



Ramblin' Rose "Outtakes"

The Charleston Rose Society

A Member of the Colonial District

Volume VIII No. 3

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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:

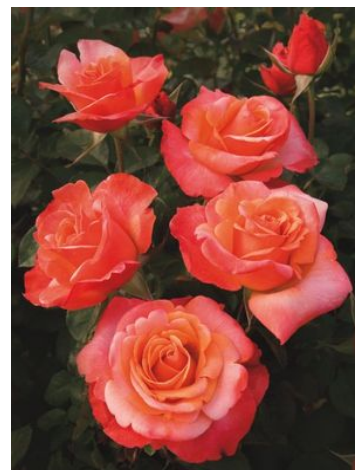
Joyce Rasmussen, Treasurer
Charleston Rose Society
2519 Winter Street
St. Albans, WV 25177.

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

COLORIFIC

This rose is a real showstopper! Big pointed buds swirl open to show the most beautiful shades of peach, then to coral, and finally a darker salmon. Strong stems and a deep green



courtesy Regan Nursery website

glossy set of leaves make this a breathtaking rose. Introduced by Weeks in 2001 and hybridized by Tom Carruth in 2010, this floribunda is a cross of *Playboy* x *Lagerfeld* x *Jacob's Robe*. She has about 30 petals, a mild fruity fragrance, and has a good-size bloom for a floribunda. The exhibition form is there and the canes get a nice length.

The coloring of this rose is what makes her a true standout in the garden. It is a little difficult to explain the wonderful blend of orange coloring on this rose, but as many of you know, orange-, apricot-, and peachy-colored roses are my favorite. This has all of those colors in it, which makes for a great garden display, as well as form that will see this rose on the trophy tables. Quite a few sources have this rose available for sale: Edmunds' has it grafted for \$19.95 and then you can find it on its own roots at Chamblee's for \$9.95. I am going into my second year with this rose and have had very little disease on her. I just love the color she brings to my floribunda bed, and I highly recommend *Colorific*.

Donna Smoot



THINGS I DO NOT UNDERSTAND

Dick Hanlon



What a wet spring! It has been impossible to keep up with grass cutting, weed eating and taking care of roses. The care of roses has taken a back seat to the takeover of grass and weeds in my yard. As of today (5/11/11) most of my roses have not been pruned, sprayed or fertilized. So much for good intentions!

I lost about six roses over the winter, mostly miniatures. I think most of the losses were due to the cold winter. I would like to replace these six roses but finding miniature roses locally is impossible and it is too late to order from catalogs. I guess I may take some cuttings in a few weeks to see if I can propagate some roses for planting later this year.

I am looking forward to the Huntington rose show on June 11; we need to support their show by exhibiting, clerking and helping them any way we can.

I was going to get on my soap box concerning the requirement of having to register for the national meeting to be eligible to exhibit in the national rose show. Rather than get on my soap box, I am going to silently protest by not going to the national show in North Carolina in June. Everything in ARS is about the money!



POT LADY UPDATE

So far, I haven't seen much blackspot or mildew, but that's due entirely to luck. With the 80-degree days and high humidity we are having now, fungal diseases are sure to start showing up soon. The rain has not been cooperative at all in scheduling downpours! I have only been able to spray once this year. I can't remember when I've seen such continual rain. The good news is I haven't had to water but once.

I did finally get the winter storage box put away and the "pot benches" in place, so now all the potted roses are in their assigned places for the growing season. I delayed putting up the benches while we were getting that spell of severe storms. I figured they were safer from damage next to the house. Some have produced nothing but blind growth, but some have lots of buds developing and blooming. *Hot Tamale* and *Heather Sproul* look like they are trending downward. Not only are there no signs of buds forming, they don't have much growth on them at all, so they may be doomed. However, I didn't lose any

roses over the winter or into early spring. With continued luck, these two break out of their funk yet.

Not pot-related, but perhaps of interest anyway: Among the four roses I planted in the ground last year, two have daffodils growing up through them, which makes it hard to see what the growth on the roses is like. I have no idea how I missed seeing those bulbs when I planted the roses. If anyone wants some white daffodil bulbs, let me know--I'll be happy to dig some up for you!

Joyce Rasmussen, aka The Pot Lady

THIS AND THAT

Lynda Grass

This is the time of year that you begin to see all of the work done in the fall and early spring come to fruition. Your roses should be blooming by now, and the first blooms are always the biggest, prettiest ones you've ever seen. The first roses of the year are such a welcome sight that you tend to overlook "cabbage" centers and just enjoy the beautiful colors they bring to your yard.



Evidence of powdery mildew--curling leaves with purple shading on the underside

We've had a number of foggy mornings of late, and have already noticed powdery mildew on some of our bushes. It's been the bane of the roses in our back yard (which is closest to the river) the last few years. Steven has had good luck with what he calls "Monica's potion" of 1 tablespoon baking soda, 1 tablespoon Crisco oil, and 1 tablespoon Dawn dishwashing liquid in 1 gallon of water. Spray on affected areas and like magic, the powdery mildew will disappear. Monica Valentovic shared that concoction in Huntington's newsletter, *The Thorny Bush*, last year and it really works.

