

Shenandoah Rose Ramblings



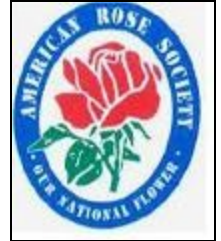
Shenandoah Rose Society

A Society of the Colonial District

Chartered by the American Rose Society

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Monthly Meeting

The July meeting is always our summer picnic. This is a social time with no business meeting or seminar. It will be held Sunday, July 26, 4 P.M. at the home of Charles and Barbara Shaner. Bring a covered dish. Meat and drink will be furnished.



From the President

This being a triennial election year for the ARS I hope everyone voted who is a member of the ARS. I am a little disappointed in the voting process this time. The only way one could vote is online. We still have many people who do not have computers and/or are not computer savvy. This knocked many people out of voting and could have very well changed the outcome. We are now in a technology world, but there are many elderly people who still cling to the old ways.

I enjoyed being in Columbus for the Board of Directors meeting, except for the drive up and back. I drive 888 miles for the round trip. The Board meeting was a very short one. We went into session at 8 A.M. on Friday morning and were finished by noon. I understand these meetings have, at times, extended into the night hours. I found food to be expensive in Columbus. I paid \$16 for my breakfast which was bacon, eggs, hash browns, coffee, and juice. The next board meeting will be in Syracuse, New York, in September.

As always it is good to be with so many good rose people. Sharing ideas and learning what people are doing in different areas of the country is always a plus. I came home with three new rose bushes, one being *Dr. Gary Rankin* named after Dr. Gary Rankin in our District. I have it potted at present and it is developing buds. I can't wait for the buds to open.

The ARS Executive Director, Jeff Ware, has resigned to take a position with another company. His replacement is Laura Seabaugh by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors.

The fall District Meeting and Show will be held October 9-10 in Virginia Beach, hosted by Tidewater and Virginia Peninsula Rose Societies. I hope some of our members can make the trip to attend the meetings and show.

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Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

The Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

We have been lucky this season with the rain and not having to water. There have been times I wish we could have shared a little with the people in California.

I have applied about two inches of mulch to my rose beds. This is the mulch I get from the horse stables, which is about 80% poplar sawdust and 20% horse manure. I will mix a little lime in with it to keep my pH in balance. This not only helps to keep the weeds down and hold in moisture but also gives them a little constant feeding.

Japanese beetles have arrived but have not been that bad. I put down the Milky Spore several years ago. For a few years I had very few beetles but I am now seeing a slight increase each year. I may need to reapply in a year or two.



I am still evaluating the use of moth balls to repel deer. As I wrote in the June newsletter, I got some half-pint plastic containers with lids and drilled 1/8 inch holes just up from the bottom and the same down from the top. I put about a dozen moth balls in each container and replaced the lid. I put three of these containers in a 50-foot bed. So far the deer have left my roses alone. I saw one come within about 30 feet of a bed then turn away. It appears I will only have to replace the moth balls two or three times during the growing season. Many animals test the air by smell to see if it is safe. If they detect an odor they don't like they will avoid the area. Moth balls are also 95% effective on snakes. Last year I killed 11

snakes. Year before last it was six. This year it has only been two.

With the use of the blue cups coated with STP and the moth balls I haven't had much of an insect and varmint problem. The moth balls don't seem to work very well on rabbits and I have plenty of rabbits. Someone ask me why I put chicken wire up around my vegetable garden. My answer was that Mr. Greenjeans doesn't like Bunny Rabbit in his garden.

I have many new roses this year and discovered many years ago it is best to pot a bare-root rose for at least six weeks before putting it in the ground. This gives it a chance to develop a good root system before final planting. This also works well if you get a rose in a really small pot. Roses you get in 4 inch pots just don't do that well set directly in the ground. I like to put them in a two- or three-gallon pot and nurse them along until they put on some good growth or even bloom. A little extra preparation and care of a new rose will give better results for the winter season.



Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

Summer Care By Charles Shaner

Summer care for roses must be a flexible program that can vary with conditions. Is it hot or is it cool? Do we have ample rainfall or is it dry? Your program must be tailored to the conditions of the present. If we just had two inches of rain, you wouldn't want to water but if we hadn't had rain for two weeks, you would need to water. I do my watering with an open-ended garden hose putting the water at the base of plant. Roses need an inch of rain per week or the equivalent. I apply 15 seconds of water. From a garden hose this is approximately one gallon of water and a gallon of water at the base of the plant is equal to one inch of rain.

Feeding your roses during the hot summer days depends on what you are feeding them. A heavy chemical fertilizer during a hot dry spell could do more harm than good. I feed my roses twice a week but I brew a tea and give them 12 ounces of it at each feeding combined with MiracleGro at the rate of one tablespoon per gallon. I am not an advocate of time-release fertilizers because they release according to the amount of rainfall you have. The more rain the faster they release. I would only use them if I were going on an extended vacation.

Pruning during the growing season consists mainly of deadheading. This needs to be done on a regular basis in order to produce the next bloom cycle as quickly as possible. I like to deadhead at least twice a week and more often during a heavy bloom cycle. While deadheading you can also control blind shoots. Keeping the leaves off the bottom of the plant up six inches will also aid in the control of blackspot.

A regular spray program is necessary for insect and disease control. Which spray to use is of your choosing whether it be chemical or organic. Always spray when the wind is calm and according to the instructions on the bottle. In this case more is not better.

Weed control has been a real problem this year. I have sprayed, I have pulled and they continue to grow. You just have to keep after them.

Care for your roses during the hot summer days and they will reward you.



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