



# The Rose Hip newsletter of the Peninsular Rose Club

Meetings: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month (except Dec. & Jan.) 7:30 PM Elk Lake Baptist Church Hall, 5363 Pat Bay Hwy., Victoria. Email: [peninsular@quillserv.com](mailto:peninsular@quillserv.com) Website: <http://nurserysite.com/clubs/peninsular/>

April 16, 2002

## Message from the President:

With steely reserve, I resisted ordering my usual batch of bare root roses last fall. I succumbed to only one – **Jude the Obscure** by David Austin. It's a lovely pale yellow, but what captured me was its fragrance. I came home from the Flower and Garden show with one blossom of this rose, and it filled the living room with a wonderful old rose fragrance for days. Jude went into a pot when he arrived from Pickering in November, and stayed there 'til I found a home for him by the pergola this month.

If I could have the traditional three wishes this spring, I know right away what two of them would be. I'd wish for the month of April to have 2 more days each the weekend and longer hours in those 2 days (that's one combined wish), and I'd wish for it to rain during the week instead of on Saturday and Sunday. Although I'm very grateful for the wonderful moisture, it's frustrating to be ready to rush out to the garden on Saturday morning only to find rain coming down in buckets. There's so much to be done this month that every moment is precious.

While I am on the topic of gratitude, I am also extremely grateful for the assistance of a gardening friend who is between jobs and has been helping me with my badly overgrown yard. My perennials should all have been divided last year, and this year are far over-reaching their allotted space. So Victor has been digging and dividing, and many things are going into pots, some of which will go into our plant sale at the Rose & Lily show in July.

I am also grateful for Trevor's wonderful compost heap. I have only to say "I need another load of potting mix please" and he mixes up a wheelbarrow full of made-to-measure potting soil (see recipe below). It's a wonderful, light and nutritious mix and the plants fairly leap into growth when they are settled into it. I remember having to buy bags of potting mix any time I wanted a few pots, so this is a luxury indeed, and one more reason to have an active compost pile on the go.

With all the digging and cleaning up, I finally got brave and took out a few of the non-performing roses that I have been threatening for the past few years. A few more that I wasn't so fond of were dug up and moved to my daughter's new garden. That made space in the garden for some of the roses that have been sitting in my driveway in 20 gallon pots. They do alright there although it is a challenge to keep them evenly watered, and I don't think they thrive there as well as they do in the ground. I will be anxious to see the difference this year in the ones that have graduated to the garden.

They say that nature abhors a vacuum, and there I was with some empty pots. As well, I can't resist a good sale, so my firm resolve not to acquire more roses shattered when Elk Lake Nursery put their bareroot roses on sale this month. I did exercise some restraint - only one **Heritage** to replace one that I had pulled out, and three of **Vancouver Belle**, a Brad Jalbert pink patio rose that Trevor had seen displayed in Vancouver and was very taken with. They'll go in a large pot right beside the side door, in our super-duper potting mix. If they're really nice, I'll bring some to the Rose Show.

I like to plant a lot of perennials in and around the roses for continuing color. It does require more work, but pays off in some lovely combinations. Some of my favorites with roses are the cottage garden plants: **hardy geraniums**, **foxgloves**, **sisyrinchium striatum** (yellow-eyed grass), **campanula persicifolia** (peach-leaved bellflower), **irises**, and **asters**.



Margaret Merrill

## What to do this month: April

- Pour a gallon of the alfalfa tea (that you brewed last month) on each rose. If you didn't get it brewed, start now, it's not too late. Some rose gardeners give their roses a drink of this once a month until September. Recipe is on the Web site.
- If you haven't cleaned up the soil around the roses and applied a layer of mulch (fine compost, leaf mold, etc.), it's not too late. A good mulch feeds the soil, inhibits weed seed germination, stops disease organisms from splashing back up on the plant, and looks good.
- Inspect your roses often, rub out new growth that is going to grow into the center of the plant, or at an angle that will interfere with another good stem.
- Watch for aphids and blackspot. Aphids are best handled by the pick and squish method (buy a box of disposable latex gloves at McGill & Orme if you are squeamish). Also pinch off diseased foliage as soon as it appears.
- If you use a fungicide, start a regular spray schedule now. Use a little less than recommended strength on young foliage.
- If you have blackspot but don't want to use fungicide, consider some alternative sprays such as milk (diluted 1:6 with water), or an anti-dessicant such as Wiltpruf (follow label directions). Be sure to let the Club know if you have good results with any new and environmentally friendly methods.
- As the weather warms up, give each rose bush a good handful of rose fertilizer (two handfuls for climbers and large shrubs). I like to use a soluble rose fertilizer such as Phostrogen in a foliar spray as well, once the plants have fully leafed out.

