



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



June Meeting

The June meeting of the Shenandoah Rose Society will be an exhibition at Staunton Mall on Saturday, June 4th. We can get into the mall at 8 a.m. to prep our roses. All entries should be on the table by 10 a.m. We will have the exhibition open to the public from 10 A.M. to 6 p.m.



From the President

I am very pleased to see the increase in attendance at the Society meetings. The PowerPoint projector was put to use at our May meeting with a very informative presentation on *Fertilization*.

When we have an exhibition we normally do not have the regular monthly meeting and that will be the case this time. Please bring your roses to exhibit on June 4th.

Staunton Mall has a community cart which is available free of charge. We will be using the cart for the balance of May and the month of June. I have ordered a box of materials from the ARS to be placed on the cart for people to take. We will also have membership application forms on the cart. Hopefully we will attract some new members not only for our Society but also for the ARS.

Our Society is growing! We gained one new member in April putting us one up over last year, and I have a possibility of a new member in May. If you know some friends or family members who are growing roses or would like to learn to grow roses, talk to them about joining the Society.

We have discussed possibly hosting the Pre-Spring meeting at the past couple of Society meetings. I have heard comments for and against. The Society has left the decision up to me. I will give it some time to hear any comments you have before I make a final decision.

Our thoughts are with Polly Holston. Polly broke a hip while in Florida several months ago. She

is still in Florida and in hopes of returning to Staunton soon.

Charles R. Shaner



The Rambling Rosarian

by Charles Shaner – Master Rosarian

My roses have started blooming early this year. I must say they look better than they have for several years. Being retired, they are getting the care they should have and I hadn't had time for in the past.

Roses do need your attention. Many people say they do not want to grow roses because it takes too much work. I tell them it is all in knowing what to do and when to do it. Get yourself into a pattern such as a particular day of the week to spray, a day to water and a pattern for feeding.

I like to spray early in the morning before the sun gets hot. A little dew on the roses will not hinder your spray. If it is raining, you may need to wait until the next day. I like to spray each week. This stays ahead of the critters and breaks the life cycle of many. If you can break the life cycle of insects, you have won the battle.

My pattern for watering depends on weather conditions. If I have an inch of rain during the week, I will not water that week. In the spring and fall I will water only once a week. During the hot, dry summer months I will water twice a week. I do not use an irrigation system. I have tried many and even made my own. I still like going from plant to plant with an open-end garden hose. Fifteen seconds of water from an open-end garden hose at the base of the plant will give about 1 gallon of water. Whatever watering system you use, try not to get the foliage wet. This will reduce the possibility of blackspot.

Your feeding pattern will be determined by the type of fertilizer you are using. If you use

organics (i.e., Mills Magic, Rose Tone, manures, etc.) you may feed three times during the growing season. Organics may be applied any time summer or winter. Chemical fertilizers such as 10-10-10 go to work instantly and do not last as long. You may want to feed these once a month. Water soluble fertilizers such as Miracle-Gro are only good for two weeks and must be reapplied.

Pruning is an ongoing process during the growing season. Deadheading (the removal of spent blooms) needs to be done every couple of days. Finger pruning (the removal of side buds on hybrid teas) needs to be done every other day. The removal of blind shoots needs to be done once a week. Keep the center of the bush open for good air flow. Taking the leaves off the bottom of the bush up six inches will help reduce the possibility of blackspot.

Mulch your roses. Mulch has many advantages such as retaining moisture and weed control. A couple of inches of mulch make a big difference in your roses.

Roses do take a little bit of work which can be made easy which the proper schedule. If you do not have any rose work scheduled for a day just take a walk through your roses and observe what they are doing. There is not a single day I do not do something in my roses.



Attracting Beneficial Insects to your Garden

(This article reprinted from the San Mateo County Rose Society newsletter with permission)

In the past few years, beneficial insects have gained popularity as we strive to stop using pesticides in our gardens. Many adult predaceous insects feed on pollen and nectar to supplement or replace their insect diet. It is, in fact, the larvae of these insects that eat the majority of the plant pests.

Therefore, it's in our best interest as gardeners to provide a stable habitat (*such as a perennial border*) for our predatory friends to live, feed and lay their eggs. (*This means you should try to avoid excessive mowing or tilling of your "bug bank"*).

