

Shenandoah Rose Ramblings



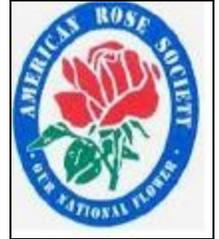
Shenandoah Rose Society

A Society of the Colonial District

Chartered by the American Rose Society

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April Seminar

The May seminar will be held Sunday, May 20, 2:30 at the home of Charles and Barbara Shaner, 93 Shaner Lane Staunton. Program will be Looking at Rose Problems. Bring your questions.

There will be a free house plant for the first 11 people to attend.

From the President

I enjoyed my time in Jacksonville at the National Mini convention. It is great to be with all those rose people from all over the United States. The learning experience is indescribable. I came home with five more rose bushes to do something with. I found an Altisamo which is a large flower climber I have been looking for. Also got a couple of varieties you cannot get at local nurseries.

The ARS is remodeling the rose garden in Shreveport, a project which will take several years. ARS membership is growing and is presently just over 13,000. Membership will be the theme for the next few years and you will be hearing much about it. We must build membership in all societies and in the ARS.

I have plans to set up a table at Kroger in Staunton on a Saturday in June. I will supply vases and blooms to display. This will be a small exhibition. Anyone who wants to bring blooms may do so. You should have the name of the rose. The idea is to present to the public what we do and try to get new members. It is surprising how many people I talk to who do not know a Rose Society exist or what it is. I will let you know when it will be. We will raffle off a rose bush as a fund raiser—one dollar per chance.

We also have Rose Days at Milmount Green Houses coming up which is usually the first Saturday after Memorial Day. I normally give several seminars that day. This is another opportunity for us to get the word out we are here and get new members. Join us there to talk roses.

If you know someone or have a friend who grows roses and is not a member of the rose society, work on them and see if you can get them to join. It takes more than one time talking to them about the society to get them to commit. It takes every member to build a society and membership. Tell them the benefits of becoming a member. One selling point is with a new membership you get a four month free membership in the ARS—a \$10 value. Membership application form can be found on the Shenandoah website www.shenandoahrosesociety.org.

I have been a little lax in visiting members gardens in the past couple of years because of work and some health problems. That has changed and I am getting my health on track and have less work commitments now and will be able to visit your garden if you so wish.

Charles R. Shaner

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Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

The Rambling Rosarian

by Charles Shaner

The winter was rough on roses. I lost many this year. Some I thought were lost are showing signs of coming out. I am not quick to shovel prune. If there is a chance to save the plant I will take it.

I still have a few shrubs to prune and will get those finished soon. The hybrid teas and miniatures are putting on good growth but it seems I have more work to do on them than there is time to do. They need to be mulched which I hope to get to this week. I also have eleven new plants to set out. I cut a bloom off of Pinkerbelle which I ordered in from Edmonds and have in my greenhouse.

I will be feeding my roses on a regular bases for the rest of the growing season. Most of you know I brew my own rose foods and the roses seem to love it. It is a little more work but gives great results. Spraying will not start for a couple of weeks. The new, reddish growth seems to be resistant to disease and insects. When that growth starts to turn green is when I will start spraying.

When you plant your roses, make sure you plant them deep enough. This is where I lost some plants over the winter. The graft needs to be at ground level and that I did not do. I had it a little above ground level and it froze over the winter.

There has been a lot of talk about the root stock being used for grafting roses. The most popular for the area we are in is Dr. Hughey. It is winter hardy but has a tendency to put up suckers you have to keep off. In the warmer climates Fortuniana which the roses grow taller and wider on. It seems to be a better root stock except it is not supposed to like colder climates. I have several bushes on Fortuniana and all but one made it through the winter. The one which didn't make it is Randy Scott which is a winter tender plant to start with. I have tried it several times with no luck. There is also a Canadian root stock which does very well in colder climates. I do not think I have any on the Canadian root stock.

I have many plants on their own root. This seems to solve the problem of winter die back. The plant can die all the way back to the ground and come back out. There are some varieties that do better on their own roots and some that do not. When I get a new rose I always try to root a cutting. When you want to show roses it is best to have two or three plants of the same variety. This gives you a better chance of having a good bloom for the show.

Miniatures are generally on their own root and are more hardy to winter conditions. I have many miniatures and it is rare to lose one over the winter. I have had some that just didn't grow when planted.

The key to all of this is to make sure you get good quality plants for a reputable nursery. Beware of the discount store roses. There is a chance you will have luck with them but a bigger chance you will not. Package roses are definitely a no no. The roots are cut off in order to get them in that small package and you cannot depend on the name being correct.

If you purchase a "boxed rose", this is the one you are supposed to plant the box and all, remove the plant from the box before planting. The idea is you are supposed to be able to put the box in the ground and the box will rot up. The problem is the rose puts out roots faster than the box rots and becomes root bound. Take it out of the box and treat it as a bare root rose.

Start out with good plants and you will have better roses. With a little of the proper planting and care the plants will reward you for many years.

Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

Roses and Spring

by Charles Shaner

Roses in Spring, what spring? I don't think we had one. Spring is a time when everything in the plant world comes to life and we are eager to get outside and enjoy after being cooped up all winter. Many get over anxious to start their gardening only to have a late frost or freeze ruin their work.

With roses, your spring pruning should be finished and your roses showing signs of soon having a beautiful bloom cycle. If you want to plant more roses there is still time. Potted roses can be planted anytime. As with anything, if it gets hot and dry they will need plenty of watering. If you are planting a new rose I would suggest not feeding it until it goes through the first bloom cycle. This gives it time to develop a little better root structure so it can better take up the food you put down.

With spring also comes insects. I have not seen any on my roses at present but the stink bugs seem to be early this year. It will soon be time to start your spray program for I am sure the insects are not far away. Some wait until they see the pesky critters to start spraying but I like to spray before I see them. In our area we can expect the same insects and fungal problems every year. Just some years are a little worse than others.

The Japanese Beetles will be joining us sometime about mid to the end of June. I do not believe they will be as bad this year as last. This is based on the cold spell we had about mid winter. Many of the grubs may have frozen cutting down on the population. I treated a portion of my yard with the Milky Spore last year and intend to get another portion this year. It has been ten years or better since I put it down so it is time to renew. For a few years after I originally put it down I had almost no Japanese Beetles. It is well worth the price and it is easy to apply.

We seem to be having ample rain fall at present but that will change. Roses like plenty of water but do not like wet feet. If we do not have substantial rain fall for more than five days you will need to water. Mulch will help to hold moisture in and keep weeds down. Usually mulch needs to be replaced in the spring and many times again in the fall. As it decomposes it produces acid. You may need to apply a small amount of lime to keep your ph in balance. A ph of 6.5 is what you are looking for. An inexpensive meter can be purchased from garden centers. It is not completely accurate but good enough for what we are doing.

Election Time

It is time for ARS elections which comes every three years. This year we are electing a Vice President for the ARS. In the Colonial District and Carolina District a Regional Director for Region 2. You will receive an e-mail in June to vote. Voting will be done in June and July and you must be an ARS member to vote. Running for Regional Director is Charles Shaner and Edwin Krauss. ARS Vice President is Chris VanCleave and Diane Sommers.



Master Rosarians

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