



THE NOVUS NEWSLETTER
OF THE
THE TIDEWATER ROSE SOCIETY
MARCH 2011



GROWING AND CARE OF YOUR ROSES

Tidewater Rose Society 2011 Officers

President
Michael Price

First Vice President
Elizabeth Mangino

Second Vice President
Donald Snipes

Treasurer
Eveline Price

Recording Secretary
Cathy Daley

Corresponding Secretary
Sunni Burns

Executive Board
*Continuing for 2nd year
*Hathaway Anderson
*Hugh Cox
Edgardo Eugenio
*Bunny Fenn
*Bo Saks
*Nancy Sutcliffe
Margie Tully
*Patricia Wilson

Immediate Past President
Peggy Scott

The second meeting of the Tidewater Rose Society's Seventy-sixth year will be held at the Norfolk Botanical Garden, Sunday at 2:30 p.m. 20 March 2011, in the Holly Room of Baker Hall. Joe Carr from "Gardens In A Flowerpot" will be our guest speaker. Joe will be discussing a variety of garden related subjects from fertilizers to disease and pest control that are recommended for the Tidewater Area. Members and guest are encouraged to ask questions about problems they may be having in their garden. **Don't forget, membership renewal is now due.**

COUNTRY STORE NEWS: The country store will have Felco pruners, gloves and other items for sale. There will be door prizes.

See you at the meeting

George

From the President's Desk

As we begin the new growing season each gardener has to make decisions concerning their approach to the cultivating of their roses and other garden and landscapes plants. Last year I started contemplating on reducing the amount of pesticides that I use. I am going to try using a more organic approach, utilizing environmentally friendly preventive spraying and relying on some of the older products to control outbreaks of disease such as products containing copper, lime/sulfur and horticultural oil. As with all products used one must read the directions concerning each product.

I am also going to change my fertilizing routine to incorporate more organics into my program and decreasing the amount of fertilizer applications. George Wilson, Joe Carr and Gil Gillespie use to tell me that I was going to blow my roses out of the ground with the amount of fertilizer I would apply to our garden. I will let you know how my new approach works.

See you at the meeting,

Mike

The 2011 Roses In Review Competition!

by Diana Klassy District RIR Coordinator

Thank you to everyone who took part in Roses in Review in 2010. I found last years statistics very interesting. Even though there were less reporters than 2009 (52, down by 17), they reviewed more varieties (135, up by 25) for a total of far more reports (373, up by 52)! Of the varieties reported on, 34 were hybrid teas, 34 minifloras, and only 15 miniature varieties. The remaining varieties were floribundas, shrubs, climbers, etc.

Even though 2010's reporters did such a great job, I would like to see a large increase in the number participants in 2011's Roses in Review. In order to accomplish this goal, everyone needs to get started NOW! Since the RIR list consists of those roses that are in their second, third, and fourth years in commerce, the first step is acquire a few of the newer varieties. Check out Edmund's Roses, Rosemania, and other rose retailers to see what's new this year. If you lack space in your garden, some varieties will grow well in containers for awhile.

The next step is to observe these roses as they grow. Are they disease resistance, are they generous with blooms, fragrant, or have any other note worthy characteristics?

The final step is to share your experiences with these new varieties through Roses in Review reporting. The reporting can be completed online at ars.org or with the paper form in the July/August American Rose magazine. The deadline for the reporting is always September 26th of each year.

This year, I would like to have some friendly RIR competition between societies. In the district we currently have 16 local societies. At the pre-spring meeting, I plan to pair off societies for the challenge of which society can have the greatest percentage of members send RIR reports. (You don't have to be an ARS member to participate in RIR.) The winning society, in addition to bragging rights, will have an ice cream party financed by the losing society, not to exceed \$25. To assist in winning this award, I recommend that societies set aside part of the August meeting as time to instruct and encourage members in completing these reports. If your society wants to pick a certain society to challenge, let me know your preference. (diana_n_roses@netzero.com)

Keep in mind that the purpose of Roses in Review is to help rose growers, especially new growers, to pick roses that are likely to do well for them. The averaged *garden ratings* from these reviews are published annually in the ARS Handbook for Selecting Roses. So buy a new rose variety this year and participate in 2011 Roses in Review!

