

Shenandoah Rose Ramblings



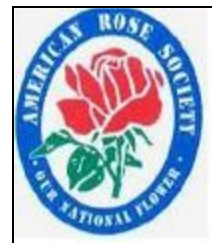
Shenandoah Rose Society

A Society of the Colonial District

Chartered by the American Rose Society

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April Seminar

“That First Bloom Cycle—What Do I Do Now?”

The first bloom cycle is by far the best. It is what you have been waiting all winter for. That cycle ends and you want to make sure the second will be equally as good. We will discuss what to do to make that happen.

Tuesday, April 25, 7 P.M. Christ Lutheran Church, 2807 N. Augusta St. Staunton, VA

From the President

It is a time to rebuild. Yes, it is a time to rebuild Shenandoah Rose Society. I could talk about the time when we were a thriving society and had upwards of 40 members at a monthly meeting and seminar. I do not know if we could ever get back to that but I think we can build our membership.

What I am doing here may sound to many of you like an old song and dance I have been harping on for some time but it really is not. At our March meeting we had six members present. That is 40 percent of our paid membership and that is good! Pam Powers of Arlington Rose Foundation told me she does not like the term “Meeting” and that she has not had a meeting for years. At first I sort of frond at that though. Now I am rethinking that idea. People like a seminar and do not like meetings so from now on we will have a monthly seminar.

Shenandoah Rose Society has missed it’s calling. We have failed to get the word out to the public that we are here. One of our members (Debbie Brown) was recently at Milmount Greenhouses and was taking with people about roses. She received comments from people that they did not know a rose society existed. We have failed to get the word out.

We are going to take a line of attack on this problem. In order to do this properly we will need to spend some money in possibly advertising and Debbie and I are in the process to producing a pamphlet to supply the garden centers which will be given to customers when they purchase a rose.

Our free membership with the purchase of a rose last year did not work. We gave 14 free memberships and not one of them took a paid membership this year.

Another idea is to have a society member spend Saturday morning at Milmount Greenhouses and talk roses with people. Introducer them to Shenandoah Rose Society and spark some interest. Debbie and I are willing to take turns at this. If anyone else would like to take a turn please let me know.

It is going to take a little work but I believe it will pay off in the end. We must take these steps to shore up Shenandoah Rose Society.

Charles R. Shover

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Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

Pre-Spring Meeting and Seminars

Shenandoah Rose Society hosted the District Pre-Spring meeting and seminars in Staunton March 4 and 5 of this year. The attendance was down just a few from last year. It seems the attendance is dropping just a bit each year.

The activities started out on Friday with a social time followed by a seminar by Ray Shipley. Saturday morning started with a continental breakfast. Several seminars were given during the day one of which was Chemical Safety with is a requirement or CR recertification. There was a Judge's Recertification as well.

I have never been able to arrange flowers but Janice Sellers gave a "hands on" arranging seminar and I actually did an arrangement that looked like something. The arrangements were used as table decorations for the banquet.

Carol Fox was awarded Outstanding Consulting Rosarian for 2016. Carol has done many things for the District and is presently serving as District Secretary. Carol is very deserving of the award.



Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

The Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

Learning New All The Time

It is now the prime time for planting roses. Here in the Shenandoah Valley we normally plant between April 1st and June 1st. This holds true mainly for bare root roses. Two years ago I got a bare root rose in October and thought I would have to pot it and keep it in my greenhouse over the winter. I was told to go ahead and put it in the ground and it would do just fine. I was a little skeptic of this but went ahead and planted it. It did just fine and in the first growing season appeared to be a year ahead of the ones I planted in the spring.

Many of us have roses we would like to move to another location. We sometimes plant a rose without checking out the growing habits and it gets too large for the area we planted it. I would recommend moving these between April 1st and June 1st. This allows them to develop a good root system before winter.

Another I was skeptical about and was always told it would not work in our area is roses on Fortuniana root stock. I ordered in four bushes from K&M in Mississippi which were on Fortuniana and was told they would do good as we were not that far north. I know what our winters can be and had reservations. As it turned out these roses survived better than some I have on Dr. Huey.

Last year I build a new bed for miniature roses. There was a large pile of soil near me that I thought was top soil which had been piled up from construction several years earlier. I ask if I could get some and was told I could. When I dug it out it turned out to be about half top soil and half red clay. It was slightly moist but broke up very well when I dug it out so I filled my raised bed with it. I noticed when watering that it drained well. The roses did excellent in it. There was just enough top soil mixed in it to offset the clay.

I don't think you ever stop learning about roses. New products are coming on the market all the time and with those new techniques. A thirst for more knowledge about roses keeps me interest and open to new ideas. As those come along they will be passed along. I have found many that worked and about as many that did not.

When you plant your roses make sure you give them plenty of room. Just because a rose is listed as a miniature does not mean it will be a small plant. Last year I planted eight in an eight foot by 4 foot bed thinking they would have plenty of room. Now I am going to have to move half of them to another bed. A rose is not classified as a miniature by the size of the plant. What determines it is a miniature is the size of the leaves. A new class came out a few years ago called Mini-flora. It is a rose that is larger than a miniature but not as large as a floribunda.



Shenandoah Rose Society website www.shenandoahrosesociety.org. You can also now access the website from www.shenandoahrosesociety.com. Visit us on Facebook.

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

Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

Spring Pruning

By Charles Shaner

Many people want to start their spring pruning earlier than they should. You may say this is brought on by a case of Spring Fever. You are tired of the long winter days and wanting to get outside to work in your roses. Don't get over anxious. If you prune back to soon and we have a hard freeze you could lose your roses.

My roses were looking good and putting on new growth until we had the hard freeze the middle of March. We had those warm days and the sap came up in the canes. That hard freeze cause that sap in the canes to freeze and bust the canes. The damage was done. That busted cane turned black and started dying back.



Here is the before and after pictures of one of my beds. As you can see I had to take them back pretty far. They will come back out and look great by the normal first bloom cycle.



Pictured below is a cane that suffered from the March freeze. That black cane has to be cut out or the die back will go clear down to the graft and the cane will die. It may even take the plant with it.



As you can see some of my roses were taken back further than you would really like to see. They will come out. I have had worse and they survived and produce beautiful blooms.

When I start on a bush that is tall and heavily damaged, I take it easy to start. I may make three or four cuts and even more until I achieve what I want. Remember, you can always take more off but you can't put it back on.

