



## 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](http://www.shenandoahrosesociety.org)



### October Meeting

The October meeting of Shenandoah Rose Society will be held Thursday, October 20 at Christ Lutheran Church in Staunton. The meeting will be a PowerPoint presentation, "ARS, The Organization". We will be electing officers for the 2012 year. A brief presentation will also be given on coming changes with the ARS.



### From the President

It would be nice if we could have "rain on tap" and be able to turn it on when we need it and off when there is too much. That just doesn't happen. We had to cancel the rose exhibition for September because of too much rain. As they say, there is always next year.

Shenandoah Rose Society has had a pretty good year. Our membership has increased, we purchased a PowerPoint projector, and attendance at our meetings seems to have increased slightly. I would hope we have good attendance at our October meeting. With the PowerPoint presentation, "ARS, The Organization", you will learn much about the workings of the ARS-what it does and what it means to you.

We will be electing officers for the 2012 season at the October meeting. Our officers serve a one-year term. All of our present officers are eligible for re-election.

If you are an ARS member, there is a Bylaw Amendment Vote in the *American Rose* magazine's September/October issue. Please read these amendment changes carefully and place your vote. There are amendments which have a direct bearing on you as a member in your voting process. There are also amendments which have a direct effect on the District and Regional Directors. Your vote is important. That was reflected in a past election where the vote was so close it created controversy as

only about 15% of the members voted. The card is in the magazine for you to fill out and mail in or you can vote online. You have until October 15 to get your vote in.



### Rose Rosette Disease Revisited

by Charles Shaner

Rose Rosette Disease has been with us in Virginia for about 10 years. During that time I have done research, talked to experts on the disease, and experimented with various ideas on my own. This is the most devastating thing to ever hit our roses. There is no cure and prevention is hit-and-miss at the best. Just when you think you have the upper hand it shows you it still rules.

I thought I had it licked. I went a couple of years with not a single case. This year I have had about eight bushes develop infections. The preventive measures I have been using no longer work.

I have always read and been told that *R. multiflora* is a carrier and if you get rid of them you get rid of the disease. These bushes are gone from the area of my property and the disease seems to be worse.

There are steps to take to prevent the disease. Weekly sprayings are a must. If you miss just one week you have opened the door. I missed a week or two in the spring and I am paying the price. Avid is recommended by the ARS for the mite that carries the disease. Cygon 2E will also get the mite, but it has been pulled from the open market. You need a chemical license to purchase it. I always add two aspirin to a gallon of spray every time I spray. Aspirin enhances the natural immunity of the plant. I also add two tablespoons of horticultural oil to my spray. The oil will kill many insects and fungus. Oil also is great for preventing powdery mildew. Winter

spraying are recommended using a dormant spray combination of Volck Oil Spray and Lime Sulfur.

Your first prevention comes when you plant your roses. Make sure you space them far enough apart so the foliage will not overlap when they mature. You also want enough space so the root systems will not overlap underground. RRD can be spread through the root system from one plant to another. If you remove an infected bush do not plant another in that spot for two years. Prune your bushes to keep the centers open for good air flow.

I advise to not plant roses against buildings, walls or privacy fences. An open fence which gives good air flow is fine. You want good air flow around your bushes. Buildings, walls, and fences will create a down draft and that aids the mite in its travel.

Make a tour of your roses daily, inspecting each bush for unusual growth. If such growth is found, remove that cane immediately. After removal of the cane, spray your pruners with Lysol (and I also spray the cut with Lysol). I now spray my pruners with Lysol after each bush I prune. If I suspect a possible infection in a bush, I will spray the pruners after each cut. All infected cuttings are to be burned IMMEDIATELY. If you let them lay, the mite will go looking for a new home as the cutting wilts. This will probably be another one of your roses. If the disease persists, remove the plant and burn it. Get as much of the root system as possible.

I believe the mite survives and moves around in the winter months. I have had bushes perfectly healthy in the fall come out with RRD in the spring.

The best advice I can give is to stay on top of it and do your weekly sprayings and daily inspection of your roses. I have had roses out in the open with nothing around develop the disease.

The only thing definite about this disease is at some point you are going to get an infection. There is no cure and it is a contagious virus.



## **The Rambling Rosarian**

by Charles Shaner

Parts of our nation are suffering from dry weather while others are fighting flood waters. Our weather in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia can go both ways. We had a dry summer followed by heavy

rains in September. We did not have the floods but the possibility was there.