TIDEWATER ROSE SOCIETY MEETING DATES FOR 2011

20 March	Holly Room
17 April	Holly Room
15 May	Holly Room
12 June	Picnic
21 August	Holly Room
18 September	Holly Room
9 October	Holly Room
20 November	Holly Room

TIDBIT'S

As you can tell by my president's message I am planning on a more organic approach to growing my roses. I e-mailed "Good Earth R.O.S.E. Care" last week and Ms. Paulette Mouchet, ARS Good Earth R.O.S.E. Committee, was gracious enough to respond to my letter. Below is Paulette's reply:

Dear Mike:

Thanks so much for your note. Yes, it IS possible to grow roses organically! Take a look at the last Organic Gardening magazine, Mike Shoup (of TX) wrote about transitioning his nursery, the Antique Rosarium, to organics and how much better the plants are. I've written two articles in the American Rose Society magazine showcasing folks all over the US who are growing organically, and many of them show their roses and win.

I appreciate your note because it made me think about the basic steps to successful organic gardening.

First, stop using all chemicals. Don't succumb to the "just the once" temptation. When you transition a chemical garden to organics, your plants may go through shock. It's a bit like taking someone off a diet of Coke and chocolate and teaching them to eat healthy. Gardens that are used to getting chemical fertilizers and chemical sprays have no built-in mechanisms for dealing with pests or disease. You will probably need to provide extra organic support during the transition period.

Second, amend your soil. The soil of chemical gardens tends to have very little organic material, and the use of chemicals destroys the beneficial soil microorganisms. To have a healthy, self-sustaining organic garden, you'll need to improve your soil. Start by adding 6"-8" of well-composted manure. If you can, till it in. Then apply a thick layer of mulch such as composted redwood, straw (not oat hay), or legume hay such as alfalfa or timothy. You can also mulch with composted manure, but I like to mulch with a different material to provide the soil organisms with a variety of foodstuffs. You'll always want to keep a thick layer of mulch on the soil surface.

Third, use only organic fertilizer. During the transition period, consider using a product like Dr. Earth that contains beneficial soil microorganisms. When you plant a new rose or transplant an old one, add some mycorrhizae to the hole. There are lots of non-commercial products out there for fertilizing. I'm fond of cottonseed meal, alfalfa pellets, and worm compost.

Fourth, use only organic products and methods to help your plants fight pest and disease. Use a blast of water to dislodge aphids (or hand squish). Water also works well for summer spider mites. Release ladybugs and green lacewings to eat pests. Apply Actively Aerated Compost Tea (AACT) to help with fungal disease. AACT can be applied to the soil to help provide beneficial organisms. The first year when you prepare your roses for winter, apply lime-sulfur as a dormant spray to help eliminate overwintering fungal spores. If you've had really terrible disease problems, spray with fixed copper. (Fixed copper is like using an ICBM missile and you want to avoid it if at all possible.) In subsequent years, use horticultural oil – or nothing at all. You can assess in the early fall. Get rid of plants that are disease magnets – or plant one on purpose to draw disease and pests away from the rest of your roses!

Fifth, experiment and be willing to try new things. Talk to other organic gardeners. Be willing to accept some imperfection.

I hope this helps!

Sincerely,
Paulette Mouchet
ARS Good Earth R.O.S.E. Committee
OrganicRoseCare.org

(The above letter is just one of many reasons to join the American Rose Society. Good Earth R.O.S.E. Care is provided by the American Rose Society. The American Rose Society provides the educational/technical support that each rose society and its members need to keep abreast of the ever changing cultivation of the rose. In the past I have recommended certain books to have as an on hand resource for help in growing roses and ones very best resource for growing roses is the American Rose Society. Our present economic situation has made our institutions and the everyday citizen to rearrange their finances and the American Rose Society is no different. If possible please support the American Rose Society by becoming a member.)

