



NEWSLETTER

of the

VIRGINIA PENINSULA ROSE SOCIETY



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

May 2010

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

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2010 Meeting Dates

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

Refreshments

If you plan to attend the May Meeting, please bring something sweet, or something salty, or cold drinks, etc., let your imagination be your guide

Cups, plates, napkins, and utensils are furnished. .

The next VPRS meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, May 2, 2010**, at the **‘Tabb Library 100 Long Green Blvd. Yorktown, VA 23693, for Information call: 757-890-5100**

From Norfolk: take I-64 West. Merge onto US-17 North via Exit 258B toward Yorktown. Follow US-17 North approximately 2.2 miles to Victory Blvd/VA-171 East. Turn right onto Victory Blvd/VA-171 East. Turn right at the next traffic light onto Hampton Hwy/VA-134 South. Turn right at the next traffic light onto Long Green Blvd. The Tabb Library is on the right.

From Williamsburg: take I-64 East. Merge onto Victory Blvd/VA-171 East via Exit 256B. Follow Victory Blvd/VA-171 East approximately 2 miles. Turn right onto Hampton Hwy/VA-134 South. Turn right at the next traffic light onto Long Green Blvd. The Tabb Library is on the right

May 2, 2010 Meeting at the **TABB LIBRARY (see above directions)**

2:00 pm

Board Meeting

3:00pm

‘Rose Show Preparations’

From the President, Sandy Pait:

We had a great meeting, thank you Marti!!

The preparation for the Rose Show is coming along due to all the hard work by Dick Purcell and his committees. Margie Tully has done a wonderful job with the schedule.

Thanks to everyone pitching in with the refreshments; we may have to ask all to help out until we get the membership numbers up. Please check the newsletter each month!!

Remember to let me know if you are interested in Certified Rosarian training or renewal at the Fall Meeting in Norfolk on September 25 and 26. I have to let the District know if there is enough people to hold the classes.

I sure you are all working hard in the garden getting ready for the show. The weather had not been helping, so we will see what we can have ready for the show. Good Luck!!

I look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting on May 2!!

From the 2010 Rose Show Chairman, Dick Parsell:

It has been good for the warm weather to slow down some. Those early 90 degree days in late March kind of got things all out of whack!! Now we are hoping that we will not be all bloomed out for the May Show. Reminder to all of us: Bring plenty of blooms so we can present a great show for the community at Patrick Henry Mall and have some left over to sell. Continue with your disbudding, spraying program, plenty of water and one more fertilizing with your own secret formula to produce those big beautiful blooms.

This will be our last meeting before the Rose Show so please try and come to go over assignments, register for the show, bring those trophies you are donating and pick up your 62nd Rose Show schedule. Again, I'll say, if you have never tried showing roses, please let this be the year to begin---try it once and you will get the bug.

Remember to mark your calendar for Friday the 14th of May for set up at the Mall. See ya', at the May Rose Meeting.

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 and in the 2010 Rose Show Program. If you would like to be a donor, please include a check. Levels: Queen (\$100 or more); King (\$50-99); Princess (\$25-49); Prince (\$24 or less). The Virginia Peninsula Rose Society is a 501 C-3 non-profit organization and any donations are tax deductible (but not your membership) receipt is available upon request.

“Queen Level”

“King Level”

“Princess Level”

“Prince Level”

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.

May 15, 2010 – VPRS Rose Show
Patrick Henry Mall, Newport News, VA, more information to follow in next newsletter, for info call Dick Parsell 757-850-2765, or e-mail: osagefarm@cox.net

May 29, 2010 – Richmond Rose Show, Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, contact Willie Mills, 804-641-0656, willie1091@comcast.net

June 5, 2010 – Maryland Rose Society, Friendly Farm Restaurant, Upperco, MD, contact David Walsh, 410-374-1070, Shiloh@qis.net

September 25-26, 2010 – TRS Fall District Meeting and Rose Show at the Airport Hilton in Norfolk, for information call Peggy Scott, 757-588-1865

**Study nature,
love nature,
stay close to nature -
it will never fail you.**

Frank Lloyd Wright

GARDENING TIPS OF THE WEEK

from Marie Iannotti

Growing Fruit in Small Yards: I've often stared at the twisted trunks of the sweet cherry tree next door (photo above), but it suddenly dawned on me this spring, that's not one tree. Those are two trees that were planted side-by-side and trained to grow outward. This provides the necessary nearby pollinator and plenty of light and air flow, in minimal space. The trees are decades old and still bearing large crops.

