



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 Thursday, February 9, 7 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church in Staunton. The program will be a planning session for the Pre-Spring District meeting. This is a big event and help is needed. The weekend event will include a Judges' seminar and a CR recertification.



From the President

Over the past few years, Shenandoah Rose Society has defied the trend with other societies and the ARS by retaining our membership. Our numbers have remained steady for the past few years and even showed a slight increase last year. I hope that trend will continue this year. Our dues have not increased for quite a few years and are much lower than many societies.

If you are not a member of the ARS, I would encourage you to join. The benefits are many and the magazine is well worth it.

We have relied on our membership dues to carry the financial obligations of the Society for many years, but we are reaching the point where the membership dues alone will not do that. Our treasury has been slowly depleting and we need ways to shore it up. We do not have fund raising activities as many other societies do. Put on your thinking cap and see what you can come up with to correct this situation. Rising prices and increased obligations to the District and the ARS are a prime factor

Charles R. Shaner



Dues Time!

There is still time to renew your dues for the 2012 season. Dues are \$12 which includes the husband and wife. Dues may be paid at the meeting or mailed to Meredith Yeago, 2926 Hermitage Road, Waynesboro, VA 22980.



The Rambling Rosarian

by Charles Shaner

It has been a very mild winter in our area. Temperatures have been above normal, and while we haven't had snow we have had good rainfall. My roses didn't go dormant until January and some still have a few leaves.

What does all this mean? Being un-experienced in this weather pattern, one can only speculate on what the outcome will be. We know that fungus survives and grows during the winter months. Canker is a fungus that shows its ugly face in the late winter and early spring. Many insects winter over in our rose beds ready to munch on our roses in the spring.

My suggestion is to spray your roses with a combination of a good fungicide and an oil spray. Volck Oil is a good dormant spray, and combined with lime/sulfur will take care of fungus and many insects. A warm day and calm wind make for a good day to spray.

Warm winter days are a good time to walk around your rose beds and see what they need. Do you need to add mulch in the spring? Pulling weeds on a warm winter day gets a head start on spring chores. It is a good time to plan where you want to build a new rose bed or where to move an old one.

If you order roses, you should already have that done. We have some good garden centers in our area for purchasing roses. Roses aren't available this time of year, but you can look at catalogs and decide which ones you would like to purchase from a local garden center.

Now is the time to take inventory of your rose spays and replenish what is needed. Check your sprayer and do any repairs or replacements it may need. Do your pruners need sharpening or replacement? It is best to do this now than to start work on your roses in April and find out you need to rush out to purchase what is needed.

Plan ahead - it will keep you from getting behind!



Colonial District Pre-Spring Meeting

"Shamrocks and Roses"



The Colonial District pre-spring meeting will be held in Staunton March 16-17, 2012. There will be a Judges' seminar and a CR recertification.



Friday will begin with heavy hors d'oeuvres and other activities. There will be refreshments available all day Saturday. Lunch will be soup and salad and the evening meal (since it is St. Patrick's Day) will be chicken and corned beef and cabbage. Meals will be catered by Barbara Shaner. You are asked to attend the banquet in St. Patrick's Day dress and we may have a little fun with that. Just be sure you are wearing something green!

Meetings will be at Christ Lutheran Church and the motel is Staunton Best Western (same as last year). The motel is still \$59.95/night.

For the spouses not interested in the seminars I have tentatively arranged a guided tour of

President Woodrow Wilson's birthplace, Presidential Library, museum, and gift shop. The cost will be \$8.00 if we can get a group of at least 10. I will need to know if you plan to attend the tour by March 1.

Entertainment Friday night will be MIRA, Renaissance Music & Song. They will also be selling their CDs.

I hope many members of Shenandoah Rose Society will plan to attend. We are the host society and should make a good showing.



Youth and Roses

By Charles Shaner

We all know the future of rose societies and the ARS depends on youth. If you look around our Society and/or go to the District meetings, you do not see much in the way of youth. In searching for donations for the pre-spring meeting, I was talking about this with some of the people I had contacted. They are in other flower societies and they are experiencing the same thing.

We can blame ourselves for much of this. We have not encouraged youth to get involved primarily because we do not want to take the time. Are we to let what we have built up die because we do not want to take the time to pass it on? We will buy the youth a cell phone or gaming system but "*don't get near my roses!*" My mother ruined one of my grandsons by telling him when he was little that flowers bite. He (at 20 years old) now has a fear of flowers in general.

