



## Shenandoah Rose Society

A Society of the Colonial District

Chartered by the American Rose Society

Volume 12, No. 3

April 2010

Serving the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and beyond

On the web [www.shenandoahrosesociety.org](http://www.shenandoahrosesociety.org)



### April Meeting

The April meeting of the Shenandoah Rose Society will be held Sunday, April 11, 2 p.m. at the home of Charles Shaner, 93 Shaner Lane, Staunton. The program will be *Pruning your Roses for Spring*. We will have a demonstration with my roses.

### From the President

If you did not attend the Pre-Spring meeting, you missed a good informational meeting. Sixty-eight people were in attendance from around the district. Our Society was well represented. If a Society does not step forward to host the pre-spring next year, we may do the same thing again.

The ARS is putting emphasis on membership and electronic newsletters and bulletins. Membership is the one thing that needs the most work. ARS membership has started to show some gains. If you are not a member of the ARS, please contact me. There are four-month trial memberships available. This will give you two issues of the ARS magazine.

Electronic newsletters and bulletins are the other item of concern. With the cost of printing, paper, postage, and publishing on the increase, this is the way to go. Some of the advantages of going electronic are: you receive the newsletter a few days earlier, your newsletter is in full color, you can print it out or view it on screen, and it saves cost. With expenses being the big item most societies are struggling with, this is a big plus. We went electronic some seven years ago. If you are still receiving your newsletter by snail mail and would like to receive it via e-mail, please contact me. This also goes for the *Colonial Courier*.

There are many excellent programs available from the ARS for use with PowerPoint. I do not have a PowerPoint projector but if someone has one we could use at the meetings, I can get these programs from the ARS free of charge.

In conclusion, we need to let the community know we are here. I have spoken to numerous people about the rose society and they respond, "What is that; I didn't know such a thing existed."

We have fallen short on our calling. We need to become stronger in the community with activities and publications. This would not only promote the rose as we should be doing but, combined with fundraising activities, could improve our financial situation. We put some money in reserve a few years ago which we made from hosting Pre-Spring meeting but that has been slowly dwindling. With some fund-raising activities we may be able to purchase items to have better and more informative meetings such as a PowerPoint projector and to cover the expenses of the newsletter and website. The help of the members is needed to do this.



### Pruning for Pretty Blooms

By Meredith Yeago

Pruning the rose plants is probably the least understood part of growing the pretty roses. Proper pruning and grooming is the least-expensive way to improve the quality and beauty of those cherished blooms.

The first question is, "When do I do my spring pruning?" The best time is right after the last hard freeze (25 to 28 degrees F) in your location. For most locations here in the Valley it is the last week of April. It is much better to prune a week or two late rather than too soon.

The reason is that when a rose is cut back, that is its signal to start growing and putting out tender new growth. If those tender new primary buds are lost, the plant will have to depend on the secondary buds to survive. It will require most of the summer to recover.

The rest of the spring pruning process is as easy as one, two, three.

1. Remove the dead and diseased canes, cutting back to healthy green wood. This procedure may result in cutting some canes back to ground level or to the bud union.

2. Remove twiggy growth--that is the canes smaller than a wood pencil. The one exception is to leave some of this growth if that is all you have left, hoping the plant will survive.

3. Shape the plant--If you want to grow those specimen, exhibition-type blooms, most growers in this area cut the remaining canes back to 10 to 18 inches. If table roses are your choice, cut the canes back 18 to 24 inches or maybe 30 inches. Leave 6 of the largest, most healthy canes. Be sure to seal the cuts with your preferred sealer to protect against the cane borer.

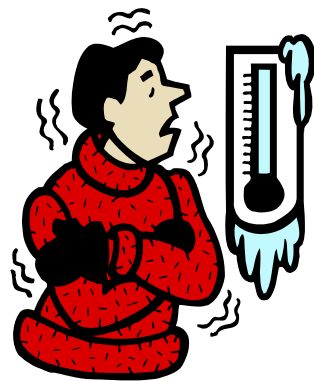
Continuous grooming while cutting blooms or deadheading is one of the most effective and easiest ways to improve the health of the plant and quality of the blooms. Keep the nonproductive growth cut out and limit the number of bud stems per feeder cane to produce the type of blooms desired.

More attention spent on pruning and grooming will result in better blooms without the expenditure of cash!

## The Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

The snow did finally melt and we went from hard winter to mid-spring overnight. We could still have a hard freeze and that would spell disaster for many plants. My roses are growing faster than I would really like for them to and a hard freeze would set them back weeks in their growth. I have noticed some trees in my neighborhood which will be in full leaf in about a week if this weather continues and it is just near the end of March!



The only way we can cope with this is to hope for the best and don't do anything for a couple of weeks that might encourage growth. That means hold off until after April 15 to do your spring pruning. As Meredith said in his article, it would be better to be a couple of weeks late with the pruning rather than a couple of weeks early.

I know what you are thinking: the weather has been so nice why not go ahead with it? My grass is growing and needs to be mowed and I still have the snow plow on the tractor.