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Donald Snipes
Membership Chairman

Mrs. Laura Huckins, 1400 Fancy Court, Virginia Beach, Va. 23454. Telephone: 757-618-9507. E-mail: Laura@Weekly-Weeder.com

Mrs. Mary Rice, 7410 Shirland Ave., Norfolk, Va. 23505. Telephone: 757-270-2273. E-mail: cuckoo612@gmail.com

Ms. Frances Van Brackle, 405 North Street, Murfreesboro, N.C. 27855. Telephone: 252-398-8638. Cell: 252-396-1567. E-mail: vanbrackle@roadrunner.com

Colonial District Pre-Spring Meeting

The Colonial District Pre-Spring Meeting will be held 25-26 March 2011, Staunton, Virginia. A Consulting Rosarian Class will be held on Saturday, 26 March. For more information contact George Wilson or see George at the meeting Sunday. Registration form is also available at www.colonialdistrictroses.org.

The Importance of the Proper Planting of Your Roses

Howard E. Jones, Consulting Rosarian
Tidewater Rose Society

Arguably, the single most important step in good rose culture is proper planting. If a poor job is done of planting, nothing else you do at a later date will make up for it. So don't just stick that valuable bush that you may have gone to such lengths to obtain into a small hole in the ground, or you will probably be digging it back up in a year or two. Think of the time and money you will have lost.

So what are the major components in the "proper" planting of a rose bush? I would suggest that they are location, bed preparation and soil amendments, planting hole preparation and the actual planting. Each of these will be discussed in some detail in the remainder of this article.

Location

Recognizing that you may not have the "perfect" site for roses in your yard, you still will need to select the best possible location within the confines of your own yard.

Roses need a minimum of five to six hours of direct sunlight, and close to total sun would be even better for most cultivars. When you consider sunlight, be aware that both your trees and your neighbors' trees will continue to grow in both width and height. This is hopefully a long-term project. How much direct sun will you have in five or ten years? Also, consider that the sun's path in relationship to your rose beds will be different at different times of the year.

You also need a site where there is good natural drainage, or you will have to artificially provide that condition with gravel or drain tiles. Don't pick a low area in your yard because the drainage will be poorest there. Raised beds will help, and that may be the way to go if you don't have satisfactory drainage.

In addition, it is extremely desirable to have protection from the cold, north winter winds. Your house or other structures, a fence, or a tall hedge may provide this shelter.

Bed Preparation

After you select the site for your rose bed (or beds), decide what size bed(s) you want, depending upon the number of bushes you intend to plant. For Hybrid Tea roses, I would suggest that they be planted at least 30 to 36 inches apart, and Floribundas 24 to 30 inches, depending upon the vigor of the variety. Most Miniatures do well if placed 15 to 20 inches apart.

A bed 60 inches (5 feet) wide is ideal for a double row of Hybrid Tea bushes. You can make the bed any length; and if you stagger the bushes, they will be 30 to 36 inches apart on the diagonal also. If there will be more than one bed, leave an aisle or walkway at least 40 inches wide on each side of the bed so that you will have free access for pruning, spraying, fertilizing, etc., without stepping into the beds. This will also make it more enjoyable for visitors to your garden.

It is best, when possible, to prepare the bed in the Fall before planting your bushes in the Spring. Stake off the bed area; and if it is part of your lawn area, spray with *Round-Up* to kill the roots of all grass vegetation. If the roots are not killed, you will have a problem with grass in the beds later on.

Remove the dead sod and hand spade or rotary till the soil 8 to 10 inches deep. If you have very poor soil that is mostly clay, remove it and bring in good quality topsoil. Add large quantities of organic matter (peat moss, compost, well rotted manure, etc.) and 6 to 8 cubic feet of horticultural Perlite per 100 square feet. The Perlite is very important because it is a permanent soil conditioner and will not break down as the organic matter will. It will keep the soil open and porous so that it will hold water and air and still drain well.

Rotary till this mixture until it is homogenous and then water good and allow to settle. Next, take a soil sample and have the pH tested. Roses like a pH of 6.5 to 6.8, slightly acidic, and perform best in this range because they can take up the maximum amount of nutrients. If the tests show that you need to bring the pH up, add limestone; and if you need to bring the pH down, add the proper amount of agricultural sulfur. Most soils in the East are acidic and in the range of 5 to 5.5, and need to have limestone added. After adding limestone or sulfur to correct the pH, till it into the top 8 to 10 inches of the bed.

