



NEWSLETTER

of the

VIRGINIA PENINSULA ROSE SOCIETY



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

September 2010

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

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2010 Meeting Dates

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 September 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. .

I have this sense that,
if the rose were to
vanish, there would be
no more beautiful
summer days.

Marion Garretty, b.1917

The next VPRS meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, September 12, 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.

September 12, 2010

2:00 pm

Board Meeting

3:00pm

General Meeting

‘Arranging - the ARS way’ with Marti Youmans

From the Colonial District

I hope most of you are planning to attend the upcoming fall convention in Norfolk. Currently we only have a few rooms booked for the convention and we need a minimum of 15 rooms booked by this weekend. If you are planning to attend, please make your reservations in the next few days. It is not so necessary to register for the convention early and I know many of you wait until about 2 weeks before the convention to do so, but, in this case, **early room reservations are essential**. Thanks for your cooperation. I hope to see all your rosy faces in about a month.

John Fleek

From the Tidewater Rose Society

TRS needs our support for the **Silent Auction at the District Fall Convention and Rose Show on September 24/25 in Norfolk**. If you have any items that can help fill the baskets for the silent auction - the item does not have to be rose related, small, medium or large - you may bring the items to our Meeting on Sunday, or contact Peggy at 757-588-1865 or e-mail her at tarrallontigers@yahoo.com.

Peggy Scott

From the President

Where has the summer gone? I cannot believe it is almost September. I hope everyone had a great summer full of blooms. As for me, all I can say is that the Japanese Beetles in Dutton were well fed. I am looking forward to seeing everyone on September 12. We would love for all of you to bring a friend to the meeting to share the joy of roses.

I hope you are all planning to attend the Fall Meeting on September 25 in Norfolk. Bring lots of blooms; should be a great event. See you all on the 12th!

Sandy Pait

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.

The Virginia Peninsula Rose Society is a 501C-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.

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Marie-Claude David
Mrs. Anne- Marie Loughran
Mrs. Jennifer Brooks
Mrs. Celeste Jarvis

Members please introduce yourselves at the next meeting

From PCGC Liaison

Garden Club Membership

Some members of the Rose Society wonder why we belong to the Peninsula Council of Garden Clubs. 1) The Council has provided two rose beds at the Huntington Rose Garden. 2) Every two years the Council does a civic beautification project – this year they are working on the brick area outside of the Poquoson Library, adding a bench and table, and planting trees. 3) Each year the Council gives two \$1,500 scholarships, one to Virginia Tech, and one to CNU. Students must major in Horticulture or Landscape Design. You should be proud that the Rose Society has a part in these worthwhile projects.

Virginia Kostyal

GARDENING TIPS OF THE WEEK

from Marie Iannotti

Water and Fertilizer in One: If you have an aquarium, don't throw the used water down the drain. Use it to water your plants. It's the best fertilizer.

Submitted by spiritflower

Two Uses for Old Milk Jugs

1. **Watering Roots:** Recycle plastic milk bottles by cutting a hole in the bottom. Plant with your thirsty plants and water via the bottle, it'll go straight to the roots. If weather is very hot, put the cap (or a stone) over the hole you've cut, it'll prevent evaporation. Growth will soon disguise the bottle and when its plant dies back, it'll tell you where it is.

Submitted by Lynne Teasdale

2. **Mini Greenhouse for Seed Starting:** Cut large milk jugs, 2 inches up from the bottom. Plant seeds, mist, and force the top back on. Remove the cap for ventilation, once sprouted.

Submitted by Dyan

Clean Fingernails: Before heading out for a day in the dirt..... run your fingernails across a bar of soap. The soap under your nails will keep the dirt OUT.

Submitted by B Sheffield

New life For Used Toothbrushes: I use old toothbrushes for cleaning up dirty pots, saucers, and concrete blocks.

Submitted by Kam Fok—

Mailbox Tool Holder: Find an old mailbox, paint it and decorate it, and set it up in a place in your yard or garden. Use to hold small garden tools, sprays, fertilizers, gloves, and such. It's real handy.....

