



NEWSLETTER

of the

VIRGINIA PENINSULA ROSE SOCIETY



President – Sandy Pait
First Vice President – Robert Little
Editor – Lydia Simpson

February 2010

<http://www.colonialdistrictroses.org/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/2010vprsFebruary.pdf>

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2010 Meeting Dates :

February 7
March 7
April 11
May 2
May 15 – Rose Show
June – Picnic
September 12
October 3
November 7
December 5

February Meeting Hosts

Cathy Allsbrook
Bonnie Bernard
Terry and David Cottrell
Marie David
Sheila Elliott
Bill Floyd

Cups, plates, napkins, and utensils are furnished. You may choose to bring cold drinks, something sweet, or something salty, let your imagination be your guide.

The next VPRS meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, February 7, 2010**, at ‘The Woman’s Club of Newport News’. Please join us to share rose information, refreshments and fellowship. Feel free to ask questions and bring a friend.

Directions from I-64: Take Exit 258 A – Route 17 West / J Clyde Morris Blvd. Follow J. Clyde Morris Blvd. crossing Jefferson Ave. The Virginia Living Museum is on your left before the bridge. The entrance to the Woman’s Club, a one-story brick building, is to your right at the next traffic light, directly across from Riverside Hospital.

February 7, 2010

2:00pm

Board Meeting

3:00pm

“Soil Conditioning”

with Liz Witkowski of Rich Earth®

Refreshments will be available after the meeting, see side panel

From the President’s Desk:

Happy New Year!

I hope you all are surviving the cold weather. It sure has put a hold on cleaning up the garden. But I am enjoying the new flood of garden catalogues and planning for new roses to add to the garden.

I have heard from John Fleek about the Pre-Spring meeting. It will be held March 19-20 in Staunton at the Quality Inn. It will be a smaller event, but will include interesting workshops and judge recertification. Watch for all the details in the Colonial Courier due out the first of February.

Remember that we are beginning a new refreshment schedule, so be sure to check the schedule in the bulletin. I look forward to seeing all of you February 7th.

Sandy Pait

From the Refreshment Chairperson:

The Virginia Peninsula Rose Society Board discussed, and the membership approved the assignment of refreshment hosts for the 2010 meetings.

The names of the Society Members are divided into six groups. Each group will be responsible for refreshments once during the year. Hosts for each meeting will be listed in the left margin.

Please call the Refreshment Chairperson at 596-6452, if you find that you will NOT attend that day.

Virginia Kostyal

Donation Corner

"King Level"

Carole and Wiley Waters
in memory of Mr. Smith

for more information see insert in this newsletter

Rosy Dates to Remember

Any articles, committee reports, or notices
you wish to be included in the newsletter,
must be submitted to the Editor by the
15th of the month.

April 27 – May 2, 2010 – ARS
Spring National Convention,
Shreveport, LA. Contact: Mary
Walker, 318-965-4153,
marycookwalker@bellsouth.net

May 15, 2010 – VPRS Rose Show
Patrick Henry Mall, Newport News,
VA, more information to follow in
next newsletter

Roses

By Lynn Baraney

The brilliant red of the roses
Touched by the morning dew
Beckons to the passer-by
To stop and enjoy the view

Beside the other flowers -
They really can't compare -
No one ever looks at them
But for the rose,
they stop and stare

Its fragrance is far superior
To any of the rest
Its color so enriching
When put to any test

So when you gather roses
Your hands get scratched
and torn
Remember,
beauty can be shallow
Embedded with prickly thorns

GARDENING TIPS OF THE WEEK

Bulb Storage: Although too late for this year, here is an easy way to remember the exact color of your flowering bulbs. I match paint color samples/swatches to the color of each flower and place them beside the bulb in my storage container.

Submitted by smalough

Organizing Seed Packets I always put a mailing label on the outside of my seed envelopes, mark the date they need to be planted by, and whether or not the seeds should be soaked to quicken the seeding process. Then I file them in a box by the date they should be started.

Submitted by Cheryl

Tips to Share

by Charles Shaner, Staunton, VA

Great article by Mary Peterson in the ARS January issue "The Dreaded "S" Word". Not only does the dreaded "S" word have a sociological effect on people joining a "society" but also the work involved in growing roses. I can count the number of times I have heard the comment "I don't have all that time". I tell them you attend meetings, listen to the experiences of others, and you develop ways to do the job faster with more efficiency and with less expense.

One of those jobs is feeding roses. We have put so much into it we sometimes forget the basics. Many people do not like to use chemicals and some states have put tight restrictions on the use of them. Chemical fertilizers also contain a high amount of salt. This is where we need to get back to the basics. I live in the Chesapeake Bay water shed area so we have to watch the use of chemicals and manures to a certain degree.

