



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



May Meeting

The May meeting of Shenandoah Rose Society will be held May 15, 2 p.m. at the home of Genny Reid, 919 Mt. Elliott, Staunton. The program will be "Fertilizers", a PowerPoint program from the ARS. I have viewed this program and it is excellent. I have been in the Society for about 20 years and there are points brought out in this program I haven't seen before.



From the President

I was very pleased to see the good attendance at our April meeting. We received one new member at the meeting, Craig DuCharme. This puts us up one member from last year. It is good news that our ranks are growing! We need to keep looking for new members. Each of us probably knows someone who is either growing roses and not in the Society, would like to grow roses, or is struggling with a few roses. Talk to them about joining the Society: explain to them how it works and that we can help them grow better roses.

The group voted to purchase a PowerPoint projector which will be used for programs at Society meetings. The projector has been purchased from Staples and will be used in our May meeting. This makes it easier to plan more high-quality educational programs which are free from the ARS. The program from May will be "Fertilizers" and has something to offer for everyone whether you are a Rosarian, Master Gardener or a new gardener. We will be having more programs like this during the year.



We discussed the possibility of Shenandoah Rose Society hosting the Pre-Spring meetings in Staunton. The District has put these meetings

together for the past couple of years and held them in Staunton. They have been simplified to a "no frills" meeting to save expenses. I think it is something we can do and take the pressure off the District officers. The discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

Now that we have a PowerPoint projector and I have a digital camera and laptop computer, I would like to visit as many members' gardens this summer as possible. With this I would like to put together a program "Gardens of Shenandoah Rose Society" to be presented at the banquet in November. We all like to see other members' gardens and this will be a way to see what our other members are doing.

We will be having a *Rose Exhibition* at Staunton Mall on June 4th. Please plan to have roses to exhibit at that time. We normally do not have a regular monthly meeting when we have an exhibition, but we may also have the regular meeting later in the month with an educational PowerPoint.

A new shipment of Mills Magic has arrived. Contact Raymond Shaner at Augusta Steel if you would like to purchase some.

Charles R. Shaner



The Rambling Rosarian

by Charles Shaner - Master Rosarian

Spring seemed to come a little early this year and was a welcome relief to the heating bills. The severe storms which came with it have not been welcome. Tornadoes, floods and high winds we could do without. I can remember when the space program started and the first rockets were sent into space, we would get storms afterwards and people would say, "Well, they sent up another rocket and tilted the earth - knocked everything out of kilter". I guess we can blame the severe storms on the Japan

earthquake this time. It sped up the earth's rotation by something like 1.5 milliseconds per day.

Regardless of the weather, my spring pruning is finished. I built a new raised bed and moved roses out of the conventional beds. It is also time to start a feeding program, which I have done. I blended my organic foods and used the Randy Scott approach to applying them. That is to punch three holes around the drip line of the plant and fill each hole with the dry food. I also paid a visit to my local "horse biscuit factory" and applied that to my roses.

It is also time to start your spray program. My personal preference is organic sprays, but chemicals may be your choice. No matter which you choose you should have a regular spray program to keep those pests in check. I always add two aspirin tablets per gallon to my spray. This helps to enhance the immunity of the plant.

We seem to be getting more than our share of rain this spring. If it turns dry, remember to water. Roses like an inch of rain per week and if nature doesn't provide it then we must make it up.

One critter we need to pay attention to in the spring is the aphid. Aphids multiply so fast you can have just a few on a bud in the morning and the cane can be covered in the afternoon. There are several sprays to take care of the aphid but I prefer the natural predator. I was at a local greenhouse a couple of years ago and they had a bag of ladybugs (1,000 in a bag) for \$10. I purchased a bag and released them in my garden. I have not had a problem with aphids since. Be careful with your chemical sprays. Some of them not only kill the insects you are after but also kill your beneficial insects which is what happened to me. I am using as many organics as possible. A \$10 investment several years ago has cured my aphid problem and now I am seeing ladybugs everywhere.



