



Ramblin' Rose "Outtakes"

The Charleston Rose Society

A Member of the Colonial District

Volume VIII No. 4

June 2011

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:

Joyce Rasmussen, Treasurer
Charleston Rose Society
2519 Winter Street
St. Albans, WV 25177.

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

Miracle on the Hudson



courtesy Roses Unlimited

When I saw this rose last year at Pat Henry's Roses Unlimited nursery, I knew I had to have it. The beautiful red velvet five-petal shrub just called my name and begged to go home with me. The ARS classes the rose as a medium-red shrub, but in seems dark red to me, and she has a mild fragrance and produces blooms in clusters about 3 to 4 inches across. She was bred by Robert Neil Rippetoe in 2009 and is a cross between *Lyn Griffith* x *Home Run*. A compact, mounded bush for a shrub that should be 3 to 5 feet, she is winter hardy and is one of the few bushes in my garden that does not have blackspot with all this rain going on. This alone makes her a winner in my book, but she is so beautiful! The only thing she needs is to be dead-headed to make her repeat quicker.

Pat Henry was given the honor of naming this rose and she chose to pay tribute to the heroic Captain, crew and passengers of US Airways Flight 1549, which was possibly the most miraculous and successful emergency landing in aviation history.

You can purchase this rose from Roses Unlimited for \$17.00. *Miracle on the Hudson* has not been rated by the ARS yet, but she gets an outstanding rating in my garden and I highly recommend this wonderful rose.

Donna Smoot



THINGS I DO NOT UNDERSTAND

Dick Hanlon



It is easy to find articles on how to grow great roses: look on the Internet, read the ARS magazine, or any number of magazines at the book store. Since everyone is writing about how to grow good roses, I thought maybe it was time to write about how to grow bad roses. If you want to grow bad roses follow the steps outlined and you are on your way to a yard full of bad roses this year and next year.

Step #1: Make the decision to stop spraying your roses now. Do not wait until next week, quit now. This will ensure that blackspot will attack your plants and begin the process of defoliation. Without leaves, your plants will begin to lose vigor and thus struggle for growth this year.

Step #2: Make an effort to not fertilize your roses. Without the proper nutrients your roses will be facing a summer of struggling for life. This struggle bodes well for next year's roses; they should be weakened by their poor diet. Who wants strong, well-muscled roses anyway?

Step #3: Throw away your watering hose; why waste water on plants? It rains once in awhile which should be enough to keep your plants from becoming dehydrated. Just because roses are about 90% water does not mean that we should give them extra water just because Mother Nature has decided that rain this summer is not necessary. If Mother Nature decides $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch of rain is sufficient for June, how can we say she is incorrect?

Step #4: Winterization is for your car, not your roses. I do not winterize the oak trees in my yard so why should I protect my roses? Throw a few leaves around the roses in November and your roses should be able to withstand the cold and wind of winter. If you do use leaves, make sure they are leaves that pack around the bushes to keep air and moisture from reaching the root system. Never use oak leaves as they do not pack and thus leave air space for water to enter the ground.

Step #5: The first sunny day in February go out in your garden and remove all the winter protection you foolishly used this year. On the same day prune and fertilize all your roses; this will ensure and encourage new growth which will be killed by the next frost. This is a very important step in you plan to grow bad roses.

Step #6: If you decide to buy some new roses for next year, make sure you try to locate small, weak plants. Never pass up a \$3.00 rose in a plastic bag-- these roses are bargains. A yard full of these roses should make you a beautiful bad rose garden.



POT LADY UPDATE

As expected, the blackspot has invaded in full force. Roses that looked fresh and green last month are getting yellow and spotted quickly. Also, the heat and dampness has made many of the blooms look really nasty – balled up and with brown-edged petals. A lot of the leaves have gotten “crispy” as well. Too bad we don’t have an “Ugly Rose” contest in June; I could have produced some real contenders. I will get a series of treatments started with Mancozeb or its generic equivalent and hope that helps.

