



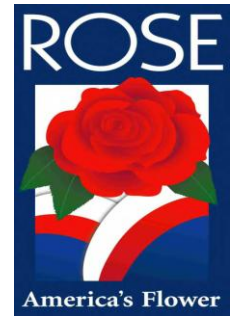
Shenandoah Rose Society Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

*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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October Meeting

The October meeting of the Shenandoah Rose Society will be held Sunday, October 12th, 2 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church. The program will be "Exhibiting Roses" given by Charles Shaner. We will have election of officers for 2009.

Colonial District Fall Meeting & Show

By Charles Shaner

The Colonial District Fall Meeting & Show was held September 12 – 14 in Martinsville. Only one person from Shenandoah attended. Attendance was light with only 43 people registered.

Friday night started out with a talk entitled "Did Someone Water the Forest?" The talk concerned the use of organic sprays and plant foods. The speaker was not in favor of irrigation systems because he said people do not know how to use them. People usually do not water enough causing the root system to be too close to the top of the ground.

Chemical fertilizers are ruining our soils and stopping the natural soil activity. Phosphates are being taken out of both chemical and blended natural fertilizers. There is enough phosphate in the soil already if we activate the soil to work as it should. Phosphates in fertilizers have been banned in several states by law and may spread to the rest.

The rose show was held at Liberty Mall on Saturday with many beautiful blooms being exhibited.

The Saturday night banquet was a buffet followed by entertainment and the raffle. The weekend was concluded with a buffet breakfast on Sunday morning followed by the business meeting.

The Pre-Spring meeting for 2009 is in the early planning stages and may be hosted jointly by Tidewater Rose Society and Virginia Peninsula Rose Society.

The Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

Finally! We are getting much-needed rain. Watering has been one of those things this season that has been a must. Liquid feeding seemed to do better than the dry feeding because of the dry weather. Dry feedings require moisture to break down and work. The hand watering and irrigation systems just do not do that job as well as natural rain.

I went more to liquid feeding this season and with good results – a little smelly at times but it worked. I have a 32-gallon trash can I use for liquid feeding and a small sump pump with a garden hose connection. I filled the can with water and filled old socks with alfalfa meal and fish meal and let them steep in the sun for about three days. When I said smelly, I mean SMELLY! My son-in-law came over and wanted to know what died. I pumped the "tea" through the garden hose and put about 15 seconds worth on each plant. It really brought my roses around with larger blooms and brighter, deeper colors.

Trends are going to more and more organics, not only with feeding but also with sprays. I am presently using a mixture of the two. It seems the critters are getting immune to the chemical sprays more and more where the organics seem to keep working. A good example is with the aphids. I have had a terrible time with aphids and the chemi-

cal sprays just do not seem to work on them like they once did. I would spray one day and knock the aphids down and two days later they were right back.

I picked up a bottle of an organic spray at the District meeting and it is showing some real good results (Good Health Rose +). The ingredients are 5% sesame oil, 92% refined fish oil and 3% emulsifiers. This spray is perfectly safe for humans and pets. It works as an insecticide, fungicide and also works on spider mites. I found with the first spraying you need to cut the recommended mixture about half. At the recommended dose, it will leave a heavy residue on the foliage. After two applications, I have very few aphids. It may be purchased online from Organic Plant Healthcare at www.organicplanthealthcare.com.

The aphid is one that reproduces very rapidly. This is why you go out in the morning and see just a few and in the evening the plant may be covered. Aphids usually go for the new, young, tender growth. When you spray, any foliage that is present at the time will be protected for the seven to fourteen days recommended between spray periods. Any new growth will not be protected. Under good conditions, roses can put on growth very rapidly and that new growth is not protected by your last spraying.

I have a quart spray bottle which you can pick up at most garden centers, and I mix up some spray in and go around hitting the new growth between regular spray periods. By doing this, I have been able to get a control on the aphids.

