



## *Shenandoah Rose Society*

A Society of the Colonial District  
Chartered by the American Rose Society

Volume 1, No. 1

February 2010

Serving the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and beyond

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



### **February Meeting**

The February meeting of the Shenandoah Rose Society will be held February 28 at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Ann & Meredith Yeago in Waynesboro. The program will be a PowerPoint presentation by Ray Shipley viewing the gardens of the northwest from his trip.

### **Dues Reminder**

If you have not paid your dues for 2010 there is still time. Dues are still \$12.00 and you may mail them to Meredith or pay them at the February meeting.

### **ARS Membership Program**

Are you a member of the ARS? If not, this may be for you. ARS is offering a four-month Trial Membership to All Existing NON-ARS Local Society Members! For just \$5.00, any member of a rose society who is NOT an ARS member can join ARS for a four-month trial membership. Take advantage of this offer so that you will be a part of our national organization--The American Rose Society.

### **Colonial District Pre-Spring Meeting**

The Colonial District Pre-Spring meeting will be held in Staunton at the Quality Inn, exit 255 off I- 81 March 19 and 20. The meeting is hosted by the District.

The theme for this meeting is "*Back to the Basics*". The meeting will be a no-frills meeting to go along with the theme. There will be a reception on Friday night consisting of heavy hors d'oeuvres catered by the Big Dipper Ice Cream Shop. Saturday and Sunday breakfasts are included with your room reservation. Saturday lunch will be a sandwich buffet catered by Big Dipper. There will not be a banquet on Saturday night. The Saturday evening meal will be on your own.

Speakers for the weekend are still being arranged and are being pulled mostly from our own District. An informal question and answer period will be held on Saturday evening after we return from dinner.

Full registration for the weekend is \$30 which includes all seminars, Friday evening reception, and Saturday lunch. Room rates for the weekend are \$60 per night.

Please plan to join us for a weekend of "*Back to the Basics*".

### **ARS & YOU**

by Charles Shaner

Are you receiving ARS & YOU? If you are a member of the ARS and have an e-mail address, you should be receiving it. ARS & YOU is an American Rose Society newsletter for local rose societies produced by the ARS Local Society Relations Committee with Louise Coleman as the editor. I am a member of this committee. If you are an ARS member and have an e-mail address and are not receiving this publication, please let me know. If you are having problems contacting the ARS or getting the information you need from them, again let me know. The committee is a liaison between you and the ARS if needed. We are here to help you.

ARS & YOU is published monthly and contains news from the ARS. It also contains some articles and tips for growing roses.

### **The Rambling Rosarian**

by Charles Shaner

I don't think it really has to be said but it has been a very hard winter! How will it be on the roses? That we will have to wait and see. We usually have up and down temperatures and that does damage to the canes. The temperatures never got above freezing (to speak of) for over a month. This type of weather is new ground for most of us in the Shenandoah Rose Society.

Something good always comes of everything. The Japanese beetles have met their doom this winter. With the dry summer the beetles were not able to get very deep in the ground to lay their eggs so the grubs will be near the surface. This means with the cold weather, the grubs froze and will not develop in the late spring as usual. We didn't have many beetles last summer and I predict a light crop of beetles this coming season.

It is time to check over your equipment, take inventory of your sprays and rose foods, repair and stock up as needed. Your chemical sprays come with a three-year shelf life and that is reduced to two years after the bottle is opened.

A dormant spray is recommended for your roses in late winter or very early spring. A good combination is Volck oil and lime sulfur. This will get rid of many insects which wintered over in your roses and also combat fungus. If we get a couple of warm days, get out your sprayer and go to work.

This is all preventive work that can be done now. The old saying, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" holds a lot of truth. Don't wait until late April or May to check your equipment and start caring for your roses--start it now!

