



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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March Meeting

The March meeting of Shenandoah Rose Society will be held Sunday, March 11, 2 P.M. at the home of Ann & Meredith Yeago, 2926 Hermitage Rd, Waynesboro, VA. The meeting will be a slide show of rose gardens presented by Meredith.

Last Call for Dues

If you have not paid your dues for 2007, there is still time. The dues are \$12.00 and may be sent to Meredith Yeago, 2926 Hermitage Road, Waynesboro, VA 22980. Continue your membership in Shenandoah Rose Society and learn more about rose culture.

Interested in a Field Trip?

We are in the early stages of a possible field trip to Norfolk Botanical Gardens in mid- to late May (the exact date to be set). This would be our May meeting.



If we can get enough interest we could charter a bus and the trip would be more enjoyable for everyone. The cost of admission price with a group of 12 or more that includes admission to the gardens, a tram tour and a guided tour of

the rose gardens, is \$8.00 plus meals. The cost of a charter bus would be \$30 per person and we need 47 people to charter a bus. If we have a small group we can rent a van from Enterprise that will seat 15 and the cost would be \$17 per person plus admission and meals. If you are interested please contact Charles Shaner at 540-294-2875 or e-mail clshaner@mindspring.com. If there is enough interest, we will schedule the trip.

The Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

Give your roses an aspirin and tell them to call you in the morning! I have said before, many times, that I never go to a rose meeting or give a seminar that I don't learn something new. This was a new one!

We were discussing Messenger and the possibility of ordering it. Messenger is expensive--especially if you purchase it locally. With a group order, we could possibly get it for less money. That is being checked into and we will let you know the findings as soon as they are available.

Someone made the comment that you could just dissolve 10 milligrams of aspirin in a gallon of water and it would do the same thing as Messenger. If it works, it sure would save a lot of money. So, I am going to give my roses an aspirin and tell them to call me in the morning.

Messenger works by stimulating the immune system of the plant to make it more hardy and resistant to disease. Supposedly, aspirin will do the same thing.

What will be next? We seem to be getting further and further away from using the harsh, expensive chemicals. We now have two new items to try this season-- giving our roses an aspirin and hanging Bounce fabric softener sheets in the roses to ward off Japanese beetles.

Rosarians are not crazy; they are just inventive. This goes back a long way. Chemical sprays were put on the market but they were geared toward vegetable corps. Rosarians had to experiment with chemical sprays to see what would work and what would not. Eventually, the chemical companies realized there was a market here and started labeling their products for rose use. We are still experimenting and finding new techniques and things that seem silly or crazy at first until we discover they work. Then only our neighbors think we are crazy.

Another crazy trick used by top exhibitors is to mount a milk jug on a stick and position it over a bloom to protect it from being ruined by rain and elements. You might even count going out at night with a flashlight and cutting blooms when it is cooler. We are not crazy, just inventive.

One thing that has proven to work is to spray your roses in March with a lime sulphur oil spray. I did this last year and I noticed much less canker and had fewer problems with insects in the early season. This works and I highly recommend it. You can purchase the spray with all three elements in one bottle or purchase them separately. It is cheaper and easier to mix if purchased with the three elements in one bottle. I found it at the Farm Bureau.

This time of year I am always asked the same questions--when can we uncover our roses and when can I do my spring pruning? If you are west of the Blue Ridge, do not uncover and prune until after April 1st. If you are east of the Blue Ridge, you may be able to do this after March 20th. The same goes for ordering roses. If you order from nurseries that ship bare root, tell them to ship to arrive after April 1st. I did not do this one year and had roses arrive March 15th when it was 19 degrees and the snow flying. The only thing to do was grab some pots and potting soil, pot them and keep them inside for a couple of weeks.

The next couple of weeks are a good time to dig out your rose tools and make sure they are in good working order. Does the sprayer work? Run some water through it and make sure. It is better to dump water out of the sprayer to work on it than to have it full of spray. Do my pruners need sharpening? Take an inventory of your sprays and restock now. If a spray is three years old, it needs to be disposed of and replaced. The preparation you do now will lead to a more enjoyable rose season.

Colonial District Mourns the Loss of a Top Rosarian and Friend

John "Randy" Scott

April 6, 1943-February 8, 2007



Randy passed away on February 8, 2007, at the age of 63. He retired from Fairfax County Public Schools after 34 years of service. An avid skier and professional ski instructor, he was active in the American Rose Society, Potomac Rose Society, and Arlington Rose Foundation as a consulting rosarian, judge, and past president. He was a fierce competitor at rose shows,

winning top awards at the national, district, and local levels. The Colonial District named Randy Outstanding Consulting Rosarian in 2000.

He is survived by his wife, Susan A. Scott; mother, Dorothy Trimmer of Wilmington, NC; sister, Diane Cooper of Prescott, AZ; and a niece and nephew.

