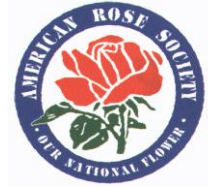




NEWSLETTER

of the

VIRGINIA PENINSULA ROSE SOCIETY



President – Marti Youmans
First Vice President – Joy Long
Editor – Marti Youmans

March 2011

<http://www.colonialdistrictroses.org/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/2011vprsMar.pdf>

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2011 Meeting Dates

March 6- Pruning-Bob Little's
April 3- Easy Care Roses
May 8- Show Preparation
June- Picnic (TBD)
September 11
October 2
November 6
December- Luncheon (TBD)

*Each rose that comes
brings me greetings from
the Rose of an eternal
spring.*

*Rabindranath Tagore
(1861-1941)*

REFRESHMENTS:

**If you plan to attend the
March Meeting, please bring
something sweet, salty or
crunchy, or cold drinks, etc.
(Cups, plates, napkins and
utensils are furnished).**

The next VPRS meeting - our second meeting of the year- will be pruning roses at Bob and Alice Little's home in Hampton. Please join us to share rose information, refreshments and fellowship. Feel free to ask questions and to bring a friend and your tools and gloves.

Directions from I-64: Going east on I-64 (toward Virginia Beach) take exit 258N/Mercury and turn left at Fox Hill Rd. Take the 3rd left onto Colonial Acres Drive, and then turn right onto Lafayette Drive.

March 6, 2011 2:00 PM Pruning at Bob Little's Home: 851-1140
1758 Lafayette Dr., Hampton, VA, 23664-1754
Next Month- Easy Care Heirloom Roses
with Connie Hilker.

From the President's Desk/Computer: I don't know about all of ya'll, but I'm tired of this back and forth weather. We have had it much better that a lot of other people in our country and in the other parts of the world and for that I am very grateful, but I think it's time to get started with the rose weather. We have a lot of local rose activities going on this year and there are a lot more available to us. I think that everyone should try to go to at least one District and one National event, just to see what all the fuss/fun is about. Each one is different and full of interesting rose information.

Time to get busy pruning, cleaning, sealing, and doing your first epsoming and organic fertilizing. **But first**, gather up all the tools you'll need in the garden. I like to keep all my tools in a five-gallon bucket. I get a regular size by-pass pruner and a small size scissor/pruner (I use this on Miniature and Mini-flora roses), 2 bottles of Elmer's school glue, paper and pen, a small saw, a pair of loppers, gloves and a knee pad/sit-upon and, of course, a bottle of cold water and a hat. Make sure that all of your tools are clean, dry and sharp. The right way to start is to put on safety glasses and then you can sharpen the blades with a file, working away from your body to be safe. Then clean them with rubbing alcohol or Clorox by pouring the liquid over the blades and actually scrub it, then dry very well with paper towels or a cleaning cloth. Make sure the joints, spring, screws and everything is good and dry, and then spray down all metal parts with WD-40. Work all the moving parts to ensure complete lubrication. Dry the excess and you are ready to start cleaning and pruning your rose beds. I make notes on any things that I need to get for the next pruning/ cleaning session. Due to working full time, the weather and my health issues, I generally do my gardening in short spurts and must have all of my supplies ready to go in a moment's notice.

my

Gifts & Contributions Corner

The Virginia Peninsula Rose Society accepts donations to further the knowledge of roses among the public. The names of contributors will be listed in future newsletters and in the 2010 Rose Show Program. If you would like to be a donor, please include a check.

The Virginia Peninsula Rose Society is a 501C-3 non-profit organization and any donations are tax deductible (but not your membership) receipt is available upon request.

**"Queen Level" "King Level"
"Princess Level" "Prince Level"**

Rosy Dates to Remember:

March 11- Peninsula Council of Garden Clubs meeting at NN Women's Club at 10am.

March 14- York County Master Gardener's Horticulture Extravaganza-Contact Marti Youmans@ 867-5566.

March 25- 26 –Colonial District Pre-Spring Meeting, Staunton, VA. Contact Ray Shipley @ 301-729-5271 or navybng@atlanticbb.net.

April 16- CNU Gardening Symposium- Contact Margie Tully @ 757-989-0840 or margietully@cox.net.

May 14- VPRS Rose Show Patrick Henry Mall- Contact Bob Little @757-851-1140 or rlittle666@aol.com.

May 29- Richmond Rose Society- Lewis Genter Botanical Gardens- contact Willie Mills @ 804-641-0656 or willie1091@comcast.net.

June 5- Maryland Rose Society-Friendly Farm Restaurant, Upperco, MD- contact David Walsh @ 410-374-1070 or Shiloh@qis.net.

June 11- Huntington Rose Society- Central Christian Church, 1202 Fifth Avenue, Huntington, WV- Contact Gary Rankin or Monica Valentovic @304-697-0321.