Feeding is a no-no until we find out what this weather is going to bring unless you are feeding organics. Chemical fertilizers will push new growth immediately and until we are sure of the weather you don't want this to happen.

I have a couple of new bushes I got at the pre-spring meeting and have them potted and in my greenhouse. I also have a cutting in there I set last fall to root which is looking good. If you have already planted new bushes, you may want to put some protection on them if we get a cold night. A hard freeze could be devastating to a new plant.

In my work with the ARS Local Societies Relations Committee I have come to realize anywhere people are growing roses in the USA they have problems with deer. The remedies are as many as the number of people you talk to. For me the answer has been a small electric fence, but there are areas in towns and communities where electric fences and fences in general are not allowed.

One answer may be "Deer Scram", which is a commercial product you can purchase at most nurseries. You spray it on the ground to protect the area you want. The drawbacks are you need to reapply it every two weeks and you should switch brands when reapplying. I know of one person in the District who is putting up a 12-foot high deer fence around his garden. I would like to see Bambi jump that one! It seems the deer always prefer my first bloom cycle. I guess it is candy after a long winter.

The summer season should be much different from last year in some respects. I predict a wet summer and so it should be easy on the water bill. Fungus such as blackspot and others will be something we will be fighting all season so diligent spraying will be a must. Japanese beetles should be very few. The numbers were small last year and that combined with a colder-than-normal winter should bring the count way down.

Deer will always be a problem and you will need to find a way to control them which conforms to your property and the area where you live. I guess this is "payback" for mankind invading their natural habitat.

The season will meet with different challenges from last year along with some old



familiar ones. Any diligent rosarian will find a way to cope with them and come up with beautiful blooms to dazzle the neighbors and friends.

### **2009 & 2010 AARS ROSE WINNERS**

If you are looking for some roses to add to your garden, then perhaps you should consider the AARS roses. AARS winners display a special logo on their rose tag indicating AARS. How does a rose become an AARS rose selection winner? Roses are grown in 17 test gardens throughout the U.S. The closest test gardens to our region are in Crossville and Jackson, TN and Orangeburg, SC. AARS roses are evaluated for many criteria which include: disease resistance, fragrance, form of bud and bloom, color of the bloom, repeat blooming, plant form, vigor, foliage, hardiness and novelty.

The 2010 AARS rose selection winner is a Floribunda called *Easy Does It*. *Easy Does It* is a rose to consider if you like ruffled blooms. The rose bloom color is classified as mango orange, peach pink & ripe apricot; blooms have 25 petals; and the foliage is glossy green. The rose is a cross of *Queen Charlotte x Della Balfour x Baby Love*.

The 2009 AARS selection included: *Cinco de Mayo*, *Pink Promise*, and *Carefree Spirit*. *Cinco de Mayo* is a floribunda with a unique color which is described as a smoky lavender with a rusty red-orange blend. If you like *Hot Cocoa*, you might want to try this rose.

The rose is a seedling of *Julia Child* and *Topsy Turvy*. *Julia Child* has a continuous display of roses all summer and is fairly disease resistant. *Cinco de Mayo* is reported to have a tendency to bloom in clusters and is very prolific. *Cinco de Mayo* blooms have 25 petals with an apple fragrance. The bush has shiny leaves which should be disease resistant similar to *Julia Child*. The color is reported to get smokier with cool weather to give another special show.

*Pink Promise* is a hybrid tea with a purpose. A portion of every sale of *Pink Promise* will provide a donation to the National Breast Cancer Foundation. This rose provides long stems with a white and pink bloom with a nice fragrance and is pretty disease resistant. The blooms have 25-30 petals. *Pink Promise* is a cross of *unknown seedling x unknown seedling*.

*Carefree Spirit* is a shrub rose that can grow up to 5 feet in height. Disease resistant rose with shiny green foliage, the blooms are a cherry red with white eye, with white reverse with deep cherry

pink. The blooms change to a deep pink color in hot weather.

### **This and That**

Want to become a CR? If so, please contact me and I will get you started. A CR school is being planned for sometime this year. To become a CR you must have been a member of the ARS for three consecutive years and have recommendations from three other CRs, and then attend the school and pass an open book exam. You will need to purchase a CR manual from the ARS. CRs must recertify every four years which is just a matter of sitting in on CR seminars or a school. You do not need to retake the exam unless you let your certification expire.

Mills Magic Rose Mix is available. If you would like some, contact Raymond Shaner at Augusta Steel. He has a supply in stock there.

For those who used Messenger, I am sorry but the company went out of business and it is no longer available. I don't know if another company is going to pick it up. Putting two aspirin tablets to a gallon of water will do about the same thing. I always add two aspirin tablets to a gallon of spray every time I spray.

### **Master Rosarian**

Charles Shaner, Staunton 540-294-2875

### **SRS Consulting Rosarians**

Meredith Yeago, Waynesboro 540-943-7874

Polly Holston, Staunton 540-886-8551

Raymond Shipley, Lavale, MD 301-729-8271

Al Minutolo, Crozet 434-823-1092

John Huddle, Waynesboro 540-943-2229

### **CR Emeritus**

Robert (Bob) Holsinger, Staunton 540-886-8783