



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



April Meeting

The April meeting of Shenandoah Rose Society will be held Sunday, April 17, 2 P.M. at the home of Ann and Meredith Yeago, 2926 Hematige Rd, Waynesboro. The Program will be "pruning your roses" with a pruning demonstration. We also have a couple of items to discuss and possibly vote on in the meeting. Please plan to attend.



From the President

If you did not attend the District meeting held in Staunton in March, you missed a good one. There was something to offer everyone whether you need to renew your CR status or were interested in other items. The organ concert on Friday evening seemed to be the highlight of the weekend.

We had about six members from Shenandoah Rose Society in attendance which is about normal. Some were in the CR seminars and some were new members wanting to learn more about roses. The overall attendance at the meeting was light.

The big discussion in the business meeting was the financial situation of the ARS. The ARS is asking for donations in order to meet their expenses. They are looking to raise \$100,000 and are asking the Districts and societies to help cover this amount.

Our local society, as with many societies, is not able to support itself and the ARS as well. We have our own financial obligations and are looking for ways to improve that which we will discuss from time to time in the meetings.

Where do our funds come from? The majority of our funds come from dues you pay. We do occasionally receive donations but these are rare. We made some extra funds from district meetings we hosted a few years ago but those won't last forever. Our main expenses are the website, the newsletter, dues we pay to the district and the ARS and for the

past couple of years the society has been paying the expenses for the president to the fall district meeting. This is where we need to come up with some projects to help out our treasury.

One thing we will be discussing this month will be the possible purchase of a PowerPoint projector for use in the meetings. There are many good PowerPoint presentations which may be downloaded for free from the ARS that would make for better and more interesting programs if we had one. This may increase interest and attendance at our meetings.

Our membership has held steady this year. We have a few members who did not renew but we also picked up a few new members. This leaves us with a membership equal to last year.

We need to apply some care to the Old Garden roses in Thornrose Cemetery. I am going to set Saturday, April 16, 9 A.M. as a date for us to work on the roses there. If you can help please contact me by e-mail clshaner@yahoo.com or 540-294-2875. We will be pruning and removing grass from around them. Bring your pruners and something to lightly dig around the roses. All and any help would be welcome.

Charles R. Shaner



The Rambling Rosarian

by Charles Shaner - Master Rosarian

The weather was extremely mild for the middle days of March. Spring flowers bloomed early, the birds were doing their spring thing and our thoughts turned to working in the yard and garden. The last week of March reminded us Spring isn't exactly here yet.

I have been procrastinating for several years I was going to move one of my rose beds to a raised bed. I finally got it done. The warm days prompted

me to get to work in my roses. The caution to this is we can still have freezing weather but I have been testing a new product which is supposed to protect against this called *Moisturin 5*. I sprayed some more winter tender varieties with it last fall such as St. Patrick and Marilyn Monroe and they came through the winter better than they ever have. It also helps with transplanting in that it seals in the moisture to keep the plant from drying out. It is a water based vinyl acrylic polymer and biodegradable. It is listed for use on roses.

It is time to start your spring pruning and feeding. With all the rain, we haven't had to worry much about watering in March. I have recorded over 5 inches during the month. If you have not applied a dormant spray you can still get that on. This will help to get rid of insects and fungus which winters over in your roses.

One of the big questions I always hear is "how far do I prune back?" I don't think there is a "set in stone" ruling on this. The amount I prune back depends on the individual bush. You want to take out any damaged or diseased canes. Cut back until the pith of the cane (the center core) is healthy, not brown or black. Take off a little at a time until you achieve what you are looking for. It is much easier to take a little more off than it is to put it back on.

Another decision is "do I spring prune or shovel prune?" Shovel pruning is difficult for me. I think every bush should have a chance and I usually hold on to it too long. I did shovel prune 2 bushes this spring so far. One came from a well known nursery and was supposed to be *Suffolk*. It most definitely was not *Suffolk* and I have no idea what it was. The other was a *King's Ransom* which just didn't make it.

It is also time to start your spray program. I am using primarily organics for insect and disease control. There are many good ones on the market today and they are safe to use around pets and children. Nature has some good ways of control if we would just learn to use them. Lady Bugs are an excellent control for aphids. Some of the chemical sprays will kill the lady bugs and you will get an infestation of aphids which will be hard to control. This happened to me a few years ago until I learned what had happened. I pulled away from the chemicals and purchases a bag of lady bugs from

Milmount Green Houses. I have not had a problem with aphids since.

