



Ramblin' Rose "Outtakes"

The Charleston Rose Society

A Member of the Colonial District



Volume VIII No. 6

October 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.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Colonial District Fall Meeting and Rose Show is the time that three District awards are presented: Outstanding Judge, Outstanding Consulting Rosarian, and the Silver Honor Medal.

I am so happy to announce that our very own Donna Smoot was awarded the Silver Honor Medal, the highest award that an individual can win for service to the District. Donna is well deserving of this award: an accredited Horticulture Judge and Master Consulting Rosarian, she is an educator on the rose, giving talks to many groups at the local, district, and national levels. She has participated as an instructor at our adult education classes and CR schools, and gives freely of her time to discuss roses with anyone who asks. Her service to the Charleston Rose Society is lengthy, having served as an officer at all levels as well as Rose Show Chairman and Chairman of Judges numerous times. And her help has been invaluable to me and Steven as we have gone through the process of learning how to exhibit our roses.



It was very exciting to see her surprise on Saturday evening at the banquet when Gary Rankin and Monica Valentovic announced her name. Congratulations, Donna!

Lynda Grass

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The rose growing season is quickly coming to an end in Charleston. I have seen two rose gardens recently; both were devoid of blooms. My roses are the same as these two other gardens. But, today at 35th Street and MacCorkle Avenue the Knockout roses in the median of the road looked spectacular. Hundreds of bright red blooms in the middle of a busy highway; I wish my roses looked that good.



I have been removing some roses from my beds in an effort to down size the number of roses I have next year. I hope to get down to 80 roses by next summer. Maybe I can take care of that number in a competent manner.

My term as President has flown by very quickly and without much change in membership. I had hoped we could increase our membership by five people this year, but that hope will probably not become reality. The class we had for the Master Gardener group was encouraging but new members have been less than expected.

I want to thank everyone who helped the Society this year; you each were instrumental in keeping the Society alive and nearly well.

Dick Hanlon



POT LADY UPDATE

The nip of autumn is in the air! Since it's so enjoyable to be outdoors now, it's a good time to look around the garden and start planning for next year. Have any of your roses become sulkers, whiners, or under-performers (metaphorically speaking)? Time to dump them! I find that pitching one of these types can be emotionally cathartic, especially if you can literally throw them over the hillside. Do you have some roses that are healthy and productive, but just aren't what you want to keep? Dig them up and bring them to the October or November meeting. They may be just what someone else would like, and giving a rose to a good home opens up a spot in your garden for that new variety that you just can't pass up.

Where I work, when there is an accident or other undesirable event on the job, we have a Root Cause Investigation. The objective is to find the real underlying cause of the problem so we don't just treat the symptoms; we stop the problem

at its source. Well, “root cause” is a good phrase to keep in mind for our roses. The soil they grow in is a huge contributor to the health and productivity of the bushes. Although pests usually attack leaves, blooms, or canes, the roots are what you want to focus on for the long-term health of the rose. I’m sure it’s mentioned elsewhere, but I’ll say it too: If you are digging up some roses and/or preparing for new ones, you will want to come to the October meeting. Steve Grass will be dishing the dirt (couldn’t resist that one); that is, talking about improving the medium we grow our roses in. If you want to grow good roses, you need to start at ground level, so come prepared to take notes!

Joyce Rasmussen, aka The Pot Lady

WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING NOW TO MY ROSES? **Lynda Grass**

Your roses should be producing hips and fewer blooms as we venture into autumn, and your chores also will become fewer. Enjoy the roses that come this time of year; they’re usually larger and more colorful, a final blessing before winter.

Pulling petals. Continue to pull the petals off your spent blooms to encourage your bushes into dormancy.

Water. If you don’t get an inch of rain during the week, make sure you water to keep your bushes hydrated.

Insects. Hopefully you won’t have any!

Fertilizing. An application of 0-10-10 when you put your roses to bed in November or December will be all you need for the remainder of the year. No nitrogen--you don’t want to encourage growth.



Beautiful hips forming on Fourth of July climber.



Spraying. If you are having specific fungal problems, continue to treat them. Remove fallen leaves and petals from your beds, and diseased leaves from your bushes.

Pruning. It’s too early to cut back your roses for winter. If you see dead canes, remove them, but you need to wait until you have at least two killing frosts before you begin cutting your roses back for winter. We’ll talk about this more next month.

Mulch. It’s not time to put down mulch, but it’s time to purchase it if you haven’t already.

Assessment. This is a good time to assess your roses and determine if you need to remove poor performers, move a struggling bush to another location, plant a potted rose into a bed, or enrich the rose bed itself. Check your pH to see if the beds need to be amended (you'll want it to be in the 6-6.5 range).

There's no point in pruning, spraying, and winter protecting a rose that you feel isn't going to make it through winter. Dig it up and dispose of it now, and enrich the planting hole with a combination of good soil, organics, and compost in order to ready it for a new bush.

Clearance tables. Most of the stores are putting garden stuff away, so check them out to see if there are any items on clearance (spray materials, fertilizer, etc.). These things will keep until spring (make sure you store everything in a dry area), and you can sometimes get real bargains.



A striking bloom of *Irresistible*.

THIS AND THAT

Lynda Grass

First of all I want to correct an error that I passed along in last month's column. Bill Blevins of the Arlington Rose Foundation let Mr. Fleek know that in my paragraph regarding the various changes in rose companies, I noted that Jackson & Perkins had been purchased by Gardens Alive!, when I should have said that they had purchased Weeks' Roses. I apologize for this error and any confusion that it may have caused. Thanks to Mr. Blevins for the correction.

The end of September brought cold, wet weather to our rose beds. I think we had over an inch of rain in two days, and everything that was remaining was just a soggy mess. Steven dug up a number of roses that he had planted at his father's house and brought them over to be put in our rose beds. The *St. Patrick* had over 20 blooms on it--it's just huge, bigger than any *St. Patrick* we've ever had in our yard. I just hope that it manages to survive the winter and produce for us like it did at his Dad's (perhaps Dad will look down on it from above and give it some extra care!). He's also keeping the *Veterans' Honor*, and giving a few others away to some of our friends and family.



St. Patrick
transplanted into pot.

This is a good time to move your roses from pots into beds, and vice versa, a struggling rose from a bed to a pot. Some roses just like the confinement that a pot gives its roots, and it's amazing how well they'll grow there when they were nearly dead in the ground! We've moved roses from the front yard to the

back (or back to front) with great success over the years. I think I've mentioned before that we have two climates in our small yard: the front is cooler and more open, while the back is hot because it's in full sun from around 9:00 a.m. until sunset. Roses that have done poorly in one location have thrived when moved to the other, or into a pot. And in some cases, a rose just won't grow in a garden no matter what you do. We've tried to grow *Signature* at least three different times with no success, so we just quit trying.



The cool, damp mornings have brought powdery mildew back to some of our roses, so Steve has been spot spraying to try to get it under control. The change in the weather has also caused our roses to drop diseased leaves in a rush; our beds are simply covered with blackspot-riddled leaves. It's very important not to cover those diseased leaves with mulch when we prepare the beds for winter, so the tedious job of removing them will be a priority over the next couple of weeks. One good thing will come of this, though, when we start pruning for winter. We remove the leaves from the bushes, and since many of them will already be devoid of leaves, we'll spend less

**Between the fallen leaves and weeds, time getting rid of them!
we've got a lot of work ahead of us!**

Steven is going to talk to us about rejuvenating your rose beds (a very pertinent subject at this time of year), and DeWitt Bowman will be providing refreshments. Mark your calendar and bring a friend!

Lynda Grass

