



## 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](http://www.shenandoahrosesociety.org)



### September Meeting

The September meeting of Shenandoah Rose Society will be held Saturday, September 18 at Milmount Greenhouses in Stuarts Draft. This will be our annual rose exhibition. Please bring your roses for display. We are not a judging show. We are just showing the public a little of what we do. Your roses do not have to be perfect. Just have a nice bloom with good foliage. We will set up about 8:30 a.m. and the show will end about 5 p.m.



### From the President

I sit here looking at a blank screen trying to think of what to write. I know you have heard enough about attendance and membership but that seems to be what comes to mind. Our membership has held its own for the past year but I just wish we could do something to improve attendance at meetings. Suggestions are welcome and all will be given consideration.

If you have not done your Roses In Review there is still time. You can do it online at the ARS website, [www.ars.org](http://www.ars.org). You do not need to rate all the roses listed--just the ones you grow. This is where the ratings in the guide come from.

The fall District Show and Meeting is in Norfolk at the Airport Hilton September 24-26. There is still time to register for the meeting. Information and registration may be obtained from the District website, [www.colonialdistrictroses.org](http://www.colonialdistrictroses.org), or you may contact me.

We have received a new trial member from the website. I would like to welcome John Pritchard of Weyers Cave to our Society. Hopefully John's membership will transform into a permanent membership.

*Charles L. Shaner*



### The Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

We have survived the heat and the dry and it is the time of year for up and down temperatures. The warm days and cool nights bring big blooms.

I did not see much in the way of Japanese beetles this year and have not heard anyone say they actually had a problem. I have only seen four this year and they met with a very untimely death.

It seems every time we get rid of one problem there is something to take its place. This year for me it is grasshoppers. I have them by the thousands. You walk across my yard and there is a cloud of them in front of you. They will eat the side out of a bud before it is anywhere near ready to open as a bloom. Spraying has helped some but I can't spray my entire lawn. Starlings will feed on grasshoppers but it is a little early for the starlings to migrate in.

I have started putting a "Tip of the Day" on Facebook. I don't know how many of you use Facebook but it is a good contact tool for friends and information. Many companies and news media are now using it. I have noticed an increase in traffic on our Society website from this. The "Tip of the Day" is aimed at the beginner gardener and is just a simple one-line tip and gives a link to our website, [www.shenandoahrosesociety.org](http://www.shenandoahrosesociety.org).

Summer is gone and fall is about to arrive. I would recommend that you stop deadheading your roses after the 15<sup>th</sup> of September and stop your feeding program. It is time for your roses to slow down so they can go to sleep for winter. If you are feeding organics you may continue that program but stop any chemical feedings. There are two different theories about a fall feeding of triple phosphate. One is that it is a relief valve for all the feeding which has been done during the summer and helps the plants prepare for winter. The other is that it is not needed. I have done both and have not seen much difference between the two.

I feed all organics, and you may do that type of feeding all winter if you wish. With my feeding in the fall I will add in lime. I know from

experience that my rose beds will gain a little acid over the growing season. This is due to the decomposing of mulches. A light application of lime in the fall will keep my pH in check.

Watering is still important. We had three inches of rain in one week and none the past two. Roses cannot take up food without water. This is one thing that may need to be done even in the winter if we have a dry spell. Treat your roses right and they will reward you.



Get FAST Results With  
Compost Tea



Over many years, the use of chemicals in our gardens has destroyed most of the beneficial microorganisms in the soil.

Organic matter has been reduced BIG time, creating the infertile soil so many of us have experienced. It's quick and easy to keep using chemical "bandaids" on plants.

However, *chemical-dependent plants are much more likely to have increased insect, disease and drought concerns, plus providing small, inferior yields.*

As wise gardeners know, improving your soil with the use of quality, organic compost has unlimited benefits. It does take some effort and time before results start to appear. If you're looking for a quicker "solution" you might want to try some Compost Tea. Compost Tea is merely compost in a liquid form. It provides the nutrition of compost without the bulk. Use it as a drench, pouring it into the soil around your plants. Micronutrients and beneficial microorganisms are delivered immediately to the root zone. Also use it as a foliar spray and apply it directly to leaf surfaces.

There are many recipes for making your own Compost Tea online and in gardening books. Most important is to start with good quality, cured compost. If it is only partially decomposed or

smelly compost, it won't be effective. Don't use animal manures.

