

Ramblin' Rose "Outtakes"

The Charleston Rose Society

A Member of the Colonial District



Volume VIII No. 1

March 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:

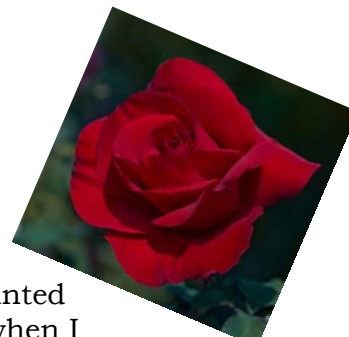
Joyce Rasmussen, Treasurer
Charleston Rose Society
2519 Winter Street
St. Albans, WV 25177.

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

Legends

Sometimes you see a rose and you fall in love; you don't care if you can exhibit it, you don't care if it doesn't have a high-pointed center. That was the case with *Legends* when I saw this rose on the garden tours at the Atlanta National Convention. She is big and she is beautiful. Oprah Winfrey was involved in the multi-year evaluation and final selection of this rose to pay tribute to the 25 influential African-American women that she has honored. Introduced in 2009 by Weeks Roses and hybridized by Tom Carruth, this hybrid tea only has about 30 petals, but the bloom is humungous. The catalogs say one petal will cover a child's hand, with the flower size itself between 5 to 8 inches. Yes, it was the size that caught my eye, and the color is a ruby red. She will go into my front yard this spring, for all my neighbors to admire. The bush itself is about 4 to 5 feet tall, but she puts out one-bloom-per-stem roses and it should only take 3 or 4 to fill a vase. She has a moderate fruity fragrance and grows upright. The die-hard exhibitor will not like the cabbage-like ruffled petals, but I still think *Legends* could make a showing in the fully-opened class. Anyway, as I said, I don't care if she ever takes home a trophy. At some point you have to admit--in the rose world, size does matter and this big girl is going to have a front row space in my garden. Many of the nurseries have her available, Edmunds Roses has a price of \$18.95 on her, but I wouldn't be surprised to see her in the garden centers this year. The ARS has not given this rose a rating yet. I don't often recommend roses I have not already grown, but I ordered this rose as soon as I got back from Atlanta and hope she looks half as good in my garden as she did down south. I'll let you know.



courtesy Weeks Roses

Donna Smoot



THINGS I DO NOT UNDERSTAND



My first shipment of new roses arrived yesterday (March 10), which was the day I was to try to teach the rose class. I had purchased a rose in a plastic bag to plant at the class to show the students what is really inside that bag. I took the newly-arrived bare root roses to the class so they could see the root system. The bagged rose had four canes about 12 inches in length and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter. They were very green and were starting to produce some small breaks along all four canes. Unfortunately, the roots were about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length and the rose was dry and in need of water. The roots on the bare root roses were about 20 inches in length and were damp inside a sturdy plastic bag which had been sealed very well. The visual difference between the two products made the point to the class that maybe bagged roses are a waste of time.

It is almost the middle of March and we have had very few days available to do anything outside with our roses. The ground in my yard is saturated with rain water and will take a week of good weather to dry out sufficiently to do any rose work. I have ordered about ten roses this year. Five of them are roses I presently have but which are beginning to lose energy. I am going to plant the new roses adjacent to the old plants

ARE YOU READY FOR ROSES? Steven Grass

If you didn't begin getting ready for growing roses in late fall or over winter, you still have time! Wait--why would you get ready for growing roses then when it's actually time to stop? Well, fall is when I go to the rose shows and look at what roses won and which look better than mine. It makes me think about what I might do to grow them better. I also make notes of roses that I don't have but might want, and then I start looking on the Internet to see where I might purchase them, or ask other rosarians for suggestions on where to buy. If you didn't take advantage of the fall or winter to do

with the hope that as the old plant declines, the new plant will take over. It is like training a new employee to replace an employee who is retiring.

I quick walk through the roses indicated that I may have lost about 5 or 6 roses over the winter. This is probably caused by my lack of attention to winter protection last fall. I adopted the theory that if they cannot stay alive without any help from me, they are not going to be in my garden this summer. It appears this theory works about as well as killing myself winter protecting. I have resigned myself to the fact that I am going to lose some roses over the winter so why worry about it!

I wrote this article on Thursday and wanted to add one more paragraph to finish it. I have written a number of times to not try to fool Mother Nature. Well Mother Nature showed her power last night with a gigantic earthquake in Japan and tsunamis racing across the Pacific Ocean to hit California. Think of the energy required to push hundreds of billion of tons of water 500 miles an hour over 2,000 miles of ocean. When we start to think we are important, maybe we should think again!

Dick Hanlon

this, you still have time to search the Internet or look over the catalogs that have been coming in the mail for new additions to your garden.