Bigger Onions: To help your onions put their energy into their roots and bulbs, periodically snip about an inch off their top growth. *From my friend Marge's friend Ellen*

What is a Rose Sucker?

It's not uncommon for rose plants to be grafted onto hardier root stocks. This helps the rose survive in colder climates, but it can also lead to a problem with suckers. Suckers are stalks that emerge from below the bud union, where the rose bush was grafted onto the root stock. Suckers are growing from the root stock and will not bloom, like the top half of your rose bush. However, they will sap energy from the plant and can take over completely, so it's best to remove them. The only sure sign that a branch is a sucker and not simply new growth is that it is coming from below the bud union, although most suckers will have leaves that don't exactly resemble those on the upper portion of the rose bush.

How to Remove Rose Suckers

Cutting suckers with pruners seems to encourage more suckers. It's recommended that you dig down to where the sucker is originating and pull, twist or tear it off. Wear thick, protective gloves. You may have to follow the sucker back to its source. Suckers can pop up several feet from the originating rose bush.

The good news is that many newer roses are being grown from cuttings, not grafts, and these do not sucker.

FOR THE BEGINNER

Q: Aren't roses hard to plant and maintain?

A: Not necessarily. The most important thing to consider before planting roses is your climate and soil conditions. Certain roses will not grow well in certain climate conditions and all roses like light, rich slightly acidic soil. You can fix the soil, but you can't change your climate. Some roses bushes and plants are harder to maintain than others, so research the care requirements of any roses you are considering.

When you buy a new rose plant, dig a hole about twice the size of the plant's roots and slightly mounded in the center. Set your plant in the center of the hole and spread out the roots. Now is a good time to add some manure or lime to the soil as you fill in the hole. Water well and continue watering about every other day for two weeks, then water about once a week. After three months, mulch around the base of the stem. Always plant roses in a sunny spot. They need about 6 hours a day of sunlight.

Q. When is the best time to prune roses?

A: The best time to prune roses is usually in the early spring before the plants come fully out of their dormant state. This varies depending on the particular type of rose bush you are pruning, but for most roses either the early spring, or late fall before the first frost are the optimum pruning times.

Q. Do roses really grow on trees?

A: Not really, rose trees are actually formed by grafting two plants together. The result is a single slender cane of 30 to 36 inches tall which has no foliage or blooms. The classic rose tree is shaped like a lollipop, although there are also weeping rose trees and high low rose trees. Rose trees do require a bit more care than shrub or climbing roses.

Q. Do rose trees need to be pruned to keep their shape?

A: Rose trees need to be pruned not only to maintain their shape, but to avoid damage to the delicate cane from the weight of the foliage and blooms. Rose trees do require special care in pruning and should usually be pruned either in late fall or early spring.

Q. Is it hard to train climbing roses ?

A: Not at all. In fact vigorous varieties climb so well that you must make sure to carefully prune them. Anchors for climbing roses should be set in cement, as within a few growing seasons they will become so heavy they can overwhelm their supports. Climbers can be used against walls, fences and in arbors to great effect.

Consulting Rosarian Corner

Aspirin Cures Common Plant Headaches

by All Minutolo, Shenandoah Rose Society

The following is an excerpt from the Question and Answer Section of the February 2007 issue of Fine Gardening Magazine. A reader asked if aspirin water promoted plant growth and prevented disease. Rebecca Brown, Professor of Plant Sciences at the University of Rhode Island, replied: "Although the complete effects of treating plants with an aspirin-water solution are unknown, studies have shown that applying salicylic acid (aspirin is acetyl salicylic acid) to plants can induce resistance to pathogens, environmental stresses and some insects. This protection should cause all the plants to grow more vigorously. Under extremely stressful conditions, or those highly favorable to the growth of diseases, salicylic acid may not prevent all damage from stress or disease."