Aspirin and Roses

By Charles Shaner – Master Rosarian

I have seen several newsletters with articles about aspirin and roses this spring. I wrote an article on this several years ago and use aspirin in my spray every time I spray. I am sold on it and have had excellent results.

The application of salicylic acid to plants helps to enhance the natural immune system of the plant and aspirin is acetylsalicylic acid. Salicylic acid is a natural component in all plants.

Many people were using Messenger a few years ago. Messenger did the same thing but was expensive and had a very short shelf life. The company which produced Messenger is no longer in business.

Dissolving two aspirin tablets to a gallon when sprayed on plants will help to prevent diseases, some insects, and environmental stress. In the years



I used aspirin weekly, I did not have a single case of Rose Rosette Disease in my roses. I got lax on using it for a year and the Rose Rosette Disease returned. I do believe the regular use of aspirin in your spray will aid in the prevention of RRD.

You will notice the aspirin is slow to dissolve in water. I drop the aspirin in a bottle of water and place it on a shelf for a couple of days and shake the bottle occasionally as I walk by. I always mix two gallons of spray so I will place four aspirin tablets in the bottle. When I am ready to mix my spray I dump the contents of the bottle in the sprayer.

Keep in mind that aspirin is not a registered pesticide or fungicide. It only works as a preventive and will not kill insects or diseases after the plant is infected. Any brand of aspirin will work. I usually buy the cheapest one I can find and use a 325 mg tablet. Do not use coated aspirin as it will not dissolve.

The aspirin not only enhances the plant's immune system but also produces an all around healthier plant with more vigorous growth. I have always heard it said, "An ounce of prevention is

worth a pound of cure.” Aspirin is the ounce of prevention.



Program Schedule for 2011

May – Fertilizer (PowerPoint)
June – Rose Exhibition (Staunton Mall)
July – To be determined
August – IMP of Rose Diseases (PowerPoint)
September – Rose Exhibition (Milmount Greenhouses)
October – ARS The Organization (PowerPoint)
November – Banquet



The 2011 Roses In Review Competition! by Diana Klassy

Here are the 4 steps to win an ice cream party for your society:

- ❖ Buy a new rose variety, one in its second, third and fourth years in commerce.
- ❖ Observe the rose as it grows. Watch for disease, fragrance, growth habit, etc.
- ❖ Complete RIR form (either online or use the paper form and mail to me). The deadline for the reporting is always September 26th of each year.
- ❖ I plan to announce each winning society by October 31, 2011.
- ❖ The winning society, in addition to bragging rights, will have an ice cream party financed by the losing society, not to exceed \$25. The non-winning team can join the winning team to share in the celebration if possible. After conferring with John Fleek at the pre-spring meeting the following societies have been paired off for the 2011 Roses in Review Competition:

Arlington vs. Potomac
Charleston vs. Huntington
Patrick Henry vs. Richmond
Tidewater vs. VA Peninsula
Shenandoah vs. Maryland
Bay Country vs. Northern Neck
Roanoke vs. Southern Virginia

Since my goal is to match membership and the participation level of each society, the winner will be chosen based on number of reports from each society and percentage of participation. If persons are members of both societies, their report counts for both teams. It is very important to list your membership(s) on your RIR report so proper credit can be given to each team. Reporters do not have to be a member of the ARS to participate. Membership for each society will be as of July 1st, and will need to be reported to me by August 1, 2011, at diana_n_roses@netzero.com. The RIR form along with instructions will be published in the July/August edition of the American Rose Magazine. Make additional copies if needed. RIR can also be completed on line at www.ars.org. To increase your odds of winning this award, I recommend that societies set aside part of the August meeting as time to instruct and encourage members in completing these reports. Remember, by participating in Roses in Review you are assisting rose growers, especially new growers, to select roses that are likely to grow well for them. The averaged *garden ratings* from these reviews are published annually in the ARS Handbook for Selecting Roses. So by a new rose variety this year and participate in 2011 Roses in Review!



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