



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



February Meeting

The February meeting of Shenandoah Rose Society will be held Sunday, February 20, 2 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, 2807 N. Augusta Street, Staunton. The program will be "Direction of Shenandoah Rose Society for 2011". This is your chance to help decide the path your Society will take for the following year. Plan to attend and bring a friend. Refreshments will be provided.



Dues Reminder

If you have not paid your dues for 2011 you may still do so. Dues are \$12 and may be sent to Meredith Yeago, 2926 Hermitage Road, Waynesboro, VA 22980.



From The President

We all have our moments when we try to do something, it doesn't work out and we stumble and fall. That may be said to be the case for me in the past year or two. I was so involved with our store it affected everything I did. I am now retired and have more time to devote to making our Society better. I hope to have better programs to attract more attendance. We are a "rose society" so our programs should be geared toward rose culture, but we may from time to time look at gardening techniques which will be indirectly related to rose culture.

I plan to have refreshments at the meetings and a social time where we can talk and exchange ideas on a one-on-one basis. I feel this is important to the health of the Society. I would like to see us involved in more community activities. This helps us get the word out "we are here to help you". How many times have you said something to someone about the rose society and they replied they didn't know such a thing existed? This is where we missed

our calling. We are ambassadors of the rose and it is our duty to educate the public on rose culture.

Our goal for 2011 is to grow in numbers, be more active in the community, and promote the rose. This is our duty and what we are here for. Talk to people about roses, get them interested, and offer them a membership. We do have a four-month trial membership and also a youth membership. If you need application forms, you can download them from the website www.shenandoahrosesociety.org or contact me and I will get you some.

Shenandoah Rose Society, along with the American Rose Society, needs to increase membership. If you have not renewed your dues, please do so. ARS membership has been dropping. The ARS needs members and donations if you would like to donate. They do have a trust fund but it is for the care of the ARS Gardens and not for operating expenses. Please consider renewing your membership or becoming a member.

Ever since I have been a member of the Society, our regularly-scheduled meeting date has been the second Sunday of the month. This has had limited success as we need to change to another Sunday at times (such as Mother's Day, which always hits on the second Sunday). Other conflicts have come up which have forced the same result. I feel it is best if we just move the regular meeting day to the third Sunday so we can meet on a more regular basis.

Let us all work together to increase our membership, increase our attendance at meetings, and promote the rose.

Charles R. Shover



Colonial District Pre-Spring Meeting

The Colonial District Pre-Spring meeting will be held in Staunton March 25-26. Accommodations have been arranged at the Staunton Inn Best

Western just off exit 222, I-81. The meetings will be held at Christ Lutheran Church, 2807 North Augusta Street, Staunton. There will be a CR recertification workshop. If you need to recertify you will want to attend this weekend.

Friday night's activities consist of a social with heavy hors d'oeuvres and an organ concert. Saturday will be seminars followed by the business meeting in the afternoon. Lunch will be provided consisting of a salad and baked potato. We will have the Saturday night banquet this year catered at the church.

The District business meeting will be held Saturday afternoon. We have some important business to attend to and some amendments to our bylaws to vote on.

This will be an educational and fun weekend. I have a preview of some of the seminars being offered and the speakers giving them. I must say you will see some new faces giving seminars and new approaches. If you have not attended a District meeting, you don't know what you are missing. If you have attended, you know the information, fun, and fellowship of these activities.



The Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

It has been a cold, dry winter and it isn't over yet! The only moisture I registered in January was a snowfall which generated the equivalent of a ½ inch of rain.

Some areas of the country have already done their "spring pruning" or are in the process of it. Parts of California do their spring pruning on New Year's Day while we do ours after the first of April.

With spring a couple of months away for us, we can still start thinking of what we want to do with our roses. March is a good time to apply a combination spray of lime sulfur and oil. This will get many of the insects and fungi which like to winter over in our roses.

This is also a good time to think about planting new roses. What do I want to plant and where? Location is important to roses. I have had many people ask me why their roses weren't doing well. After talking with them I soon discovered many of their problems were related to "location".

Location is very important. Roses need direct sunlight or at least 6 hours of direct sunlight per day. I know of one person in our area who is trying to grow roses under a pine tree. He did a good job of building a raised bed. He has proper drainage, but where is the sunlight? His roses have few canes and are tall and spindly.