Submitted by Joan—

Get Fast Results with Compost Tea

Over many years, the use of chemicals in our gardens has destroyed most of the beneficial microorganisms in the soil. Organic matter has been reduced BIG time, creating the infertile soil so many of us have experienced. It's quick and easy to keep using chemical "bandaids" on plants. However, *chemical dependent plants are much more likely to have increased insect, disease and drought concern, plus providing small, inferior yields.*

As wise gardeners know, improving your soil with the use of quality, organic compost has unlimited benefits. It does take some effort and time before results start to appear. If you're looking for a quicker "solution" you might want to try some Compost Tea. Compost Tea is merely compost in a liquid form. It provides the nutrition of compost without the bulk. Use it as a drench, pouring it into the soil around your plants. Micronutrients and beneficial microorganisms are being delivered immediately to the root zone. Also, use it as a foliar spray and apply it directly to leaf surfaces. It —

- ✂ Improves poor soil conditions
- ✂ Improves struggling plants that show signs of stress and disease
- ✂ Acts as a tonic for young as well as mature plants
- ✂ Suppresses disease when sprayed on leaves. (Its beneficial organisms outnumber and fight off any disease pathogens, keeping infections from entering the plant.)
- ✂ Prevents root disease by creating a barrier around roots to stop root disease
- ✂ Establishes new plantings quicker, with less transplant shock and faster root development
- ✂ Gives a microbial boost to dry compost ingredients like fall leaves
- ✂ Significantly improves lawn quality —
and the list goes on and on!

There are many recipes for making your own compost tea online and in gardening books. Most important is to start with good quality, cured compost. If it is only partially decomposed or smelly compost, it won't be effective. Don't use animal manures. For best results use a recipe that aerates the tea. This helps loosen the beneficial microorganisms from the compost so they enter into the tea solution in much higher quantities. The aeration also ensures high levels of oxygen to keep microorganisms healthy and alive longer.

How often should you apply Compost Tea to your plants? It's almost impossible to apply too much tea, too often. It will just continue to restore natural health and balance to your soil. What a wonderful concept! Article is courtesy of Charley's Greenhouse & Garden

Consulting Rosarian Corner

How do Roses go blind??

By Jolene Adams

Well - first of all, roses can't 'see' so they can't 'go blind' ... or even require glasses. However, they CAN have what we call 'blind shoots'.

How Rose Stems Grow

Did you pay attention in high school when they showed you how the tips of the roots of an onion divided (mitosis) to make the roots grow longer? Same idea in all plants. The very tip of a shoot (or root) is covered with a thin layer of **meristem** cells. These cells are undifferentiated and carry the DNA code for the entire plant - they can become anything! These cells are responsible for dividing and adding more cells to the tip. As this process goes along, the newly made cells also keep dividing, adding more cells - and the little rootlet or the shoot grows longer. This can only happen with meristem tissue. The plant has meristem tissue at the tips of the new shoots, and also along the very tippy-top sides. This tissue has an almost unlimited potential for growth. But that growth is controlled by the plant itself. In roses, the tip cells can 'shut down' side growth (**apical dominance**) so the lateral (side) meristem cells can't divide. If the meristem stops dividing - no more growth.

Meanwhile, the cells left behind after the dividing frenzy **differentiate** to form other types of tissues like buds, leaves, more stems, etc. No rest, no rest - it is all divide and grow and divide some more. These cells are forming parts of the plant.

All this is going on while the plant is trying to make food to keep on keeping on, and the wind and sun and rain are all changing the temperature inside the little roots and stems. The chemical factory inside the plant keeps chugging along, making the ingredients needed for plant growth.

Blind Shoots

When you are looking down at the tip of a stem, you see the little pointed tip area, and also the sides of the stem starting to develop into different tissues, like leaves and stems and buds. You can usually see a very small incipient bud at the tip - but you won't know if it will form a flower until it actually begins to make the right shape. If it has been stalled in it's growth, it may just sit there for awhile and then start again. This will actually leave a 'ring' around the little stem, a sign of a 'stem-on-stem' incident while the plant was growing.

If the meristem on that tip stops growing entirely, the side cells will begin to develop into the leaves and other tissues. The tip won't grow anymore, will not make a flower bud, but the little tip will be surrounded by leaves. And that's all. Just leaves, no flower bud.

Why?

Well gee, if I had the irrefutable proof for this question, I would probably win a prize and make a lot of money. Alas - no one answer is available. The problem is that anything at all can happen and the tip growth will slow down, or stop and then restart, or stop entirely and make blind shoots. The most often heard theory is that a sudden and big change in temperature while the cells are rapidly dividing dramatically affects the chemistry inside the cells and the dividing stops. A sharp drop in temperature on a Spring night can result in blind growth. A sudden sharp rise in temperature on a Fall day can also result in blind growth.

What To Do

Deadhead these stems, just as if they had already formed flowers and bloomed. They aren't hurting your rose, in fact those leaves are making food while they are sitting around admiring the view. But why not cut back the stem and let the rose try again to make a long stem with a lovely bloom on top?

Can Temperamental Roses Be Grown Organically?

Roses have acquired the reputation of being fussy plants. We've all heard that to grow beautiful roses requires chemicals and systemics. Is it possible to grow roses organically? Of course. After all, roses can survive for many years without any attention at all. Just think of the antique roses being rediscovered in abandoned cemeteries or the invasiveness of the multiflora rose in the northeast.