I also feed organics such as alfalfa meal, fish meal, bone meal, cotton seed meal, dried blood and a few others in my own blend of rose food. The organics tend to build up the soil and do not add salt to it as the chemical fertilizers do. I am by no means a "tree hugger" but nature has a better way.

Organics may be applied anytime of the year and take some time to break down. The chemicals go to work right away. You may want to wait until after April 15 to apply the chemical feedings. You do not want to push heavy new growth earlier than that due to the threat of freezing. We can still have frost up until May 15th but not a heavy freeze.



WHAT IS NEW IN THE YOUNG ROSARIAN PROGRAM

(Editor's note: This is taken from the latest issue *ARS and You*. It deals primarily with lawn care but also applies to the care of roses)

Christine Louise Hohlbaum writes, on behalf of OPEI christine@fourleafpr.com:

Studies have found that children engage in significantly higher levels of creative play in green spaces than in barren ones. (Study references available upon request). While gardening may come second nature to you, a lot of kids aren't armed with that knowledge.

TurfMutt's here to change all that. TurfMutt, a caped dog crusader who has partnered with a new Discovery Education program to teach kids about their green surroundings, has some ideas below for how parents can teach their kids the fundamentals of garden care. In addition, TurfMutt has his own blog <<http://turfmutt.com/blog>> , Facebook page <<http://facebook.com/turfmutt>> and Twitter tips <<http://twitter.com/turfmutt>> , which we invite you to peruse.

We know you love gardens as much as TurfMutt does. Thank you in advance for your consideration to make the next generation a greener one!

Facebook ~ <http://facebook.com/turfmutt>

Blog ~ <http://turfmutt.com/blog>

Twitter ~ @TurfMutt

Make the World a Greener Place, One Blade at a Time

Below are tips from TurfMutt, a caped dog crusader - and face of a new Discovery Education program - who aims to help kids get outside and understand the importance of the everyday green spaces all around us.

- **Fertilize Naturally.** Lawns take up the largest amount of carbon when they recycle nitrogen contained in grass clippings. So, take off that mulcher bag and leave clippings on the ground while mowing to break down and feed your grass naturally. And, how about applying some compost to your lawn in the Spring or Fall with your seed spreader?
- **Plant the Right Plant.** It's important to choose grass or plants that are right for the climate where you live. Then, plants will need less water and fertilizer to survive. Go to your local nursery or an online gardening site to find your climate zone to discover what plants are native and which will grow well in your area.
- **Prune Regularly.** A single grass plant can have 300 miles of roots. Roots grow strong with appropriate watering and proper pruning. Mowing your lawn regularly, similar to pruning perennial plants and flower gardens, keeps grass healthier and thicker.
- **Water Early.** Watering in the early morning before the sun is intense helps reduce the water lost from evaporation. Installing rain gutters and collecting water from downspouts also helps reduce water use. Trickle irrigation, drip irrigation or smart controller systems help reduce water use and meet the needs of plants. Or, when drought conditions exist, let the grass go dormant.
- **Create More Green Space.** Lawns and other green spaces lessen the "heat island" effect, especially in urban areas, keeping surrounding areas cooler. Is there an area in your neighborhood that could benefit from some green space? If so, plant a garden for tasty veggies or a lawn area for play and relaxation.



Our Hearts Are With Japan

Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Japan. The devastation from the earth quake and tsunami is more than most of us can comprehend. It is said it will take them five years to recover. I would venture to say it will take a life time.

There is still danger from the nuclear plant as the reactors are still not under control and radiation escapes into the sea. Radioactive iodine has been found in milk in Washington State and in the New England states. It is said there is no danger to this because the natural radiation in a banana is a thousand time higher.

The big concern is the food supply. I do not think the level will reach a dangerous level here in the states but Japan is in great danger of food shortages and health risks. This is where the world has come together to the aid of Japan. Over 60 countries have sent aid of some kind. With the help of many Japan will recover.

Many organizations are asking for donations for aid to Japan. If you make a donation, make sure the organization is reputable. It is sad that many are not at a time like this.



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