



# NEWSLETTER

of the

## VIRGINIA PENINSULA ROSE SOCIETY



**President – Sandy Pait**  
**First Vice President – Marti Youmans**  
**Editor – Lydia Simpson**

**March 2010**

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

### 2010 Officers

President	Sandy Pait
1 <sup>st</sup> VP/Programs	Marti Youmans
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP/Membership	Margie Tully
Treasurer	Lydia Simpson
Recording Secretary	Jeannette Parsell
Corresp. Secretary	Lita Dick

### 2010 Directors

3 year Directors  
 Bob Little, Dick Parsell

2 year Directors  
 Joy Long, Cathy Allsbrook

1 year Directors  
 Wiley Waters, Carole Waters

### Honorary Directors

Helen Hill, Janet Kosidlak,  
 Virginia Kostyal, Annemarie Parker

### 2010 Meeting Dates

**April 11**  
*Inventive Arranging Containers*

**May 2**  
*Rose Show Prep*

**May 15 – Rose Show**

**June – Picnic**

**September 12**  
*Arranging the ARS way*

**October 3**  
*Fall Rose Care*

**November 7**  
*Winterizing your Roses*

**December 5**  
*Christmas Luncheon*

**Love thou  
 the rose,  
 yet leave it  
 on its stem.**

Edward G Bulwer-Lytton

The pruning session, our next VPRS meeting, will take place on **Sunday, March 7, 2010** at 'The Huntington Rose Garden' in Newport News, VA, at the intersection of Warwick Blvd. and Mercury Blvd.

**Directions to the Huntington Rose Garden from I-64:** Take Exit 258A – Route 17 West/ J. Clyde Morris Blvd. Follow J. Clyde Morris Blvd., across Jefferson Ave. to Warwick Blvd. and turn left. Follow Warwick for about 7 miles to the YMCA. The garden will be on your right.

### **March 7, 2010**

**2:00pm                      Pruning in 'The Rose Garden at Huntington Park'  
 with Carole and Wiley Waters**

**Please bring your gloves, disinfected rose pruning tools, and be ready to show the public how to prune. Please bring any extra pruning tools you may have**

### From the President's Desk:

What a month. I am ready to move further South!!

I hated to cancel our meeting, but I talked to several board members to check the conditions in Newport News and we decided it was the best thing to do. We were unable to secure the Women's Club for the next two Sundays so we could not reschedule.

The executive board did meet and we had a very productive meeting. We are now asking for your help with several upcoming events.

First, I hope that all of you will be attending the pre-spring meeting in Staunton on March 19 – 20. The application form is attached with this newsletter; should be a great time.

Secondly, we have decided to support two events with educational booths, the York County Master Gardener Plant Extravaganza on March 13 and the CNU Gardening Symposium on April 10. Margie Tully is coordinating these events and would love you to give her a call and volunteer for a two-hour shift. This is a great way to spread the word to the public - do please check your calendars and help us out.

It is our turn to help out with refreshments for the Peninsula Garden Club meeting on March 12. I am looking for a few people to make some desserts – cookies, brownies or whatever. If you can do this please give me a call and we will talk about how we can connect and get them to the meeting.

We spent a lot of our time at the board meeting working on the Rose Show, May 15. Dick Parsell has agreed to chair the event again this year, and he will present a new, slim and trim, format for us. Stay tuned for all the exciting news.

Let's all cross our fingers for good weather for our pruning clinic on March 7 from 2 -4 pm at Huntington Park. Bring your clippers, loppers and a friend!! See you there!!!

Sandy

P.S.: Please welcome new member Catherine Cole, and returning member Herb Hotchner.

## Gifts & Contributions Corner

The Virginia Peninsula Rose Society accepts donations to further the knowledge of roses among the public. The names of contributors will be listed in future newsletters. The Virginia Peninsula Rose Society is a 501 C-3 non-profit organization and any donations are tax deductible, (but not your membership).

*“Princess Level”*

Dr. Margie Tully

---

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.*

---

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

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

---

## Rose and Thorns

By Leah

The things that life consists of include both roses and thorns.

Some claim to have more briars from the very day they were born.

There are those who enjoy roses, whose life blossoms day after day.

They have not yet reached the thorns that mark their path along the way.

For most, there are some good and bad, which can be expected by everyone.

So be thankful for the smallest rose and place less emphasis on the thorns.

## GARDENING TIPS OF THE WEEK

from Marie Iannotti

I know the poem claims that April is the cruelest month, but I've always thought it was February. For a short month, it can feel like forever. Good or bad, nothing lasts forever; February and the 'winter of 2010' are fast becoming a memory. I hope you are all as ready for a sunny spring as I am.

