



Shenandoah Rose Society Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

A Society of the Colonial District
Chartered by the American Rose Society

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Serving the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and beyond



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August Meeting

The August meeting of the Shenandoah Rose Society will be held Sunday, August 10, 2 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church. The program will be *Sprays and Chemical Safety* given by Charles Shaner.

The Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

Hot and dry has been the word for the Staunton area this summer. How hot and dry is it? It is so hot and dry that the milkweeds in the fields next to my house are turning yellow, wilting and dying. I have peaches ripe that are smaller than golf balls.

Thank heavens for a strong well. If it weren't for that, I would not have any roses. Dry feeding isn't doing any good because there is no rain. I was going to give another dry feeding but there is no use. The last one is still just lying there. I am using liquid feedings and that is doing some good, but liquid feeding is only good for two weeks and has to be replaced.

With these hot days and no rain, watering is even more important. I water mine every third day and give them about one gallon of water per plant. That seems to do them very well.

I don't think I have to tell you that Japanese beetles are here. I put down Milky Spore last year and I don't seem to have near as many. I also planted some geraniums in my rose beds. I don't know how much that is helping but I don't seem to have as much problem with the roses they are planted next to. I especially planted them next to *Dainty Bess* and I have a few beetles on it but not

many. *Dainty Bess* is a magnet for Japanese beetles.

The geraniums are inexpensive, require little care and I believe they may have some merit. My early evaluation is they need to be planted next to what you want to protect and I would suggest planting one on each side. The beetles seem to be shying away from where the geraniums are.

I have also discovered Bayer® sprays seem to work very well on the beetles, especially when used in combination with Neem Oil spray. This combination appears to give a little longer protection than the other sprays.

The hot weather is causing small blooms, short canes and not-so-good foliage. There isn't anything we can do about that but live with it. We have our exhibition coming up in September and also the District Show in Martinsville. Now is the time to prune for those.

I would hope more of our Society would plan to attend the District meeting and show in Martinsville in September. It is not going to be an expensive weekend and gas prices are dropping. You can always pick up new ideas to make rose growing easier and ways to produce better blooms just from socializing with the people there. I have picked up many of the techniques I use this way. Mark your calendar and make the plans to attend. The other societies supported us in March and now it is our turn to support them.

Photo Contest

At the Fall District Meeting & Show
September 12 - 14, 2008

(Editor's Note: If you don't show roses, you may consider entering the photo contest. This is a lot of fun and you don't need to be a professional to enter.)

There will be a photography division at the Colonial District Fall Show. All are cordially invited to exhibit their rose photographs in this section. The Patrick Henry Rose Society requests that photographs that have won in other contests not be entered. There will be a trophy for the Best Photograph of Show.

THEME: THE COLOUR OF ROSES

Contest Rules

1. All classes are open to **film** or **digital** photographs.
2. Each exhibitor may enter photographs respecting the maximums per class.
3. Photographs must be at least 3.5 x 5 inches in size and no larger than 5 x 7 inches. Either glossy or matte finish is acceptable.
4. Photographs must have been made/taken by the amateur exhibitor.
5. Each photograph should be identified with an entry tag (using the ARS miniature-size) showing the exhibitor's name, address, class number, and variety of rose or garden location, as applicable. The variety is required for classes 1-4.
6. Please reserve space for photos by Wednesday, September 11, 2008. Call Glenn or Janice Sellers at 276-632-6128 or 2sellers@comcast.net.
7. Photographs will be judged only on photographic excellence and composition and will be returned at the banquet.

Section - Classes

- P-1: Photo of one bloom at exhibition stage without side buds of any ARS classification and of different varieties. (Limit: 5 photos)
- P-2: Photo of one spray, showing two or more blooms, of any ARS classification and of different varieties. (Limit: 3 photos)
- P-3: Photo of open bloom(s) with stamens showing. (Limit: 3 photos)
- P-4: Photo of a vase/container with rose(s) of same or different varieties. (Limit: 3 photos)

