

Shenandoah Rose Ramblings



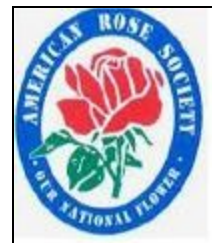
Shenandoah Rose Society

A Society of the Colonial District

Chartered by the American Rose Society

Volume 19, No. 5

May 2017



May Seminar

"Early Summer Care"

Tuesday, May 23, 7 P.M. at the home of Charles and Barbara Shaner, 93 Shaner Lane, Staunton, VA

The roses should be in full bloom.

From the President

Interest seem to be increasing in growing roses. This is evident in the number of hits the website is getting and the Facebook page. Both are showing a huge increase over previous years. Interest in our monthly seminars also seems to be on the increase.

I did not make the ARS board meeting in California. It was just more expense than I could justify plus I could not get the time off from work. I noticed several other board members also did not attend. The next will be in Gettysburg in September. I do plan to attend that one.

We have the "Rose Days" coming up at Milmount Greenhouses the first weekend after Memorial Day. There is always good attendance and activities at Milmount and a good opportunity to talk roses. I usually give two or three seminars that day.

Charles R. Shaner



Remember those who served.

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The Rambling Rosarian

by Charles Shaner

I always look forward to the Spring bloom cycle. That Spring bloom along with the last bloom of September are the best of the season. The Spring bloom is coming about two week early this year. I would say because of the warm weather we had in April but May has been unusually cool and wet. The cooler days and night will produce larger blooms but they will be slower opening.

With all the May rains, I have not had to do much in the way of watering. I am glad I have the raised beds which provide better drainage. Remember, roses like a lot of water but do not like wet feet. Feeding has been somewhat of a problem. I like to feed them twice a week but this is hard to accomplish when it is rain two or three days a week. I do get the one feeding in when the weather permits.



Spraying has been a problem with all the rain. The only real problem I have seen is Aphids. I have not had to worry about spraying for the Aphids. I have a abundance of Lady Bugs and every where I see Aphids on a bush there is usually a Lady Bug. By the next day the aphids are gone.



Lady Bugs are one of the good guys and one you want to keep around. Several years ago I had Japanese Beetle I could not control. I finally brought out the Sevan Dust to get rid of the Japanese Beetle. In the process it killed all of my Lady Bugs.

For the next couple of years I had Aphids I could not control. One day in early Spring I was at Milmount Greenhouses and they had a bag of Lady Bugs, 1000 in a bag, for \$10. I purchased a bag and released them in my garden. I have not had a real problem with Aphids since.

It is amazing, I have not had a real problem with black spot considering all the rain. I see two or three bushes with black spot. Regular spraying with a good fungicide will take care of the black spot. Just remember, once the black spot is on the leaf it will remain there for the duration of the life of the leaf. Any new growth should be clear.



Downy mildew is another problem that comes with wet weather. Many confuse it with black spot but if you know what to look for it is easy to spot the difference. I was confused between the two until I saw the easy way to tell the difference. I will show you that at the seminar this month. Downy Mildew is more damaging to the plant and more difficult to treat but it can be taken care of.



If you are wanting to move rose bushes, it is getting a little late in the season. I had several I need to move which I did in April. Most of them are doing great but I have one especially that is experiencing heavy shock from being moved. It will come back but will take some time.

I thought I had lost three bushes to the heavy freeze in March. One of them is showing sign of coming back. It is on it's own root and can stand heavier die back than grafted or budded roses. I have already removed one of the others. The third one I am watching. It is also on it's own root and has been late coming out before.



Last month I showed a picture of one rose bed after I finished pruning. Here it that same bed six weeks later.

Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

What Was That Rose?

by Charles Shaner

Before I joined the rose society, I was like most people, I just wanted a rose bush and really didn't care about the name. I still have one of those bushes which is now about 35 years old and I wish I could identify it.

I have talked with so many people who have roses but have no idea what they are. Keeping the name of the rose is important. First of all, friends and neighbors see the rose and like it want to know what it is so they can get one like it. If you ever want to show roses, as I do, you must have the name and classification.



Marking your roses with the name and classification is important, easy and inexpensive. There are several ways you can do this. One that should always be done is to map your rose bed. This is simply done by drawing an outline of your rose bed and writing in the name of the rose on it's location in the bed.

Plant markers are an excellent way of remembering what that rose is and this is what I use. There are several different types and styles on the market with a wide range of prices. They range from simple plastic, zinc, stainless steel and aluminum. Engraved wooden markers are also available at a price.

For years I purchased the zinc markers. A pencil comes with them to write with but it doesn't show up very well. I usually discarded the pencil and use a grease pencil with shows up better and last longer. The problem with the zinc markers is that they are flimsy and bend easily. They will last a few years and then need to be replaced. Plastic markers do not last as long and are easily lost as they do not have long enough stake to hold them in place as well. The stainless steel markers are excellent but are expensive. They will last a very long time.

I use so many markers that I tried making my own out of aluminum. I found they work and last about as long as the stainless at a fraction of the cost.

Shenandoah Rose Society website www.shenandoahrosesociety.org. You can also now access the website from www.shenandoahrosesociety.com. Visit us on Facebook.



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