At the February meeting I am going to make a proposal to Shenandoah Rose Society to start a Youth Rose Garden. It will start small with one rose bush for each youth we have in the program and hopefully grow from there. I can already hear the comments~"*Who's going to take care of it? That's a lot of work.*"

I believe I know where I can get the ground and possibly donations to get it started. We start with a small group of youth, get them interested and have them invite their friends. I am willing to give

time to the project and all it will take is a couple of others in the Society to give time to teaching the youth. It is our future.

A society, or any organization, needs a project to be healthy. I have mentioned several in the past but they always seem to meet with some sort of opposition, but I hope we can get this one started. I know there are a thousand questions but this is some new ground. We never know it will work unless we try. Where are we going to get the youth? We will go out and find them, that is where we will get them.



Top Ten Rose Pruning Tips By Paul Zimmerman

(This article reprinted from the January/February issue of the *American Rose* magazine. You may visit Paul Zimmerman's rose forum at www.paulzimmermanroses.com/forum)

Here are some simple rules of thumb for having a good rose pruning season:

1. **If you can, spend extra money for good tools.** They are easier to work with and will last a lot longer; making them cheaper in the long run.
2. **Let the way your rose grows determine how you prune.** Some roses annually put out new canes from the base. You can prune these harder. Some, like the old Tea roses, take time to build up a structure and reach their size. These need a lighter hand.
3. **Always start by pruning out dead wood.** Why? Because it's dead and you can't make a mistake. Gets you warmed up!
4. **Take out weak or damaged growth.** Just trust your gardener's instincts to recognize branches that aren't full of vigor. This also better help you see the plants structure.
5. **Never worry about making a mistake.** It'll grow back.
6. **With Garden Roses don't worry about outward facing bud-eyes and five leaflet leaf sets.** Just prune to strong, healthy growth at

your desired height. And if you don't know what a five-leaflet leaf set or a bud-eye is don't worry about it. You don't need to.

7. **Don't try to keep a tall rose short.** It won't happen. If you want a rose in a particular spot to be short then plant a short one! As a rule of thumb don't reduce the height of most garden roses by more than 1/3.
8. **Every now and then you will take out an old cane that no longer produces growth and blooms.** We label that kind of cane "bloomed out". Take it out at the ground level and you'll be amazed at the new growth you'll see in spring.
9. **Pruning isn't just for "pruning season".** Feel free to shape your roses all season long like you would any other plant in your garden. While you are deadheading is a great time.
10. **In the end trust your gardener's instincts.** You know what you are doing so do it!



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

Colonial District Pre-Spring Meeting

“Shamrocks and Roses”

Christ Lutheran Church, Staunton, VA

March 16-17, 2012

Come and enjoy a fun-filled weekend sharing information on rose culture. Activities include a Consulting Rosarian recertification and Judges’ seminar, and a guided tour of President Woodrow Wilson’s birthplace and Presidential library.

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
Home Society: _____

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Two-day Registration</u> (includes all activities & meals) (Woodrow Wilson tour not included)	\$ 55	_____	\$ _____
<u>Two-day Registration & 2 meals</u> (includes choice below)	\$ 40	_____	\$ _____
Friday night heavy hors d’oeuvres & Saturday Lunch		_____	
Saturday Lunch and Banquet		_____	
<u>Saturday only with Lunch Only</u>	\$ 15	_____	\$ _____
<u>Saturday only with Lunch and Banquet</u>	\$ 33	_____	\$ _____
<u>Woodrow Wilson Tour</u> (\$8 if we have 10 or more)	\$ 8	_____	\$ _____

All meals will be prepared by Barbara Shaner and served at the church. Saturday’s breakfast will be on your own, but lunch will be catered (baked potato and salad). Saturday night banquet will be a buffet meal of chicken and corned beef & cabbage at the church.

TOTAL ENCLOSED WITH THIS REGISTRATION FORM \$ _____

Registration checks should be made payable to the *Colonial District Pre-Spring Meeting* and mailed to Meredith Yeago 2926 Hermitage Rd, Waynesboro, VA 22980, **NO LATER THAN March 5, 2011.**

CR and Judge’s Seminars on Saturday

For information on the CR seminar, please contact Ray Shipley at navybng@atlanticbb.net or at 301.729.8271. For information on the Judges’ seminar contact Donna Smoot 304.744.8150 or dsmoot@msn.com.

Additional Information: Charles Shaner at clshaner@yahoo.com or 540.294.2875 (if no answer, please leave message for return call)

Motel Information

Contact the Staunton Inn Best Western (I-81 exit 222) at 540.885.1112. Rooms have been blocked off and are \$59.95 (includes continental breakfast). Restaurants close by include Mrs. Rowe’s, Texas Steak House, Cracker Barrel, and Shoney’s.

If you wish other accommodations, I would suggest Hampton Inn (540.886.7000) or Holiday Inn (540.248.6020).