- P-5: Photo of an artistic arrangement meeting ARS standards. Please indicate arranger's name, if known. (Limit: 2 photos)
- P-6: Photo of a rose garden... people permitted. (Limit: 2 photos)
- P-7: Photo of rose garden activities indicating the "labor" involved... people permitted. (Limit: 2 photos)
- P-8: Photo of roses showing the "critters" which live on the bloom, on the plant or nibble upon them. (Limit: 2 photos)
- P-9: Abstract or Impressionism - A photo having nonobjective design, form or content of a rose, the plant(s) or any portion thereof. This includes any rose-related activity and may be darkroom or electronically manipulated. (Limit: 3 photos)

Colonial District Fall Meeting and Show September 12 – 14 Hosted by Patrick Henry Rose Society Martinsville, VA “THE COLOUR OF ROSES”

The Patrick Henry Rose Society is hosting the 2008 Colonial District Meeting and 61st annual Rose Show. We cordially invite you to join us during the weekend of September 12 – 14 at Quality Inn – Dutch Inn in Collinsville, Va. This year's theme is "The Colour of Roses".

Registration will begin at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, September 12. A schedule of events will be included in your welcome packet.

Friday night's welcome reception will include a vast array of hors d'oeuvres as well as wine and cheese.

We will be most appreciative for any appropriate items you can bring for our silent auction. Of course, there will be raffle tickets available to purchase.

On Saturday, our main focus is the rose show, which is being held just a few miles away at Liberty Fair Mall in Martinsville. Come and bring your best roses and enjoy the fellowship and friendly competition with the other rosarians.

Prior to the wonderful Saturday night buffet will be a social hour. We'll have some excellent after dinner entertainment for your enjoyment and of course the Colonial District Awards will be presented.

The District business meeting will be held immediately after a buffet breakfast on Sunday morning.

We look forward to seeing you in Martinsville in September.

Sincerely,

Katherine O. Craig, President
Patrick Henry Rose Society and District
Rose Show Chairman

Your Rose Society

I am continually getting the question and comment, "What has happened to our rose society? No one attends meetings anymore."

I have been a member of Shenandoah Rose Society for 15 years, not the oldest member there, but long enough to see the change in our Society. When I first joined, we would have about 20 people at meeting and had good discussion and educational meetings. Members took great interest in what to do with their roses and there was always the question of, "What are we supposed to do with our roses this month?"

Times have changed and the Society is the one to suffer. We are lucky if we have 8 people at a meeting now and it would seem the interest isn't what it once was. I do not get as many questions from the public on rose culture as I once did but people still admire a beautiful rose.

What has happened to those members who were so faithful years ago? Age has taken its toll on many and they are not able to come to meetings anymore or we have lost them to death. But, where are the replacements?

We have not gained new members this year as we have in the past. Over the past five years, our membership in Shenandoah Rose Society has remained steady and at times we gained one or two but you didn't see but a few of them at a meeting. Even with that, they would only attend one or two meetings.

Times have become demanding and we seem to be going in too many directions at one time, not leaving ample time for any one thing. This is not only true for our Society but for rose societies in general. We are faring better than many in the District. I have talked with people from other societies whose their membership has slipped from 50-75% percent over the past years. This not only takes a toll on the local society but the American Rose Society as well.

There is much that goes on behind the scenes in your rose society. Meetings have to be planned and a program scheduled with a speaker. Our Society is not a rich one but we do have a little money in reserve. Bringing outside speakers in is expensive and we cannot afford to pay for many. This means we need to rely on our own Consulting Rosarians to do the job. I would like to think ours are qualified, willing and able to do the job. If they weren't, they would not have gone to the trouble to become a CR.

Suggestions are welcome! If you have a suggestion on a meeting subject or a way to make the meetings attract more attendance, please contact Al Minutolo at 434-823-1092 or Charles Shaner at 540-294-2875. One thing to think about is our meeting time – is Sunday afternoon the best time?

The SRS Store

Our inventory in the SRS Store keeps growing. We have several items available at a good price to our members.

Mills Magic Rose Mix--20 lb. bag--member price \$17, non-member \$20; Contact Raymond Shaner 540-248-2301

Messenger--Mix for 1 gallon--member price \$2, non-member \$3; Contact Charles Shaner 540-294-2875

SRS Consulting Rosarians

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John Huddle	Waynesboro	540-943-2229

CR Emeritus

Robert (Bob) Holsinger	Staunton	540-886-8783
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