**"Take Out" Tray Mini Greenhouse:** Yesterday I started my Tomato Seeds in one of those little cartons that you get from restaurants for left over meals. It has a clear plastic top and makes beautiful miniature greenhouse. Seeds that take 10-14 days usually have seedlings three days sooner when you moisten the potting soil and place the greenhouse in the sun. I did this last year and had a great deal of success. *Submitted by Butchrgt*

**Greenhouse Prep:** It's time to remember to change the anchor ropes on those little starter greenhouses. They will have lost all their strength. If you are in an area that is at all prone to wind, consider using two pieces for each or heavier gauge clothes line. A heavy gust broke mine and toppled the rack and I lost almost everything using single lines. That is how I learned. *Submitted by CtheBear*

**Cabbage Moth Organic Control:** Cabbage butterflies are controlled organically by placing a potted plant of rosemary in the middle of a small cabbage patch. A larger cabbage patch may require two rosemary plants. The volatile oil in the rosemary leaves repels the adult cabbage butterflies, deterring them from laying eggs on the cabbage leaves. *Submitted by alslinkard.*

**Clean Up the Road:** I live in an area where they use salt and road grit to treat the roads where ice and snow are a hazard. The road grit is very small tiny stones. In the spring I shovel up the remaining road grit and use in my natural walkway, instead of pea gravel, it works great, and removes the grit from the road where I live. I clean up the road, making it less likely to slip when riding a bike or motorcycle. *Submitted by deeb3178*

**Hose Guards on a Dime:** In my veggie garden I need A LOT of hose guards. It would be out of the question to use "purchased hose guards". I use two different sizes PVC pipes, one inside the other, the outer one shorter, to let the hose glide across it. I cut (with the proper cutting tool) the inside pipe on an angle so it's pointy making it easier to be hammered into the ground. I used to spray paint them, but since I use so many it was too time consuming. Plus, the paint chips off easily so I don't bother. This makes a huge difference, lowers my frustration when I need to drag the hose through the garden, which is more than once a day during the growing season. I find many reasons to drag a hose in and through the garden other than just quenching the plants thirst. I also make them a little taller than the purchased ones. I like them taller so I can see them and not trip over them. That lesson was learned the hard way.

*Submitted by Kim Whitehead*

---

## FOR THE BEGINNER

Q: Why is it necessary to prune rose bushes?

A: First, to remove dead or diseased or damaged canes (often called wood); second, to remove canes or branches that interfere with others; third, to shape the plant (especially Floribundas) or to keep it in proportion; fourth, to prevent excessive wind-whipping in the winter to spring change of seasons; fifth, to keep plants in bounds (as in the case of climbing roses whose long canes would outgrow the space available); and sixth, to remove suckers or wild shoots.

Q: When should roses be pruned?

A: Prune away dead wood, broken or diseased branches at any time. However, a general program of pruning should be undertaken in spring. After exposure to winter wind and cold, there is always some "dieback" in spring. In Fall, when plants go dormant, it is wise to cut back branches and canes if they are especially long to prevent too much whipping by the wind. Floribundas, for instance, ought to be cut back to 20 inches above the ground. It is not good practice to cut back too much wood in Fall.

Q: My roses were planted last Fall. Shall I prune them this spring?

A: In spring, always prune back to live wood; that is, remove all dead wood - canes that are brown on the inside - and any broken branches.

# Consulting Rosarian Corner

## EQUIPMENT CARE

by Steven Grass- Consulting Rosarian – Charleston, WV.

**It's March ...**do you know where your pruners are? How about your sprayer? And what condition did you leave them in at the end of the rose season? When the final pruning was done and the dormant oil sprayed, did you clean your pruners and sprayer? Or did you put them in the spray shed or some other dark place with every intention of doing so, but didn't? Now is an excellent time to get them out and give them a good going over before you actually need to use them.

**Pruners**--Take your pruners completely apart and clean the blade and other metal parts with coarse steel wool (an SOS pad works well also). I also used a steel brush (similar in size to a toothbrush) a few weeks ago on a pair of pruners to clean rust from the handles, and it did an excellent job. To sharpen the blade, use a fine metal file or diamond hone at the top of the blade along its length, and then turn the blade over and make a few light passes on the back to remove any burrs. Reassemble, and put a light coat of oil over the metal surfaces. Do your blades actually meet for a proper cutting surface? You might need to replace them if they have been worn away from years of sharpening. A crisp cut is important to prevent damage to the canes. Your local garden centers most likely have a good selection of replacement parts for Felcos; check them out.