Raised beds of at least 6 to 10 inches will really help with your drainage. If you decide to go this way, you will need to add sufficient bulk materials to build the bed to the desired height, keeping in mind that the bed will settle. You will also need a border of some kind--salt-treated lumber, etc.--to hold the soil in the raised bed and make it more attractive.

Hole Preparation

I plant each bush in its own individual hole, since the entire bed was not worked 18 to 20 inches deep. This assures a deep root zone and good drainage. Most of the feeder roots are in the top 8 or 10 inches. Normally, I wait until Spring and prepare each hole at the time of planting.

Each hole is made 20 to 22 inches wide and 18 to 20 inches deep. This is a two- wheelbarrow operation. Remove the top 8 to 10 inches and place in a wheelbarrow. In a separate wheelbarrow, remove the next 10 inches, which will be mostly clay, and discard it or save it to be reconditioned and used in other areas of your yard.

Now, to the wheelbarrow that contains the top 8 to 10 inches, add enough peat moss and Perlite so that your mixture will be 1/3 soil, 1/3 peat moss, and 1/3 Perlite. Since my natural soil has a pH of around 5.0-5.5, I add two cups of pelletized limestone, and because phosphorus does not readily move down in the soil, I add one cup of bone meal. Then all of the components are thoroughly mixed until they are a homogenous mixture.

Planting

Now you are ready to plant or transplant your rose bush. Depending on whether you are planting a bare root or potted rose bush, backfill the hole with your prepared mixture until the crown or bud union of the rose bush will be set at the proper height in relationship to the soil level in the bed.

In our climate zone of 8 here on the coast of Virginia, I like to set the bush so that the bud union will initially be approximately one inch above the soil level. It will generally settle to ground level or slightly above.

When your soil level in the hole is about 6 inches below the bed level, fill the hole with water (about 2 gallons) and allow to drain. Add one cup of bone meal or 1/3 cup of triple super-phosphate in the hole around the bush, and then complete filling the hole until it is at bed level. Water again thoroughly.

Next, cover the bud union with 2 to 3 shovelfuls of the amended soil to keep the bud union and canes from drying out until the bush breaks dormancy. As new growth begins to develop in 2 to 3 weeks, gradually pull the mound of soil away from the bud union, being careful not to damage the new growth. Generally, the soil that has been pulled back will be needed to level the bed where the soil in the hole has settled.

Conclusion

Having said all of the above about the importance of planting your roses properly, I am not saying that just because your rose bush has been planted properly that it will thrive on neglect from that point on. This is just the first important step in growing good roses. You still must give it the benefit of the many other cultural practices that will keep it healthy and productive. But without the right start, your rose bush will begin life with two strikes against it.

It now takes me 1½ hours to plant each rose bush. I hope this is because I am doing a good job and not just getting slower in my old age. Happy planting and successful rose growing. Remember that a rose bush that is “properly” planted has an excellent chance of being in your rose garden for a long, long time.

CONSULTING ROSARIANS

George Wilson, Chairman

Cathy Daley	757-377-3310
Lynn Hunt	410-221-0283
Howard E. Jones	757-481-4158
Glenn Millard	757-488-2171
Marian Millard	757-488-2171
Michael Price	757-583-6770
George Wilson	757-853-0621
Patricia Wilson	757-853-0621

2011 TRS APPOINTMENTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Elizabeth Mangino (1 st VP)	Program Chairwoman
Donald Snipes (2 nd VP)	Membership Chairman
Cathy Daley	Rose Show Chairwoman
Michael Price	Newsletter Editor
Cathy Daley	Hospitality Chairwoman
Sara Jones	June Picnic Chairwoman
Nancy Sutcliffe	January Banquet Chairwoman
George Wilson	Country Store
George Wilson	Consulting Rosarian Chairman
George Wilson	Property Manager
Patricia Wilson	Parliamentarian





Editor
1972 Edgewood Ave.
Norfolk, Va. 23503