My father was a farmer during the Great Depression where many lessons were learned. He passed many of those lessons on to me like the use of manures. These are very inexpensive and if you visit your local farm, they may even be free for the asking. Just be sure you get the manures that have been around for a while and not the fresh. I blend my own organic rose foods. Most of the ingredients can be found at the farm feed store or garden center. Items such as Alfalfa Meal, Fish Meal, Cotton Seed Meal, Bone Meal, Dried Blood, and Magnesium Sulfate (Epsom salts) can usually be found at a much lower price in larger quantities. My wife thought I was crazy when I purchased a small cement mixer to blend these in. With it, I can blend enough organic food to feed about 150 roses in less than a half hour. Dumping it into a construction wheel barrow, I can push it around and apply it to my roses with very little effort and time. My roses love it and it is safe for the environment. Organic foods can also be applied anytime and usually without the danger of burning. There are times we just need to stop and take a step back to the basics.

Valentine's Rose Trivia

People have been passionate about roses since the beginning of time. In fact, it is said that the floors of Cleopatra's palace were carpeted with delicate rose petals.

It is said that Cleopatra knew full well the seductive power of roses. When she entertained Mark Anthony on her barge, Cleopatra made sure he was surrounded by the fragrance and extravagance of the flower. Being an extravagant person, Cleopatra had the banquet tables scattered with roses, the floors covered 18 inches deep in petals, the couches lined with rose-filled mattresses, and rose-filled net bags were used as cushions for the two lovers. And speaking of extravagance... the governor of Sicily Cornelius (106 – 43 B.C.) was known for his luxurious living - he used to tour the country sitting on cushions that were stuffed with roses, wore wreaths of roses on his head and around his neck and had a fine-mesh linen bag filled with roses tied under his

Consulting Rosarian Corner

Getting Your Roses Off to a Growing Start in the Spring

by Marie Iannotti

Growing roses is not as difficult as we've been lead to believe. Roses will keep growing and blooming even if gardeners neglect them entirely. But they do benefit from some TLC and the efforts you make in caring for your roses in the early spring will mean that many fewer problems to tend to during the growing season.

Remove Winter Rose Protection

The first thing you'll want to do for your roses in the spring is to remove any winter rose protection you did last fall. Rake off any soil or mulch you used to protect the graft union and rake up and remove any debris or leaves you used to insulate the bushes for winter.

Spring Pruning of Roses

Not all types of roses need to be pruned, other than for clean-up and size control, but if you are going to prune your roses, early spring is the perfect time. Pruning before the leaf buds open causes the rose bush to put its full energy into new growth. Whatever type of rose you are pruning, early spring is the ideal time. Of course, early spring is different in different areas... Once the leaf buds begin to swell on the bush, it is safe to prune. This usually happens about the time the Forsythia starts to bloom.

Spring pruning in warmer climates can start as early as January. Gardeners in areas that don't necessarily freeze during the winter but still have a prolonged period of cold weather can prune according to the type of rose they are growing.

Another technique that gardeners in these areas can try is to remove all the leaves from their rose bushes when they do their spring pruning. This fools the rose into a brief period of dormancy and lets it start fresh for the season. It's also a good way to insure you get rid of lingering diseases and insect eggs. Be sure to rake and remove all debris from the rose bed.

Feeding Roses in Spring

As with most plants, roses enjoy a good feeding in the spring, when they are actively growing and need the nutrition. You can give them their first feeding at pruning time. There are several good all purpose rose foods that you can use, but a general all purpose fertilizer will also suffice. Slow release fertilizers will need to be applied less frequently than water soluble fertilizers. Many rose gardeners also like to give their roses a handful (about 1/4 - 1/2 C.) of Epsom salts at feeding time. Whether the extra dose of magnesium really benefits the plants has never been proven, but many experienced gardeners swear by it.

If you prefer to mix your own rose food, members of the Rose Society share several of their own recipes. For established rose bushes, balance ingredients such as:

- ? 1 C. Cottonseed Meal
- ? 1 C. Bone Meal or Superphosphate
- ? 1/2 C. Blood Meal
- ? 1/4 C. Epsom Salts

Spread the mixture around the perimeter of the rose bush, at the drip line, and gently scratch it into the soil. Water thoroughly.

Spraying to Prevent Rose Diseases

The one point where roses tend to live up to their troublesome reputations is their proclivity for fungus diseases. Hopefully, you've chosen roses that are disease resistant and suited to your area. But a preventative spraying in the spring is something to be considered, even for roses grown organically. Lime sulfur is a good choice for spring spraying. It will generally kill any fungus spores of black spot or whatever, that may have over-wintered. An additional spray of horticultural oil will help to smother any insect eggs and larva. There is also a product called Messenger® that is called a plant health activator. It is an all natural product that works especially well on members of the rose/apple family. Messenger tricks the plants into thinking they are under attack and they respond by boosting their immune system. Recent studies have shown it to be very effective in preventing common rose diseases.

