

Shenandoah Rose Ramblings



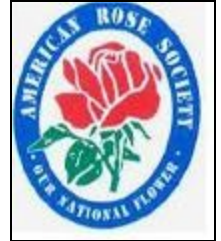
Shenandoah Rose Society

A Society of the Colonial District

Chartered by the American Rose Society

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Last call for Dues!

This is the last call to pay your dues for 2017. If not received by March 31st, you will be removed from the roster. The free 2016 memberships will also expire at that time. If you want to continue, you will need to pay your dues, which are \$12 per year

Please send your dues to Debbie Brown, 201 N. Waverly St., Staunton, VA 24401.

Everyone--please consider renewing for 2017!



From the President

We had an excellent Colonial District meeting March 3 and 4 at the Holiday Inn. The registration was 39, many of which were just for the day on Saturday. Many judges recertified along with an equal number of Consulting Rosarians. I have never been able to arrange flowers and get it to look like anything, but at the seminar I learned how. It was easier than I thought.

There were 28 people who stayed for the banquet, and everyone enjoyed it. We always give the Outstanding Consulting award at the banquet. This year it was done a little differently with interruptions during the banquet presentation. The group seemed to enjoy it and Carol Fox received the award.

We will be working on ways to build the Shenandoah Rose Society this year. Any suggestions you have will be welcome. If there is something you would like to see in a seminar for the meeting night, let me know and I will work something up on it. I sometimes run dry on ideas. I don't think I am up to giving a seminar on arranging but I can on many other things.

Your Membership

There are many reasons why we join an organization. It may be to get information, to belong to something, to learn more about something you are interested in, or to socialize with others. Whatever the reason, your membership is important to the organization.

Many join a rose society because they are having problems with their roses. They will stay long enough to get a little information and pointed in the right direction and then drop their membership. There are always new techniques being developed, new products and ways of caring for roses that are better. I have been a member of Shenandoah Rose Society for almost 30 years, am a Master Rosarian, and I am still learning. My rose garden is growing. I will have about 21 bushes to set out this year to expand my beds.

Without the rose society I would have never been about to accomplish this. Renew your membership and expand your knowledge.

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Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

The Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner



Is there ever a time when you have too many roses? I started out with six rose bushes when I first joined the Shenandoah Rose Society. I started going to District meetings and in talking with people I found they were growing 200, 500, 700, and even 1,000 bushes. It was more than I could comprehend at the time.

Each year I found myself searching catalogues and garden centers for varieties I didn't have. I didn't know much about the ratings or what was a good rose or a bad one. To me it was just a rose, but I did keep up with the name and classification. Each year I had to add on to my rose beds or set up a new one. I soon found I must have pretty good taste in roses because I seemed to be picking mostly the better varieties.

It would seem my garden had growing pains. I wanted to grow better roses and that required some changes. My soil conditions and drainage were not the best. I dug up all my roses and replanted them in raised beds. I ordered a dump truck load of sifted top soil for the beds and went to a better mulch program. I also discovered I needed a better watering and feeding program.

My garden continued to grow. Every time I went to a District activity I would come home with at least one new rose and sometimes more. I gained a favorite in nurseries that I purchased my roses from. Then the economy hit the rose industry and some of my favorite places to order roses from disappeared. This meant searching for a new supplier and that wasn't easy. We have a good garden center locally carrying Weeks Roses and several good places online to order from. Jackson & Perkins was a favorite of many for years, but couldn't make it on their own and have now folded into another company. Edmunds Roses is another that struggled during the economic downslide and is back with us and one of my favorites for ordering.

With all this my garden continued to grow and new techniques were added to the care. I am still ordering roses and getting roses at District activities. I have also been rooting cuttings of my favorite roses. This even involved adding a greenhouse, which I found comes in handy for starting my vegetable plants.

My garden continues to grow. This year I am again having to add more beds for new plants. At present I have 21 new plants to set out and counting. This will bring my total rose count up to about 195. My wife always wanted roses for her birthday, our anniversary, and anything else she could think of. I told her I would buy her a bush and she could grow her own. Well, we got the bushes and I guess I am the one growing them.



March Meeting and Seminar

The March meeting and seminar of Shenandoah Rose Society will be held Tuesday, March 28 at 7:30 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church. We will discuss the outcome of the Pre-Spring activities. The seminar will be a general discussion on spring gardening activities.

Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

Spring Pruning

By Charles Shaner

As spring approaches our thoughts turn to gardening and our roses. I saw a flock of robins in the field near my house recently and the groundhog's six weeks of bad weather is about to come to an end. Many have wanted to start their spring pruning, but not so fast! We can still have some harsh weather.

Our area is actually split between two growing seasons. The dividing line is at the top of the Blue Ridge Mountain. Everything east of the Blue Ridge is two weeks earlier than that west of the Blue Ridge. West of the Blue Ridge we normally do not start pruning until after the first of April. Pruning encourages new growth and you don't want that to come on too early. If it does and we have a harsh cold spell, that new growth and canes will freeze back and damage the plant.

Your spring pruning consists of taking out any damaged or dead canes. Good canes should be cut back to about 12 to 18 inches in height. I have had to cut back much further than that and my roses did just fine. This works for hybrid tea, floribunda, and grandiflora roses. Miniatures may be treated in much the same way but may take a little more time to prune.

Climbing roses may be pruned in the spring by simply taking out any diseased or dead canes. If you have a large number of canes, you may take out some of the older ones leaving about five good, younger canes. This will keep your climber renewed.

If you have some of the old garden varieties that only bloom once a year, you cannot prune these in the spring or the fall. If you do you prune off all your bloom. The only time you can prune on the roses is around the Fourth of July. These varieties only bloom once a year and then only on second-year wood. I have two of these and after they finish blooming they get a very healthy "hair cut".

Old garden varieties that repeat bloom during the season may be pruned as needed in the spring. As with others, you want to take out dead and diseased wood. You may cut them back as desired to control size.

Shrub roses such as KnockOut may be pruned in the spring to control size and shape. Some use KnockOut roses as a hedge and could be pruned accordingly.



Master Rosarians

Charles Shaner	Staunton, VA	540-294-2875
Meredith Yeago	Waynesboro, VA	540-943-7874

SRS Consulting Rosarians

Raymond Shipley	Lavale, MD	301-729-8271
Al Minutolo	Crozet, VA	434-823-1092