



Shenandoah Rose Society

A Society of the Colonial District

Chartered by the American Rose Society

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Serving the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and beyond

On the web www.shenandoahrosesociety.org



November Meeting

The November meeting of Shenandoah Rose Society will be held Wednesday, November 16, 6 P.M. at Mrs. Rowe's Restaurant. This will be our end of the year banquet, "Dutch treat". It will be order from the menu. Please let me know if you plan to attend by November 14th 540-294-2875 or clshaner@yahoo.com.



From the President

We had a good meeting in October. The attendance was a little lighter than I expected considering I sent invitations to about 80 people hoping to attract some new members. Membership is what keeps the society going and we always welcome new members.

We held election of officers for the 2012 season. The new officers are as follows:

President - Charles Shaner

Vice President - Raymond Shaner

Secretary - Janet Knott

Corresponding Secretary - Polly Holston

Treasurer - Meredith Yeago

As we look back on the past season, we gained a couple of members, our attendance at meetings remained steady and we had a successful exhibition in the spring. I am always open to suggestions of how to improve the society and our regular meetings. Some like to see high quality, outside speakers. This cost and our funds are limited. Like all organizations, our reserve funds are shrinking and paying for speakers is no longer an option. With the purchase of a power point projector this past year, we are now able to have better, more informative meetings.

As many of you know, I am now a member of a newsletter exchange group. I am receiving newsletters for over 50 societies from across the nation and it is now expanding to outside of our

nation's borders. This has given me access to more articles and views on rose culture. Rosarians from the beginning have had to experiment with sprays and techniques in caring for their roses. This has not changed and new ideas that work show up in these newsletters. Ideas which make rose growing easier, faster and less expensive are always a welcome to the rose community.

It is working together, sharing ideas and belonging to a rose society is what makes it work. I hope everyone will renew their membership for 2012 and bring in a new member.

Charles R. Shaner



Dues Time!

It is time to renew your dues for the 2012 season. Dues are still \$12 which includes the husband and wife. Dues may be paid at the banquet in November or mailed to Meredith Yeago 2926 Hermitage Road, Waynesboro, VA 22980.



The Rambling Rosarian

by Charles Shaner

A good rosarian is always learning new techniques, searching for new ideas and sharing them with others.

I can't believe our rose season has ended and what a season! We fought thrips, dry weather and heat followed by torrencial rains. But our roses survived with the tender loving care a rosarian gives.

Now it is time to put the "babies" to bed for winter. Yes, they are babies - our children and they reward up for the care we give them. This process takes some time and my vairy slightly according to the area where you live.

You should have already ended your feeding program but if you feed organics that may continue. You should stop all chemical fertilizers as these promote instant growth and that you do not want at this time of year. The organic feeds will work as a soil conditioner during the winter months and be ready to go in the spring.

Do not cut your roses back until they go dormant which will be sometime between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Cutting back should only be done on bushes taller than 30 inches and does not include climbers or old garden roses which only bloom once a year. The once a year bloomers can only be pruned around the fourth of July. The reason for taking them back to 30 inches is so the winter winds will not rock the root system loose.

The use of winter protection is your choice. The purpose is not to keep the plants warm but to protect them from the winter sun and wind. Many have ruled out the rose cones because you have to prune the bushes back so far to get the cones over them. There are other forms of protection such as making a collar out of newspapers or other material to place around the plant and fill it with pine cones, leaves, straw, etc. which works very well. You may simply pile bark mulch up around the plant and then spread it out in the spring. We do not have as cold of winters in our area as we once had and the almanac is calling for a warmer than normal winter this year. I no longer use winter protection on my roses and they seem to survive the winter better than when I did.

Some like to give their roses a final feeding of triple phosphate which helps to harden the canes for winter and slows down the effect of nitrogen. This is up to your choice. I have not used the triple phosphate for several years.

We do not have much of a problem with insects at this point although I did see a few aphids near the end of October. I would suggest still spraying occasionally with a good fungicide. Fungi still resides during cold weather such as canker.

These are the practices I used last winter and my roses survived better than they ever have before. If you live outside of the Shenandoah Valley, you may want to vary somewhat from these. Our weather in the valley is hard to predict and can be mild one day and harsh the next. Wind is a problem for me and winter protection such as rose cones do

not work. I have tried them and even with two bricks on top the wind took them away. Find a method that works for you and that will be the best one.



