes if its energy isn't directed toward making flowers. So if you can stand waiting, clip (or snap) off the buds that appear on these new bushes and wait until the second cycle to enjoy the roses. Steven

has done it once or twice in the past, but since he's a member of the "I-can't-wait" club, I don't look for it to happen again!

## ***SPRAYING AND FERTILIZING REMINDERS***

*Steven Grass*

Here are some basic reminders about spraying and fertilizing your rose garden.

### **First and Foremost--Spray Safety**

1. Protective clothing **used only for spraying**: long pants, long-sleeved shirt, shoes, Nitrile gloves (get them at Harbor Freight in Cross Lanes), eye protection, and a chemical spray mask.
2. Spray only when the wind is calm.
3. Read the label on your spray products and follow them. Sometimes the manufacturer re-formulates the spray, so it's always good to re-read the label at the start of the season to make sure nothing has changed.
4. Clean your spray clothes in hot water separate from your other clothes. It's also recommended that you run your washer through a cycle with only detergent to make sure no chemicals are left behind.

**Pre-Mixed or Concentrate?** There's nothing wrong with pre-mixed if you have a small garden. Bayer has a good line of disease and insect control products in this form. You may decide to go to concentrates that have to be mixed with water and used with a sprayer if you have a larger garden because of cost efficiency. Use only as directed and at the intervals recommended. Some materials can be combined to address particular problems, but never mix more than three concentrates at once. A word of warning about sprays in cans--hold away from the bush at the recommended spacing. The propellant used in the can will burn your foliage. Bottles with triggers do not use propellants, but follow the directions on the bottle.



**Water:** Your roses should be watered the day before spraying to ensure they are hydrated and will not suffer spray burn. If you've had a good deal of rain that week, you're probably good to go.



**Recommended Products:** Surface disease controls--Funginex® and Mancozeb; systemic--Immunox®. Insecticides--Malathion, Isotox, and Bayer Complete Insect Killer™. All can be purchased at your garden centers (use insecticides when you have a problem and only until the pest is gone). Insecticidal soaps are a good choice for certain pests, and a good blast of water under the leaves for spider mites is always acceptable.

**Fertilizers:** Water the day before applying fertilizers so that the roots aren't dry (roots can also burn!).

Fertilizing twice a month (every two weeks) is sufficient. Miracle-Gro® (or KGro from K-Mart) is a good product (you don't need to purchase the rose formulation). The next feeding should be two weeks later and should be something different, such as fish emulsion or Mills Magic Mix (or some other type of organic). Using organics helps keep your soil from being depleted of nutrition. Organics also last longer because they depend on soil organisms to break them down. There's nothing wrong with using Osmocote® to cut down on feeding frequency. Remember that roses are heavy feeders and that you may need to apply the Osmocote® a little more frequently (every two months instead of three), especially if we have had a lot of rain. Organic products and water-soluble fertilizers can be found at your garden center. Mills Mix must be ordered from Beaty Fertilizer or through the rose society.



You can have a beautiful rose garden by using these basic spray and fertilizing tips. If you have a specific question or problem, remember to talk to your society's consulting rosarians. They are a free source of valuable information!