

Shenandoah Rose Ramblings



Shenandoah Rose Society

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

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October Meeting

The October meeting of the Shenandoah Rose Society will be held Sunday, October 19, 2014, 2 P.M. at Christ Lutheran Church. The program will be a talk on the District Meeting and my trip to Tyler, Texas, for the ARS Board meeting.

We also need to talk about officers for 2015.



From the President

It seems like time just flies by. Didn't I just do one of these newsletters? We have come to the end of another growing season.

I just returned from the Colonial District Fall Meeting and Show in Richmond. It was a wonderful weekend. The attendance was the best I have seen in several years. The fellowship was wonderful and it is always great to be with so many people talking roses. You pick up so many good ideas from these "hallway" discussions. There were a good many specimens in the show although I didn't have anything to take due to the dry weather. I returned feeling a real sense of accomplishment with the weekend.

The ARS Board meeting will be an entirely new experience for me. I have been on two other organizations' boards but never had to travel so far to attend one. The amount of paperwork I have received from the ARS is astounding. I need to print it out and get a notebook to keep it in. It is literally volumes.

I have to stop and think back over the years since I first joined the rose society. I came in not knowing anything. That was over 20 years ago. I have made many friends over the years; earned many awards. It has been a tremendous educational experience which continues. I am thankful to the people along the way who helped me get where I am: Stan Kosidlak, Wheeler McFadden, Jack Rascoe, and Louise Gillespie just to name a few. The list is too numerous to mention all. I am thankful to all of them for their guidance, trust and friendship. They will all be well remembered.

Becoming District Director was never in my dreams. We never know what we must be prepared for or what may come our way. On the District level I feel comfortable with the position. We will see how it goes in Texas. I was asked by several in Richmond if I was going to run for District Director in 2015. My answer—I will give my decision when I return from Texas although I think my decision has already been made.

I issued a challenge to the members of the Colonial District in Richmond for every member to bring in one new member in 2015. If we can do this we will double our membership in one year.

The support of many has made it easy. A little bit of honey goes a long way but a single drop of vinegar will ruin the pie.

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Charles R. Shover

Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

The summer may be over but the work is not. As long as your roses are still growing there is spraying to be done. I am still seeing a few aphids but I am thankful that the beetles and a few other critters are gone for this year.

Our season for this year may be winding down but that also bring on thoughts of next season. Take time to think about how you did things this year—what worked and what didn't. The rose catalogues will be coming out soon but there aren't as many as there once was. I have an extra Witherspoon catalog if anyone wants it. They have a good selection of roses and a few other items as well.

I am already getting questions about cutting roses back in the fall. I suggest waiting until after Thanksgiving to do this. You want them to be dormant before cutting back. If they are tall, take them back to about 30 inches in height. If they are shorter than 30 inches, you do not need to cut them back in the fall. I have some bushes that are over six feet. I believe they need to be cut back.

Our speaker on Friday night at the District meeting was David Pike of Witherspoon Roses. It was very informative. I have suggested the past couple of years to do a winter spraying with a lime sulfur spray. He suggested spraying with lime sulfur twice during the winter. This will kill the spores the bring on blackspot, powdery mildew, and downy mildew. I have tried this and it does work.

I have been rooting cuttings using the method I demonstrated in a meeting during the summer. At present I have 11 cuttings set and several potted that are that far along. I have a couple that I ordered in pots and another on the way. If all these make it I will have 16 new roses to set out in the spring. I am probably not finished ordering and buying locally yet. This means I will need to lay out a new bed for roses. I am having about a 90% success rate in rooting cuttings this year.

I guess being District Director and being with so many good rose people has renewed my interest in roses as if it didn't need to be. I enjoyed being with everyone and talking roses. It made me want to do better with mine next year.



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.

Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

Preparing For Winter

By Charles Shaner

Procedures have changed a bit since I first started growing roses. In those early days of my rose growing I was taught to use a triple phosphate in the early fall. The theory was that triple phosphate counteracted the effects of nitrogen we had been feeding our roses and hardened the canes for winter. I don't know much of anyone who is using this method anymore. Chemical fertilizers are only good for two weeks and then need to be renewed. If you use organic feedings, they stop working when the ground temperatures go below 40 degrees.

There are the thoughts on pruning. This is the one item I get the most questions on in the fall. Most people (especially those who are not in a rose society) will want to start fall pruning way too early. You should wait until the roses have gone dormant. In the Shenandoah Valley that will be sometime between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Generally you will take the roses back to about 30 inches. Some say waist high but that depends on your height. You can imagine what waist high is to my 7 foot 2 inch grandson. This also brings on the next subject—*winter protection*.

I have tried winter protection but not with much luck. I have a few of the rose cones but even with bricks on top of them the strong winter wind I have will take them away. One I have seen is to take a bean basket, fill it about 2/3 the way with pine cones and upend it over the rose bush. Another is to make a collar out of newspaper and wrap it around the bush. The “old fashioned” way is to cover the bush part way up with dirt or mulch. In the far northern part of the country the winter protection is snow. Covered up with snow the temperature will remain a constant 32 degrees. Sudden temperature changes will damage the plant. I do not use winter protection. In my area I do not see much difference with or without.

If you use winter protection, then it brings us back to fall pruning. If you use rose cones, you have to do severe cut back to your roses in the fall. The bush will still have a certain amount of winter damage and will take longer to develop in the spring. I have also had a problem with fungus under the cones.

Spraying is another item to consider. I recommend continuing your spray program until the roses are dormant. This is more important with fungicides than with insecticides. Fungus knows no season and thrives just as well in the winter as it does in the summer. It likes to winter over in rose beds. This is why good housekeeping is important for the rose beds. Make sure all leaves are cleaned up from around your roses. Two winter sprayings are now recommended to control blackspot and downy mildew. Spraying the ground is just as important as spraying the bush.

Good rose care doesn't stop with cooler or cold weather. The amount of work will be less but a certain amount is necessary for healthy plants and beautiful blooms during the growing season.



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