Salicylic acid is a naturally occurring compound in plants. When a plant is stressed or attacked by a pathogen, this compound stimulates the plants internal defense pathways. Treating a plant with additional salicylic acid appears to trigger the plant's defense pathways in the same way.

In the summer of 2005, Professor Brown directed a group of master gardeners with experiments on tomatoes. The effects of two strengths of aspirin water and the commercial product Messenger were compared to plants sprayed with just water. Messenger activates the same internal defense system as salicylic acid but at a different point along the pathway, which may provide broader protection. Because of dry conditions, none of the plants developed any disease. All of the plants grew equally well. Plants treated with a solution of 250 milligrams of aspirin in 1 gallon of water and the plants treated with Messenger yielded more but smaller fruit than the control.

An aspirin-water solution of 250 to 500 milligrams (one or two regular aspirin tablets) of aspirin per gallon of water provides a solution similar to what was tested; solutions at higher rates have been shown to burn foliage. Any brand of aspirin will work, but plain, uncoated tablets dissolve best. The solution should be applied every two weeks and may be used to water germinating seeds and new transplants.

Another form of salicylic acid that is gaining attention is willow water, made from seeping fresh-cut willow branches in water. Willows are naturally high in salicylic acid. The exact amount of salicylic acid in willows is unknown, however, so the amount to use and the timing of application is less certain. Willow water might be worth investigating as a source that could meet organic certification guidelines (neither aspirin nor Messenger do).

While there's no harm in experimenting with these solutions, keep in mind that aspirin water and willow water are not registered pesticides. All of these products need to be applied preventively, before the first sign of disease. They may prevent infection but will not kill fungi or bacteria already infecting the plant. It may also take two weeks for the salicylic acid to activate the pathway and protect the plant.

Comment: Last year, I used Messenger on roses and cut flowers such as zinnias, sunflowers and dahlias with noticeable good results. Stems were stronger, flower color more intense and the incidence of powdery mildew, especially on zinnias and dahlias reduced. I do not use chemicals that may be harmful to beneficial insects and my roses suffered severely from Japanese beetle attacks. However, once the beetles ran their cycle, the roses were pruned and they continued to grow vigorously and produced beautiful late blooms.

Japanese Beetle Control

by Howard E. Jones, Tidewater Rose Society

One of the challenges growing roses is Japanese Beetles, and although they do not do any lasting damage to our bushes, they are a nuisance. In my garden, they appear by June 10, and are gone by the end of July. In mid-April, I broadcast Spectracide on my beds to kill the grubs that are in the ground. I used to use Diazinon granules, but they are no longer available. This helps to reduce the number of beetles hatching. When beetles start to appear in early June, I pick them off as I deadhead and disbud, and squeeze them to death, putting them in the trashcan I am carrying for deadheading. Do not throw them at the ground, as the eggs in them will still hatch and give you problems next year. You can also take a wide-mouth jar with a little soapy water in it, place it under the bloom, tap the bloom that has the beetle on it; they will fall right into the jar and drown. Their instinct is to drop down - when disturbed - not to fly up. During the third and fourth weeks, when the beetles are at their peak, I spray with liquid Sevin, which is the best insecticide for killing them. Unfortunately, Sevin has very little residual effect so it's necessary to spray at least every third day, I do not spray the whole bush, but only a fine spray on any blooms that are showing color. I read the directions on the bottle - they have changed the formulation and recommend using three tablespoons per gallon - it used to be one tablespoon per gallon. I find that this concentration leaves considerable residue on the foliage, so I tried two tablespoons per gallon and this concentration is still effective and leaves less residue. During the last two weeks of the beetle's life cycle above the ground, I go back to picking them off or catching them in a jar of soapy water. Their numbers will decrease the last two weeks, until the garden is finally beetle free. Remember, this nuisance insect does not do any lasting damage to your rose bushes, although they can mess up a lot of would-be beautiful blooms.