For best results use a recipe that aerates the tea. This helps loosen the beneficial microorganisms from the compost so they enter into the tea solution in much higher quantities. The aeration also ensures high levels of oxygen to keep microorganisms healthy and alive longer.

How often should you apply Compost Tea to your plants? It's almost impossible to apply too much tea, too often. It will just continue to restore natural health and balance to your soil. What a wonderful concept!

Until next time,

EDITOR'S NOTE: Article courtesy of Charley's Greenhouse & Garden

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## From "Roses for Dummies"

By Dan de la Torre

Growing roses on their own roots has some advantages, such as winter hardiness. Although many rosarians and commercial growers believe that a plant must be budded to reach its full potential, that's not true for all varieties. Why not try rooting a few cuttings and compare for yourself. Rooting new plants from softwood cuttings sounds easy, but unless you know what a cutting needs and faithfully provide those things, you will not have a successful experience. Here's some tips to do the job right: Take a cutting from a fairly young cane coming from a bud eye along the main cane. Just after a new cane flowers is a good time to take your cutting. The diameter of the cane should be about the diameter of a drinking straw. The best time to take cuttings is in late spring or early summer.

After you remove the small cane from the plant, cut off the bottom at a very sharp angle so that the cut is as close as possible to a bud eye. Make this angled cut with a very sharp pruner. With a razor blade or X-ACTO knife, lightly score the bark vertically from the bottom, and up about an inch on the side of the stick opposite a bud eye. Doing so encourages roots to form along the score. From the bottom of the cutting measure up about 6 inches, leaving two or three sets of five leaf leaflets.

Cut the top off the stick about ¼ inch above a bud eye. Dip the bottom, angled end of the cutting into a liquid rooting hormone mixed according to package directions. Dip the cutting to a depth of about 1 inch so that the score you made on the cane is immersed. Insert the coated cutting into a small peat pot filled with wet sterile potting soil. With your fingers squeeze down the soil so that the cutting stands up and is fairly stable in the pot. Place your cutting into a misting tent. Making an effective misting test is easy. Simply mist the cutting with water, place a clear plastic bag over the container and secure the bag around the top of the pot with a piece of string. The tent keeps the cutting moist and prevents it from drying up and dying. Place the misting tent enclosed cutting outdoors in a spot that gets morning and afternoon sun, but is in shade at midday such as the north side of the house. You must mist the leaves several times each day, more often if it's sunny. Misting keeps moisture in the cutting which it needs because it has no roots to get its own moisture. Don't forget to mist or your cutting will die. If the leaves turn yellow and fall off before the first week ends, you may as well give up and start again. If the leaves fall off after three weeks, it's not a great sign, but you still have hope. Mix 2 tablespoons of a high nitrogen liquid fertilizer in 1 gallon of water and lightly mist your plant with the solutions. Doing so may stimulate new leaf growth from the bud eye. If all goes well, your cutting should root in less than a month. Strong white roots grow from the bottom of the cutting and fill the small pot. Now is the time to transplant into a larger pot. Plant the cutting peat pot and all into a 6-inch filled with regular potting mix, harden it off and put it in the sun to grow.



## **Are We Scaring People Away From Roses?**

By Charles Shaner

When I first joined the rose society I was horrified. My first couple of meetings had me wondering what I had gotten myself into. These people might as well have been speaking a foreign language for that is how well I understood what they were saying. They talked about “stamens” and I was thinking, “I am here to learn about roses and they are talking apples. What is this?” These

people were talking so far over my head I might as well have stayed at home.

When you open up the CR manual, one of the first things you see is a statement that says “**Keep It Simple Sir**”. Somewhere along the line as we learn more, we seem to forget this statement. We must remember we are talking to people who know little to nothing about growing roses.

Most of these people are just growing a couple of rose bushes in the yard to enjoy a bloom for themselves. They do not want an extensive feeding program and do not want to put the time into growing roses most of us do. We have to groom our answers to their particular needs and purpose and not scare them to death with in-depth care procedures.

If we keep it simple and get more people to growing roses, our membership may gradually increase. Many of these people may get the “bug”, join the rose society and become full-fledged rosarians. We must not scare them off with answers they do not understand.

I have had so many people tell me they do not grow roses because it is too hard and takes too much time. It is our job to discourage this line of thought. When talking with people, remember where you once were--not knowing what to do with a rose. Remember to “**Keep it Simple Sir**”!



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