

Shenandoah Rose Ramblings



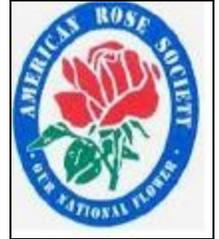
Shenandoah Rose Society

A Society of the Colonial District

Chartered by the American Rose Society

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April 2015



April Meeting

The April meeting of Shenandoah Rose Society will be held Sunday, April 19th, 2 P.M. at the home of Charles and Barbara Shaner, 93 Shaner Lane, Staunton. The program will be "Spring Pruning and Care".



The weather was cool but nice.



The show will be in Virginia Beach in October hosted by the Tidewater and Virginia Peninsula Rose Societies.

Most of the societies in the District are in the same boat we are with shrinking membership. It is an area that we need new ideas of approach. I know I have said much in the past about membership but it is our lifeblood and we must take an aggressive approach.

We will have the "Rose Days" coming up at Milmount Greenhouses around the first of June. This is a good time to talk with people about roses and gain some new members. Anytime we have an opportunity to promote the rose to the public we should take advantage of it.

I will be traveling to Columbus in June for the ARS Board meeting and then to Syracuse in September for a board meeting. I enjoyed my short stay in Tyler, Texas, and I hope Columbus and Syracuse will just as good. This time I will be driving to each instead of flying.

Charles L. Shaner

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Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

The Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

Spring is finally here and the work is plentiful. I have about ten pine trees around the yard which have died that need to be taken out. The grass isn't waiting on anything, the vegetable garden needs to be planted and there are the roses.

I have pruned about three-quarters of my roses and so far only have four confirmed loses. Some of the more tender ones survived the winter such as *St. Patrick* and *Marilyn Monroe*. Most of the roses took a bad beating but survived. I had several in pots on the deck which did not survive. I noticed my mulch has gotten very thin and needs a fresh layer. Weeds aren't waiting on anything either. They are being hand pulled as I am doing my pruning.

As soon as I finish pruning I will start my feeding program, which will be after the 15th of April. The pH needs to be checked which will be done just before applying mulch. If needed, an application of lime will be blended in with the mulch as it is applied. I have found this method works very well.

Plant markers need to be replaced after several years of use and I have many that need replacement. I

was surprised at how the price has gone up on them since I purchased my last supply a few years ago. I usually order enough at a time to last me several years. I have been thinking of trying to make my own. I went out and purchased some sheet aluminum to make the plate with and heavy wire to make the stand. I found they are very easy to make and it saved me some money. The hardest part was bending the aluminum plate just right. I went to what I call "the man's candy store" for tools and purchased a small metal break which works perfect for bending the aluminum plate just right. Now I can make them for other people as well for less than you can purchase commercially-made ones. The aluminum plate is a heavier (.025 gauge aluminum) metal than the zinc ones you purchase and should last longer. I can make them for other people for about 60 cents each.



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I have about 20 bushes to plant this year. They are all in pots at present and will be planted later in the season. I ordered some bare root roses and potted them. This gives me plenty of time to get them in the ground. This also allows them to develop a good root system before planting and get a good start. I have given up on purchasing roses from discount stores. Those are the ones which didn't survive the winter.

Spraying will start around the first to mid-May. I go to work before sunrise in the morning and have already noticed some bugs bouncing off the windshield. With insects and fungus the old saying holds true: "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". It is much easier to spray and prevent insects and fungus than it is to rid your roses of an infestation. Once blackspot is on your roses it will be there for the entire season. You can slow the spread but you won't be able to cure it. Prevention is the only way for blackspot.

I enjoy the spring. Work is plentiful but it is a joy to perform after such a severe winter. The grass is growing, the roses need pruning, spring flowers are blooming, and the air is fresh with the smell of farm fertilizers. I enjoy every minute of it.

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The District Meeting By Charles Shaner



2014 Outstanding Consulting Rosarian
David Walsh



Arrangements from the arrangement workshop were used as table decorations for the banquet.



The banquet was a catered buffet.



Master Rosarians

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