Roses and Winter

by Charles Shaner

Now that our roses are going dormant, we can take a breather from all the watering, feeding, spraying and pruning. How many times have you said or heard someone say "I will be glad when they go dormant so I can get a break"?

The roses may have gone to sleep for winter but has it all ended for you? Are you planning for next year or do you wait until spring to do that? What are your plans for roses next season?

This all sounds like winter work to me. With the weather turning cold and not much work to do in the rose beds leaves time for planning your next growing season. Look at the rose magazines and decide what new varieties you would like for spring planting. Now is a good time to order those but remember, if you live in the Shenandoah Valley, note on your order to deliver after the first of April. I had bare root roses to come in one year on the 15th of March with the snow flying and 19 degrees. Not a good planting time.

Doing your planning in the winter months can make your spring work go much smoother. I plan to put in a new raised rose bed in the spring. During the winter months I will mark off the area where I want to put it. I will purchase the materials for the frame during the winter and if we have some warm days, start building it. You may want to move a bed in the spring. I moved about 2/3 of my roses last spring and now have all of them in raised beds.

During the winter you may want to look over your sprays. This is a good time to restock for the next season. I do not like to have to replace all my sprays at one time. During the winter you can replace one or two at a time without have the "sticker shock" of replacing them all at once.

Many like to give their rose a tea during the growing season made from various items such as alfalfa meal or fish meal. Roses love this and it is easy to do but can be a little smelly. I have a 55 gallon plastic drum I brew mine in which works very

well. I put in my alfalfa meal, fish meal or fish emulsion and any other items I want to brew up, let it steep for a few days and I have a brew roses love. When you go to the district meetings or society meetings you pick up tips that help you grow better roses. At the past district meeting I learned I wasn't feeding my roses enough. This brew really helped to bring my roses out.

The plastic 55 gallon drums may be obtained for a variety of places and many times for free. I was at the local land fill (as I must haul my own trash)



and there was on sitting there. I ask the attendant about it and he said a man brings in two or three every month and places them there for people to take so mine was free. It was clean inside so I didn't need to wash it out. I started out by putting in water and fish meal

and let it sit for about three days. I use an old piece of garden hose which I had as a siphon hose to get the tea into a five gallon bucket. I go around putting a 16 oz cup of the tea on my roses twice a week. I can see a huge difference.

You can mix many components into this which can be feed as a liquid such as soil conditioners, your Epsom salts and more. After I pull about 2/3 of the tea out of the drum I replenish the ingredients for the next time. The top of the drum is closed with just one bung open for the siphon hose so the smell is at a minimum. I will place a piece of plywood or something for a cover on top to keep unwanted debris or critters to gain access. When you draw off you buck full for feeding you may also add your regular liquid rose foods.

Winter is also a good time to clean up your sprayer and other gardening tools. Take your sprayer apart and clean it up. Replace any bad parts such as O rings and gaskets. Clean up your purners, loppers and saws and sharpen them. You have the extra time during winter and it will make your spring work go much easier.

Your maintenance is important also. When is the last time you had a tetanus shot? They are

good for ten years. I always get a tetanus shot on every year that ends in 5. I started this practice when I was a fireman and have kept it up. One retired doctor made the comment in all of his career, he only treated one case of tetanus and that came from the prick of a rose. Take care of your rose and yourself also. It makes things go a whole lot better.



Colonial District Pre-Spring Meeting

Plans for the Colonial District Pre-Spring Meeting to be held in Staunton March 16 and 17, 2012 are taking shape. Arrangements have been made with the Staunton Inn, Best Western for room accommodations. Meal planning is taking place and arrangements for the use of the church for meetings will soon be done.

I am asking for your help. There are several item which can be done from home such as calling for raffle and silent auction items. Anyone who wishes to help with the meeting please contact me 540-294-2875 or clshaner@yahoo.com. There many items you can help with and levels of involvement.



Program Schedule for 2011

- May-Fertilizer (PowerPoint)
- June-Rose Exhibition (Staunton Mall)
- July-Covered dish picnic
- August-IMP of Rose Diseases (PowerPoint)
- September-Rose Exhibition (Staunton Mall)
- October-ARS, The Organization (PowerPoint)
- November-Banquet



Master Rosarian

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