

# Shenandoah Rose Ramblings



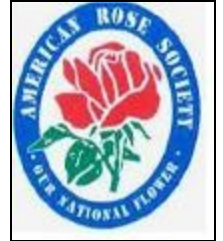
## *Shenandoah Rose Society*

A Society of the Colonial District

Chartered by the American Rose Society

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### Meeting and Seminar

Our August meeting will be held Sunday, August 21 at 2 p.m. at the home of Charles and Barbara Shaner, 93 Shaner Lane, Staunton, VA. The program will be *General Rose Care*.



### From the President

I will have to say it has been a rough month and especially the past couple of weeks. I attended the American Rose Society Board of Directors meeting in Grantsville, PA. It was everything but a normal meeting. As the meeting began, Dr. Sam Jones of the Tenarky District experienced a major coronary and had to be given CPR. He was transported to Penn State Hershey Medical Center Hospital where he passed away 5 days later.

With our own Society, the picnic planned for July was cancelled due to a lack of committed attendees. I will keep trying to have activities where it will be suitable to more members. Hopefully we can come back strong as I once remember the Society.

Our Society is financially sound and maybe more so than many, but we need to look beyond our Society. The ARS needs operating funds. The ARS Board asked that each District Director raise \$1,200 per year for the ARS. This is something we will be discussing at our meeting and at the District meeting in Fairfax. I hope as many of you that can will attend the activities in Fairfax. Information and a registration form may be found on the District website at [www.colonialdistrictroses.org](http://www.colonialdistrictroses.org). I have always said if you really want to learn about roses, this is the place to be.

When I give a talk at Milmount or for a club or organization, I can do it on a moment's notice and give a good general idea of rose growing. When I plan for a seminar at a meeting, it is very different. It takes some planning, research, and development of a program. It is very disappointing when you put that work into it and no one shows up. Please try to attend our meetings and learn more about roses so you can grow better roses. The results you get with a few ideas may just surprise you. And just think of how you can dazzle your friends and neighbors. Be the envy of your neighborhood with beautiful roses!

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*Charles R. Shaner*

# Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

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## The Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner



It seems this year has been a constant fight with weeds. I know this happens every year but this year is worse. I spray around the edge of my rose beds to kill the weeds and have to do that about once a month. In the beds themselves I pull them.

Round-Up has been the choice in the past and is still good. The chemical companies can only patent the sprays for 20 years and then the patent expires. Once expired, it cannot be renewed. This is when generic versions come out. I am now using Ultra Kill which I purchase at Lowe's. It is exactly the same chemical as Round-Up and is less expensive.

The expiration of patents also causes sprays to seem to disappear from the market. Several years ago a favorite fungicidal spray was Funginex. The patent expired and you no longer see it. Or do you? The company changed the name and got a new patent and is now sold as Rose Pride.

There are times government regulators feel a chemical is too harsh for home use and it is pulled from the open market. Cygon 2-E is an example of this. I used this regularly to control the causes of rose rosette disease until it was pulled from the open market. Cygon 2-E is one of the few sprays that will kill the mite that spreads rose rosette disease. You can still get it if you have a chemical license.

Pruning is never ending and almost a daily job during the growing season. There are several types of pruning. Many people think it is only done once a year. I am constantly asked when it is time to prune roses.

**Spring Pruning:** This is done at the very beginning of the growing season. You take out any dead or diseased canes and cut the tall canes back to 12 to 18 inches. I have had to go much lower and it does not hurt the roses in the spring.

**Shovel Prune:** If I have a variety that isn't doing well or I just don't like, I will take the shovel and dig it up. I will then replace it with another variety.

**Finger Prune:** Hybrid tea roses especially will want to put out side buds or what is called a "candelabra". For the hybrid tea we want that one large bloom. I do not want the several smaller blooms in a cluster. Many hybrid tea roses will want to bloom in a cluster like floribunda roses. As soon as you see a side bud forming on a hybrid tea, take your finger and snap it off. The earlier in development you can do this the easier it is to do and less of a scar will be left on the cane. I usually walk through my roses once a day and do finger pruning.

**Deadhead:** This is simply removing the dead or spent blooms. I am all the time having people tell me, "My grandmother told me to count down to the second seven-leaf cluster and cut there". Forget about that. Every leaflet cluster has a bud eye in it and capable of producing new growth. I just cut where it is convenient for me. The further down the cane you cut the larger and longer your new growth will be. It will also give you a larger bloom but may take just a little longer to reproduce.

**Fall Pruning:** This may take a little thought and consideration. If you do fall pruning, you just take the bushes back to about 30 inches in height. This is simply to keep the winter winds from rocking the root system loose. If you use winter protection, you may want to take them back far enough to get the protection over them.

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## Old Versus New

By Charles Shaner

I am amazed at how ideas have changed over the years and how we are doing things a little different. This doesn't mean the old is no longer good. It just means the new may be a little better.

Thirty years ago I was taught that bare-root roses could only be planted in the spring. Last year I got a bare-root rose from John Smith in October. I made the comment to him I would have to pot it and keep it in my greenhouse until spring. He told me to go ahead and plant it, it would do fine. I did plant it and it is doing better than the ones I planted in the spring.

A fall feeding of triple phosphate was always done the old way. It was supposed to slow the roses down and help them go to sleep for the winter. This is something I no longer do. I find my roses are doing just as well without it.

Feeding programs have changed somewhat. The migration is going more toward organics and away from chemicals. Chemical fertilizers contain large amounts of salt. A build up of salt in the soil can ruin a rose bed. I still use a small amount of chemical fertilizers, but primarily organic. Another difference between chemicals and organics is that chemicals only last two weeks where organics last much longer, although organics are slower to take effect since chemicals go to work instantly.

Winter protection was a big topic years ago. This was a job that needed to be done sometime after Thanksgiving in our area. The idea was not to keep the roses warm but to keep the winter sun and wind off the roses. The rose canes would freeze during the cold weather and the warm sun would cause them to thaw quickly and bust. That is what causes those awful-looking black canes. In my case I found it to be more work than it was worth. I have three or four bushes I have to replace each year either way.

Always be open-minded to new ideas. It doesn't hurt to try them and develop a method that works best for you. Rose growing varies greatly across the country. It even varies across our local area. There are natural ways of protecting roses. A line of evergreen trees to the southwest side of your property will help to protect your roses from winter winds.

Enjoy growing roses, learn what works and what doesn't. Don't be afraid to try something new. The only things I have done that actually harmed my roses are too much chemical fertilizers and spraying in the heat of the day.



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