You also need to gather up all your tools, the sprayer, protective gear, fertilizers, pesticides, and fungicides to get ready for the coming rose season. Clean and sharpen all your pruners, loppers, and saws. The job of pruning is a lot easier if your equipment is sharp and in good working order. I also clean and sharpen my shovels and hoes to protect them from rust.



Nothing annoys me more than to be ready to spray my roses and the sprayer doesn't work! Clean your sprayer thoroughly and replace anything that doesn't work properly. I have a full-face respirator and I make sure it's cleaned so that it doesn't stink from last year's summer sweat. I also check to make sure that I have enough canisters for the season and Tyvek spray suits.

I look at all of my fungicides and pesticides to see if I need to gather more for the coming season, and my fertilizers. I keep an eye out for these items to be on sale or on clearance. Sometimes you can find them pretty cheap just because the company has changed the look of the packaging for the upcoming year.

There is plenty of time to do these things now since you don't have to work in the roses yet. And you still have time to relax and look out the window at the snow and be glad that you're inside (in my case with a warm cat on my lap) watching tv!

By the middle of March, I'll be potting up the roses that I've received in the mail, and by the first of April I'll be ready to start spraying and feeding the roses. The cycle starts anew!

POT LADY UPDATE, MARCH 2011



I thought we might just glide smoothly into spring, but apparently not! I write this expecting to get up for work tomorrow and navigate one to three inches of wet, slushy snow. We can't complain about not getting enough precipitation this winter! I must say that this winter has not been bad from my perspective. We didn't get a week of 70° temperatures to confuse our roses, just to shock them with temperatures in the teens afterward. I was able to take my garage roses out

about four or five weeks ago and have not had to put them back inside since. That's easier on my back and on the roses. They were starting to put out new growth (about one or two inches), so getting them outside prevented the limp, pale growth that occurs when they stay inside too long. I left them on the north side of the house, where they are sheltered from the wind and don't get too warm on sunny days. They get a slow, but steady, start on the growing season that way. About the same time, I took the top off the rose box so those pots could soak up the rain and snow. The box roses don't have as much new growth on them as the garage roses, but they look pretty good. The few roses I have in the ground seem to be OK, although I have one or two that

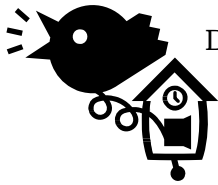
may have to be cut well back to get to living tissue--they're looking a little brown. So far, none have been lost; however, the trickiest part of the year is coming up. Like most of you, I lose more roses in early spring than any other time of year. Somehow, it seems worse to lose a rose in spring; after all, it survived all through the winter, then

when everything should be coming to life, it gets snuffed out. Well, as long as we don't get a late ice storm, they should be all right this year. Here's hoping yours are also doing well!

Joyce Rasmussen
aka The Pot Lady

THIS AND THAT

Lynda Grass



Daylight savings time was this past weekend. I must admit that I'd already gotten used to it being daylight by 7:00 a.m., and it was a shock to the system to leave for work at 7:25 on Monday in the dark! That won't last for much longer, though, and the sun will be greeting us earlier each day. I look forward to that!



Our roses have broken dormancy and are in complete leaf-out. The first of our bushes to do this was our miniflora *Rachel* in the small mini bed in the back yard. She'd had the extra protection of a rose cone, but on Valentine's Day she burst forth and had full sets of leaves by the end of the day. In looking over the garden to see what this cold winter has done, it appears that we're going to lose some canes but not any bushes. One strange thing happened, though. Our original *Irresistible* in the front rose bed has two black canes. We never do anything extra to protect it--have never needed to. It's a hardy bush and I don't recall it ever having any dieback. None of the other bushes around it suffered the same fate. It's not dead by any means; it's just strange that it's been affected at all.



Last fall Steven put a number of newly-purchased roses in containers and buried them into various spots in the rose beds. This past weekend he unearthed them and set them out on the concrete patio in the back yard to let them warm up a little quicker. They all look good, with some having minor cane damage. He most likely will not remove them from the pots into the ground, instead opting to leave them in the containers a while longer to get a good root system established before planting them into larger containers or into the beds. Some of these are new roses that we saw at the fall District show in Virginia and the national show in Atlanta, or have just seen in photos. It's always so exciting waiting for new blooms! We should also be receiving some bare root roses this week that will need to be planted.



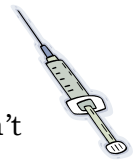
We had a good deal of rain last week (as evidenced by the Kanawha and Elk Rivers being very high), and when we got our order of onion sets on Saturday we wondered if the garden was going to be too wet to turn over.

When Steve went out on Saturday afternoon with a shovel to turn under the ground cover, it was apparent that even though we'd had a lot of rain, the garden drained well.



He was able to run the tiller through that small area on Sunday afternoon, and hopes to be able to plant the sets this coming weekend. These ventures into the garden made me realize some things, though. We had a lot of snow this winter, but it was dry. The humidity has been very low--more like the desert mountain air--and we've had lots of wind. All of these things make the soil dry, so it's important to keep a watch on how much moisture your beds and rose containers receive, and supplement them when needed.

