

Shenandoah Rose Ramblings



Shenandoah Rose Society

A Society of the Colonial District
Chartered by the American Rose Society

Volume 16, No. 1

January 2014



January Meeting

The January meeting of Shenandoah Rose Society will be held Thursday January 9, 2014, 7 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church. The purpose of this meeting is to plan the Colonial District Pre-Spring meeting to be held in Staunton March 14 and 15. We must have the information available for the *Courier* which goes out in early February.



From the President

Welcome everyone to a new season of rose culture. We once again face the challenges of growing roses. We learn new methods and share old favorites. We will have educational meetings to learn how to better grow roses and develop methods to make the job easier and more efficient. Sharing ideas with others is the best way to accomplish our goal.

Every member of the Society is valuable to our organization. Over the past years membership in all societies has been dropping. There are signs this is turning around in some areas. Working together, we can turn that around in the Shenandoah Rose Society. We have not dropped in membership as much as many have but we have lost a few members. Most of our losses have been due to the death of a member and not failure to renew a membership. Everyone in the Society has a duty to recruit new members. You know someone who is growing roses or would like to grow roses. Invite them to become a member. If they don't know how to grow roses, we will teach them. Invite someone to join.

We may have a project coming up. Christ Lutheran Church, where we hold many of our meetings, is having to take out many trees. The center island in the parking lot would be a good location for KnockOut roses. I am proposing that KnockOuts be planted the full length of the island. The roses would be purchased with donations from the church members and planting would be done and supervised by Shenandoah Rose Society. I estimate it would take 40 bushes to properly fill the space.

Charles R. Shover



Dues May Still Be Paid

If you have not renewed your dues for 2014 you may still do so. Dues are still \$12.00 for husband and wife. You will receive 10 newsletters per year and access to much information on rose culture. Learn to grow better roses by attending meetings and sharing ideas with others. Plan to attend meeting this year and bring a friend. We always welcome anyone to a meeting. It just might lead to another member.

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Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

Here it is, 9 days before Christmas and I am thinking about roses instead of Christmas activities. My shopping is done and presents wrapped. The tree is up and I have lost count for how many times. My cats think it is something for them to play with. I find decorations scattered all over the floor.

My thoughts are toward the Pre-Spring District meeting. We have much planning to do and little time to do it in. The information must be ready to go in the *Courier* which goes out the first part of February, and that gives us only a couple of weeks to put the meeting together. Some want the Pre-Spring moved back to February. I wish someone would tell me how anyone would be able to plan such a meeting during the Christmas season--and that is what it would take. That would also mean the *Courier* would have to go out the first week of January, which means putting the *Courier* together over Christmas. I can tell you now that isn't going to happen. The other option would be to have the Pre-Spring in April or May. Not good either because we are all doing our spring work, and that time of year is spring--not pre-spring.

We also need to be thinking about our roses. There is some winter work we should be doing. Fungus still attacks during the winter months and winters over in our roses and rose beds. I recommend spraying once a month during the winter months with a lime/sulfur/oil spray or Mancozeb. This will get rid of the fungus that likes to winter over in our beds. It will also kill some insects which winter over. I did this last winter and had very little problem with downy mildew, blackspot and powdery mildew this past summer.

As spring approaches we will again have to deal with the deer. I have heard of many remedies for deer and have tried most of them. There is no 100% cure outside of shooting them. I thought the Tiki torches filled with ammonia were going to work, and they did until fall when the deer no longer paid any attention to them. Socks filled with dog hair or human hair have little effect. Fishing line strung around the rose bed a few inches off the ground didn't work. Hanging cakes of soap (no matter what the brand) didn't work. The second best remedy I have found is to sprinkle blood meal around the rose bed about every other week. Deer seem to associate dried blood with danger and shy away.



The best deterrent I have found is an electric fence. I string the wire about 30 inches off the ground and leave the wire in a loose spring shape. It doesn't take much of a charger to run it. I use a small unit designed for cats and dogs. These units are very inexpensive, run on house power, and I measured 186 volts on the wire. I might mention this is all voltage and no amperage. The amperage is what is dangerous—not the voltage. I have it around my vegetable garden and got against it several times during the summer. It let me know it was there but it didn't harm me. It felt something like a bee sting. I didn't have a single problem with deer in my vegetable garden after I put the fence up.

My vegetable garden is about 50 yards away from the house. The trick was to get the power down to it. I ran a double string of telephone wire from the house to the garden (underground). The unit is in the house and grounded just outside the window. A double lay of telephone line gives 8 strands of wire. It does a good job with these small chargers. Units are also available in solar versions.

Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

Looking Back

By Charles Shaner

When I look back over the progress I have made in growing roses over the years it is hard to imagine where I was when I first started. I had three bushes struggling for life. I wasn't giving them much care simply because I didn't know what to do for them. I had them planted in a clay/shale ground, never watered them or fed them. They were small and spindly, didn't produce much in the way of blooms, and not much to look at.

I was talked into joining the Rose Society and I started to learn what I was doing wrong. I discovered I wasn't doing much wrong simply because you have to do something before you can make a mistake. My first mistake was not doing anything. I began to learn roses needed to be watered and fed and planted in the proper soil. Then I found out they get bugs and need to be sprayed.

Meetings were something of a mystery at first for they were talking so far over my head I had no idea what they were saying. Soon it started to soak in. I moved my three pitiful roses to better ground, started feeding and watering. They started looking better and I decided it was time to try a few more.

As the years passed I would order new roses for delivery every spring. I started going to District meetings and talking to more advanced rosarians. I was soon adding more rose beds, trying different watering systems and better feeding and spraying programs. It wasn't long before I was elected President of the Rose Society. I became a Consulting Rosarian and started helping others with their rose problems. I developed a newsletter for Shenandoah Rose Society (which it didn't have).

As the years went by I learned more about roses. I started receiving awards from the Colonial District. First was the Outstanding Consulting Rosarian and a few years the ARS Silver Medal Honor. I became Vice Director of the Colonial District, moved up to Master Rosarian. I became a member of the ARS Local Societies Relations Committee. I updated a section of the White Book for Society Presidents.

Much has happened over the years for a person who knew nothing about roses, but that is what happens when you join a rose society and get bitten by the bug.



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