The Lovely Rose

There are so many unexpected moments of rare beauty associated with roses. Even when the flowers are hidden in the fading light, their perfume is held in the air: an all-pervading reminder of the loveliness that will be there for us to enjoy through long, sunlit days. Though time may erode all things, yet the rose continues to build truth on legend until the position this flower holds in public esteem is assured for as long as there are gardens and gardeners to care for it.

Geoffrey Smith, from "A Passion for Plants".

Home Arranging 101: To begin a home arrangement, start with: what flowers am I going to use? Ones from my yard, or bought flowers? Where am I going to put them? What vase should I use or some other container? Special occasion or just my enjoyment? This time of year there is not much choice other than to buy them unless you have a greenhouse. I like to get flowers from Sam's or Wal-mart. They have pretty nice stuff, readily available and not too expensive. Be sure to check dates on packages and to check what you are buying to get the freshest looking bunch. I pick out my flowers on my way to the cashier. If you can plan ahead, try to have a bucket of water in your car waiting for the flowers and go straight home.

When I get home, I like to cut off about two inches of the bottom of the stems and put them in water with some flower preservative.

I decide on my container. I like wide necked, solid colored vases that are white or clear, because my countertops are brown with blue spots, I think it has enough distractions without a busy vase. When using a tall vase, I don't use any oasis as the stems usually fill the neck with just enough room to add water.

I then start eyeballing the size of the stems and deciding on how long to cut them. Measure twice and cut once. Remember that you are arranging for yourself, so just relax and do it the way that you like it. A couple of days later, you can cut the stems again and do another arrangement with a different size and/or shaped container and get a completely different look.

It's fun to experiment with the same flower to see how many ways and how long you can get them to last.

Confederate Cornbread-

1/2 c. salad oil	1 c. corn meal
1 sm. container of sour cream	1 1/2 tsp salt
1 sm. can of creamed corn	2 eggs
3 tsp. baking powder	

Mix ingredients well. Bake in greased pan at 375 degrees for 30 minutes or bake in regular muffin tins.

Nook Amick, St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Chapin, SC

Container Planting for Roses By: Howard E. Jones, Tidewater Rose Society

Several years ago I reached the planned size of my rose garden: where roses have been used to landscape our back yard and the south side of our house, besides having formal beds of Hybrid Teas, Floribundas and Miniatures. During the five or six years it took me to make my rose garden a reality, I determined that 300 rose bushes was the maximum number that I wanted to take care of. You see, I am a "neat freak" and it bothers me when the garden is not kept dead-headed and well groomed. I also wanted time left to do other things. Since completing the size of my garden, I have been planting all of my new roses in biodegradable pots, rather than planting directly into an existing rose bed. Actually, I have been planting replacement roses in biodegradable pots for six or seven years. While expanding, new roses were planted directly into the new beds. Roses that were to be planted as replacements in established beds were first potted and then planted in the bed after the rose bush to be discarded was taken out. This was done at any time the weather and soil conditions were right and it was convenient for me. No hurry and no pressure. The year that my garden was completed, I started growing four potted Hybrid Teas at the end of four of my Hybrid Tea beds. They were placed outside of the beds on 18" diameter patio stepping stones that were sunk into the lawn and grown there above ground for an entire growing season. 15-gallon biodegradable pots were used and this size container is large enough to sustain a Hybrid Tea bush indefinitely. The new bushes grew so well above ground that after two or three years of experimenting I decided to keep all of my potted replacement bushes above ground for their first growing season. This allows me to evaluate them and gives me some stalling time to decide which roses to take out to make room for my latest acquisitions. I am quite pleased with this system of making replacements. Remember that all new roses that I put in are now replacements. There are many advantages in this system of container planting and only a few disadvantages. The advantages and disadvantages are listed below:

ADVANTAGES:

Container planting can be done at anytime, regardless of weather and soil conditions.

Ideal potting soil mixture can be made for maximum root and plant growth.

Pots can be moved into a garage or protected area in case of freezing weather after late fall or early spring planting.

Roses get off to a quicker start in the spring due to root zone being warmer above ground.

Pots can be moved around to experiment with different sun/shade conditions.

Roots are protected from competition with roots of older bushes and from site contamination (if there is such a phenomena) until roots of new bush are well developed.

Normally will get more growth the first season because of all of the above.

I can evaluate the variety and bush for the first season without going to the labor and hard work of planting it in the ground. (Is it really a keeper?)

Rose bush does not need to be removed from biodegradable pot before planting in the ground and the well-established roots are not disturbed.

DISADVANTAGES:

Some extra work in planting in the ground if you decide after evaluation to keep the potted rose bush-although the improved growth should offset this.

Will need to water more frequently than bushes that have been planted in the ground. If potting mixture contains one-third to one-half soil that has some clay in it, this will be minimal.

Additional cost of biodegradable pot or reusable container (if you take bush out of pot before planting).

Need area in the sun to plant potted rose bush while evaluating.