Look elsewhere in the newsletter for reminders of things to do before the rose season gets underway. One thing I want to remind you about is your tetanus shot. Do you remember the last time you **had** a tetanus shot? Working in the roses is a wonderful thing to do, but it can also be treacherous with all those thorns just itching to grab hold of you. You're going to be pruning your roses soon, working in dirt that contains all sorts of things, most likely not wearing gloves (!), in a tank top or short-sleeved shirt and shorts, and backing into those lovely thorns. You don't hear much about tetanus these days, but it's still there and you need to protect yourself. They advise a booster shot every ten years. And if you are diabetic or have a heart condition or some other health ailment, it is most important that you protect yourself from cuts and infections. The Charleston-Kanawha Health Department can provide the shot, as can your health care professional. So if you can't remember the last time you had a tetanus shot (or maybe you've never had one), make arrangements to get one as soon as possible.



Our rose show this year will be held in September as part of the Colonial District's fall meeting. We had planned on the weekend of September 23 at the Ramada Inn in South Charleston, but this has fallen through and we are now situated at the Charleston House on Kanawha Boulevard the weekend of September 16. Mark your calendars--you know that I'm going to be asking for your help.



Dick Hanlon worked with the Master Gardeners and Cooperative Extensive Service Agent John Porter over the winter and set up a three-work course on rose growing with the Master Gardeners. Apparently it's gone very well; they had over 30 people sign up and attend the classes. One of the benefits was a one-year membership with the Society and a 4-month trial membership with the ARS upon course completion. I'd like to extend an invitation to these folks to come to our meetings and learn more about our favorite hobby and why we love roses so much.

Donna Smoot will be talking to us about garden websites, and Terry Phillips will be providing refreshments.

It will be so good to see everyone after this long, cold winter. Bring a friend!

2011 DISTRICT PRE-SPRING MEETING
ROSY INSPIRATIONS

The annual District pre-spring meeting will be held in Staunton, Virginia, at Christ Lutheran Church. The weekend will begin on Friday evening with a social period followed by hors-d'oeuvres and an organ concert. On Saturday there will be a Consulting Rosarian recertification seminar for those who need that training. There will also be talks and round table discussions for those who do not need the class. Lunch and dinner will be catered at the church. Total cost of registration will be \$50.

The motel we have booked for members is the Staunton Best Western at a rate of \$60.00. There are no functions being held at the motel so you are free to stay anywhere. A Hampton Inn and a Holiday Inn are also located nearby along I-81 where you may choose to stay.

The deadline to register is March 15, but you should be able to register as late as the 21st with no problems.

2011 FALL DISTRICT CONVENTION

This year the Charleston Rose Society, assisted by the Huntington Rose Society, will host the fall convention and rose show at the Charleston House in Charleston, West Virginia, the weekend of September 16-18. We have been fortunate to get some good rates and will be able to hold down registration costs. We hope that by

keeping costs down, many in the District will plan to attend. The room rate at the hotel will be \$72.

The registration form and all details of the convention will appear in the summer issue of the Colonial Courier as well as on the website (www.colonialdistrictroses.org)

TOP EXHIBITION ROSES (2001-2010)
John Fleek

The following list is a rating of the top exhibition roses in West Virginia rose shows over the past ten years. There were 20 shows during that period. This year I am listing the top six minifloras since they have had their own category for six years now. As always, the scoring system gives four points for a queen, three for a king, etc. The number of Queens is in parenthesis.

<u>Hybrid Teas</u>	<u>Miniatures</u>	<u>Minifloras</u>
1. <i>Moonstone</i> (3).....25	1. <i>Nancy Jean</i> (2).....26	1. <i>Lady E'Owyn</i> (20) . 11
2. <i>Veterans' Honor</i> (2).....14	2. <i>Arcanum</i> (3).....19	2. <i>Class of 73</i> (1)..... 9
3. <i>Let Freedom Ring</i> (2)...12	3. <i>Soroptimist International</i> (3) .15	2. <i>Foolish Pleasure</i> 9
4. <i>Dublin</i>11	4. <i>Irresistible</i> (3).....12	4. <i>Cachet</i> (1) 8
5. <i>Helen Naudé</i> (2) 9	5. <i>Fairhope</i> (2)11	4. <i>Equinox</i> (2)..... 8
6. <i>Stainless Steel</i> (1)..... 9	6. <i>Dancing Flame</i> (1).....9	4. <i>Whirlaway</i> 8
7. <i>Touch of Class</i> (1)..... 8	7. <i>Bee's Knees</i> 8	
8. <i>Lynn Anderson</i> (1)..... 8	8. <i>Linville</i>7	
9. <i>Gemini</i> 8	8. <i>Mobile Jubilee</i>7	
10. <i>Secret</i> (1)..... 8	10. <i>Pierrine</i> (1)..... 6	