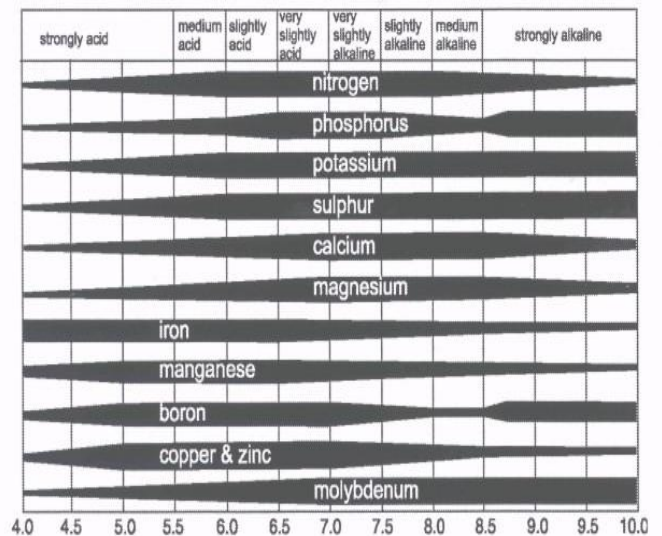
## Soil 101: "The Importance of pH"

by Frank & Rita Van Lenten

We never paid too much attention to pH until we arrived in the "land of red dirt". In fact, we did not pay too much attention until our first-year roses sat in amended soil for two months and did not grow much at all. Finally, we used our good old Kelway pH meter and our jaws dropped almost as fast as the pH reading on the meter! We were reading about pH 4.0-5.0 in most of our planting areas. Here we come, Lowe's--fill up the truck with bags of granular dolomitic limestone. Well, if you know most granular limestone, it takes a while to "do its thing", like 2-3 months depending on the weather conditions. Eventually we got a little drastic and mixed up a slurry of about 1 cup limestone to 1 gallon of water and poured it directly into the pitchfork holes we made around the roses. In about one month we were able to see the difference and the roses started growing like they should have originally. We still fight the problem of low pH even with amended soil because the red clay leaches hydrogen ions into the "good soil".

We have to apply lime either normally or by the drastic slurry in the holes method 3-4 times a year to keep the pH in the desired range of 6.0-6.5 for roses.

So what is this all about? Why is pH so important?? It all has to do with nutrient availability of the ions the plants need to transport through their systems to drive photosynthesis and other plant nutrient processes. The chart shows that at different pH ranges, different ions become more or less available to the plant.



At the normal good pH range of 6.0-6.5 almost all ions are soluble in water and can be used by the plant. At high pH (>7), ions such as iron are less available because they actually form a precipitate (solid) which, since it is no longer dissolved, cannot get to the plant's system. At low pH (<5) calcium and magnesium are not as available, so you need to use quite a bit of dolomitic limestone (calcium/magnesium carbonate) to overwhelm the hydrogen ions and take their place in the clay particles. The carbonate part of the ion lattice is responsible for raising the pH.

Another interesting thing (to us chemist nerds, anyway) is that pH is not a linear scale but logarithmic:  $pH = -\log [H^+]$

What this means is the amount of hydrogen ions at pH 5.0 is ten times as many as at pH 6.0 and there are 100 times more hydrogen ions at pH 4.0 than at pH 6.0, thus the need for adding quite a bit of limestone to affect the pH and more time required to affect it if the ground is dry (I think they

call that summer here). The soil itself is made of aluminosilicate backbone to which metals/hydrogen ions are attracted. When the pH is less than 4, we can have an appreciable breakdown of the aluminosilicate backbone to give relatively high concentrations of Aluminum ions which are toxic to plants. We also know that most inorganic fertilizers (10:10:10, Miracle-Gro, etc., as opposed to organic fertilizers as purely organic, Mills Mix, etc.) and many mulches such as pine nuggets/straw will eventually decrease the pH also, requiring remedial limestone.

The answers to red clay are the addition of limestone and/or dig bigger holes for more amended soil, or raised beds, or growing in pots. Make lime-spreading a quarterly habit and you will be doing your roses a big favor. We suggest 1 cup per mini or 2 cups for bigger roses worked into the soil so that they don't clump up like a little piece of cement which will take longer to dissolve and become effective.