Rosarians in general are becoming more conscious of the environment and going more to organics. Chemical fertilizers put a lot of salt in the ground and stop the natural action of the soil. Chemical sprays are harmful to the environment, humans, pets and wildlife. I am not an advocate of the systemic you put in the ground to feed your plants and act as an insecticide. There are some good ones but many of these kill your earthworms and destroy the natural action of the soil.

Nature's way may involve a little more work but it is the best way to be environmentally friendly. I do still use some chemical sprays but do so very sparingly. Many of the chemical sprays we have used in the past have been taken off the market. Many more have had their name changed: Isotox is now simply Systemic Spray and our old faithful Funginex is now Rose Pride. It is getting to the

point where you need a cross-reference chart to know what you are spraying with.

All-America Rose Selections for 2009

Carefree Spirit



Recognizing that consumers want roses that are easy to care for, in 2004 AARS stopped spraying fungicides on all

shrub roses in its nationwide test gardens. *Carefree Spirit* is the first and only landscape shrub to date to endure this real-world testing and prevail as a winner. This mounding rose produces deep red blossoms with white twinkles in their eyes; the blooms finish pink as they bask in the sun. *Carefree Spirit* amplifies the disease resistance associated with its Carefree lineage, with more than ten years of hybridization improvement. Much like its parent rose, *Carefree Delight*[™], which was an All-America Rose Selection winner in 1996, the petals are beautifully set amongst abundant glossy, dark green foliage; however, it has even better disease resistance, habit and blooming power, and will perform well in any area of the country.

Carefree Spirit was hybridized by Jacques Mouchotte, director of research at Meilland International and introduced by Conard-Pyle Co. of West Grove, Pennsylvania.

Cinco de Mayo



Cinco de Mayo brings a fiesta of flowers to every garden. Mysteriously colored and deliriously novel...it's an indescribable blending of smoked lavender

and rusty red-orange. This festive rose may be impossible to describe but you'll love the endless bounty of multi-colored clusters sitting amongst clean, glossy green foliage and dark red new growth. The flowers, which hold well and are fast to

repeat, radiate the smell of fresh-cut golden apples. As an AARS winner, this floribunda has fantastic disease resistance and has performed exceptionally well across the country with little-to-no care. As the offspring of the 2006 AARS award-winning *Julia Child* rose, *Cinco de Mayo* enlivens any garden, and it's clean, round habit is ideal for use as a hedge or in a border with mixed perennials.

Cinco de Mayo was hybridized by Tom Caruth and is introduced by Weeks Roses of Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.

Pink Promise



Pink Promise – a graceful bloomer with long stems for cutting – will promise that your garden is a stunning spectacle this year. Most impressively, the National Breast Cancer Foundation selected this rose to officially represent a continual blooming promise of compassion and awareness. For

every *Pink Promise* plant purchased, a percentage of the sales will be donated to the National Breast Cancer Foundation to help extend women's lives through education and early detection. This hybrid tea's beauty is enhanced by the contrast of its large pink blossoms set against lush dark green foliage. Along with its stunning appearance, *Pink Promise* has good disease resistance and flourishes even in cooler climates. A highly-fragrant rose, *Pink Promise* fills any room with a deliciously fruity scent.

Pink Promise was hybridized by Jim Coiner and introduced by Coiner Nursery of Lavern, Calif.

Exhibiting Roses Program

By Charles Shaner

Only a small percentage of our membership has ever been to an actual rose show. If you have been to one, and you do not exhibit, you may wonder what goes on in the prep room before the show. This is what I will try to give you a little taste of at

our meeting. I am no expert at it but I can give you an idea of what is involved.

The prep room is a very busy place with the exhibitors preparing their roses for the show. The preparation includes grooming your rose and can get very involved. You do things like putting Q-tips in the blooms to open them up and shape them to the proper exhibition form, polishing the foliage and adjusting them in the vase for the proper height and appearance. Presentation is everything and it all counts as you will see in the program.

I have never won a Queen or even as much as a Princess but I have won many ribbons and that is a start. If you would like to see how it is done, join us at the meeting October 12th.

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

Master Rosarian

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