Growing roses organically is really no different than growing any type of plant with organic techniques. Keep in mind that organic gardening involves more than just not using chemicals. It means giving the plant what it wants and needs to grow well. Do that and you'll have a healthy plant, better able to withstand pest attacks.

Unfortunately, that is often easier said than done, especially with something as sentimental and sensual as roses. Gardeners are very particular about what type of rose they wish to grow. It can be very hard to give up the idea of long stem tea roses in favor of shrubby rugosas, but choosing the right rose for your area is rule number one. If you're willing to make some adjustments in your dream rose garden, here are some guidelines to growing roses organically.

- ✍ Choose roses suited to your area's zone and climate. Tea roses grow very easily in hot areas, but where winters can be frigid, the Explorer series and old-fashioned rugosas will be much hardier.
- ✍ Select roses resistant to the diseases that are common in your area.
- ✍ Once you've chosen a rose, research it so you'll know exactly what it likes.
- ✍ Create wonderful soil by adding lots of organic matter.
- ✍ Keep the soil pH slightly acidic (6.0 - 6.5).
- ✍ Plant your roses in full sun - Provide afternoon shade in hotter climates.
- ✍ Allow space between plants for air flow and circulation.
- ✍ Use plant diversity to keep insect populations down. Under-plant with a different type of plant.
- ✍ Water the roots, not the foliage.
- ✍ Water deeply and give them special attention during dry spells.
- ✍ Pay attention to lower leaves, where splashing fungus spores will often take hold first
- ✍ Mulch with organic matter. Keep their feet cool.
- ✍ Feed them regularly:
 1. in the spring, after pruning
 2. while they are in bud
 3. in mid-summer (at least 6 weeks before the first expected frost)
- ✍ Prune at the right time of year.
- ✍ Promptly remove diseased or damaged wood.
- ✍ Clean-up fallen leaves and debris.
- ✍ Consider companion planting to deter bugs. Alliums to repel nematodes, nasturtiums to trap aphids, alyssum, geranium, rosemary and thyme to attract beneficial insects.
- ✍ Take care of small problems before they become big problems
- ✍ Learn to expect and tolerate a little imperfection.
- ✍ It's hard to avoid black spot on your roses. If yours become infected, reach for organic solutions. Don't reach for systemic pesticides that are going to throw everything out of balance.
- ✍ If you have black spot every year, consider improving both the air circulation in the rose garden and the vigor of your roses. 'Messenger™', a plant health activator, fools the plant into thinking it's being attacked by disease and triggers its immune defenses. The plant is actually fine, but it is better able to ward off disease.
- ✍ Bordeaux mix helps to prevent fungal diseases, including black spot and powdery mildew. If it's a problem every year, do a preventative spray right after spring pruning, but before the leaves open.
- ✍ Potassium chloride fungicides can be used on mildew during growing season, in extremely humid areas. It tends to be safer than the homemade solutions with baking soda (sodium chloride).
- ✍ Severe fungus infections can be treated with copper or sulfur fungicides.

This may seem like as much work as growing with conventional treatments, but most of these techniques involve starting your roses off with the right conditions. Think in terms of making your roses happy, and prevention before control, and you'll be thinking like an organic rose gardener.

Rose of the Month



Golden Rose of China; Father Hugo Rose *R. hugonis*

By [Mary Peterson](#)

This lovely species rose has a special place in my garden and in my heart. I've grown it for over 20 years and each year it becomes lovelier. *Rosa hugonis* was originally collected in West China, by the missionary Hugh Scanlon (known as Pater Hugo) who, in 1899, sent seed to Kew Gardens in England where the original plants still thrive.

The canes can attain a length of 6' - 8' in a single season and the long very thorny canes dip gracefully, loaded with pale butter yellow, slightly cupped 5 petalled blooms. Each flower is about 2.5 inches across and lasts about 4-5 days depending on the weather. The flowers erupt all along the canes and usually bloom well before anything else in my garden. The blooms are followed by small maroon-colored hips.

The foliage is typical of the variety and is very dainty, pale green, fern-like and healthy with no disease. It is also very winter hardy without protection in my Zone 5 garden. It only receives about 4 hours of direct sunlight and it remains healthy and steadily growing, putting out new canes each season. In the fall, the foliage can become bronzed. Most experts agree that a plant on its own roots is preferred to one that is budded.

This lovely rose can be found at specialty nurseries that feature the old garden roses, rare and unusual roses, and species roses. It is worth looking for - there are many on-line nurseries that carry it.

This one really is carefree!



Virginia Peninsula Rose Society
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First Class Mail

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

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Next Meeting – September 12, 2010