

# Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

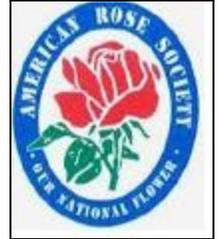


## *Shenandoah Rose Society*

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

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### **Let's Get Together!**

Let's get together Sunday, December 6th, 2 P.M. for a refreshments and a little social time. Plan to join us at the home of Charles and Barbara Shaner, 93 Shaner Lane, Staunton.



### **From the President**

It seems time just flies by. We get so busy we put off what needs to be done to a later date and then it is sometimes too late. I did not plan our regular get together in November this year because of busy times for me. November and December are holiday seasons which are busy for everyone. I believe we can get that in during early December.

I am sure everyone is wondering and has their own thoughts by now and I will give you the answer. Many have been asking me to run for District Director in 2015. Before I made my decision I needed to attend an ARS Board meeting to see what it was all about. I enjoyed my short time in Tyler, TX and the people I was with. It was not different from what I have always said, Rose people are the best people in the world. That held true in Texas, making new friends and enjoying something you love. The answer you have all been looking for is yes, I will run in 2015.

We all have busy lives and need an escape to help us relax. Everyone needs a hobby and roses is a great escape. As with any hobby, learning to do it right is important and that is where the rose society comes into play. It will teach you the ways to grow better roses. Attending meetings gives you a first hand knowledge but if you can't attend meetings you are still welcome as a member. I have heard some say "why should I join when I can get the information of the web? Well, as is said, nothing is free. There is a cost to putting information on the web and that is what our membership dues pay for along with the newsletter. Without membership dues the newsletter and web site wouldn't exist.

Our 2014 season may be over but it is time to start thinking about 2015. The rose catalogs are out and time to think about what roses you want to add in the Spring. I have noticed the number of new varieties are not as numerous as in past years. Many older varieties are being listed as NEW FOR 2015. I still have many of those older varieties and they are really good roses. Many people "shovel pruned" these and now they are coming back. Barbara is always fussing at me for not throwing old items out and I always say "as soon as you throw it out you will need it". I guess this is true with our roses.

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May all your wishes come true and your resolutions be ones you can keep.

*Charles R. Shaner*

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# Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

## Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

To everything there is a season and our growing season for 2014 has ended. For me it was a good season with many beautiful blooms. I just wish they would have arrived in a timely manor for shows. I have mastered many things in growing roses but it seems I just *Klassy Way* of starting cuttings. This is the method I am now using and it is working very well. I started



several cuttings over the summer and they are not potted and doing very well. I am scoring better than 90% success with this method. I learned you cannot put them in direct sunlight during the heat of the summer. I had some that were cooked well done.

The season may be over but that doesn't mean we can forget about them until spring. I have discovered over the years that, even with cold weather roses do need some sort of care during the winter months. If we have a dry season they need a drink of water. An occasional spraying with a good fungicide is needed. Fungus does not take the winter off. Canker is a fungus and attacks during the winter months. Canker can do serious damage and even kill the plant. When doing a winter spraying remember to spray the ground as well. Diseases along with black spot and downy mildew reside in the ground over winter. Sometime in February a spraying with oil, lime sulfur is recommended. This will cut down on many diseases and fungus for the coming season.

I know when the fall arrives and the roses stop growing we are glad for the break. A little care in the winter will go a long way in the coming growing season. It doesn't require much. On a warm day during the winter check on your roses. A quick spraying or a little water will help them out.



## Dues Time

It is that time again! Time to renew your dues for 2015. It is still \$12 per year. Please consider renewing your membership in Shenandoah Rose Society. You may pay your dues at the monthly meeting or send them to: Meredith Yeago, 2926 Hermitage Road, Waynesboro, VA 22980.

I issued a challenge to all District members to bring in one new member in 2015. That challenge goes for Shenandoah members as well but you must first renew your membership. There may be a little incentive for the person who renews their dues and brings in the most new members. That means you are not just limited to one. I know not everyone will be able to bring in a new member but that doesn't mean you don't need to try.

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## Some of my Favorite Rose Questions

By Charles Shaner

I get many questions about roses and here are just a few of the most asked.

1. **When do I prune my roses back in the fall?** This is the most ask starting about September. My answer varies with what you plan to do with your roses for winter. You want to wait until cold weather when the roses go dormant. I have heard some say roses don't go dormant but those people apparently never lived in a cold winter. Sometime between Thanksgiving and Christmas is the time. Prune back to about waste high just to keep the wind from rocking the plant loose in the winter. You may want to take them back further if you are using winter protection.
2. **When can I prune in the Spring?** In our area do not prune your roses until after the first of April. If you have the old garden varieties that only bloom once a year there is only one time of year you can prune on those—around the 4th of July. These roses only bloom once a year and then only on second year wood. To prune any other time is pruning off your would be bloom.
3. **Does it hurt my rose to cut off dead blooms?** It does not hurt them. In fact it does them good. Roses love to be pruned and pruning encourages growth.
4. **When I deadhead do I count down five clusters to the first seven leaflet cluster?** People always ask this because that is the way grandma did it. Forget about that. Cut 1/4 inch above any leaflet cluster. Each cluster has a bud eye in it capable of producing new growth. The higher you cut on the cane the shooter and smaller your new growth will be. Also the lower you cut the longer and larger your new growth will be. But don't go too low on the cane.
5. **How often should I spray?** Always follow the directions on the bottle of spray. With most sprays I recommend spraying every seven days. If it rains or if you have a large infestation you may want to spray a little more frequent. I was once challenged on that statement by a lawyer but that lawyer needed to read the rest of the label. It will say something like "Spray every seven days, may be every 14 days or as needed". The *or as needed* is the key statement.

There are many more but these are just a few of the most ask. People have a thirst for the knowledge and want the answers. We are here to give them the answers. The more we learn the better we can answer the question. Learn as much as you can about roses. It will help you to grow better roses and to give the advice to others to do the same.



### Master Rosarians

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