Why We Show Roses

By: Robert B. Martin, Jr., petrose@aol.com.

Why do we show roses? Most of the readers of this publication already have a pretty good idea of the answer to this question. Others I expect might be subscribers because they would like to learn that answer. I begin this issue with a series of articles addressed primarily to the novice exhibitor and I think a good place to start is to address the question of why you should consider showing your roses. There are, as you will learn, many reasons. Here are eight good ones in reverse order for you to consider.

#8 You Will Help Your Rose Society A central activity of nearly every rose society is the annual sponsorship of a rose show. In this activity the society comes together with a common purpose. The task is not easy; there is much work to do. You belong to your society and hopefully gain advantage in doing so. Without exhibitors there can be no rose show despite all our hard work. So by entering even one bloom you help your society. Call it "solidarity"; whatever -- you will show you care.

#7 You Will Encourage Others to Grow Roses A rose show is the principal opportunity for rosarians to show non-rose growers the vast potential and beauty of roses. That is why they are open to the public free or at nominal cost. Beauty and pleasure ought to be shared and a true rosarian delights in encouraging others to grow roses.

#6 You Will Encourage Rose Growers to Grow Better Roses Those who grow the best of roses know well the seemingly inexhaustible potential of the rose. Do a little more for your roses and they will reward you many times over. When you show your beautiful roses others who grow roses will be encouraged to grow better roses. Showing roses illuminates the potential of the rose which is in the grasp of everyone who would try.

#5 You Will Learn How to Present and Display Roses Roses are beautiful on the bush. They are also beautiful cut and displayed. Is there anyone who has grown roses who has not brought cut roses inside for enjoyment, or taken them to the office, to a friend or to a lover? The rose is a universal symbol of beauty and love. Would you visit a friend or go on a date without grooming first? I suppose in today's times there are some who think that anything "natural" is beautiful, no matter how ugly it is. But it is an affront to the Queen of Flowers to present her dirty and ungroomed. The practice of the art of showing roses will teach you ways to best present the beauty of the cut rose.

#4 You Will Learn How to Grow Better Roses You might have expected this reason to be number one, as it very well might be. Exhibitors grow the best roses. If you doubt this in the least go to a show and see. I went to my first show having had at the time over ten years experience in growing roses. I thought I knew everything. I learned that I knew comparably nothing. If you want to grow better roses you must show them. You will get the unbiased opinion of an experienced judge on how well you are doing. Fellow exhibitors will give you pointers. You will experiment and learn from both success and failure. No one can learn to grow the best roses unless they show them. It is that simple.

#3 You Will Learn and Reaffirm Good Personal Values The great San Diego exhibitor Jeff Stage has said that the trophies at a rose show are usually awarded to those that have worked the hardest. This is true. Growing good roses requires discipline. Roses have their own needs and schedule; they are not interested in your excuse for not feeding them or watering them when they need it. The insects and disease want to take advantage of your attention to other matters. I firmly believe that in this truth we can usually find the reason that many who would call themselves rosarians do not exhibit roses. Losers don't like to compete; this is because no one likes to lose. This is not to suggest that everyone who would belong to a rose society should show roses. Far from it. There is plenty of room for the gardener or rose lover with limited time to join the "experts" to learn how to grow better roses. But if you want to hold yourself out as an "expert" yourself, if you want to speak or write with authority on roses, I continue to believe that you should submit your roses to the test of a rose show.

#2 You Will Meet Some Very Nice People Winning is great, as any exhibitor will tell you. But better yet, as most exhibitors will quickly add, is the wonderful opportunity that a rose show provides to meet people who genuinely love roses. Rose exhibitors are, with very few exceptions, great people. They come from all walks of life sharing only the common love of roses. They will tell you everything they know to give you the chance to do better than they. The warmth and friendship of exhibitors lasts well beyond the fading of the memory of your novice trophy and will bring you back to the show again and again.

