



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



August Meeting

The August meeting of Shenandoah Rose Society will be held Sunday August 15, 2 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church. The meeting will be a double subject – New Products & Rose Show Preparation.

From The President

Much has been said in the past about healthy societies and what makes a healthy society. I would consider Shenandoah healthy but its health could improve. We have a few members who take part in everything and carry the load. This is not something which is just with our society. All organizations experience the same thing.

When it gets to the point too many members take the “rocking chair” position or just drop out, the society or organization becomes unhealthy. Shenandoah is just a little above that point. We only had four people participate in our rose exhibition last year but we had a good showing of blooms. There are other activities we have been called on during the year which I could not get a commitment enough to say we could do it. These are activities that get our name out and draw new members.

Many of you know I am a member of the ARS Local Society Relations Committee. There are times you have a job with the committee you wish could be different. I had and am still working on one of those. I have been working with Fredericksburg Rose Society this summer on a job just like that. Fredericksburg has reached the point where too many members have become inactive and has dropped to the point they just can't continue. They have made the decision to disband. I have been working with them in an advisory capacity in carrying out the process. They still have one or two steps to go in the procedure.

Age is one of the factors which led to the decision of Fredericksburg. Age is creeping into Shenandoah as well. We need to retain our present members but we need to recruit new, younger members as well to remain healthy. It is with activities such as shows and a booth at gardening events

where we can recruit these members. This takes the help of our present membership. The president and executive committee cannot do it alone.

Some members have kept up their membership but no longer attend meetings because they want outside guest speakers. It takes money to bring these people in. We have two choices to remedy this problem. We need to either increase our membership so we have a larger dues base or we need to have activities to raise money so we can bring in “high caliber” speakers.

We have our rose exhibition coming up in September and we will be discussing it at the August meeting. This is a good opportunity to gain new members and possibly have some sort of a fundraiser at the same time. Think about it and we will discuss it at the meeting. We will also discuss where we want to have it this year. It was at Waynesboro Garden Center last year. Do we want to go back there or possibly try one of the libraries? Give it some thought and we will decide at the meeting.

Charles R. Shaner



The Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

The summer has been a mixed bag of weather. We started out wet, then went dry and hot, and now we are getting some rain and cooler temperatures if you can call upper 80s and low 90s cooler. I guess that is cooler compared to temperatures from 99 to 105 which we have been having. It seems every year there is a new or different challenge to growing roses.

With the hot dry weather, about all you can do is keep your roses watered well and hope for the best. I do not advise spraying during the extreme heat. I use all organics for spraying and feeding and even with organic sprays I experienced some spray burn. If you feel you must spray, I would advise very early in the morning (about daybreak) or late in the evening.

I have two new products I am trying which we will discuss at the meeting. One is showing some real promise and the other I will not use until late fall. Both products are organic and environmentally safe for both children and pets.

The care you give your roses will mean a lot for the winter months. Heavy feeding now will make them more hardy and better withstand the harsh winter months. Your sprayings between now and until the roses go dormant will cut down on the number of eggs the insects lay and lessen the population for next year.

I have only seen two Japanese beetles this season and have not heard any discussion about problems with them. I will say the two I saw met with a very untimely death. The weather conditions play greatly on the beetle population. They do not like hot, dry weather. When it is hot and dry they cannot get into the ground to lay their eggs and the eggs will be close to the surface. If the winter which follows is cold, the grubs will freeze, leading to a lighter population for the following summer. My efforts to control the beetles a few years ago are really paying off. I highly recommend Milky Spore. It is easy to apply and one application will last for 12 to 15 years. It takes three years for it to reach its full potential.

I hear about many people in the area who are growing roses but are not a member of the Society. Some are our neighbors. Some are growing beautiful roses. There is one I drive by frequently who is doing some things right, but many wrong like growing roses in a raised bed under a pine tree and watering with a yard sprinkler. You can guess what his roses look like.

Take time to do it right and get the beautiful blooms and healthy plants. You have an investment and with the proper care it will pay you back.



GOOD BUGS TO THE RESCUE

Dear Gardening Friends;

Not all insects are pests. Some actually make perfect pets for the gardener! They will not damage plants, only the insects that damage plants. This bio-control is known as Integrated Pest Management, and beneficial insects are an important component.



We can make our gardens friendly to their habitats such as planting perennials that provide a place to lay eggs and give shelter--yarrow, fennel, daisy, baby's breath, parsley and many others. Allowing for a grass path will provide a home for ground beetles, and a birdbath or water feature with a perch of rock or stick will help keep them around during dry weather.

What you want to create is the proper balance by increasing the numbers of predators to prey and use only organic and nontoxic garden products like insecticidal soaps and sticky traps. Don't wait for a pest problem to be out of control. Plan for your good bugs to come to the rescue before the potential problem occurs!



Create a favorable home for your Beneficials ahead of time...

Reminder--Beneficial insects don't tolerate most pesticides very well, so it's very important not to apply residual pesticides (such as Malathion and Sevin) for at least a month before releasing your beneficials. While you're waiting out this month period, use soapy water sprays (such as Safers) or Sticky Traps right up to the day you let out the beneficials. Also, botanical sprays (derived from Pyrethrum and Rotenone, for example) can be used with a one-week wait afterwards. The small amount of time you spend creating more favorable conditions for Beneficial Insects will be well worth your while!



Let the Good Bugs clean up your pests and have fun watching them!

Carol

Alias, Mrs. Charley!



These Are Some of the Good Guys!



Typically, [ladybugs](#) eat over 5,000 aphids and other soft-bodied pests during their one-year life. Ladybugs are one of the few

beneficial insects that can be stored, dormant, in the refrigerator for a few weeks as long as they don't freeze or dry out. This allows you to use a few at a time, as needed.



Tiny [whitefly parasites](#) lay their eggs inside whitefly pupae, so a whitefly parasite hatches instead of a whitefly. You'll need a

magnifier to see them, but they spell death for greenhouse whiteflies.



[Predatory mites](#) feed on spider mites and their eggs; they also breed twice as fast. Each spider mite predator sucks the juice out of about 5 spider

mites a day, or 20 of their eggs. Predators disappear when the spider mites are gone.



[Aphid predators](#) have worked so well in many greenhouses that, by summer, aphids may be hard to even find. Breeding populations of predators are

usually established from a single release, but regular weekly releases during the growing season speeds up control.



[Green lacewing](#) larvae look like tiny "alligators", and voraciously attack almost any prey they can grab, using pincer-like jaws. After injecting a

paralyzing venom, they suck the body fluids from their helpless victim.



[Praying Mantis](#) are not only fun garden pets, but they eat anything and everything they catch! Praying Mantis constantly entertain while they eat in-

sects all summer long.



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