- Divide any overgrown perennials and grasses and pot up your extras to bring to the plant sale at the Rose & Lily Show
- Keep after the weeds, or they'll go to seed in a flash.
- Start your own seedlings, or check out the local nurseries and plant sales for some pretty annuals to underplant around the roses. Alyssum and lobelia are old standbys, white pansies are lovely with any color of roses. Let us know of any new combinations that you find work well.

*Happy Gardening, Ilean Spanos*

### **This month's Meeting:**

Our program this month is a slide show from the 2001 Heritage Rose Conference held in Charleston, South Carolina, presented by David and Crenagh Elliott. Old and heritage roses will be featured, plus the charming city of Charleston. The Elliotts will also explain what motivated them to travel to South Carolina at the height of the hurricane season.

### **Trevor's Potting Mix:**

3/4 wheelbarrow full of compost

1" layer of coarse Perlite on top of that

4 cups of Complete Organic fertilizer mix (recipe in last month's Rose Hip or on the Web site.)

Fold this over until the perlite and fertilizer mix are evenly distributed and the compost clumps are broken up.

Our compost is substantial, because we compost the dirt that comes out of new planting holes. If yours is a lighter compost, you can use 50%/50% compost and topsoil. Note: No peat moss comes anywhere near our potting mix!

### **Events:**

**June 29** Mid-Island Rose Society Rose Celebration  
Lantzville BC See Vi for more information

**June 30** Gabriola Islands 4th Annual Home & Garden Tour  
10:00 am to 5:00 pm Jennifer Lynch (250) 247-9935  
or email: [lynch@island.net](mailto:lynch@island.net)

**July 6** Roses and Lilies Cadboro Bay United Church,  
Arbutus Rd. Planning is progressing for our show with the Lily club. Mark your calendar!

**Website:** The Peninsular Rose Club Web site  
<http://www.nurserysite.com/clubs/peninsular/> has photos and articles by Club members, rose care tips, and the Rose Hip in Acrobat PDF format. Please contribute photos and articles to [peninsular@quillserv.com](mailto:peninsular@quillserv.com) or 386-6227 (phone/fax)

**Email:** The Rose Hip goes by Email to all members who provide an Email address. Please notify Trevor at [peninsular@quillserv.com](mailto:peninsular@quillserv.com) if you are not receiving it.

**AARS Rose Selections 2002 winners** from [www.rose.org](http://www.rose.org):

### **Love & Peace**



"Love & Peace will mesmerize garden enthusiasts with its fruity scent and looks. What would you expect with a father like the legendary Peace?"

The high center, spiral formed blooms of Love & Peace open to reveal five-inch, breath-taking large flowers of golden yellow edged with pink. Each flower has a minimum petal count of 40, surrounded by dark green glossy foliage.

This classic upright, disease-resistant, hybrid tea grows to 4-5 feet by 3 feet. Love & Peace is perfect for framing a formal rose garden or creating a striking feature within a landscape. Bring a cut flower in indoors to sweeten any room.

Jerry Twomey and Ping Lim hybridized Love & Peace with a combination of Peace and an unknown seedling. Bailey Nurseries is introducing Love & Peace"

### **Starry Night**



"Taking top honors with its large clusters of pure white flowers, Starry Night, a landscape shrub, has you seeing stars all day and into the night. The medium green glossy foliage enhances the five-petal flower, which is 2 1/2 - 3 inches in diameter.

Growing 3 feet by 3 feet in cool climates and 6 feet by 6 feet in mild to warm climates, this spreading disease-resistant landscape shrub is perfect for large plantings, borders and ground cover. Its pure white sparkling flowers, which resemble a dog-wood flower, provide you with a constellation of blooms throughout the season.

Pierre Orard from Feyzin, France hybridized Starry Night with the combination of Anisley Dickson and Rosa wichurianna. This is his first AARS winner. Edmunds' Roses is introducing Starry Night in the United States."