I have several pots where the soil level has fallen rather low; that’s a sign that it’s time (probably past time) to refresh the soil. I finally broke down and bought some potting soil with the moisture-retaining granules; I’m hoping that might help my potted roses stay in better shape. For the last few years, I’ve been dissatisfied with how they look through the heat of the summer; I’ve got to try something different. I time repotting for right after pruning to limit the number of scratches I get. Moving the pot, getting the rose loose and out of the pot (without killing it), and avoiding the prickles make the process a little tricky. This also limits the size of the pots I can use--I have to be able to maneuver them myself. There is one benefit though; you can check the growth of the roots. If they haven’t spread out much, you may have a problem with your horticultural practices. If they are growing vigorously around the pot, you’d better get a larger pot or find a place to plant them in the ground. Sometimes the prospect of repotting is what makes me finally decide to get rid of a rose that really isn’t working out well. I am highly resistant to throwing things away, but why bother repotting if that rose isn’t going to make it worthwhile? At last I’ve found a way to make my laziness work for me in some measure!

Joyce Rasmussen, aka The Pot Lady

HUNTINGTON ROSE SHOW CANCELLED

It’s never easy to make the decision to cancel your rose show. So much hard work goes into the show behind the scenes, and it’s the society’s annual gift to its city to show what beautiful roses can be grown in the area.

Unfortunately, this year’s spring weather was not conducive to showing beautiful roses. The wet May and extremely hot early June just destroyed whatever hopes the Huntington Rose Society had of holding its show. Most of us have rose gardens that look like mid-August: scorched. And what’re not scorched are thrip-eaten, blackspot riddled, and just bloomed out!

Gary Rankin and Monica Valentovic made the call to cancel the show and put their efforts toward making the fall District meeting a great success. Hopefully the weather will cooperate with us and we’ll have plentiful, beautiful roses in September.

Thanks to everyone in the Huntington Society who worked so hard to put the show together. One good thing: most of the work will be done for next year’s show, which will return to a fall venue.

THIS AND THAT

Lynda Grass

Well, Mother Nature has surely been laughing at all us poor rosarians who were so sure that we were going to have lots of roses for the spring shows. What a mess our gardens are! Instead of large, beautiful blooms we have small buds that are full of thrip and botrytis, and leaves that are covered in blackspot and/or powdery mildew. And let's not forget the spider mites! It's mid-August in early June. I dread seeing what mid-August is actually going to look like, and am fearful each day that I'm going to find Japanese and/or cucumber beetles!

It was my job to "babysit" the roses in preparation for the Huntington Rose Society's show on June 11, so the week of June 5 I was out in the garden each morning at 7:00 a.m. in an attempt to beat some of the heat. My objective was to thin out the rose bushes to enable them to have some breathing room, remove lower leaves in an attempt to thwart blackspot, and make sure the roses got a healthy drink of water to improve their substance.

The week before we had simply snapped off spent blooms and left the remaining canes and foliage. This is what I needed to rectify, and I'm really glad that I did because many of our bushes were harboring spider mites. The hot weather always invites these creatures into the garden, and we had unwittingly given them the perfect nest. I can't tell you how many times I began removing clusters of green leaves where new growth had produced two or three canes only to find the centers crispy brown and loaded with spider mites. There are insecticidal soaps that you can use to help you get rid of these pests, but a hard blast of water up under the leaves, given three days in a row, will break their breeding cycle and help you get them under control. There's no point in letting the leaves stay on the bush, though; they won't recover and you may as well remove them. Your rose bush may look a little sparse, but it will thank you in the long run.



Old damage from a cane borer-- notice the round hole in the center of the pith.