I have found that my paved parking area is a very convenient location and that my parking area is enhanced by the beauty of the roses. In making up my potting soil, I use one-third topsoil (soil in

which roses have not previously been grown), one-third peat moss or other organic materials (can be any combination), and one-third Perlite. I consider the Perlite a very important component as it does not break down and is a permanent soil conditioner. Limestone, gypsum, and a cup of organic fertilizer (that I mix myself) is added to the potting mixture for each ten- or fifteen-gallon pot. Also, a shovelful of crushed pine bark would be helpful in this mixture.\

My preference in containers is a 15-gallon biodegradable pot which is 75% peat moss and 25% wood fiber. The 15-gallon pot is very heavy when filled with the potting mixture and watered. You may prefer the 10-gallon size as it is easier to handle and move. Either size gives sufficient space for the roots to develop during the first season, but the 15-gallon pot is large enough for a rose bush to thrive indefinitely. Four-gallon pots are used for Miniatures.

Since the bottom of these biodegradable pots will break down after approximately one season above ground due to moisture conditions at the bottom of the pot, you need to re-pot or plant the bush in the ground after one season. Once the pot has been planted in the ground, it breaks down very quickly due to enzymes and bacteria in the soil, and it is difficult to find the remains of the pot after a year or so.

When I plant the potted rose bush, I don't just bury it in the ground. The hole is dug 5 or 6 inches wider than the diameter of the pot and 8 or 10 inches deeper than the depth of the pot. The top 8 or 10 inches - the best soil - is placed in a wheelbarrow and the rest into a second wheelbarrow to be discarded or recycled. Peat moss, limestone, gypsum and Perlite are added to the wheelbarrow that has the 8 or 10 inches from the top of the hole and thoroughly mixed until it is a homogeneous mixture. The bottom of the hole is back-filled with the amended soil so that, when the pot is placed in the prepared hole, the top of the pot is just below the level of the bed. I use an empty pot to make sure the depth is just right before placing the potted rose in the hole. (It's really hard on the back to get a 15-gallon pot back out of the hole once it has been lowered in.)

The soil mix is then filled in around the pot and firmed so that it is still six inches below the bed level. Fill the remainder of the hole with water, let settle, and then fill to the top with the soil mixture and water again. If the pot is placed properly, the soil will be just over the top of the pot and level with the bed. The bud union will be just above or even with the soil level. You can adjust this according to your climate zone and your own planting depth preference. (At the time of potting the rosebush, the bud union was placed about one and one-half inches above the soil level and the soil level in the pot was about one inch below the top of the pot. This allows room to hold water and for mulch.) Once the container rose is planted in the garden, it is treated like all other roses in the garden with the exception that water and fertilizer are applied within the area of the diameter of the pot until the pot breaks down-about one year. As an exhibitor, I find I want to try all of the promising new varieties as they become available on the market; and it is a little frustrating to have to pick and choose, since I eventually have to take out a bush for every new bush that I put in. Back when new beds were being started every year and 50 or 60 new bushes planted each year, this was not a problem. My system of container planting new roses to evaluate a new variety and/or the vigor of the bush before planting in the ground allows me to try more new roses and helps eliminate all the time and work of putting in a new bush that I may be digging up in a year or two. Also roses that are lost from winter kill or general loss of vigor are replaced with container-grown roses. This system of container planting for replacement roses has worked well for me. You may want to try it and see if it works for you.

A 1995 Award of Merit Article

Virginia Peninsula Rose Society 2011 Membership Form

The membership year for the Virginia Peninsula Rose Society begins January 1 and ends December 31. New members, who joined after our Rose Show in May at a reduced rate, will now be enrolled with full membership for 2011. Help us keep our membership list up-to-date by completing the following:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

Please print your E-mail address here:

I would like to have my newsletter delivered by the US Post Office (\$10.00) \$ _____

I am sending my 2011 membership (\$15.00) \$ _____

The total of my check is \$ _____

Please issue your check for \$15.00 (single/family membership) to **“VPRS Membership”**.
If you choose to get your Newsletter by USPS Mail, please add \$10 per calendar year.
You may also pay at the next meeting.

Mail checks and completed form to: VPRS, **10 Rose Lane, Hampton, VA 23664-1842.**

Notes/Suggestions/Comments (how can we improve):

For Internal use only

date received: _____ added to membership list USPS newsletter

Rose of the Month



America (JACclam), LCl, orange pink
RIR score: 8.3 out of 10.

Parentage: [Fragrant Cloud X Tradition]
Hybridized by William A. Warriner
Introduced in 1976

This climber flowers freely in summer and has a good repeat. The buds are high-centered, ovoid, and open to reveal coral pink, cupped 3.5-inch blooms that are full, nicely formed with overlapping petals and strong fragrance. The growth is vigorous and free branching, with medium sized, semi-glossy leaves. It makes an excellent climber of lower than average height (10-12 ft.) so is suitable for walls, fences, and pillars. Unlike many climbers, it does not resent being pruned to form a big shrub.

This rose was introduced in the bicentennial year of the United States of America and was the AARS winner for 1976.

ZONES 4-9.



Virginia Peninsula Rose Society
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Address Correction Requested

First Class Mail

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American Rose Society certified Consulting Rosarians
with the objective to assist others in growing better roses

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