



# Shenandoah Rose Society Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

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

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*Serving the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and beyond*



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## February Meeting

The February meeting of the Shenandoah Rose Society will be held Sunday, February 10 at Christ Lutheran Church, Staunton. The program will be a slide presentation by Jay Shaner. Jay is a member of the Natural Flower Society. We will finishing up the planning for the Pre-Spring meeting.

## Dues Time

If you have not paid your dues for 2008, there is still time. Dues are still \$12 and may be sent to Meredith Yeago, 2926 Hermitage Rd., Waynesboro, VA 22980, or they may be paid at the meeting. Many have renewed. Continue your support for America's floral emblem by keeping your membership in the rose society and if you have not joined the American Rose Society, you may send your dues to Meredith for that also. He will forward your membership to the ARS.

## Pre-Spring 2008

The plans for the Colonial District Pre-Spring meeting hosted by Shenandoah Rose Society at Holiday Inn, Staunton, March 14 and 15 are complete. There is just some "leg work" to be done. This will be a highly educational weekend starting Friday night with Andre Viette, a CR school and recertification on Saturday, and the banquet Saturday night. Make plans now to attend. We are the host society so let's show them what we are made of. You don't have to travel, you don't have to pay a motel bill and for \$95 the seminars and all of your meals are covered (heavy hors d'ouvres Friday night, buffet breakfast Saturday morning, buffet lunch Saturday and a buffet banquet Saturday

night). The theme for the weekend is "A *Rosy Education*" and should provide an educational experience for everyone. Registration forms and information are attached to this issue. Please plan to attend. Get the latest information from the experts!

## Volunteers Needed

Several members have been working with local businesses to obtain door prizes and raffle items for the Colonial District Pre-Spring meeting. Volunteers are needed to contact the following: Augusta CO-OP/Staunton; Wetsel Seed Company/Harrisonburg; Starbucks/Rosser Avenue-Waynesboro; Rocking R Hardware/Waynesboro; Wal-Mart/Waynesboro; Home Depot/Waynesboro; and Waynesboro Nurseries. Many prospective donors will ask for information about the SRS and the Pre-Spring meeting. Please call Al Minutolo, 434-823-1092 for an introductory package.

Our rose society needs the support of ALL its members to make this a successful meeting. Please consider a donation to the raffle table or silent auction. Items may range from cookies and cakes to note cards and serving plates. It is a good time for re-gifting and most anything that has gathered dust. An excellent program has been planned and I hope to see you. Come to the meeting and learn more about the planning for the Pre-Spring meeting and upcoming events.

Al Minutolo

## The Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

There isn't much to be said about roses this time of year. If yours are like mine, the winter grasses and weeds are thriving. The first warm day, you may want to hit the grass and weeds with Round Up®. It would also be a good time to spray them with a combination of oil, lime and sulfur. This will get many of those winter critters that like to make a home in your roses and also winter fungus.

It never ceases to amaze me how grass can grow in the rose beds in the winter and not in the yard. This variety is the wild oats and I can't seem to get rid of it. The catnip is another problem. I grow enough catnip to get every cat in the nation high. I pull it and spray it and it just comes back.

So much for winter problems. It is time to start thinking about what new roses you are going to plant this year. I do not do much ordering anymore because of shipping cost. Waynesboro Garden Center carries the Jackson & Perkins roses and Milmount has Weeks Roses. Between the two, you can find almost any modern variety you want and you don't have to pay those high shipping costs. If you are looking for the older varieties, they you will probably need to order them. One thing to keep in mind, Sherando Roses will be going out of the retail business this spring. Randy is retiring. We have the April meeting scheduled for there and I understand he will have his roses at a discount price. That will be a meeting you don't want to miss.

Heirloom Roses will have a booth set up at the Pre-Spring meeting. He will have roses for sale but if there is a particular variety you want, contact him ahead of time and he will bring your order with him. He has very good varieties and good plants.

It is not too early to be putting together your feeding program for the coming season. Most rosarians have gone the organic route with feeding. You can feed organics anytime and you do not need to worry about burning. If you apply manure to your beds, now is a good time. By applying manure at this time, the balance of the winter weather will take it right into the ground, especially if we get a snow. It will give your roses a jump-start in the spring. From my experience as a boy growing up on the farm, believe me, it works!

## Articles Needed

I have enjoyed doing the newsletter for starting the eleventh year. It has taught me much about roses with the research I do at times for the articles. Trying to come up with new material is becoming challenging and I don't like to keep repeating the same articles. Last year, I went back some five or six years to pull out old articles and "brush" them up for the new issue.

We have several CRs and Master Gardeners in the society that could probably write better articles than I can and give a subject a new point of view. You do not need to be a CR or a Master Gardener to write an article. If you have something you want write about, write it up and send it to me. You can e-mail it in Word format to [clshaner@mindspring.com](mailto:clshaner@mindspring.com) or snail mail it to me and I will type it up for the newsletter.

## Mills Magic

As in past years, we will be ordering Mills Magic products. If you would like to order Mills Easy Feed or other Mills products, please contact Raymond Shaner at August Steel (540-248-2301) or at the February meeting and he will add that to the order.

## The SRS Store

Our inventory in the SRS Store keeps growing. We have several items available at a good price to our members.

**Mills Magic Rose Mix**--20 lb. bag--member price \$15, non-member \$20 Contact Raymond Shaner 540-248-2301

**Messenger**--Mix for 1 gallon--member price \$2, non-member \$3 Contact Charles Shaner 540-294-2875

## SRS Consulting Rosarians

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