#1 You Will Have a Lot of Fun Calvin Hayes, who is the premier exhibitor of our District, once confided to me that he can barely sleep the night before a rose show. Neither can I. Silly as it may seem, I compare my feelings the night before a rose show to those I had as a kid on Christmas Eve when I could never seem to get to sleep even though I feared that Santa would find me awake and pass by the house. The anticipation and excitement of an impending rose show is tangible. And on the morning of the show there never seems to be enough time to prepare and enter all of my roses. The hours before the show closing fly by and afterwards I find myself holding my breath while the judging is going on and I am trying to eat breakfast. When the show is fully judged and I am admitted I experience great joy and deep disappointment in my personal results. But no matter how well I do I find the beauty of all the roses in the show overwhelming. This is great fun and that is the number one reason we show roses. You can do it too and I promise you that you will love it if you try.

Editor's Note: *The foregoing article in its original version won a 1992 ARS Award of Merit.*

Ten Of The Best And Easiest To Grow Old Garden Roses

By: Steve Jones, scvrose@aol.com

Rose de Rescht (1940 Damask) - The small, very fragrant and full, fuchsia-pink blooms are continually produced on an upright plant to 3'. In some areas, the plant may grow to 6'. The stems are moderately thorny, and the peduncles are short, causing the bloom to "sit" in the foliage. Good, clean, medium green foliage. This is my indicator plant to watch for spider mites. One of the OGRs that will outbloom most Hybrid Teas.

Sombreuil (1850 Climbing Tea) - This excellent Tea rose is also a top show winner. Very full, white to creamy white blooms are produced throughout the season on a large, clean, vigorous plant up to 20'. Not hardy in northern climates.

Souvenir de la Malmaison (1843 Bourbon) - The light pink to white, fragrant blooms, are very full and often quartered. The plant is low and spreading in nature (3' high by 4' wide), and it takes 1-2 years to become established. This plant will mildew if you let your spray program down, and the very full blooms may not open in the colder, damp climates. This rose will also outbloom most Hybrid Teas. There is also a climbing version.

Marchesa Boccella (1842 Hybrid Perpetual) - A great rose that continually produces fragrant, full, medium to light pink blooms. The inner petioles may reflex on the center showing a "pip" center. The plant grows upward to 4-6', has thorny stems, and is easily kept in shape by pruning, which it doesn't mind. The foliage is light green, somewhat matted, and frames the bloom beautifully. The bloom shows the early stage of Hybrid Perpetual development by having Portland characteristics including short peduncles which causes the bloom to "sit" in the foliage.

Green Rose (1845 China) - But is it really a rose?! The Green Rose is just that, a green rose. The petals of the bloom reverted back to leaves (petals are modified leaves), plus it does not have reproductive organs. People either love or hate this rose. The small plant grows to 3' tall and has few thorns. The "blooms" are usually formed in clusters throughout the year, and a spray of this rose is great! Very popular as a landscape rose and for filler material in rose arrangements. Can be grown in a pot, and is rarely out of "bloom".

La Reine Victoria (1872 Bourbon) - The medium pink, full, and cupped blooms are produced on a vigorous, almost thornless plant with deep green foliage. A large grower, it can be trained as a climber where it can reach 15' in each direction. When the canes are pegged over (placed horizontally), this rose responds with lots of lateral growth with long stems. This rose blooms in flushes rather than throughout the year, where the plant is literally covered with blooms. A heavy feeder, high nitrogen won't cause any major maladies. There is also an excellent lighter colored sport called Madame Pierre Oger.

Baronne Prevost (1842 Hybrid Perpetual) - A tall growing plant to 8'+, it can be trained as a climber. The large, medium pink blooms are at their best stage when the inner petioles reflex on the center and show the "pip". There is no mistaking this rose, the stems are so thorny, it's almost impossible to hold without being pricked.

