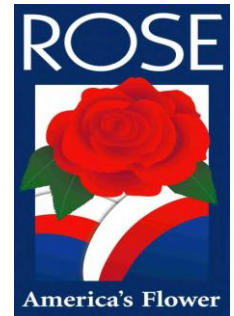




Shenandoah Rose Society Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

*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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July Meeting

The July meeting of Shenandoah Rose Society will be the summer picnic held at the home of John and Joyce Huddle, 1333 Hollins Road, Waynesboro, VA, on Sunday, July 13 at 4 p.m. The Society will furnish chicken for the treasury. You are asked to bring a covered dish.

Directions to John and Joyce's
Travel on Rt #340 [Rosser Ave] to near Walmart and turn onto Tiffany Ave. [opposite side of the road from Walmart]. Drive (3) blocks on Tiffany Ave. to dead end. Turn left onto Chatam Road, Drive (3) blocks, turn left onto Hollins Road. Drive one long block to intersection of Hollins and Hawthorne Lane. The Huddles' house (#1333 Hollins) is on the left hand side.

It's Time Again – Japanese Beetles

by Charles Shaner

That's right, it's time again for those much dreaded beetles. The first beetle spotting was reported to me June 12th. It seems they are getting earlier every year. So far, I have not seen any, but I put down Milky Spore last year and I did notice a decrease in the number of beetles then. It takes Milky Spore three years to reach full potential and it last for 15 years.

Everyone has a theory on how to get rid of them. Some help while others hinder and just attract more. The Bounce Dryer sheets we tried last year had limited success. They seemed to work when you first put them on but if we had rain they needed to be replaced. Beetle traps just attract more. Below are two articles on the use of gera-

niums that give some promise. Geraniums are not expensive (I paid 75¢ a plant at Lowe's because they didn't look that great to the clerk) and they are easy to root slips in a glass of water.

ORGANIC MILDEW SPRAY

By John Fleek

Some of you have expressed an interest in a fungicide that is not harmful to you or the environment. Here is a formula for a powdery mildew deterrent using common household items.

I think this is known as the Volcano spray because the soda and vinegar react in solution to foam up. The formula was given for a quart of water, but I have also converted to one gallon of water. Also, I think any type of vinegar will do.

Quart of water

- 1 tsp of baking soda
- ¾ tsp of canola oil
- ¾ tsp of vinegar
- ¾ tsp of Ivory Liquid

Gallon of Water

- 1 TB + 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 TB canola oil
- 1 TB vinegar
- 1 TB Ivory Liquid

Sun Helps Geraniums Poison Japanese Beetles

April, 1929

An insect poison that seems to need the aid of the sun to develop its best effects has been observed in connection with the campaign against

the Japanese beetle. It has been known for some time that geraniol, an oil which occurs in geraniums and some other plants, is very effective in attracting the beetles, and this bait or attractant has been used to concentrate beetles on a single tree where they can be killed by a poison.

It has also been known that the beetles feed on geraniums, and that such feeding is often followed by paralysis or death. Articles suggesting that geraniums could be used for controlling beetles have frequently appeared in newspapers in the districts infested by the pest.

The effects of geraniums on the Japanese beetle have been studied by Charles H. Ballou, of the Bureau of Entomology. He found that the insects are drawn to the plant and eat it, both flowers and foliage. Many of the beetles are paralyzed and fall beneath the geranium plants. In the ordinary course of events some of the beetles recover and others die. But in making observations of the effect of geranium poisoning, Mr. Ballou observed that if beetles fed on geraniums in the sun many more were paralyzed than when they fed on geraniums in the shade. He also found that the flowers of the geranium were somewhat more poisonous than the foliage of the plant, although either would cause the death of a considerable proportion of the beetles feeding. One of the most interesting facts discovered was that 24 hours after death by geranium poisoning the entire digestive system of the beetle was destroyed.

Because of the poisonous effect of geraniums on the beetles Mr. Ballou suggests that a thorough study of the chemical nature of the plant might lead to the discovery of a new and better poison than any used for control of the beetles at present.

Putting Japanese Beetles to Sleep

By Barbara Brouse

Many people know how much I hate Japanese Beetles and often send me articles on how to deal with them. This one I got in an online newsletter. I found this one fascinating.