If your bushes are like ours, they're putting out lots of side shoots. If you want large, single blooms, you need to "finger prune" the side growth so that the energy goes to the center bloom only. I usually just roll the smallest buds out of the leaf axil, leaving behind the leaf. For shoots that have gotten larger, I do one of two things: pinch the stem against my index finger and cut through it with my thumbnail, or snip it out with a small pair of scissors. The remaining stem (or "staub", as Wheeler McFadden called it) will eventually dry up and fall out by itself. If you don't mind lots of sprays, just let them go! (*see photos below*)

As Steven's been going through the garden pruning for the Huntington Show and the National, he's discovered some damage from the late winter/early spring weather fluctuations. We couldn't understand what was going on with our *Playboy*, which has always been a stalwart in our yard no matter what. It was the first single rose we purchased after joining the Society (so it's close to 20 years old), and we thought that perhaps age and our show pruning were taking its toll on the bush. I took a good look at the canes and discovered that the canes had apparently frozen and then burst, leaving open gashes. These wounds don't really heal, and you either have to cut below

them and hope the bush will recover, or make the decision to dig up the bush and replace it. I'm afraid that's going to happen to *Playboy* because the wounds are very low on the canes. It's always sad to lose a good friend! We'll definitely get another *Playboy* because it's a beauty in the garden and very disease resistant with its dark green, glossy leaves. If you've got a bush that's suddenly taken a downward slide, go over it carefully--you may find the same thing has happened to it. You can't prevent this type of damage in the early spring garden. Once the rose has broken dormancy and started pulling moisture up into the canes, it's susceptible.

Speaking of the Huntington rose show, consider going down on Saturday, June 11, with some of your roses and entering them in the show. I'll have some draft show schedules at our meeting if you're interested. Their schedule is similar to ours, so there are plenty of classes to enter. And it's going to be an adventure this year because they're having the show in the church where they meet each month instead of at the Huntington Mall (conflicts with other events at the Mall in June prevented them from using those facilities this year). It should be a good event, and will be excellent practice for the District show in the fall.

Our meeting this month is on Old Garden Roses, a subject that Dick Hanlon loves to talk about. Nancy Olson will be providing refreshments.

It was good to see some new faces from the Master Gardener program at the April meeting. Hope to see them back again. Mark your calendar for May 24 and ask a friend to come along with you!

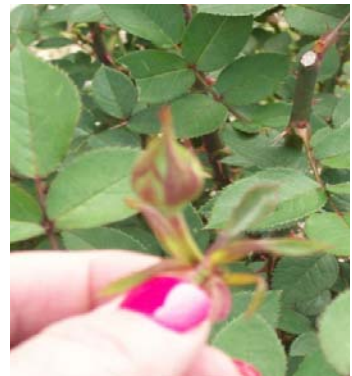
Lynda Grass



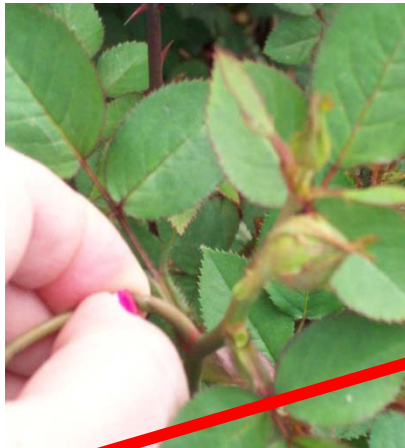
A bud with two small side buds.



Simply grasp the smaller buds and roll them out.



The final result will be a single bud with very little scarring in the leaf axil areas.



You can see the long shoot coming out at the left side of the stem; just pinch it out but leave a portion of it in the leaf axil (a "staub"). It will eventually dry and fall out, leaving very little scarring in that area. You can do the same to the center bud of a potential spray, leaving the side growth to mature.

WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING NOW TO MY ROSES?

Lynda Grass

We're entering the production phase of rose growing. The bushes will be sending out lots of buds and new growth for your enjoyment. Don't think you can take a break though; they need your attention to keep up that beautiful work!

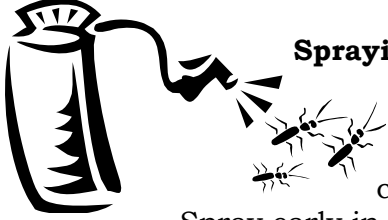
Water. Most of us have had abundant rain so far this spring. But the only way to make sure that your roses have received an inch of rain each week is to monitor your rain gauge and adjust accordingly.



Insects. As the new growth comes on, there will be critters that discover the dining room in your garden. If you have *aphids*, you can get rid of them with a soapy spray. I'm somewhat cutthroat when it comes to these bugs, though, and just like to crush them between my fingers. I know, sounds weird, but there's a sense of satisfaction in eliminating them from the rose bush. And what's wrong with having green fingers??? Wear a pair of Nitrile gloves if you're squeamish! You can also purchase ladybugs (which love aphids and other insects) from some garden centers or garden catalogs and release them into your rose garden. Use the least-invasive product that's available first, and remember that most insecticides don't know the difference between good insects and bad ones--they treat them all the same: dead.

Fertilizing. Your bushes are going to be using the fertilizer you put down in early spring. If we have an inordinate amount of rain, be aware that you may need to feed a little sooner than the six weeks recommended on the product simply because it's been

washed away by the rain. This is especially true if you have roses in pots or containers.



Spraying. I repeat from last month--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. After your roses have bloomed, you need to remove them from the bush. That will signal it to continue to produce new growth. You'll want to go down the cane to an outward-facing bud eye, and cut at a 45° angle about ¼" above that eye. Remember that the new cane most likely will not be any larger than the area of the cane that you cut from, so you may need to go down that cane a distance so that a sturdy new cane develops. Make sure that you keep your rose beds clean--petals on the bed floor encourage insects and disease so keep them picked up.

