



Shenandoah Rose Society

A Society of the Colonial District

Chartered by the American Rose Society

Volume 12, No. 5

June 2009

Serving the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and beyond

On the web www.shenandoahrosesociety.org



April Meeting

The June meeting of the Shenandoah Rose Society will be held Sunday June 28, 2 p.m. at the Government Center in Verona, it will be the first building on the right after you cross the rail road tracks. The program will be *"Feeding the Soil"* given by Charles Shaner.

The programs for the rest of the year have been tentatively scheduled, but I do need a location for the picnic in July.

Choosing a Meeting Date

You will notice our meeting time has changed from the standard 2nd Sunday we have been using. I have found there are many conflicts with that Sunday which may be some of the reason for low attendance at meetings. There is nothing that says we have to meet that Sunday or on a particular day. We are one of a very few if not the only Society meeting on Sunday. This is something we have briefly looked at in the past but I think we need to take a long, hard look at our meeting time. If you have any suggestions, I am open to them. I also need suggestions for meetings. Speakers are getting harder to find. Polly will be giving the meeting in August (Drying Roses and Flowers).

The Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

If you have been growing roses for a few years, I do not have to tell you the challenges you face in the effort to get beautiful blooms. These challenges come in the form of "Plagues" and there are many. Here are what I call "The Ten Plagues of Rose Growing".

1. The Plague of Blackspot. This one can be controlled with a little housekeeping and proper watering techniques. Keep rose leaves cleaned up from around the plant. Take the leaves off the lower six inches of the plant. Do not get the foliage wet when watering. Spray regularly.

2. The Plague of Powdery Mildew. Usually present when you have warm, humid days and cool nights. Requires regular spraying to control.

3. The Plague of Aphids. Most prominent in the early spring and fall. Ladybugs are a predator of the aphid. You can purchase ladybugs and it is well worth the money. Spraying also helps.

4. The Plague of Thrips. Most prevalent in the spring and early summer. They can turn a beautiful bloom spotted brown. Spraying is the answer.

5. The Plague of Thirst. Roses are thirsty and require the equivalent of one or two inches of rain per week. If nature does not provide it then we must make it up.

6. The Plague of Hunger. Roses are heavy eaters. A good feeding program is essential. How much you want to feed depends on the end results you are looking for. If you just want some blooms to cut and bring in or share with a friend, a simple feeding program will do. If you want to show roses you will need a more intense feeding program. Like people, roses need a drink after they are fed. Refer to Plague # 5.

7. The Plague of Downy Mildew. Hope you never get this one. It can devastate your rose garden. Preventive spraying is recommended with a good fungicide.

8. The Plague of Japanese Beetles. I do not know of a rosarian east of the Mississippi who has escaped this one. Traps are not recommended but if used should be placed some distance from what you want to protect. Milky Spore is an excellent aid and easy to apply, lasts for 15 years and, when all is said and done, is not that expensive. It works! Planting red geraniums in with your roses also helps. The red geranium is poison to beetles and the beetles love to eat it.

9. The Plague of Deer. This is a growing plague even in the city. Deer have found food where there are people and what better food than a nice, tender rose bloom. I have been told of many solutions and tried most of them with limited success. The deer are getting smarter. They now know the jump the electric fence. They know about the fishing line and it doesn't always work. They know there isn't much you can do with them in the city. The answer--get a dog! Deer will stay away

from a dog. I have a Siberian Husky in my back yard. I put in an in-ground fence system and she had plenty of room to run. I have not had a deer problem since she has been back there.

10. The worst plague of all--Rose Rosette Disease. No cure! I have been experimenting with adding aspirin to my spray. I thought at one time the aspirin was going to cure the disease but it proved not. I do believe it will assist in preventing the disease. Aspirin helps to enhance the natural immune system of the plant. While I was using aspirin in my spray, I did not have a single outbreak of RRD. Once I got lax on the program, I had one hybrid tea come down with RRD. I use two aspirin tablets to a gallon of spray.

Rose growing is full of challenges, aggravation, work, fun, satisfaction and pleasure. Sharing knowledge with others helps us to learn how to grow roses better and gives us new ideas. Sharing roses with others brings friendship. Share your ideas and roses with others. It's rewarding!

ARS Rose of the Month

Souvenir de la Malmaison

June 2009

by [Steve Jones](#)



Of all of the roses in my yard, one of my favorites has to be **Souvenir de la Malmaison**. If there was ever an old garden rose that could out-bloom most modern roses, this is it. With lovely, light pink to almost white blooms that have the classic quartered appearance of old garden roses, this old rose remains a small plant. My ten-year-old plant is still three feet high by four feet wide. Add to that a nice, spicy fragrance, and you have a rose that is tough to beat.