These spring rose care efforts should get your roses off to a good, healthy start for the season. Other than the above steps, make sure your roses get plenty of water and monitor them regularly for signs of problems. They should reward you all season for the care you took in the spring.

Rose of the Month



Hybrid Musk, Noisette, [R. moschata nastarana](#) [R. pissartii](#)

Nastarana was introduced in 1879. It is also known as the *Persian Musk Rose*, *Rosa moschata nastarana*, and *R. pissartii*. It is described in **Modern Roses XI** as "flowers white tinged pink, blooms in clusters on new wood, semi-dbl, 2 in., recurrent bloom; very vigorous growth," probably an early cross between *R. chinensis* and *R. moschata*. The American Rose Society classifies **Nastarana** as a Noisette and gives it a rating of 8.7, an excellent rose, and one of the top-rated Old Garden Roses. There is a related rose, *Narrow Water*, which is often identified as a pinker sport of **Nastarana**. While this is a familiar rose to me and is often grown by OGR fans in the Atlanta area, I found surprisingly few authors writing about it, and among them, very different descriptions of its size, ranging from 3' in Texas to 20' in England. I

wonder if they were even growing the same rose! Roy Shepherd in **History of the Rose** described it as, "a geographical variety of *R. moschata* that originated in the mountains of Persia and was very popular in old Persian gardens, where it was known as **Nastarana**. Somewhat more vigorous than *R. moschata*, but such a profuse bloomer. The white, pink-tinged blossoms are about 2 inches in diameter. Hips are similar to those of *R. moschata*." Peter Beales in **Classic Roses** noted that it was "similar in many respects to *R. moschata* but more vigorous in growth and with more numerous, smaller leaves. Flowers, although similar in form to those of the species, are slightly touched with pale pink, and can be fractionally larger in some ideal situations. Flowers are provided well into autumn." --- William Welch in **Antique Roses for the South** described "large clusters of medium-sized, pure white, fragrant flowers... produced almost constantly on this upright, three-to-four foot plant.... The fruit is orange-red when ripe and occurs in large clusters. Although susceptible to mildew and black spot, **Nastarana** is a tough and attractive rose that blooms continuously and prolifically." Liz Druitt and Mike Shoup in **Landscaping with Antique Roses** said, "It is not difficult to grow and blooms quite steadily with semi double, flat, pure white flowers that open from clusters of pink buds. The fragrance is completely of musk, very earthy and intoxicating, highly suggestive of the gardens and covered markets of the Middle East. **Nastarana** is well worth planting in a spot where it will be noticed often and its fragrance will not be wasted." --- For us, **Nastarana** has been a durable, forgiving, and above all a fragrant addition to our garden. Of our two bushes, one used to grow in deep shade, where it was leggy, very tall, almost a climber, and bloomed infrequently; that bush has since been moved to a sunnier location, where it happily sprawls in a 4' x 6' mound and blooms repeatedly through the summer. The other gets more sun, but also gets whacked periodically to keep it out of my way when I'm mowing, and still ends the summer over 7' tall. It grows next to and intertwined with our bush of *R. moschata plena*, where the two bushes are remarkably similar in foliage, hips, fragrance, and vigor. **Nastarana** blooms with big clusters of single to semi double flowers that have a lovely fragrance that reaches out to attract your attention. When I don't manage to keep it deadheaded (which is hard, because it's always in bloom), it produces sprays of attractive hips. This rose is an asset in any garden!

Submitted by Bobbie Reed



Virginia Peninsula Rose Society
Editor
10 Rose Lane
Hampton, VA 23664-1842

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Address Correction Requested

First Class Mail

V.P.R.S. Consulting Rosarians

American Rose Society certified Consulting Rosarians
with the objective to assist others in growing better roses

Helen Hill	Hampton	757-851-6057
Jack Holland	Hampton	757-723-1618
Robert Little	Hampton	757-851-1140
Joy Long	Hayes	804-642-4556
Jackie Willis	Merry Point	804-462-7069
Virginia Kostyal	Newport News	757-596-6452
Lois Lilygren	Newport News	757-877-4498
Pat Wilson	Norfolk	757-853-0621
George Wilson	Norfolk	757-853-0621
Terry Cottrell	Richmond	804-271-6600
David Cottrell	Richmond	804-271-6600
Carole Waters	Seaford	757-988-8746
Howard Jones	Virginia Beach	757-481-4158
Marti Youmans	Yorktown	757-867-5566

Next Meeting: February 7, 2010