

Shenandoah Rose Ramblings



Shenandoah Rose Society

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

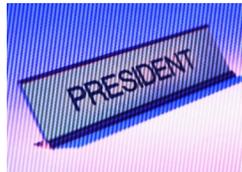
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July Meeting

The July meeting of Shenandoah Rose Society will be the annual picnic to be held Thursday, July 18, at 6 p.m. at the home of Charles & Barbara Shaner. This will be covered dish. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and drinks will be provided.



From the President

Shenandoah Rose Society is a small society compared to many around the nation, but we still get the word out about roses and provide the community with information to encourage and improve their rose growing. We had better attendance and interest from the public at Milmount Greenhouses this year than in past years, although I do not believe we gained any members.

This is one thing we need to work on—our membership. Our membership has been slipping the past few years and we need to do a better job of recruiting and retaining members. Suggestions on how to do this are always welcome. Without members we do not exist. Many societies larger than ours are gone because of dropping membership and lack of interest. I do not want to see that happen to us.

I was called to look at one person's roses in the past month (not a member) and he had a very bad case of downy mildew. I think with the right spray program he will be able to save his roses but they don't look good. I have tried to get this person to join our Society with no luck. Talk to people, spark their interest in roses and we just may occasionally get one to join.

Charles R. Shaner



District Meetings

The fall District meeting and show will be held in Martinsville, VA, hosted by Patrick Henry Rose Society the weekend of September 13-15, 2013. I do not have much in the way of details at this point.

The Pre-Spring for 2013 is uncertain at this point. Our District Director, Capt. Eddy Krauss, wants to move the meeting from Staunton to Maryland. I have not heard anything about it for several weeks. The fate of the fall meeting and show for 2014 is also in question.

These meetings are important to the District and a must. I have communicated my opinion to our District Director. I can do no more than that.

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Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

At my home just south of Staunton, I have had much rain this summer. I found it impossible to spray my roses for about ten days because it was raining almost every day. Odd as it may seem I do not have a problem with blackspot or downy mildew at present. A good spray program early in the season seems to have helped these problems. Spraying the ground as well as the bush is essential to control of both.



I am seeing a few Japanese beetles. They appeared around the first of July which is a little later than normal. They have only been on a couple of bushes and not widespread. I have two *Dainty Bess* bushes which are a magnet for the beetle. I planted a red geranium beside each of these and there are no Japanese beetles on either one.

I am seeing more articles about the move to using more organics for pest control. The reasons are becoming more clear all the time. Chemical sprays are hard on the environment and pests become immune to them and they become less effective. Many chemical sprays also kill beneficial insects as well as the unwanted ones. It is strange that beneficial insects do not become immune to the chemicals, but the unwanted ones do. The organics are mostly safe for the environment, pets, and people. The pests usually do become immune to them. I see more and more organics on the store shelves each season.

Watching your pH is very important. I have one rose bed that is giving me an unusual problem. One half of the bed is experiencing low pH while the other half is right on target. I have applied lime to that half of the bed twice and the pH is slowly coming up. My roses in that half are looking better but I am still working on it. I know this has absolutely nothing to do with it, but I happened to think of this a few days ago. I once had a little dog that would not listen and bugged me to death. She was hardheaded and I could not train her to anything. When she died I buried her where she laid much of the time, which was in that portion of the rose bed. She is buried deep enough that it shouldn't bother the pH and especially in 25 feet of bed. I just had to laugh a little and say she is still bugging me. She died about 12 years ago. I guess her spirit is still after me.

With all the rain I have not had to water. I have had a more rigorous feeding program this year than I have had for several years and it shows. My roses look better than they have for years. I have my barrel of liquid feed going continuously and the smell—well, we won't talk about that. I wonder how something which smells so bad can produce a rose which smells so good.

I put a little of everything in my barrel to produce a liquid feed which includes dry organic fertilizers and fish emulsion. I grind up fish which has been in the freezer too long, add in V8 vegetable juice which has gone out of date, alfalfa meal, and most any other organic I can find. When I siphon this off to feed my roses I add in one tablespoon per gallon of Miracle-Gro, and twice a month a tablespoon per gallon of Epsom salts. I give them a 16 oz. feeding of this twice a week.



I think I have found an inexpensive way to feed my roses and get good results with very little cost. I add the dry organic feed to the barrel once every two weeks and the fish emulsion once a month. Other items are added as I have them. The barrel holds 65 gallons and it takes 15 gallons to do a feeding. I refill the barrel after each feeding. It is working very well and my roses love it. My wife, on the other hand, says I stink up the place every time I feed my roses.

I have found a program which works for me which is easy, effective, and inexpensive. That is the exciting part of growing roses. Develop ways which work well for you. You get good ideas from newsletters and attending meetings, both local and district. The fun part is sharing your results with others.

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Blackspot and Downy Mildew

By Charles Shaner



Blackspot has been a problem in my area of the country for as long as I can remember. Downy mildew was something other people had and didn't apply to me. That all changed a couple of years ago. Never having to deal with downy mildew brought on a challenge of what to do and how to diagnose the problem.

To the untrained eye the two will look fairly similar but they are very different. Blackspot starts at the bottom of the plant and works its way up, while downy mildew starts at the top of the plant and works its way down. Both will defoliate the plant but downy mildew has a faster, more severe effect.

If you look closely at the leaves you will see that blackspot will be in circles or "spots" on the leaves, while downy mildew will be more in shapes. The downy mildew shapes will not cross the center vein of the leaf and may appear on either or both sides. If left untreated, the plant will stop producing and in severe cases, die. Both blackspot and downy mildew have similar causes. They are both a fungus which comes up from the ground and is more prevalent in damp weather.



With proper care they can both be controlled and have very similar and even the same treatment. Regular spraying is a must. I recommend spraying every week. Pick a day of the week which will be your spray day every week. If it rains, you can spray the day after and then get back on your regular schedule. A good, inexpensive spray to treat both is Mancozeb. I always mix 2 tablespoons per gallon of a horticultural oil to my spray. The oil will act as a spreader-sticker and also attacks the fungus. Always spray the ground as well as the plants.

For a good control and head start on the season, spray your fungicide in the winter before the plants break dormancy and be sure to get the ground as well as the plant. Always clean up any fallen leaves.



Master Rosarian

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