A memorial service was held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, February 17, 2007, at the Everly Funeral Home, 10565 Main Street, Fairfax, VA, with a reception following at Kelly Square, Fairfax. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to Fairfax High School, c/o Mitch Sutterfield, 2500 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22030, towards an Athletic Endowment Fund. Please make checks payable to Fairfax High School.

Pruning and Grooming Made Easy

By Meredith Yeago

It will soon be rose pruning time again for those hybrid tea roses. Perhaps a better and more descriptive term would be grooming your roses. In addition, pruning is probably the least understood part of growing pretty roses.

The most frequently asked question is, "When do I cut back my roses?" Some rose growers (the uninformed) think that the roses should be chopped down after the first hard freeze in the fall along with the marigolds and petunias. The informed grower waits until spring pruning time, with one exception. If any bush roses have any head-high tall canes, cut those back to 30 to 36 inches. This action is to prevent the strong winter winds from rocking the roots loose, thereby causing root damage.

The next question is, "When do I do my spring pruning?" The best time is right after the last hard freeze (25 to 32 degrees F) in your location. This event may vary from community to community, location to location. The reason is that when a rose is cut back, that is its signal to start growing and putting out new tender growth. Roses usually will survive a light frost (generally 33 degrees and up). If those new primary buds are lost, the plant will have to depend on the secondary buds to survive and require most of the summer to recover.

It is preferable to prune a few days late rather than too early and lose the primary buds. The rose will not do much growing anyway until the weather warms sufficiently.

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

1. Using sharp bypass pruners, remove all dead and diseased canes, cutting back to healthy, green wood. This procedure may result in cutting some canes back to ground level or the bud union.
2. Cut out twiggy growth, which is growth smaller than a wood lead pencil. The one exception is to leave

some of this growth if it is all you have left, hoping the plant will survive.

3. Shaping 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 in height. If table roses are the preference, cut the canes back to 15 to 24 or maybe 30 inches. Leave 4 to 6 of the largest, most healthy canes. Be sure to seal the cuts with your preferred sealer to protect against the cane borer. Many a good cane has been ruined by the borer.

The spring pruning is not the end of the process. Continuous grooming while cutting blooms or deadheading is one of the easiest and most effective ways to improve the 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 – specimen or table size.

Pay more attention to pruning and grooming process and have a better crop of pretty blooms this year!

Buying a New Rose?

By Charles Shaner

If you are planning to purchase new roses this year, you have much to consider when you go to make your purchase. What color do I want - do I want a hybrid tea, grandiflora, miniature, or floribunda, and where do I get it?

First, if you want a good quality rose you must start with good quality stock. I was in a local farm store recently and they already had rose bushes for sale. These were the “packaged” roses and, being out this early, you will be lucky if you can even get them to grow. I purchased



one of these several years ago to use as a demonstration as to what not to buy. Did you ever wonder how they get all those roots in that little package? It is easy – they cut them off! A rose can't grow without roots. With much tender loving care, I was able to get this one to grow and then the next problem appeared. It was supposed to be a *First Prize*. I do not know what I have but one thing for sure is that it is not a First Prize. It is the wrong color and form. When you buy these roses, you do not know what you are getting.

Purchasing “boxed” roses is a different story. These are good roses but they take a little different care in the beginning. Disregard the planting instruction on the package. You will want to remove the plant from the package and plant it as a bare root rose. The intent was for the box to be planted in the ground with the rose to make planting easier and for the box to decay in the ground. What actually happens is that the roots of the rose grow faster than the box decays and the plant becomes root bound. Remove these plants from the box and plant them as a bare root rose and they will do very well. You may want to purchase these early in the season.

Good quality potted roses are your best bet for local purchasing. These may be found at any of the local garden centers such as Waynesboro Garden Center or Millmount in Stuarts Draft. I have had success with plants from Lowe's and this type of store.

If you are ordering roses, you want to have them delivered in April as most of these will arrive bare root. I may suggest that you pot these roses and nurse them along for at least six weeks before putting them in the ground. I have found they will do much better this way and you can actually gain one bloom cycle the first season. This will buy you some time in getting them in the ground as potted roses may be planted anytime. Bare root roses must be either potted or planted in the ground within a day or two of arrival. In our area, you must have a bare root rose in the ground no later than May 31 so it will have time to become established by fall. By potting a bare root rose, you have extended the time you have to get it in the ground.

The same may be said for moving a rose. I have many people ask me when the best time to move a rose is. The prime time is from April 1 to May 31. When you move a rose, you do major disturbance to the root system. It is impossible to get all the roots when you dig it up so the root system must reestablish. If you move the rose in April or May, the roots will have time to reestablish before winter and your plant will have a better chance for survival.

SRS Consulting Rosarians

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