



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



May Meeting

The May meeting of Shenandoah Rose Society will be held Sunday May 16, 2 p.m. at the Home of Dr. & Pat Higgs, 26 College Circle, Staunton. The program will be a tour of the Higgs' gardens.

From the President

Winter has gone, spring is here and the roses will soon be in bloom. How we look forward to that first bloom cycle. It is a new life and brings new enthusiasm to our gardening. We tend our roses with tender loving care to get the blooms which will dazzle our friends and neighbors. We prune, spray, weed, water, and feed. This activity continues for six months. Finally, by October we are ready for them to go to sleep and give us a rest. We are glad for the break but look forward to the next season.

Remember what you said last fall that you were going to do with your roses next season? It is like a New Year's resolution and many are kept just as well. I have one rose bed I have said each year for the past three years, "I am going to move it next spring", and it hasn't been done yet. The roses continue to grow.

The Rose Society is like the roses you grow. It needs to be cared for as well but in different ways. The Society does need to be tended, fed, and watered just as your roses do. Who takes care of the Society? It is the members. We feed the Society by bringing in new members. Our feeding program has been slipping and we need to renew it. Our membership has been dropping the past few years and we need to feed it so it will grow again.

You do not feed a rose without watering it, and the Society needs to be watered. We do that by attending meetings, learning more about the rose and sharing our knowledge with others.

Tending our roses is the work we do in our beds such as weeding, spraying, and mulching. We tend the Society by taking part in Society activities and spreading the word of what the Society does.

This brings in new members which in turn feeds the Society.

With my work with the ARS Local Society Relations Committee, I am finding out the many things we should be doing as a rose society and are not so diligent at. I have also been slipping in these duties and must do better.

I am working on a proposal I am going to make at our meeting which I hope will attract new members. The proposal will require the vote of the membership. Please plan to attend.

The Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

Spring came early this year and so should your first bloom cycle. I have some nice buds on my roses which should be opening in about two or three weeks. I already have a shrub rose with a few blooms open.

You should be finished with your spring pruning and feeding. We had a little dry spell at the end of April so don't forget your watering program. You should be into your spraying program by now.

Many people have a problem with deer, aphids, beetles, etc. I am starting to have a problem with snakes--that's right, snakes! I had several in the yard and my storage building last year, and have already killed a five-footer in the yard this year. I know moth balls are 95% effective on snakes and they do work in my storage building, but I can't cover the entire yard. There seems to be more of them every year. I guess that is the price you pay for living next to hay fields and brushy land.

I encourage everyone to read the May/June issue of the *American Rose* magazine. This is one of the best issues I have seen in a long time. I especially call your attention to the article on page 30. It is aimed primarily at the making of teas, but also gives much information about soils and what happens with the use of chemicals verses the use of organics.

Our forefathers learned the importance of organic gardening from the Indians. As they became "Americans", they thought they had a better idea with the use of chemical fertilizers and sprays. We now know that was wrong. Chemical fertilizers kill the microorganisms in the soil which are beneficial to plant life and reduce the number of earthworms in the soil. Organics encourage the growth of microorganisms and earthworms. The chemical sprays do the same--not only killing the organisms in the soil but also killing beneficial insects.

I have been using mainly organic sprays and feedings for the past few years and I am seeing a big difference. I do not have as much insect and fungal problems as I once had. My roses seem to be growing just as well if not a little better with the organic feedings and I don't need to feed as often. With organic feeding, you can apply any time. It takes a little longer for it to go to work but it lasts much longer. The buildup of microorganisms and earthworms in the soil will speed up the process.

You receive the *American Rose* magazine with your membership to the American Rose Society. If you are not a member, please contact me. There are offers for a four-month trial membership which are well worth it and you receive two issues of the *American Rose* magazine with the trial.

Rose of the Month: *Lasting Love*

Evelyn Carter

Rainy Day Rose Society Vice-President

Lasting Love was hybridized by Michel Adam and introduced in France in 1993 under the name "Le Grand Huit". It was later renamed "Commandant Cousteau" to commemorate the French oceanographer Jacques Cousteau. When Weeks Roses introduced it in the US in 2005, they renamed it "Lasting Love".



Lasting Love

Photo courtesy Rich Baer

Lasting Love is a hybrid tea with very fragrant blooms that are dusky magenta red. The blooms are well formed, substantial and hold up in the rain.

They are borne on long stems in clusters and are long lasting on the bush and in the vase which makes *Lasting Love* an excellent rose for cutting.

What sets this rose apart is the foliage. The new growth is shiny, dark mahogany red and quite eye catching. The leaves mature to dark glossy green and are very thick and waxy. The leaves resemble camellia leaves.



