

Shenandoah Rose Ramblings



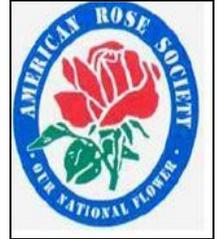
Shenandoah Rose Society

A Society of the Colonial District

Chartered by the American Rose Society

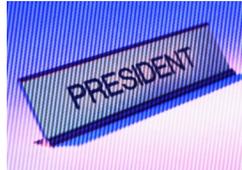
Volume 16, No. 5

May 2014



May Meeting

The May meeting of Shenandoah Rose Society will be held Thursday, May 15th at 7 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church. Program to be announced.



From the President

I believe winter has finally decided to leave us and spring is here. I have most of my spring pruning done and the roses are starting to grow. Many of our members have renewed their membership but a few have not. If you haven't renewed you may still do so. We will soon be reviewing the membership roster and if you have not renewed, you may be dropped from the roster.

Publishing and delivering the newsletter is an expense to the Society and with postage going up, so does the expense. Many of you are receiving the newsletter via e-mail which saves much in the way of expense not only in postage but also in paper and ink. If you are receiving the newsletter via postage and have e-mail, please send me your e-mail address. This will save and help keep us from having to raise dues. You also receive the newsletter two or three days earlier.

I know many do not travel as you once did but the fall District meeting and show is in Richmond this year at Lewis Ginter Gardens. It sounds like it is going to be an excellent weekend with some good speakers. If you are an ARS member, the Gardens have an agreement with the ARS and you will be able to get into the Gardens free when presenting your ARS membership card. Make your plans now to attend. Information may be found on the District website www.colonialdistrictroses.org.

Charles R. Shover



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Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

The winter was very hard on the roses. It gave us a true test and new meaning to the term “winter tender”. I do not use winter protection and I did not cut my roses back in the fall. I did have a very heavy feeding program last year which I believe had a great bearing on how the roses did.

We have always gone with the theory that yellow roses have a tendency to be winter tender. That didn't prove true for me. All of my yellows survived which includes *Marilyn Monroe*, *St. Patrick*, *King's Ransom* and *Welcome Home*. It is positive I lost *Peace* and *John F. Kennedy*, both of which came from discount stores last season and weren't very healthy plants to start with. As for the other one I lost, this brings about another subject. I have two *Snuffy* bushes of John Smith. One I purchased as a grafted bush and the other is on its own roots (I rooted it from the original plant). The grafted plant didn't survive while the own-root plant is putting on good new growth.



I visited my favorite horse stable on Friday, May 2 and got a load of combination horse manure and sawdust which I use to mulch my roses. I wrote an article on this several years ago and as I was applying it I thought it would be good to do again. As I shovel it off into my wheelbarrow I mix in lime. This corrects the pH of the mixture and stabilizes the pH of my rose beds. I put a layer of manure/sawdust in the wheelbarrow and dust it with lime. There will be three layers of each by the time I get the wheelbarrow filled. As I shovel it out it automatically mixes itself. I apply about two inches

of this mixture to my rose beds. It is a mulch for my roses and feeds the roses at the same time.

I have started feeding my roses, and I use mainly organics. I have a barrel in which I brew a combination of alfalfa and fish meals. I will draw off five gallons of the brew and add in one tablespoon per balloon of Miracle-Gro. I



will apply 16 ounces of this to each rose plant twice a week during the growing season. Once a month I will add in one tablespoon per gallon of Epsom salts. Other items can go into the mixture as well. Last year I had some fish in the freezer my wife and I caught several years ago we weren't going to eat. I ground them up and in the barrel they went. It takes 15 gallons to do all of my roses. I will refill the barrel with water and add in 16 ounces of alfalfa meal one time and 16 ounces of fish meal the next time. This keeps the mixture renewed. My roses seem to love this treatment and respond very well to it.



Much has been said about the use of organics and the trend is going in that direction. As you can tell, my mulching is organic as most are using. Mine just has a little manure mixed in it. My feeding is about 90% organic. I am not so sure our spraying is ready for the organic route. New organic sprays are coming out every year and are getting better all the time. These are good for the person who just wants to grow roses for cut flowers at home or to share with friends. If you want to show roses, then the chemical route is much

better. At this point the choice is yours as to organics or chemicals. Whichever you choose, a good program with either will give you better roses.

Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

Planting of the Roses



Christ Lutheran Church planted ornamental locust trees about 55 years ago. The trees had outlived their life span and were dying. The decision was made to take them out. I made the suggestion that *Red Knock-Out* roses be planted in the center island to replace the trees. The roses would be paid for with memorial donations from the members of the congregation. Funds were given to purchase 22 bushes. The bushes were purchased from Milmount Greenhouses in Stuarts Draft. Members of Shenandoah Rose Society along with

members of Christ Lutheran Church Planted the roses on April 26.

As you can see from the pictures, the island was sprayed with RoundUp two weeks before the planting. I brought the roses in on my pickup. The ground was carefully staked off to ensure centering in the island and proper spacing between plants.



The planting took a little over two hours with five people digging holes and cutting tree roots. We were lucky we didn't hit any rock to speak of and we had 3/4 inch of rain two days before to loosen the ground.

Doing the planting from left to right is Melvin Fitzgerald, Suzanne Lochner, Debbie Brown and Charles

Shaner. Not pictured is Jim Gibson.

In the next few weeks I will visit my favorite horse stable in Middlebrook and get the mulch for the roses. The mulch is free for the taking and at the rate a load on my truck went on my roses I estimate just under 2 pickup loads will do the job.

When the plants mature they should do a good job of filling the island and provide beauty all summer.



Master Rosarians

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