

# Shenandoah Rose Ramblings



## *Shenandoah Rose Society*

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

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### September Meeting

The September meeting of Shenandoah Rose Society will be held Sunday, September 21, 2 P.M. at Christ Lutheran Church. The program will be a general discussion.

Our monthly meeting has been moved Sunday's afternoon due to a conflict.



### From the President

I sit here on a Saturday morning sipping on a cup of coffee and trying to think of what to write. My thoughts turn to membership which is always on my mind. I feel I have harped enough on that subject and don't need to keep dwelling on it but it is the only thing on my mind.

I travel the roads around Staunton and Augusta County and I see many rose gardens in yards. There is one in Stuarts Draft which I pass every day. It contains beautiful roses growing on a bank at the intersection of White Hill Road and Stuarts Draft Highway. There is another in Staunton I have visited several times to answer questions about the roses it contains, but I can't get the person to join the Society. I see others growing roses, some of which look very good and some need help in getting it right.

People do have an interest in growing roses but they don't have an interest in joining an organization. If it is free they will take it, but if it means paying a membership fee, they don't want it. Times have changed; how do we change with it? This is something every society and the ARS must think about.

I see societies in our own District, struggling for existence and another which has built its membership up significantly. How long will that buildup in membership last? Bringing in members is a major step but holding on to them is even harder. When we have our Rose Days at Milmount Greenhouses, we normally gain a member or two. Once in a while one remains for a period of time but they usually fall by the wayside after a year or two.

Some years ago the ARS membership was 30,000. It is now down to just over 7,000. It is a serious problem that must be addressed. We must come up with a plan and one that will work.

I will not joke with you, there have been times I have thought that Shenandoah Rose Society should call it quits, but I don't want to do that. We are down to about 24 members. When I joined over 20 years ago our numbers were well above 50 and we had about 25 or 30 at a meeting. The meetings then were on Sunday afternoon and we always had refreshments after the meeting with time to socialize. This is something to think about. Where are we going and how do we get there? Give it some thought and share them with me.

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*Charles R. Shover*

# Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

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## Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

Our growing has about passed for another year. I will have to admit, I gave my roses the care they needed in the first half of the season but not the second half. Many of you know I work security at Hershey Chocolate of Virginia. I am site supervisor and have been down several officers on my staff. With the unemployment being extremely low in the area it has been difficult to find qualified people to fill the spots. This has caused me and my staff to work much overtime so the roses have suffered.

The weather hasn't been a help either. The first few days of September have been the hottest and driest of the entire season. Some areas of the county have had rain but my yard has been passed by. The Japanese beetles are gone but the aphids are the worst they have been in years. I see many ladybugs around but they just can't keep up with the aphids.

It is time to start thinking about fall care. If you are using chemical fertilizers it is time to cut that off. Organics can be fed any time as they are slower reacting, require warm soil conditions to work, and last longer. Watering in hot, dry conditions is a must. I recommend two gallons of water per bush each week if you are in an area that isn't getting sufficient rainfall. I would divide this up into two watering periods.

Fall, with the cool nights, is a time for powdery mildew and blackspot to form. A good spray program is a necessity. There are several good fungicides on the market as "across-the-counter" chemicals that do a good job. I recently gave a talk to the Roanoke Rose Society and some who are using the more expensive chemicals with a regular spray program are still having a problem with blackspot. I am convinced that a winter spraying with Mancozeb is the key to conquering this problem. Spraying with a lime sulfur spray is also good in the winter months and early spring.

Your roses will still grow and produce as long as the temperatures do not drop below 50 degrees. I am already getting questions about a fall pruning. There are two schools of thought for this. One is not to prune back at all in the fall. The other is to take the roses back to about 30 inches in height to keep the wind from rocking the roots loose in the winter. If you prune back, you should use a good sealant on your cuts. The cut leaves a place for canker to enter and kill the cane. You will also want to wait until your roses have gone dormant to prune back—somewhere between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

I have tried winter protection on my roses but didn't have much luck with it. I have too much wind for the rose cones. I even put two bricks on top of them and the wind still took them away. With winter protection you have to cut your roses back way too far in the fall. The thought is not to keep them warm but to keep the winter wind and sun off them. The sun is low in the sky in the winter and only warms one side of the cane. This is what does the damage.

The rose catalogs will be coming out soon. I have not ordered from a catalog in the fall for several years. If you do, I would suggest that you request delivery after April first. The planting zone in Virginia changes at the top of the Blue Ridge Mountains. West of the Blue Ridge we are in the same planting zone as West Virginia. The mail order houses don't realize this and will ship your plants two weeks too early.

If you are planning to put in a new rose bed, fall is a good time to think about where to put it, lay it out, and get started on building it. I like raised beds. I have better roses in raised beds than I did before. They are also easier to take care of.

A little extra care in the fall and winter months will bring much better roses the following season. Fungus does not take the winter off. Get ahead of it and don't let it get ahead of you!

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## *It's a "Rose Festival"*

Richmond has been working hard to plan a wonderful Fall District Meeting and Show on October 3-5, 2014, and we invite all to come and enjoy the fellowship and roses! We are very fortunate that our Show will again be held at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. During the judging there is plenty to do at Lewis Ginter. The gardens continue to grow in beauty and variety. The rose garden should be in good bloom. Don't miss the special exhibit, "Butterflies Live," in the Conservatory. It is a fascinating exhibit that you will enjoy. The gardens also have a large children's area with a huge fort, planting area, and much more. Even adults can enjoy it! Lewis Ginter also has a gift shop with many unique items and a Garden Cafe and a Tea Room restaurant. Relax and enjoy a beautiful place. Remember to bring your ARS membership card! It will give you free admission. There is no charge to only exhibit in the show.

We have made hotel arrangements with the Westin Hotel, 6631 W. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23230, a AAA 4-star hotel. They have given us a rate of \$100 per night (plus 13.5% tax). Note there is a 3:00 p.m. check-out on Sunday. Book your room by September 19 to obtain the special rate. For reservations, call 1-888-627-7786, reference: Richmond Rose Society.

Our social functions will be at the hotel. Friday evening's social will include a cash bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres. We have invited David Pike, CEO of Witherspoon Roses, to join us. His topic is "Five Essentials for Growing Roses". We will have a Silent Auction and Raffle. Saturday evening will begin with a social hour followed by a plated dinner banquet. Our speaker will be Lisa Chapman, horticulture director of Lewis Ginter.

The Colonial District business meeting will be held at 9:30 at Lewis Ginter. If you are interested in becoming a Consulting Rosarian, the class will be held following the meeting. For information on the CR School, please contact Ray Shipley at [navybng@atlanticbb.net](mailto:navybng@atlanticbb.net) or 301-729-8201.

Look in your *Courier* for a Schedule of Events and a Registration Form, or tap into the Colonial District's website to find the same. We invite you to come to the "Rose Festival!"

For further information, contact Don Penzler @ 804-360-9863 or Carol Fox @ 804-876-3140.



From the Lewis Ginter website