I also noticed evidence that cane borers had been busy in my roses. And it appeared that all sizes of canes were being attacked, not just those the size of a pencil or larger. Donna Smoot told me that she had noticed that in her roses as well. I'm not sure what's going on there, but on Thursday morning I spent about 1½ hours in the rose beds with NuBark cane sealer, and used both tubes I had. NuBark stays on the canes longer than Elmer's white glue, and doesn't seem to cause cane dieback the way the glue does. (I think next time I use it I'm going to try to apply it to the canes with a popsicle stick instead of directly from the tube for better coverage and

application.) Steven and I need to be more diligent when pruning to seal the canes as we go--what a chore that was! There is no other truly effective way to keep the borers out of your rose canes. Once inside, they hollow out the cane and cause it to die back. You've got to cut below the brown tissue in the cane to healthy white pith, and then seal the cane. It's a maintenance issue that we haven't paid much attention to in the past, but that's got to change.



NuBark applied to recently pruned cane, and the resulting new growth from the bud eye.

You may be noticing that your roses are smaller in size and look like they've had an iron set on top of the blooms resulting in scorching. This is what happens with excessive heat, and the first and second weeks of June were full of that. There is nothing that you can do to prevent this, and normally you would see this happening in late July and August. Roses are pretty resilient, though. While the bushes may not produce abundant blooms during this time, they will return to form when the weather changes.

We were saddened at the news that the Huntington Society decided to cancel its rose show, but it was understandable. You have to have roses to have a show, and I think they would have had very few entries. I tried to remember when the last time was that Huntington had to cancel a show, and I couldn't. We've belonged to both societies since the early 90s, so that's a long run of good luck. I think Charleston has cancelled its show twice since we've been members, maybe three times, and it's always been because of bad weather. Huntington's show will not be re-scheduled, and will return to its September date in 2012.

Diana Fleek is going to teach us how to dry-wrap roses at our meeting this month. All of the roses that they took to Winston-Salem were dry-wrapped, and I know that they've used this technique for many years to save a rose that's blooming too early for the show, or to preserve one that they've entered in one show in order to enter it again at a different show on another weekend. Joyce Rasmussen will be bringing refreshments.

Please mark your calendar for June 28 and bring a friend to the meeting!

ROSES IN REVIEW

The annual Roses in Review (RIR) forms are in the July/August *American Rose* magazine. This program, created by ARS many years ago, allows rose gardeners to rate new roses on the market. The RIR Coordinator tabulates the results and they are printed in the *ARS Handbook for Selecting Roses*. This handbook is free to ARS members and non-ARS members may go online at www.ars.org and purchase it for \$5 plus shipping.

Armed with the Handbook, you can go to your nearest garden center, pick out a rose you think you would like, and then consult the Handbook to see what the ARS membership thinks about the variety. You can also use it when ordering roses from catalogs. It's common knowledge that catalogs tend to be overly imaginative when

describing their roses, so the Handbook can help sort out fact from fiction.

Getting back to RIR, the ratings are due by September 26. The Coordinator for the Colonial District is Diana Klassy, and her name and address can be found in the RIR insert in the *American Rose* magazine. You may also rate your roses online at www.ars.org.

Consulting Rosarians are required to submit a report, so even if you don't grow any of the roses on the list, you should let the District Coordinator know that you have, at least, looked at the list and determined you have none of those roses.

John Fleek (304.776.4048)

WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING NOW TO MY ROSES?

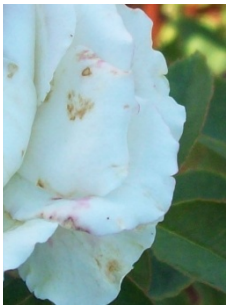
Lynda Grass

The excessive heat that hit the roses in early June is causing some problems in the garden that we don't normally see until mid-July/August.

Spider Mites. These microscopic creatures live on the undersides of your rose leaves, sucking the moisture out and causing them to turn yellow-brown and fall off. They can defoliate a bush in short order. You may even see webbing in a heavy infestation. Do your best to keep the interior of the bush open for air circulation, and remove excess leaves that cluster together at the base of new growth. If you have dying leaves, take them off the plant. With your water wand, blast a shot of water on the undersides of the leaves to disrupt the breeding cycle of the mites. You need to do this for three successive days in order to be successful. As we continue to move into the heat of summer, repeat this process at the first sign of trouble. Your bushes will eventually produce new leaves to replace the ones lost.