Lasting Love Foliage

Photo by Sue Tiffany

The bush is vigorous, grows to about 4 feet tall, and stays densely clothed in leaves all the way to the ground. *Lasting Love* is nearly evergreen. Harsh winters can do enough freeze damage to cause it to drop leaves, but in mild winters its leaves will stay green and remain on the bush all winter long until the new growth emerges in the spring. Its tough foliage is very disease resistant and seems to suffer less insect damage than other roses making it suitable for no-spray and organic gardens. *Lasting Love* is a great-looking shrub even when not in bloom.

Does it have any defects? It blooms in flushes and is a little slow to repeat in my garden; but since the blooms are so long lasting, each flush has an extended period of bloom. Some people may prefer truer reds but the color of this rose mixes well with other colors. Like most dark red roses, *Lasting Love* will benefit from some afternoon shade. It is not especially prone to sunburn but the blooms will last even longer and the color will stay darker and richer with afternoon shade.

Rose hybridizers recognize the value of *Lasting Love* and are using it in their breeding programs. *Firefighter* is a red hybrid tea that has inherited *Lasting Love's* fragrance, glossy foliage and disease resistance. *Drop Dead Red* is a new velvety red floribunda that has inherited *Lasting Love's* foliage. I haven't grown either of these roses but I think they are worth a try. All three of these roses are from Weeks Roses and are available wherever Weeks Roses are sold.

(Editor's note: Rainy Day Rose Society serves the Kent & Auburn, Washington, area)

CLIFF'S NOTES ON ROSES

Natural Approach to Controlling Aphids

By Cliff Orent, Owner
EuroDesert Roses

With spring approaching (albeit faster in some parts of the country than in others!), my thoughts turn to the beauty of the first spring flush of blooms. But with those blooms--and even before the blooms emerge--come those nasty little aphids that suck the life out of tender new foliage and buds and that are responsible for the "honeydew" and black/brown residue they leave behind.

For those of us who want to control aphids yet don't wish to spray, there's a natural alternative, and one that I've used for the past few years with a good deal of success--lady beetles, commonly known as ladybugs. The variety most common in North America is *Hippodamia convergens* and its primary target pests are aphids, whitefly, fruit worm and certain types of mites.

Ladybugs are the most popular and best known of the beneficial insects in the garden, and it's likely that they'll emerge at some point. But often they arrive after aphids have already been on the prowl for a while. One solution is to purchase ladybugs from a commercial source. The trick, however, is to time the arrival of your purchased ladybugs to coincide with the arrival of the aphids. If the ladybugs arrive before the aphids appear in sufficient number and therefore have little to eat, they're not likely to stick around to wait for their dinner. There are a number of sources of ladybugs listed on the internet. A few of these are:

www.buglogical.com

www.thebeneficialinsectco.com

www.planetnatural.com

www.marchbiological.com

There are a number of things that are said to be helpful in keeping your ladybugs in your garden, as opposed to having them fly off to a neighbor's yard. These include releasing them in the evening before they settle down for the night, mixing certain types of carbonated beverages or sugar with water and more.

What I've found works for me is to release the ladybugs when it's relatively cool--in early morning or in the evening, and lightly hosing down the foliage of the roses before releasing the ladybugs. And after a few years of purchasing ladybugs in early spring, I've been pleased to see ladybugs appearing on their own--earlier each year.

And while you're visiting these sites, have a look at some of the other beneficial insects that are available against other rose pests.

(Editor's note: EuroDesert Roses offers ARS members a 10% discount on their roses. They carry many hard-to-get European varieties. www.eurodesertroses.com)

The Future of the Rose Society

By Charles Shaner

The ARS, along with rose societies in general, has been experiencing a drop in membership the past few years. The ARS has taken some steps to turn this around and is having success. The drop in membership has leveled off and may be showing a slight increase.

What is bringing this turn around about? There are several factors leading to this. The ARS is offering four-month trial memberships. There are 3 levels of trial membership. If you are not a member of the ARS, please contact me and I can fit you to the proper trial.

Another thing we need to do is to work with our youth. The youth are our future and we need to introduce them to gardening and roses. The ARS has established a youth committee *Kidz N' Roses* chaired by Lee Stevens of Riverside, CA. There are great plans ahead for a website and various programs for young rosarians. If you have a son, daughter, niece, nephew, or grandchild that has shown an interest in your rose hobby, make them a gift of a Youth membership (up to age 18) in ARS. Send \$10 to ARS with the youngster's name, address, age, e-mail address, and your name. Many rosarians are working to see the youth membership grow.

I will be making a proposal at our meeting in an attempt to increase our membership. Our numbers have declined the past couple of years but I think we can turn that around.

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