**The March meeting of the Shenandoah  
Rose Society will be the District meeting held at  
Quality Inn in Staunton.**

**Master Rosarian**

Charles Shaner, Staunton 540-294-2875

**SRS Consulting Rosarians**

Meredith Yeago, Waynesboro 540-943-7874

Polly Holston, Staunton 540-886-8551

Raymond Shipley, Lavale, MD 301-729-8271

Al Minutolo, Crozet 434-823-1092

John Huddle, Waynesboro 540-943-2229

**CR Emeritus**

Robert (Bob) Holsinger, Staunton 540-886-8783

# “BACK TO BASICS!”

## Colonial District Pre-Spring Meeting 2010

### Schedule of Events

<i>Time</i>	<i>Regular Session</i>	<i>Judging Seminar</i>
8:30	Welcome	
8:45	Spring Preparation <i>Howard Jones</i>	
9:30	ARS & You <i>John Fleek, Clif Jeter, Charles Shaner</i>	
10:15	<i>Break</i>	
10:30	Gardens of the USA <i>Ray Shipley</i>	Ethics/Collections/Challenge Classes <i>Bruce Monroe</i>
11:15	New Roses <i>Vern Rickard</i>	
12:00	<i>Lunch (catered by Barbara Shaner of Big Dipper Ice Cream)</i>	
1:30	New Products <i>Gary Rankin &amp; Monica Valentovic</i>	OGRs, Shrubs, & Species Roses <i>Dick Hanlon</i>
2:15	Old Garden Roses <i>Rick Brown</i>	Miniatures/Minifloras <i>Diana Fleek</i>
3:00	New Pesticides <i>John Simonton</i>	Guidelines/Questions <i>Donna Smoot</i>
3:15	<i>Break</i>	
4:00	Business Meeting	
5:00	<i>Dinner (on your own)</i>	
7:00	Reassemble	
7:15	Announce Silent Auction Winners	
7:30	<i>John Smith</i>	
8:15	Raffle Drawing	
8:45	Discussion Period	
9:30	Refreshments	

# COLONIAL DISTRICT OF THE AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY

## PRE-SPRING MEETING

Hosted by the Colonial District

*“Back to the Basics”*

Quality Inn, Staunton, Virginia

March 19-20, 2010

Come and enjoy a fun-filled weekend sharing information on rose culture. Activities include a Horticultural Judges recertification session.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Society: \_\_\_\_\_

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u><i>Two-Day Registration (includes all activities &amp; meals)</i></u>	\$30	_____	\$_____
<u><i>Two-Day Registration and 1 Meal (indicate choice below)</i></u>	\$20	_____	\$_____
Friday evening (heavy hors d'oeuvres)		_____	
Saturday lunch		_____	
<u><i>Two-Day Registration but No Meals</i></u>	\$10	_____	\$_____

Meals will be catered by Barbara Shaner

Lunch on Saturday will include sandwiches (roast beef, corned beef, turkey, or ham); salads (tossed, potato, or macaroni); chips; cakes and pies

***Saturday Dinner is on your own***

TOTAL ENCLOSED WITH THIS REGISTRATION FORM \$\_\_\_\_\_

### *Judges' Seminar on Saturday*

No cost; to register, please contact Donna Smoot at [dsmoot@msn.com](mailto:dsmoot@msn.com) or at 304.744.8150.

### *Additional Information Contacts*

John Fleek at 304.776.4048 or [fleek@suddenlink.net](mailto:fleek@suddenlink.net)

Charles Shaner at 540.294.2875 or [clshaner@mindspring.com](mailto:clshaner@mindspring.com)

Registration checks should be made payable to the *Colonial District Pre-Spring Meeting* and mailed to George Wilson at 2433 Hemlock Street, Norfolk, VA 23513 **NO LATER THAN MARCH 8, 2010.**

### *Motel Information*

Contact the Quality Inn (I-81 exit 255) at 540.248.5111; specify the Colonial District of the American Rose Society. Room rate is \$60.00 per night (includes a continental breakfast).