**Sprayer**--Next, get out your sprayer. If you have deposits in the bottom of your tank, mix up enough of a 50/50 vinegar-and-water solution to cover the bottom of the tank, and let it sit overnight. This should remove most, if not all, of the deposits. Rinse the tank well. Take the spray wand apart and lubricate all o-rings and gaskets with petroleum jelly to keep them from drying out and becoming hard and brittle. You can buy a small sample-size tube of petroleum jelly at the drug store for 25¢ to use specifically for this purpose. A Q-tip is useful in applying the petroleum jelly to the gaskets and o-rings. Q-tips are also useful in cleaning the spray tip and other small places that are otherwise difficult to clean. Replace the o-rings and gaskets if necessary, lubricating them as you go. It's also not a bad time to assess your spray materials, the condition of your spray gloves, and your supply of filters for your spray mask.

**Chemicals**--A good rule for chemicals is to date the bottle upon opening. Make sure that you dispose of old chemicals properly if you feel that they are no longer viable. To prevent carry over, I purchase sprays in the smaller sizes, and normally use them within the growing season. This eliminates guessing about their strength. If I had sprays that were over two years old after opening, I would most likely dispose of them. Perform a hard assessment of the chemicals that you used last year. Did they really work in your garden? Are you using something that hasn't performed well simply because it's worked for someone else? Your garden has its own microclimate; things that are effective elsewhere may just not perform well for you. I have used Immunox the last few years to control blackspot, and it has worked very well for me, but many others have said that it has not been effective for them. Many chemicals are not cheap, and there is always the concern about their effects on the environment. Use the least potent spray to do the job; don't get caught up in "more is better", whether it's strength of the spray or cost of the material. Sometimes very simple (a blast of water or liquid soap) is the best.

**Spray Gloves**--A good pair of spray gloves will last one season. Hold them up to the light--you might be surprised to see a good number of tiny holes eaten through that aren't otherwise visible. Get a new pair every year.

**Filters**--Make sure that you have enough facemask filters for the season; they should be changed every two months, or monthly if you spray a large number of roses. It's easy to remember when to next change them by dating the outside of the cartridge when they're replaced.

**Fertilizers**--Finally, look at your supply of fertilizers and decide what you might need for the growing season. The roses you ordered will be here sooner than you think, and it'll be time to begin spring chores. Take the time now to make sure that your equipment and supply needs are taken care of, and you'll be ready for the coming growing season

---

## Pre-Spring Meeting, Staunton, VA - March 19-20, 2010 - "Back to the Basics"

The Colonial District will host a pre-spring meeting the weekend of March 19th at the Quality Inn, exit 255 off I-81 in Staunton, Virginia (this is across the Interstate from where the meetings have been held in the past).

Friday night will consist of the normal activities and heavy hors d'oeuvres. Saturday lunch will be sandwiches, salads, chips, and desserts. These meals will be catered by the Big Dipper Ice Cream & Sandwich Shop, Inc. A continental breakfast is included in your room fee on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Various speakers are being scheduled for Saturday. One of the highlights will be a judges' seminar. Chairman of Judges Donna Smoot will conduct the seminar for our judges who need to recertify. Please contact Donna at [dsmoot@msn.com](mailto:dsmoot@msn.com) or call 304.744.8150 to register for the seminar; there is no charge.

While this will be a "no frills" weekend, there will be a number of items of interest that will get us excited about the upcoming growing season. Plan to join us in Staunton in March to go "Back to the Basics". Please use the registration form or call to register.

# Rose of the Month

## EASY DOES IT



**Class:** Floribunda  
**Plant Habit:** Medium/Rounded & Bushy. 3' - 4' tall.  
**Flower Color:** Mango, peach & apricot blend  
**Flower Form:** Double, ruffled  
**Flower Size:** Approximately 4"  
**Petal Count:** 25 - 30  
**Foliage Color:** Glossy green  
**Hardiness:** Listed as hardy in all US regions, but sold mostly as USDA Zones 6 - 9.  
**Fragrance:** Moderate fruity  
**Disease Resistance:** Excellent  
**Parentage:** Queen Charlotte x Della Balfour x Baby Love  
**Hybridizer:** Harkness New Roses  
**Introducer:** Weeks Roses

The petals of 'Easy Does It' are described as a juicy blend of mango orange, peach pink & ripe apricot, all offset by polished glossy green leaves. As far as hardiness goes, 'Easy Does It' tested well all across the country. However, it's only considered cold hardy to USDA Zone 5 and that's with some light protection. It's still relatively new, so your plants may develop more hardiness as they adjust to their locale. 'Easy Does It' should be widely available this year.



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

DISCLAIMER: The Editor believes the information contained in this newsletter is accurate and up to date. However, the Editor does not guarantee the accuracy of any article nor does he provide any endorsement or warranty. The Society and the Editor do not accept any legal responsibilities for omissions or errors that have been made in this newsletter.

**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

**Pruning at Huntington Rose Garden: March 7, 2010**