



## *Shenandoah Rose Society*

A Society of the Colonial District

Chartered by the American Rose Society

Volume 12, No. 9

October 2009

Serving the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and beyond

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



### **October Meeting**

The October meeting of Shenandoah Rose Society will be held Sunday, October 18, 2 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church. The program will be an open discussion of our 2009 growing season. Our CRs will find solutions to the problems you had. We will also have election of officers for 2010.

### **ARS Local Societies Relations Committee**

By Charles Shaner

The ARS has a Local Society Relations Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to promote the activities, outreaches and mission of the Society. The goals for this term are:

1. To emphasize the importance of membership in the American Rose Society.
2. To coordinate information and services between local societies and the ARS.
3. To promote good relations between the ARS and local societies.
4. To publicize the many good things ARS does that don't show up in our official publications.

I have been asked by Jolene Adams to serve a 3-year term on this committee and I have agreed. I hope to find something during this time that will help spark new life into Shenandoah Rose Society as well as the other societies in the Colonial District. The chair of this committee will be Louise Coleman. I met Louise some years ago at a District meeting. At that time she was the CR committee chair for the ARS. She is a very nice lady and I am sure I will enjoy working with her.

### **In Memoriam**

Ralph Moore, Father of the Miniature Rose, breeder of over 500 roses, a simple country genius of Visalia, CA, died on September 14, 2009. Rosarians everywhere stopped mid-step to pay tribute to this kindly giant of a man. A memorial service was held October 3 at First Presbyterian Church, Visalia, CA.

### **The Rambling Rosarian**

By Charles Shaner

Fall is officially here and you didn't need a calendar to know. I have seen several flocks of geese flying over, the starlings are gathering in flocks and I saw my first woolly worm of the season--all white.

This brings on a shift in your rose care from pushing them to produce new blooms to slowing down for winter. If you have not stopped deadheading, you should do so now. Continue watering and spraying. I am still cutting blooms but not doing any deadheading. You should not be feeding chemical fertilizers at this point but organics may continue as organics may be applied anytime.

Fall is a good time to apply lime. I know from experience with my beds, they need a little lime each fall. It doesn't matter what kind of mulch you use since produces acid as it breaks down--some more than others. A small application of lime in the fall keeps this in check.

Several years ago it was recommended that an application of triple phosphate be applied about this time of the year. Somewhere we got away from that and I have noticed a difference in my roses. They don't seem to winter as well without it. I think I am going back to that practice. Last winter I put wood ashes out of my wood stove on my rose beds and this is the first time all my roses survived over the winter. I may try it again.

An extra layer of mulch is a good idea before winter sets in. I have applied about 4 inches of fresh mulch to half of my beds and plan to get the rest soon. I am using wood chips the tree people dump out. It contains a mixture of a little of everything and the best part is it is free! I just watch the piles and make sure it has dried. It seems to be working very well.

In looking back over the season, I would say it is a mixed bag. We had rain in the spring and it was cool. I couldn't get my spraying in because when I had a chance to spray it was raining. Then it turned dry but not all that hot. The beetles left us

alone but were replaced with deer. I don't know which is worse. The beetles ruin a bloom while the deer prune for you but are not good pruners. At least you can kill the beetles.

Our season is about over and I hope everyone will renew their membership for next year. When you do, bring a friend. We can teach them how to grow roses too. If you are not an ARS member, please consider joining.

## **Colonial District Fall Meeting and Show**

By Charles Shaner

I began writing this column after 11 p.m. Saturday night--this Rosarian was too wound up to sleep. The best comment I can make about the meeting and show is, "WOW--WHAT A WEEKEND!" It all started on Friday night with the reception. There was an excellent program on the history of the Colonial District by Susan Clingenpeel. Then I was given a basket filled with garden tools, applesauce cake, jellies and more from the Richmond Rose Society for the work I have done on the website.

It was up a little after 5 a.m. Saturday morning to drive to the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens to enter the few pitiful blooms I brought for the show. The ride on the back of my truck and the rough roads in Richmond didn't do them any good. I would only consider entering only two of the five blooms that I brought. One of them, *Opening Night*, started to blow on the prep table. Since the center had gone flat, I grabbed the entry tag and changed the class from Hybrid Tea specimen to Hybrid Tea Non-Exhibition quality class. So much for that; it was on the table taking up space.

Next was the tour of the gardens. If you have never been to Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, this is a must-see. If you are an ARS member, just show your membership card and the admission is free. There is a newly-constructed rose garden with 1,800 bushes representing 80 varieties. The butterfly house is most captivating. I could have stayed in there all day. There are all different types of butterflies flying around you and some even wanting to land on you.

It was nearing 3:30 p.m.--time to go back to the exhibition room for the show awards. I found the one bloom I put in for specimen (which didn't get anything as I expected), but, where was the other? It must have been so bad they tossed it. Finally, there it was in the last place I expected, on

the head table! My *Opening Night* took Best Hybrid Tea of Non-Exhibition Quality for a trophy.

Next was the banquet. After a good meal and a presentation on the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, awards for the District classes and Queens were given, as well as the District awards. I got the surprise of my life when I was awarded the ARS Silver Honor Medal. This is one award I never expected to receive. This Rosarian was in total disbelief!

The District business meeting was held on Sunday morning. The biggest discussion was over the election process for Vice President of the ARS. The explanation and my thoughts on this matter are too lengthy to go into here, but I will say the election process was conducted according to the ARS bylaws. I will be glad to discuss this with anyone who wishes.

We also held an election for District officers for the next three years. Our officers are:

Director..... John Fleek  
Vice Director..... Charles Shaner  
Secretary..... Janice Sellers  
Treasurer..... George Wilson  
Parliamentarian..... Capt. Eddie Krauss

I would like to thank the Shenandoah Rose Society for enabling me to attend the District meeting. Without your support I would not have been able to go. For me it was a fairy tale weekend chain of events that just kept happening.

Thank You! *Charles L. Shaner*

## **Our Rose Exhibition**

We held our rose exhibition at Waynesboro Garden Center this year. It was the smallest showing we have ever had but the viewers enjoyed it anyway. Only three people exhibited producing 69 beautiful blooms. I know several who usually exhibit had their roses destroyed by deer and some were out of town. Maybe next year we can have a better showing.

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