Souvenir (French for 'memory') de la Malmaison was named to honor Malmaison, the former home of the real rose queen, the French Empress Josephine, wife of Napoleon Bonaparte. Her love of the rose helped to ensure the future of the species more than any other person in history. Malmaison was a rose and plant showcase from 1798 through 1814. She hired one of the top gardeners in France, Aime Bonpland, and one of the top botanical painters, Pierre-Joseph Redoute, to preserve the memory of many a rose that might have

been lost in obscurity (Eastman - Kodak was not on the scene yet). It was said that even though her husband was at war with the world, the opposing navies would allow her ships filled with plants to pass through the harbor barriers unmolested.

Since intentional hybridization was relatively a new practice, Josephine encouraged the top breeders in France to create new species using her collection of over 250 roses. Prior to that time, hybridization was done naturally by insects and self-pollination. The participants represented the "who's who" in rose history: Dupont, Cochet, Laffey, Prevost and Vilmorin. Unfortunately, Josephine did not live long enough to see the fruits of her labor.

Souvenir de la Malmaison is a bourbon rose that was introduced in 1843 by Beluze. According to *Modern Roses*, Souvenir was a cross of the 1831 bourbon, **Madame Deprez**, and a tea rose, which would explain the tenderness and constant blooming ability of this rose. In mild winter years, Souvenir will not stop blooming. It is not unusual to see over 50 blooms on the plant during peak times. Souvenir is also a good show rose. Behind **Marchesa Boccella**, this rose was my second top winner of the ARS Dowager Award at many rose shows.

Unfortunately, Souvenir is not without its faults. Although it grows very well in the non-coastal areas of Southern California, it is tender in the colder climates of the United States. Also, the blooms tend to ball in wet, damp weather, and the plant will slightly mildew if you don't spray. The rose takes 2-3 years to mature, but when it does, it will reward you with an abundance of blooms.

There is a climbing version of Souvenir (1893, Bennett) which is quite vigorous and blooms very well. The bush and climber are available from several old garden rose mail order nurseries.

There are several sports or seedlings of Souvenir worth mentioning. A semi-double form of Souvenir was found by Hilling in 1950 called **Souvenir de St. Anne's**. This rose is very popular in the Deep South. **Leveson Gower** (1845) by Beluze, is also called Souvenir de la Malmaison Rose, which is a medium orange-pink or rose color with similar full, cupped blooms. **Kronprinzessin Viktoria** (1887) is a pale yellow sport from Vollert that has fewer petals. Unfortunately, Kronprinzessin seems to be more disease prone, especially to powdery mildew.

If you want a small OGR that will outbloom most hybrid teas, is fragrant, and could win the Dowager Award at shows, this is the one!

Man vs. Deer

By Charles Shaner



I don't know of anyone that isn't having problems with deer whether you live in the rural areas or in the city. We continue to invade their living area in the mountains and woodlands by building homes, shopping areas, office buildings and using them for recreational areas. The deer are finding refuge in our area because there is food, less hunting and the things they need to survive.

The deer problem has become a larger concern than insects and can do more damage. You can't spray for deer and I am not familiar with any deer-icide. Here are some ideas in dealing with deer.

1. Create barriers--Fence, dog. Fences do not always work. Deer can jump but they need to get a running start. If you put up a fence you need to put up two, six feet apart. The deer will get over the first but will be unable to get over the second. Electric fences are somewhat effective but may not be allowed in some cities. A dog that can stay outside at night is a good answer. I use an in-ground containment fence for my Siberian Husky and it works very well. The deer stay away.

2. Fear and Repulsion. The use of soaps, urine, hair or sprays. Loud noises, bright lights, sprays of water and scarecrows may also work. Unappealing smells will keep them away but need to be reapplied after every rain. Motion sensors controlling sprays of water, lights and sounds work in small gardens but are not good for large areas.

3. Diversion. Salt licks, hay and other foods deer like placed outside the garden boundaries will divert the deer away from your roses. It may not always work if you are in a residential area with houses close together. Roses are candy to deer.

4. Elimination. Shooting them has been tried in Staunton. The police bagged 36 deer this spring and didn't put a dent in the population. Usually, even in the country, you need to get a permit from the game commission to do this.

5. Resignation. Move away from the deer area. Now, just where would that be? The deer are everywhere and will travel ten miles in their rounds.

The best of these I have found is the dog. My Husky has a large area to run in. I have 500 feet of wire buried in the ground and the electronic collar she wears warns her if she gets too close to it. The rose beds are not inside her containment area but run beside it. The deer stay away.

A black plastic mesh fence 7 feet high also works for a small area. Deer can't seem to stay away from it but it doesn't add to the beauty of your garden.

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