Water. An inch of water a week is recommended to keep the roses healthy. If it has been excessively hot without any measurable rain, you may want to water twice a week, but do so deeply. This will encourage your roses to send strong roots down into the bed to find water instead of sending smaller roots to the upper surface seeking water. And if it's really hot and you don't have rain for a number of days, use your water wand to give your bushes a "bath" to wash off the dust and dirt. This is what the rain does, and your bushes will thank you for it.

Insects. Thrip have become prevalent in our roses because of the intense heat this past month. You may not see them (they're about 1/5" in size), but you will notice their damage in two forms: a bud that is deformed and perhaps half-eaten, and in your petals, which will have brown areas where the thrip have tunneled in and sucked out the moisture. Thrip infest roses of all colors, but are more easily seen in the light-colored roses because of the damage they inflict. Exhibitors will spritz their buds and blooms 2 or 3 times a day with Orthene in an attempt to control the insects, but most rosarians just live with the resulting damage.



Beetles, Japanese or cucumber, will be coming to the garden soon. You'll see them in your blooms, munching away. You can hand-pick Japanese beetles, dropping or knocking them into a jar of soapy water where they will eventually drown. **DO NOT PUT A JAPANESE BEETLE TRAP IN YOUR YARD AS A METHOD OF CONTROL!** The traps have a pheromone that actually will attract more beetles into your yard. Organic control for these pests should start in the fall, using milky spore in your yard to eliminate the larvae. Milky spore is supposed to last 10-15 years, and while it is labor-intensive to apply, the benefits are well worth the effort. Donna Smoot has used this method of control for a number of years with great success. Don't crush the beetles (they will release that pheromone, attracting other beetles). If you decide to use chemicals, try to make sure that you don't leave the bodies in the rose beds; it's

possible that the eggs they may be carrying will go into the soil and produce new beetles next year.



Cucumber beetles, striped or spotted, are another matter. They carry bacterial diseases in their intestines, and when they begin to actively feed in the spring/summer they transmit disease from plant to plant, causing wilting and death (your cucumber vines can actually die in one day). Cucumber beetles are very destructive and will attack many vegetables and plants, not just the cucurbit family. They can be targeted with insecticidal soap, or use the botanical poisons pyrethrum or rotenone. Some have reported success with Neem oil.

courtesy Ric Bessin, Extension Entomologist, University of Kentucky College of Agriculture

Fertilizing. Fertilizing in the summer should be cut back to about half of what you would use during peak growing season. An organic fertilizer such as Mills Mix can be applied and will last for about 6 weeks.

Spraying. Some chemical sprays (Daconil for instance) can burn the foliage of your rose bushes when the temperatures are above 80°, so exercise caution during the summer months and use the least toxic chemical first in order to control a problem. If you are having excessive problems with blackspot, you can try spraying twice a week instead of once until you get it under control.

And again--safety first, always, foremost. **READ THE LABEL and FOLLOW MANUFACTURER RECOMMENDATIONS!** If you decide to use chemical sprays, make sure you have a set of spray clothes, a spray mask, and wear chemical gloves. It's a small investment to protect your health. Spray early in the morning. Never spray when it's windy. Only mix as much spray as you can use in one session. Store your spray materials in a safe place, away from children and pets. Establish a spray schedule and introduce insecticides only when pests are apparent.

Continue to remove dead or damaged canes and blind growth as needed, and weed. Remove spent blooms. Keep your beds clean of fallen leaves. Make sure your bushes are open in the center for good air circulation. When watering, do so in the early morning or late afternoon to beat the heat, and try not to splash water from the beds onto your leaves in order to avoid disease. If you do any overhead watering, time it so the plants will be dry before evening.



Class of '04



Nancy Jean



Solar Flair