The foliage is dark green, and the plant may mildew if you let your spray program lag. A heavy feeder, loves lots of fish emulsion. A fairly good bloomer, but not as profuse as the others on this list.

Celsiana (1750 Damask) - Probably the best of the once-bloomers. The semi-double, very fragrant, light pink blooms usually come in sprays. The petals are somewhat crinkled, which is very appealing, and are complemented by large, showy stamens. The plant has arching canes that can reach 5'.

Rosa banksiae lutea or Yellow Lady Banks Rose (1824)- This 12'+ once blooming rose is very popular. The almost evergreen foliage, and large clusters of yellow blooms is a welcomed sight early in the spring. Disease resistant, but not real winter hardy.

2009 & 2010 AARS ROSE WINNERS

If you are looking for some roses to add to your garden, then perhaps you should consider the AARS roses. AARS winners display a special logo on their rose tag indicating AARS. How does a rose become an AARS rose selection winner? Roses are grown in 17 test gardens throughout the U.S. The closest test gardens to our region are in Crossville and Jackson, TN and Orangeburg, SC. AARS roses are evaluated for many criteria which include disease resistance, fragrance, form of bud and bloom, color of the bloom, repeat blooming, plant form, vigor, foliage, hardiness and novelty. The **2010 AARS rose** selection winner is a Floribunda called *Easy Does It*. *Easy Does It* is a rose to consider if you like ruffled blooms. The rose bloom color is classified as mango orange, peach pink & ripe apricot; blooms have 25 petals; and the foliage is glossy green. The rose is a cross of *Queen Charlotte x Della Balfour x Baby Love*.

The **2009 AARS** selection included *Cinco de Mayo*, *Pink Promise*, and *Carefree Spirit*. *Cinco de Mayo* is a floribunda with a unique color, which is described as smoky lavender with a rusty red-orange blend. If you like *Hot Cocoa*, you might want to try this rose. The rose is a seedling of *Julia Child* and *Topsy Turvy*. *Julia Child* has a continuous display of roses all summer and is disease resistant. *Cinco de Mayo* is reported to have a tendency to bloom in clusters and is very prolific. *Cinco de Mayo* blooms have 25 petals with an apple fragrance. The bush has shiny leaves which should be disease resistant similar to *Julia Child*. The color is reported to get smokier with cool weather to give another special show. *Pink Promise* is a hybrid tea with a purpose. A portion of every sale of *Pink Promise* will provide a donation to the National Breast Cancer Foundation. This rose provides long stems with a white and pink bloom with a nice fragrance and is pretty disease resistant. The blooms have 25-30 petals. *Pink Promise* is a cross of *unknown seedling x unknown seedling*. *Carefree Spirit* is a shrub rose that can grow up to 5 feet in height. Disease resistant rose with shiny green foliage, the blooms are a cherry red with white eye, with white reverse with deep cherry pink. The blooms change to a deep pink color in hot weather.

Rose of the Month

MAGIC LANTERN



from the archives of Help Me Find Roses
Photo courtesy of Sheldon, John & Robyn

Apricot or apricot blend Grandiflora, *Registration name:* STARqueli

Origin: Discovered by Rene Royon (France, 1995). Introduced in United States by Bear Creek Gardens, Inc. in 1994.

Class: Grandiflora.

Bloom: Apricot or apricot blend. Mild fragrance. 26 to 40 petals. Average diameter 2.75". Large, full (26-40 petals) bloom form. Blooms in flushes throughout the season.

Habit: Height of 4' 11" (150 cm).

Growing: USDA zone 6b and warmer. Spring Pruning: Remove old canes and dead or diseased wood and cut back canes that cross. In warmer climates, cut back the remaining canes by about one-third. In colder areas, you'll probably find you'll have to prune a little more than that.

United States - Patent No: PP 8,861 on 16 Aug 1994

A sport of the rose variety AROyqueli, having a distinct and uniform color difference from its parent.



Virginia Peninsula Rose Society
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First Class Mail

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with the objective to assist others in growing better roses

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Next Meeting at TABB LIBRARY – May 2, 2010