Your soil is very important. I have very poor soil so I have to do something to improve it as I am fighting red clay, shale and limestone. The answer for me was raised beds and bringing in good top soil. I could see a dramatic improvement in my roses when I moved them to the raised beds.

Drainage is another problem which plagues many in our area. I once had a man ask me why the roses in one end of his bed were doing well and not doing well at the other. He had made an attempt at doing the right thing but forgot one important item. He built his rose bed on the side of a hill running up and down the hill. He dug out the red clay in the bed and replaced it with good soil. His problem was drainage. He had dug out a trench in the red clay and left no place for the water to go at the lower end. I could not convince him his problem at the lower end of the bed was drainage. He felt since he had built the bed on the side of a hill that had taken care of the drainage problem. The simple solution to his problem would have been to taper the lower end of the trench out to the surface of the ground.

You can see from these examples the importance of location, soil, and drainage. As it has been said, you are better off the buy a \$2 rose and put it in a \$20 hole than to buy a \$20 rose and put it in a \$2 hole. Treat your roses right and they will reward you with beautiful blooms.



Heart-To-Heart

By Ted Mills, ARS Master Rosarian & Judge
(Taken from the Tennessee Rose Bud newsletter)

Since the heart month of February is just ahead, it is fitting and proper that we have a heart-to-heart talk. It is imperative that we step to the plate and help the American Rose Society. The problem is inadequate cash flow and the remedy is increased membership.

First, let us speak of the problem. Of course, the current recession is part of the dilemma. People just do not have the amount of disposable income that they once enjoyed. A great number find themselves unemployed. With this situation apparent, it is no wonder rosarians choose "bread on the table" rather than a rose garden. To many, the expense of maintaining a healthy standard of living is not improving. Bread lines are still prevalent. This is a major cause of ARS' inability to attract new members. The recession is not the only cause for membership decline. And just how severe is the downward spiral?

When RoseDoc joined ARS, the membership totaled in excess of 22,000. Currently that figure has fallen to around 10,000. The decrease seems to continue as the people find other hobbies that excite them more. The electronic field offers attractive games that never existed a few years ago. Cell phones and I-pads seem to be the "in" thing as millions rush to enjoy this phenomenon. The youngsters particularly lean toward more exciting hobbies than rose growing.

The reason RoseDoc is speaking on membership decline is the fiscal problem that faces ARS. It can best be remedied by an influx of new members joining our revered hobby. If there was ever a time that rose society members who are not ARS members to join, it is now. Cash flow is just not adequate for the billing that faces our parent organization. In fact, the body has been forced to borrow from banks through a line of credit. Let us see that this situation is halted in the near future. A drive for all ARS Districts to raise funds is about to be underway. You will be hearing of it soon as plans for fund raising are formulated. When the fund raising plan is available, it is imperative that all people who enjoy the hobby of growing roses become involved with sincere interest. The first move should be that those members who are not on ARS rolls do so. It just increases the excitement of helping if the rosarian is an ARS member. It is not my intention to spread gloom to fellow rosarians. But it is a clarion call to help save our revered hobby organization.

Non-members of ARS may ask what benefit is it to be an ARS member. The answer is simple and for many reasons. Not having a parent organization to set policy is like steering an ocean

liner with no rudder. The benefits are numerous from an educational standpoint. Non-members enjoy these benefits and have done so for years. It is time now to really become involved by helping ARS retain its lofty position of floral institutions in the world. The Consulting Rosarian program is a sterling example of available help that was instituted by ARS. Rules and regulations for rose shows were formulated and maintained by ARS which keeps the hobby under expert control.

The real reason the rose hobby must remain America's favorite flower body is that not many things display the beauty as does this flower. It remains a strong symbol of love and the world can use a large portion of that quality. The best way to express that love is to join the American Rose Society and help in its financial stress period. Helping to retain the nation's floral emblem is an act of genuine love for the flower.

And now a word about the ARS staff. Under the supervision of excellent Executive Director Jeff Ware, this group of people is dedicated to supplying helpful information to the 365 rose societies in America. Their service is exemplary and their love for the rose is vividly apparent. This is a major benefit of belonging to our parent body. RoseDoc cannot over-emphasize the importance of this fund raising drive. Its success just may be the means of survival.

When called upon to participate, eagerly become involved in this venture. It will mean that we truly love the rose by contributing to ARS's financial health.

(Editor's note - I was going to write something on this subject but I could in no way put it as well as Ted Mills did. If you are not a member of the ARS please consider taking a membership.)

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