I saw a prediction on TV of the weather pattern for the coming winter and it shows Virginia to be warmer and dryer than normal. An elderly gentleman (now deceased) once told me if you see a hornets' nest high in the trees that means a lot of snow for the winter, and if it is near the ground, there won't be much snow. The hornets' nest this year are near the ground.

With a dry winter, don't put the garden hose away. With roses dormant during the winter months, they still need water. Rose care doesn't end with cold weather. I have become convinced roses even need spraying during the winter months. We do not have the insects such as beetles and thrips but there are fungi and diseases which can attack our roses during the winter months. The one most prominent is canker. Canker is a fungus and can destroy your roses.

I have tried many watering systems ranging from commercially-made systems to making my own. My favorite is an open-ended garden hose and going from plant to plant. Watering 150 roses takes about 45 minutes using this method. No water is wasted and it is put at the base of the plant where it is needed. We have always said to give the roses the equivalent of one to two inches of rain, but just how much is that? It is actually easy to calculate. An inch of rain to cover the area inside the drip line of the average hybrid tea will equal one gallon of water. An open-ended garden hose on the average will dispense seven gallons of water per minute. This will vary with your water pressure and the length of your garden hose. You will have a friction loss of pressure in the hose. I learned this from being a fireman. There is a formula for calculating the friction loss. The best way to see what your hose is putting out is to take a one-gallon container and a stop watch to see how long it takes to fill the container. For my system it is about 15 seconds. So I go from bush to bush putting 15 seconds of water at the base of each bush.

Fall brings a time to think about winter protection. I do not use winter protection. I have tried several different types. The rose cones do not work for me. There is too much wind where I am. Even with two bricks on top of the cones the wind has taken them away. You also need to cut your

bushes back way too far to get the cones over them. Another way is to take bushel bean baskets, fill them halfway with pine cones, and upend them over the bush. It works very well. I have tried covering the plant with leaves but I experienced fungus growth in the form of canker under the leaves.

I don't cut my roses back in the fall unless they are extremely tall. I try to control the height during the growing season so this is not necessary in the fall for most of my roses. If you cut yours back, wait until they have gone dormant before doing so. Pruning stimulates growth and you do not want that just before cold weather. Keep your roses under 30 inches for the winter to prevent wind damage.

Rose care does not necessarily end with the summer season. A little winter care can produce better roses for the coming season.



## The Fall District Meeting & Show

by Charles Shaner

I always enjoy the District meetings and I wish to thank Shenandoah Rose Society for making it possible for me to attend. Attendance at Charleston was light with only 37 people registered. The show was equally light with around 350 entries. It was great to see three generations of Clingenpeels, Molly, Susan, & Madison, throughout the weekend.

The key speaker for the weekend was Jeffery Ware, Executive Director for the ARS. His presentation on Friday night entailed the financial workings of the ARS. I wish everyone in the District could have heard his talk. It brought a lot of light to financial needs and the attempts and failures in obtaining funds to operate. I will talk more about this at the October meeting. I encourage everyone to be present because there are things in the making which will affect every member of the ARS as well as future members.

Jeffery's Saturday night presentation was a PowerPoint on the ARS Gardens. It was exciting to see the look of the gardens in different seasons and even snow in the gardens.

The weekend ended Sunday morning with the business meeting. Several items were discussed such as the cost of the *Courier* and the mailing of it. No decision was made at this time.



## Colonial District Pre-Spring Meeting

The Colonial District meeting will be held in Staunton March 16-17, 2012. The meeting and arrangements will closely resemble last year's meeting. I already have five requests to repeat the organ concert on Friday. Arrangements have been made at the Staunton Inn Best Western with room rates being \$59.99 per night. Meetings will again be held at Christ Lutheran Church.

If we can get at least six candidates there may be a CR school. If you are interested in becoming a CR, please let me know. There is some paperwork which needs to be taken care of for you to take the school.

Help is needed in putting this together. Much of the work can be done sitting at home on the telephone or taking care of registrations at home. We need to collect items for silent auction, the raffle, speakers, and other items. If we have a CR school or recertification, that will take care of most of the speakers.



## Program Schedule for 2011

May~Fertilizer (PowerPoint)  
June~Rose Exhibition (Staunton Mall)  
July~Covered dish picnic  
August~IMP of Rose Diseases (PowerPoint)  
September~Rose Exhibition (Staunton Mall)  
October~ARS, The Organization (PowerPoint)  
November~Banquet



### Master Rosarian

Charles Shaner, Staunton 540-294-2875  
Meredith Yeago, Waynesboro 540-943-7874

### SRS Consulting Rosarians

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