The following plants will attract beneficial insects (and pollinators): Cosmos, Alyssum, Yarrow, Coreopsis, Borage, Scabiosa, Calendula, Clover, Caryopteris (*Blue Beard*), Wallflower, Evening

Primrose, Sedum, Lobelia, Santa Barbara Daisy, Agrostemma (*Corn Cockle*), Cone Flowers, Queen Anne's Lace, Limonium (*Sea Lavender*), Sunflowers, Buckwheat, Penstemon, Baby's Breath, Veronica, Columbine, Marigold, Monarda (*Bea Balm*), Ajuga (*Carpet Bugle*), Lavender, Zinnia.

Virtually all herbs (*especially when in flower*): Fennel, Caraway, Tansy, Cilantro, feverfew, Valerian, Dill, Parsley, Rue, Sage, Chamomile, Thyme, Chervil, Lemon Balm, Oregano, Mint (*this is invasive*), Chives, Rosemary, Sweet Marjoram, Parsley, Catnip, Vegetables when flowering, Broccoli, Onions, Leeks, Lettuce, Cabbage, Carrot, Kale, Artichoke, and Jerusalem Artichoke.

Create an even more beautiful, fragrant garden by planting some of these plants in and around your roses to encourage our beneficial insect friends to come dine and live in your haven. Birds will also be attracted also and eat caterpillars and grubs.



Ladybugs feed on aphids, scale insects and plant mites. By the way, aphids are tiny, soft-bodied insects that

suck the nutrients away from plants by infesting new foliage and ingesting their fluids. Aphids also spread disease by moving from one plant to another.

Praying mantis offspring, called nymphs, emerge in late spring or early summer. These nymphs have voracious appetites for aphids and other small insects.

Lacewing larvae eat small insects as they grow:



aphids, scale insects, leafhoppers, thrips, small flies and mites.



Happy Gardening
Rose Digest



Program Schedule for 2011

May - Fertilizer (PowerPoint)

June - Rose Exhibition (Staunton Mall)

July - Covered dish picnic.

August - IMP of Rose Diseases (PowerPoint)

September - Rose Exhibition (Milmount Greenhouses)

October - ARS The Organization (PowerPoint)

November - Banquet



Our Rose Exhibition

We will be holding a rose exhibition at Staunton Mall on June 4th. I ask as many of our members as possible to bring roses to exhibit. We are not a judging show so your roses do not need to be perfect. We are just showing the public what we do.

You will be able to get in the mall early on Saturday morning. You will need to have your roses on the table by 10 a.m. Members may take turns during the day watching the tables and talking to people. Some of our consulting rosarians will be on hand to answer rose questions.

Your roses should be free of diseases and insects. The Society has the vases to exhibit your roses and water will be provided.

We usually pick up a new member or two at these exhibitions. The more showing we can make the better chance we will have of attracting new members.

Bring extra roses outside of what you want to exhibit. We will give people a rose for a donation to the society.



Organic vs. Chemical

By Charles Shaner - Master Rosarian

I have become a mostly organic person when it comes to my roses. There are advantages and disadvantages to both. For me, the advantages of the organics outweigh the advantages of the chemicals.

- Organics feed and build up the soil where chemicals do not.
- Organics last longer and chemicals need to be replaced more frequently.

- Chemicals go to work instantly where organics need to be broken down by the organisms in the soil.
- All chemical fertilizers are salts and salt deprives the plants of water.
- Chemical fertilizers are higher in nutrition value but many do not contain secondary or trace elements.
- Chemical sprays, as a general rule, are **NOT** environmentally friendly.
- Insects may become immune to chemical sprays if used constantly.
- Chemical sprays are faster reacting than organic.
- Organic sprays usually protect the beneficial insects.
- Empty chemical spray containers still contain a hazard if not disposed of properly.

Nature has a way of taking care of its own but man has a "better idea". That better idea has been the use of chemicals which in some cases has done severe damage to our environment. Organics take care of things more in nature's way. Instead of killing the beneficial insects, let them survive and do their job.

You can use a combination of chemicals and organics such as in feeding your roses. The chemical fertilizer will give your roses a quick start, but organics should be used also to keep the soil healthy.

Horticultural oils can be mixed with your chemical sprays in the place of a spreader sticker and will aid in the defense against fungus and many insects.



Master Rosarian

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