Two University of Kentucky entomologists, Daniel Potter and David Held, have been studying a strange phenomenon. After feeding on geranium petals, the beetles pass out for 12 to 18 hours. (Regular old red geraniums in pots placed in the garden.) These geraniums are so giving and forgiving, they will grow in almost any conditions. Since

the Japanese beetle feeds on over 300 plants and 79 plant families, researchers are looking for environmentally friendly ways to control this pest. That is the kindest thing I can call it. The geranium with it knockout punch looks very encouraging. The thing is they pass out and go back the next day and do the same thing only eating even more than they did the first day, until they OD on them. They do not reproduce as prolifically as beetles feeding on other plants and some die from too much of a good thing. They seem unable to resist temptation. In an experiment with pairs of beetles, 1/3 of them were fed linden leaves, 1/3 geranium petals, 1/3 were fed both linden and geranium. The linden feeders led normal long lives and laid large numbers of eggs. The groups that were fed geranium leaves spent the better part of the two-week experiment on their backs in a narcotic state, had a much higher mortality rate, and laid very few eggs. Theoretically, insects with a wide range of tastes learn to avoid noxious foods. But the beetles do not learn this; then again, who knows what a state they are in? A feel-good narcotic state. Geraniums in full sunlight pack a worse punch. Geraniums are obviously addictive! The two UK scientists are working with researchers at Cornell testing various geranium chemicals on the beetle favorite, Virginia creeper. It seems they have been able to duplicate the narcotic effect of the geranium.

I can't wait. But until they find the right mix, I'm planting red geraniums next year. I'm planting red geraniums this year.

2007 Bronze Medal Awards

The ARS Bronze Medal is awarded to members of local societies that have given outstanding service to their local society. The recipients for 2007 are:

Linda Boggess – Charleston Rose Society
Truman Watts – Huntington Rose Society
Dr. James Hundley – Northern Neck Rose Society
Henry Simpson – Patrick Henry Rose Society
Don and Sue Penzler – Richmond Rose Society
Mike and Eve Price – Tidewater Rose Society
Joy Long – Va. Peninsula Rose Society

Congratulations to these people for their dedicated service and work with their local societies.

The Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

Writing these articles presents a problem at times in arriving at a good subject to use. This month was no exception but something usually comes up to fill the gap. That happened as I was working my roses.

I started out with my pruners to do some deadheading and as I went from bush to bush it soon came very clear what to say. The first bloom cycle is over and some are starting into their second. This is the time for some general housekeeping on your rose bushes. Pruning is probably the most misunderstood part of growing roses.

As I went about working on my roses, I noticed the short blind shoots growing on the canes which needed to be taken off. With the type of weather conditions we have had, there are many of these. Many are just little twiggy growth that do nothing and others may be a good cane but never developed a bud in the top.

The little twiggy growth should be taken off altogether. This type of growth does nothing but suck energy out of the plant and blocks much-needed air circulation. Your rose will do much better without these.

I found many good canes with no provisions for a bud in the top. This is caused many times by extremely hot weather which we have had our share of. I recorded 100 plus degrees at my house four days straight in June. A hot sunny day like this will burn the tips of new growth and prevent a bud from forming. The simple thing to do is treat this cane as if the bud had expired and deadhead.

Another item you will want to do at this time is to remove the bottom leaves from the plant. Take them off up six inches and discard them. Never compost rose clippings as this will only recycle any diseases. Removal of the lower leaves will help to prevent black spot which is a fungus that comes up from the ground. Most of these lower leaves are starting to show signs of yellowing which means they have spent their life and should come off.

If you have not added mulch to your rose bed this year you should do that now. The mulch will help to hold in moisture on the hot days and will aid in weed control. I noticed a few spots in my rose beds where the mulch was getting a little thin and the ground underneath was not as moist as where the mulch was about two inches thick.

Watering is a must! I know you have heard me say many times I go from plant to plant with an open-end garden hose putting 15 seconds of water at the base of the plant. I water 1/3 of my roses every day using this method and it works. They are getting just under one gallon of water every third day. I planted some geraniums in between some of the roses and the soil was good and moist that far out from the plant. I also give them a liquid feeding every two weeks using this same method. I mix my liquid feed in a trash can, drop in a sump pump and pump it through my garden hose. It works great!

Don't be afraid to prune. Roses love to be pruned and it encourages new growth. Keep the centers open for good air flow which will reduce the possibility of disease and especially Rose Rosette. Remember to sanitize your pruners. I keep a can of unscented Lysol® handy for this purpose. Some say to sanitize after every bush. I always do this when I have finished pruning. I have one bush I am watching closely for RRD (Rose Rosette Disease) so I save this bush until last to prune and sanitize my pruners immediately. RRD can be spread on your pruners. It happened to me unknowingly a few years ago.

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

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CR Emeritus

Robert (Bob) Holsinger	Staunton	540-886-8783
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