



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



October Meeting

The October meeting of Shenandoah Rose Society will be held Sunday, October 10, 2 P.M. at Christ Lutheran Church, 2708 N. Augusta St., Staunton. We will have election of officers for 2011. For the election we will be taking nominations from the floor. If you are nominating someone from the floor, please check with them first to make sure they are willing to serve. I have one more year on my elected term as president so we will be electing a Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary.

The program will be "*How Do I Root Cuttings?*". We will also have refreshments and a door prize at the meeting. I am planning to have a "Dutch treat" get together in November. You may want to make plans to attend this one. One of our members will be honored. Will it be you?



From the President

It has been a rough season for all of us. Trying to schedule a meeting has been difficult this year. It seems there have been so many conflicts and it got to the point I just had to pick a date. Hopefully, we can get back to a regular monthly Sunday to have the meeting for next year.

As a member of the ARS Local Societies Relations Committee, I have asked the committee members for their thought on membership and attendance problems. I received some very good information. You will see some new approaches in the October meeting and for 2011.

Even with the attendance being light, we had a good district meeting and show. This time the meeting included two seminars where, for the past few years there were none at the fall meeting. One seminar was *What the Judges Look for In A Rose* which was very interesting.

The Pre-Spring meeting for 2011 will be held in Staunton with the district hosting it as was last year. The idea of the spring meeting is to make

it affordable in a central location with a good educational weekend. There may be a CR school at this one with CR recertification. If you are interested in becoming a CR please let me know and I will get you started on what you need. There could also be a judging school if enough people sign up for it.

The ARS has hit a new low in membership. This is most likely due to the economy. With so many people unemployed, they are putting food on the table first and the roses are somewhere down the line. This is putting a financial burden on the ARS. Donations to the ARS are welcome. New members would be even better. If you know someone who is not a member of the ARS you may consider giving them a gift membership. A good idea for a Christmas gift.



The Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

Boy I am glad that hot, dry summer is over! You may have been promised the knowledge to grow a rose garden when you joined the Rose Society but someone forgot to order the rain. And who ordered all these grasshoppers?

I have the worst roses I have ever had since I have been growing roses. Hopefully, with the cooler weather, heavy watering and some rain, they will survive.

It is time to give the feeding and pruning a rest and start thinking about next year. You will want to continue your spray program until cold weather. Those pesky insects don't take a break for fall. It is that time of year when we need to watch for powdery mildew.

I always wonder where those insects go during the winter. Someone said they hibernate in the bark of plants and in the mulch. They also lay their eggs which will hatch in the spring. Spraying with an oil spray in the fall will cut down on the number of insects you have in the spring. The oil

will smother the insects and aid in preventing the eggs from hatching.

I have used a little Volk Oil in my sprays every time I spray during the entire growing season. Volk is normally a dormant spray but if you cut the mixture to 2 tablespoons per gallon you can use it during the growing season as well. The oil will act as spreader sticker as well. Oil also is a good preventative for black spot and powdery mildew. Sun Spray horticultural oil will work as well using the same mixture.

This is the time of year when the rose catalogs come out and you start placing your orders for spring delivery. If you live in the valley, you will want to note on your order "*Deliver after April 1st.*" I learned this the hard way. One year my roses came in about March 15th and it was 19 degrees and snow flying. What do you do with bare root roses in that situation? If you look at the zoning maps, the zone changes at the top of the Blue Ridge Mountain. The shippers do not notice that and think we are in the same planting zone as central Virginia.

Growing roses is not as hard as many think. As I try to tell people it is all in knowing what to do and when to do it. How much you do depends on the outcome you are looking for. If you just want a few roses to cut and bring in the house you can get by with a minimum amount of care. If you are looking for that Queen in the show, it will take much more.



What Happens When Rose Companies Die?

Several months ago **Jackson & Perkins** filed for bankruptcy. Now J&P no longer exists. Some, but not all, of their varieties have been purchased by other companies. Weeks Roses bought J&P's field crop and is offering these roses as a supplement to Weeks' own varieties, but for only one year. In reality, there are too many varieties to be assimilated by the companies that are still in business. Unless plants from the bankrupt rose firms are saved by devotees, many are probably on their way to extinction.

Rich Baer suggests asking a favorite local nursery to adopt newly orphaned varieties that you always wanted but never got around to ordering.

Conard-Pyle, third largest rose company in the USA, is also making changes that will affect the market. They are getting out of the —finished plant business in order to focus on breeding and licensing young plants and bare root roses. Steve Hutton, CEO of Conard-Pyle in West Grove, PA, says that companies these days must downsize and focus. —There is too much of everything except consumers.

Rosarians want to consume roses we'll patronize nurseries still in business.



Ready for Winter?

By Charles Shaner

There are many speculations about what this winter will be like. After last year, we have better be ready for anything. My roses actually survived the winter better than winters before. Snow is the best winter protection you can have on your roses. If you were to place a thermometer under the snow you would find it stays at a constant 31 degrees. The snow not only keeps a constant temperature but also protects from wind and sun.

Your preparations for winter start in October. There are mixed theories on a fall feeding of triple phosphate. Some say it is necessary to harden the canes for winter and slow down the growth process. Others say it is not needed. I have done both and have not seen much difference. One thing you will want to do is check your PH. If it is low, fall is the best time to apply lime.

As far as pruning back, I would not recommend doing much until after they go dormant. Pruning encourages growth and that you do not want at this time. Somewhere between Thanksgiving and Christmas is the time to cut them back leaving canes at a length of about 30 inches long. This will help to prevent the winter wind from rocking the roots loose.

Winter protection is another item left to personal discretion. I have so much wind I can't keep the rose cones on my plants. There are several things you can use besides the cones. Fill a basket with pine cones and upend it over your rose bush. Straw will work but it will draw mice which will feed on your rose during the winter and kill it. Oak leaves are good. At one time I said to pile the mulch up around the plant but recent reports have seen advise against that. Whatever you use, wait

until cold weather to put it on. You want the critters such as mice and voles to find a winter home elsewhere first.

Spraying is generally not needed in the winter but you want to make sure your roses are insect free before putting them to bed. I would recommend a good spraying with fungicide and insecticide before they go dormant.

Once they are bedded down for winter you can relax somewhat. If it turns dry in the winter you had might as well bring out the garden hose. They will need a drink in the winter as well.

The care you give your roses in the fall and winter preparation will make for better roses in the spring. Care for them and they will reward you.



What Next?

By Charles Shaner

Think about how many rose companies have disappeared in the past few years. There were the family owned like *Donivan's* we once purchased roses from and are no longer with us. We almost lost *Edmund's* but they are back as a little different company than before. Now there is *Jackson & Perkins*, the "main stay" in roses for years is gone. The list could go on and on.

As was said in the article *What Happens When Rose Companies Die*, "there is too much of everything except consumers". In this case there aren't enough rosarians.

This is not only true with roses but with all the products on the market. Look around at how many stores in your area are selling the same products and none of them are doing really well. They may be surviving, but not much more.

Where does this all end? With J&P gone, many varieties may be lost forever. There are more varieties of roses on the market than there are rose companies to promote them and not enough rosarians to purchase them.

If you try to sort all this out and you will probably end up with a head ache.

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