

Ramblin' Rose "Outtakes"



The Charleston Rose Society

A Member of the Colonial District



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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)

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

Playboy



courtesy Regan Nursery website

I can't believe I haven't told you about *Playboy*. It is close to being my all-time favorite floribunda, and one of the few roses that I have two bushes of. *Playboy* is a great rose; whether you exhibit or just want abundant garden display, he delivers. Classically pointed red buds open to a carnival of color from the orange stamens surrounded by a large golden yellow eye up to an orange and red-rimmed petal, he screams, "Look at me!" He has seven to ten petals that repeat generously all summer long. The dark green glossy leaves contribute to the disease resistance. My bushes get between three and four feet tall. In the fall when you stop deadheading you get beautiful orange hips.

Playboy was hybridized by Cocker in 1976 and is a cross between [*City of Leeds* x (*Chanelle* x *Piccadilly*)]. It won the Portland Gold Medal award in 1989. He has parented many great roses (not all by the same mother). The ARS gives him an 8.4 rating and he has an apple rose scent that's nice. You can get this great rose through Lynda Grass at Moffet Roses for the bargain price of \$12.95. He is flamboyant, good looking and single. He should be in every garden and I love having him in mine.

Donna Smoot



THINGS I DO NOT UNDERSTAND



The rose season has ended and it is time to begin winterizing your roses. I have had 5 or 6 hard frosts, so my roses are starting to go dormant. I have pruned and semi-winterized my miniatures but have not done anything to any of the other roses. I will probably start the remainder of the process around Thanksgiving.

I am recommending that every member of the society read the article in the ARS yearbook written by Gary Barlow. This article is about the recollections of the past nine presidents of the ARS. The article brings up some past decisions made by the Board of Directors that in hindsight might not have worked out as well as anticipated. Membership and lack of money are threads that tie the nine presidents together.

I sat down about a week ago and ordered roses for 2011. I told myself in 2009 that I had enough roses and should start cutting back. I did not listen to myself and in 2011 will have more roses than space in the yard. Maybe some will die over the winter! The newly-ordered roses plus some cuttings I started this summer will number about 15 roses. Maybe pots are my only solution to too many roses.



I was very successful this year with getting cuttings to grow into real rose plants. The use of weed-block in the bottom of the pot seemed to be one of the reasons for the success. The bottom of the planting medium seems to retain more moisture with the weed-block in the pot. I enjoy trying to propagate roses from cuttings, and with rose suppliers becoming a lost industry this technique may be the only way to obtain some of the older roses.

The first article that I wrote this year promised to have a Howard Walters' adage in each monthly newsletter. The promise was not kept because it was forgotten, so here are three to partially keep the promise. "It's impossible to make anything foolproof since rosarians are so ingenious", "The trouble with good advice is that it usually interferes with our plans", and "The rains that nourish the optimist's roses brings out the pessimist's blackspot".

Dick Hanlon



THIS AND THAT

Lynda Grass

I am happy to report that on the mornings of November 7 and 8, we had a heavy frost in our yard. I don't remember us having frost this early on our roses in years, and certainly not two days in a row! We normally prune our roses back for winter the week of Thanksgiving, and this year it will be less traumatic (for me) because I'm pretty certain that they won't be blooming and shooting out new canes by then.

Our *Randy Scott* hybrid tea put out two huge canes a few weeks ago, and we have several other bushes that are doing the same thing (or trying to). It's always a welcome sight to see your roses healthy and responding to your care, but when it happens this late in the year you know that you're going to suffer some loss because of the cold. We have had some powdery mildew these past few weeks because of the day/night temperature fluctuations, but for the most part our roses look healthy and ready for a few months of rest.



There are three minis/minifloras planted together here, still in their pots. The white you see at the arrows is frost.



Steve's already "planted" a number of potted roses that he purchased at the District and National shows. He put pot and all into the ground, will mulch them heavily, and most likely put a Styrofoam rose cone over them for the winter months. In the spring, he'll unearth and un-pot them and put them into a permanent place in the beds. This should allow the root system to establish itself and get a headstart for the growing season.

This is also the time to think about rejuvenating your beds. That could mean something as simple as aeration by sticking a pitchfork into the soil throughout the beds, or as complex as a wholesale rose and soil removal, with new soil and amendments and replanting the bushes. If you have a bed of roses that just doesn't seem to be producing as well as it should (or did in the past), take the time to cast a critical eye on the bed, the roses, and your practices for the past year. A small adjustment can make a big difference. Last year we moved our *Bill Warriner* floribunda to another bed entirely, and he responded very well to that change. He had been planted between *Sandra* and *Lynette*, two tall, full-bodied ladies that were overshadowing his growing space. Moving him into the other bed allowed him more room to breath and grow, and he's given us more canes and blooms this year than he has the past several years.

Check your pH and amend accordingly, and once all your pruning and adjusting are done; don't forget to spray your bushes and beds with a combination product of lime sulfur and oil to smother any insects that may be lurking. Put a good layer



of mulch over your plants and provide some extra cover to those that are winter tender (all yellow roses are suspect in that regard!). And just because the roses are dormant doesn't mean you can stop thinking about them altogether. They're going to need water if we don't get rain and/or snow throughout the winter months.

Bring roses that you want to try to find new homes for to this meeting.

Look at the Moffet Nursery list to see if they have any roses that you want me to order for you--I'll place my final order at the end of November.

Please mark your calendar for December 7, the evening that we will get together for our Christmas dinner at the church. Call Phyllis McFadden (304.727.4881) to let her know how many will be coming and what you're going to bring. We won't see one another again until March, so make sure that you come out to the meeting on the 23rd and the Christmas dinner on the 7th!

Donna Smoot will be talking to us about winter protection and putting our roses to bed, and since I'm bringing the snacks, I would imagine it will include something chocolate.

Hope to see you on Tuesday (with a friend or two).

Lynda Grass



Marlon's Day

Happy Holidays

