



## Shenandoah Rose Society

A Society of the Colonial District

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Serving the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and beyond

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



### From the President

We will not have a meeting in July. We would normally have a society picnic in July but with the low attendance we have been having I am not going to try one.

I am happy to announce our membership is now up to where it was last year and I have a prospect of another new member. I have also found some interest in a few for the Kidz membership.

It is that time of year again to do Roses in Review. You will find the information in the next ARS magazine or on the ARS website [www.ars.org](http://www.ars.org). Roses in Review is a requirement for CRs. I would advise everyone to do the review. This is where the ratings in the handbook come from.

### 2011 All-America Rose Selection Winner:

#### *Dick Clark*

For the 16th time in only 15 years Weeks Roses is pleased to announce a rose special enough to receive the coveted All-America Rose Selections (AARS) award. *Dick Clark* is a legend in the music industry and now is destined to become legendary in gardens around the country as well.



Like groups of vocalists, each flower on this 2011 introduction sings its own unique tune, with a mix of cream and cherry blooms, gently blushing to red and on to even deeper burgundy. This grandiflora sports deep green foliage to help show off the blooming talent atop long stems perfect for cutting and enjoying in your home. The cinnamon spice fragrance just adds to the performance.

No doubt the AARS judges looked not only at Dick Clark's looks but also at this rose's easy-to-grow traits. Like the original this rose has plenty of vim and vigor. With a lineage that traces back to

another AARS winner, *Fourth of July*<sup>TM</sup>, it's no surprise that this rose received the Grammy Award for roses.

As for awards, our rose's namesake is no stranger to receiving praise as well. Clark is frequently referred to as "America's oldest living teenager". He earns this praise not only for his youthful appearance but also for keeping his ties to the music industry and a schedule so full that it would make a real teen fall from exhaustion. Recently, at age 80, he was honored during the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Daytime Emmy Awards. With tributes to Clark ranging from Chubby Checker to Simon Cowell, this icon's career has spanned six decades and launched too many careers in the music industry to count. We think our tribute to Dick Clark will be enjoyed by as wide a variety of gardeners.

Dick Clark even blogged about his rose on his website. After receiving his roses he and his wife of over 30 years, Kari Wigton, planted them around their home and even created a special garden. Weeks Roses is pleased that we can add the All-America Rose Selection honors to Clark's already long list of awards and achievements including four Emmy Awards, a Peabody Award and spots on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Radio Hall of Fame...just to name a few.



### Tips to Share

by Charles Shaner

Mulching seems to be a never-ending job and can become very expensive. What mulch do I use and where do I get it? is a popular question and has many differences of opinion. There is the theory on both sides that pine produces too much acid by some and hardwood too much by others. I guess this is why we have lime--to keep our pH in balance.



I have tried both and do not see much difference. Neither type of mulch lasts more than a season before having to be replaced and if you mulch in the early spring, you are doing it again in the fall. Mulch is supposed to hold in moisture and aid in weed control.

I have found an aid that helps in both areas and enhances the work of my mulch. Before I put down the mulch I put down a layer of cardboard (having a restaurant, I get a good supply of the stuff). The cardboard aids in several areas: it acts as a weed barrier whereby you do not need to use as many chemical herbicides; it aids in locking in moisture; and it attracts earthworms. I found with the use of cardboard I have an abundance of earthworms. They love it and feed off it. The cardboard will be gone in one season and will need to be reapplied for the next.

After applying the cardboard, I then apply about two inches of mulch on top of it. The cardboard isn't seen and the mulch does the same job as without it. But what kind of mulch do I use? I have tried about all of them, even cypress. The cypress will last longer and is a little less expensive to buy. The one you do not want to use is walnut. Walnut has an acid in it which will kill surrounding plants.

I am presently using mulch which is free! You see the tree surgeons cutting limbs off trees and running them through a chipper. The ones in my area are looking for a place to dump this and will usually give you a load just for a place to get rid of it. It is usually green when you first get it, but if you let it sit for about a month and go through a "heat stage" it will be good to use. You must watch carefully what is in it. You do not want any walnut branches.

Remember, any mulch you use will produce acid as it breaks down. Keep a watch on your pH and keep it in balance. Keep some lime on hand and a pH meter handy. This is an inexpensive way to keep your roses happy and the environment safe. Just another way of getting back to the basics.

## **The Rambling Rosarian**

By Charles Shaner

I remember my parents talking about the "dog days of summer" and I never knew and still don't exactly know what they are talking about. I guess the "red neck" definition would be those days when it is so hot that all you want to do is lay under the front porch where it is cool like the dogs do.

