



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



September Meeting

The September meeting of Shenandoah Rose Society will be a rose exhibition at Staunton Mall Saturday, September 10th. Please have your roses on the table by 10 a.m. The exhibition will be available for viewing from 10 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. Remember, your roses do not need to be perfect. We just want to show the public what we do. Hopefully we will get some new members.



From The President

Shenandoah Rose Society has been around for about 24 years. I have been a member for about 20 years. Much has happened during that time. Many members have come and gone. I learned much from those members and from members we still have.

The purpose of a rose society is to promote the rose. This can be done in many ways from simply talking to people about roses to exhibitions and shows to caring for roses in public places such as rose gardens or cemeteries.

Why do we become a member of a rose society or any organization? The reasons will vary widely, but most reasons are to belong to something that is active in the community. We also belong to learn and be a part of an active organization.

Barbara and I recently became members of Staunton's Lions Club. The Lions operate a concession stand in the park on Monday and Wednesday during concerts. Age or a handicap doesn't seem to matter to these people. They are there for a cause and are having fun and fellowship together doing it. The elderly members are there working the window while one member on crutches is selling tickets for the food. You don't hear any complaints from anyone about what they are doing.

This is the type of organization I want to be a part of, one that is active in the community and lets the community recognize its work.

Shenandoah Rose Society has such an opportunity. The Staunton Lions Club would like to partner with Shenandoah Rose Society to put in a rose garden. I was approached with this project, but the question was where to put such a rose garden and would Shenandoah Rose Society be willing to work with the project?



We had no more than wondered where to put the garden than a prime place presented itself and that would be the Virginia Commonwealth Center. If you are not familiar with the Center, it is located on the hill near Western State Hospital and behind the State Police Headquarters. The Center caters to children who are disturbed, physically or sexually abused, grieving the loss of parents, or from foster homes. The children are normally there about fifteen days but some as long as a year. This would be an excellent opportunity to introduce children to roses, and some just may become a member of a rose society somewhere. There is only one of these centers in the state and it is located in Staunton.

I brought this up in the August meeting and it had support from several members and strong opposition from one. I am not ready to sit back in a rocking chair. I want to be active in the community and build Shenandoah Rose Society. If we are active in the community, people will know we are here and we will attract more members.

I ask all members to consider this opportunity and give me your feedback. This is a project that would give us community recognition. I would hope the Society would decide to team up with the Staunton Lions Club on this project. It may also bring a little sunshine to some children who need a helping hand in life.

Charles R. Shaner



The Rambling Rosarian

by Charles Shaner - Master Rosarian

It is still summer but the signs of fall are all around us. One sure sign is the birds. The geese are starting to migrate and I saw starlings forming flocks on the power lines. These are sure signs of fall.



Texas Rain Gauge

been as bad as Texas but it has required extra watering to keep the roses going. We could have used the "Texas rain gauge" during July, but now in August it is best to switch to the "Virginia

The summer has been hot and dry but relief is on the way. Here in Virginia, we have not



Virginia Rain Gauge

rain gauge" that holds the rains from hurricanes. I have been watering heavily this summer at the rate of five gallons of water per



bush per week. This has worked quite well and has kept my roses growing and blooming.

I visited my local horse farm for a truck load of that brown gold. As I unloaded it into a wheelbarrow, I put several inches of the manure in and sprinkled a handful of lime over it. I added a few more inches and another handful of lime. Finishing the wheelbarrow load I then sprinkled a handful of lime over top. As I shoveled it out and onto my

roses, the lime mixed with the manure. I learned this trick from my father while growing up on the farm. He would mulch his strawberries with sawdust and did this to "sweeten" the green sawdust. The manure



has a high content of sawdust so I have mulched, fed, and adjusted the PH all in one operation.

I have not had a weed problem from this horse manure. The stable has a huge pile of the stuff and it



has gone through the heat stage which kills many of the seeds left behind. With the weeds I do have, I use the "two finger approach" for control. I survey my rose beds daily and if a young weed has appeared, I use



two fingers to pluck it out. The sawdust most horse stables use is poplar which is safe for the horse's hooves in that it will not cause the hooves to crack.

The sawdust and manure not only mulch the beds but



also gives the roses a constant feeding. In addition, I blend my own dry rose foods and apply that mixture twice a season. I will punch three holes around each rose bush and fill the holes with the dry mix. This gets



the food down to the roots where it is needed and I don't have to pull mulch back. I burn a wood stove in the winter and apply the ashes to my rose beds

during the winter months. If you do this, place the ashes in a closed metal container for several days before sprinkling on your beds to make sure all embers are out. You don't want to set your rose beds on fire! I use a metal five gallon bucket with a lid on it.

A weekly spraying of your roses is necessary for healthy, disease- and insect-free roses. I use mainly organics and with the right combination you do not need the chemicals. I always mix two tablespoons per gallon of horticultural oil to my sprays. This helps to control fungal diseases and some insects. I also use Green Cure®, which is a fungicide and will also control some insects and is endorsed by the ARS. Every time I spray, I always add two aspirin tablets to a gallon of spray. The aspirin helps to enhance the natural immune system of the plant. With a weekly spraying using the aspirin I have found it will help to prevent Rose Rosette Disease, but you must spray weekly. Asked in a meeting if I sprayed after a rain, my answer was I spray weekly. No, I do not spray after a rain. I usually spray on Monday morning. If weather does not permit, then I will spray on Tuesday. If you can get the spray to lie on the foliage for one hour it has done its job.

Watering for me is easy. With the hot, dry weather as I mentioned earlier, I give the roses five gallons of water per week. I water Monday through Friday, giving the watering a rest on Saturday and Sunday. I use an open-ended garden hose and apply fifteen seconds of water per bush. A garden hose, depending on the water pressure you have, will put out about one gallon of water in fifteen seconds. One gallon of water is equal to about one inch of rain. If your soil drains well, the roses can take this amount of water and love it. If your soil does not drain well, you will want to cut back on the amount of water. Raised beds really help.

I do something in my roses every day if it is nothing more than a walk-through for a check on them. Care for your roses and they will reward you with beautiful blooms.



Portions of the newsletter are excerpts from Rose Petals - The Dallas Rose Society newsletter

Leaf Scorch

(Taken from the Rose Petals - The Dallas Rose Society)

Leaf scorch is a telltale sign that your roses are not getting enough water. Water is taken up by



the feeder roots and transported through the vascular system to the leaves. When the bush is not able to take up enough water, the leaf tissue furthest from the major leaf vein dies first, which is why we see the effects of dehydration first at the leaf tips at the apex of the leaf cluster. Once leaf scorch occurs and leaf tissue turns brown, you cannot revive it (i.e., turn it green again). Leaf scorch is a warning sign to determine why your bush is dehydrating and to remedy the situation. If dehydration continues, you will continue to lose leaves and potentially lose the bush.



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 (Staunton Mall)
- October - ARS The Organization (PowerPoint)
- November - Banquet



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