The is the kind of weather we had during June and July doesn't seem to be much better. June in our area was listed as the hottest on record. With no rain I do not see how anything is surviving. Watering is now a must!

I have been watering my roses three times a week. I do this with the use of an open-ended garden hose going from plant to plant. With this method, I am putting the water at the base of the plant where it is needed and nothing is wasted. I use the second-hand on my watch and give each plant 15 seconds' worth, which translates to just about a gallon of water. It does an excellent job. I planted a couple of potted roses the end of June in one of my beds where roses were missing. I pulled the mulch back and there was plenty of moisture there. This method works well and it takes me about a 1/2 hour to water all my roses.

Mulch is extremely important under these conditions. If you didn't mulch in the spring, you should apply about 2 inches of mulch to your beds now. If you did mulch in the spring you may need to check your beds and may want to apply an additional layer. This helps to retain moisture and also helps to keep down weeds.

So far this year I have not seen a single Japanese beetle. I had very few last year--I think I counted a total of six. The efforts I have put forth in the past are paying off. The use of Milky Spore and planting red geraniums have worked on the population. Weather conditions play a big part in the beetle population as well.

This is how the weather works on the beetles. For starters, the beetle does not like hot, dry weather. If the season is hot and dry, the beetle cannot come up from the ground. They also can not get back in the ground to lay their eggs. What eggs they do lay will be close to the surface. If we combine that with a cold winter and the ground freezes the grubs close to the surface will freeze and die.

We complain about the hot, dry weather but that works on the beetle population. If we have a cool, damp summer it means a larger beetle population for the following season.

Deer are another problem and roses are candy to them. I have not had a problem with them in my roses this year but that may change. I have seen where they were in my back yard eating my apples. They are looking for something green and, at present, that certainly isn't grass.

There are a couple of things you can do about the deer. If you are in an area where you can put up an electric fence, that works very well. The Virginia Game and Inland Fisheries recommends three strands but I have had excellent results with two strands. One added feature is to smear peanut butter on aluminum foil and hang it on the electric fence. Let those deer stick their noses on that!

If you can't use an electric fence, there is a product on the market called "Deer Scram" which is available at the Farm Bureau. It is \$20 for a box which contains 4 pouches that you hang around on posts. The instructions say to go by and squeeze the bags once a month and it is supposed to last for four months. The bags contain cristalized coyote urine.

Spraying is a must to control other insects and fungus. Whether you are spraying with chemicals or organics, you need to be careful in this hot weather. It doesn't take much to burn the foilage. I sprayed with organics and got a little foilage burn but it wasn't bad. Try to spray in the cooler part of the day.

In the hot weather your roses need a little extra TLC to survive. Take care of them and they will take care of you with a reward of beautiful blooms.



### Queen of Show

As a member of the ARS Local Society Relations Committee, much information comes to me which has never been available before. I received a long list of show winners from around the nation and I thought you might be interested in what is winning Queens. I was surprised to see some old favorites here as well as some new varieties. I am just going to list the queens here for the full list is several pages in small print.

- Mount Diablo Rose Society, St. Dublin, CA  
*Olympiad*
- Birmingham Rose Society, Birmingham, AL  
*Moonstone*
- Rowan County Rose Society, Salisbury, NC  
*Randy Scott*
- Raleigh Rose Society, Raleigh, NC  
*Marlon's Day*
- South Coast Rose Society, Palos Verdes, CA  
*Gemini*
- Rose Society of Greater St. Louis, St. Louis, MO  
*Moonstone*
- Charlotte Rose Society, Fort Mill, SC  
*Crystalline*
- San Diego Rose Society, San Diego, CA  
*Kardinal*
- Albuquerque Rose Society, Albuquerque, NM  
*Hot Princess*
- Delaware Area Rose Society, Delaware, OH  
*Hot Princess*
- Omaha Rose Society, Omaha, NE  
*Moonstone*
- Charleston Rose Society, Charleston, WV  
*Parole*
- Huntsville-Twickenham Rose Society, Huntsville, AL  
*Hot Princess*
- Indianapolis Rose Society, Indianapolis, IN  
*Dublin*
- Rogue Valley Rose Society, Grant's Pass, OR  
*Harvey*
- Des Moines Rose Society, Des Moines, IA  
*Marilyn Monroe*
- Idaho Rose Society, Boise, ID  
*Double Delight*



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