

# Shenandoah Rose Ramblings



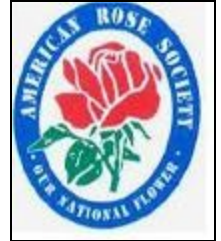
## *Shenandoah Rose Society*

A Society of the Colonial District

Chartered by the American Rose Society

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### Summer Roses

**The August seminar will be held Sunday, August 26, 4 P.M. at the home of Charles and Barbara Shaner, 93 Shaner Lane, Staunton, VA. We will look at the problems experienced during the hot summer weather and problems experienced with the combination of excessive rain and heat.**

### From the President

It is amazing how time can slip up on you. Yesterday I realized it was the 11th of August and I should have already had the newsletter out. It has been a busy month. I had to have surgery for cancer on my arm at the VA. They said they got it all.

Triennial elections were held for the ARS officers. I was elected Regional Director for Region 2 of the ARS and Ray Shipley will be the new District Director for the Colonial District. Diane Sommers will be the new Vice President of the ARS with Bob Martin as President. I will continue as president of Shenandoah Rose Society.

I have sent a message to our new District Director that I would be willing to fill the Membership Chair for the next three years. This is something I want to work hard on both on a local and district level. It is not only the responsibility of one person to build membership but that of everyone in the rose society. You are an ambassador of the rose.

I was very pleased with the attendance last month. It was the best we have had in several years. I hope I can come up with interesting programs to continue the good attendance.

The District meeting and show is coming up in September. I have made my reservations and plan to take roses to show. I am not sure what there will be in the way of seminars as I have not seen a schedule. The fall is usually designed toward the show. This is a good time to look at many different roses and decide what you want to add to your garden next spring.

Rose catalogues for 2019 will be coming out in the next couple of months. I usually place an order for delivery in the early spring for new varieties. You can also search on line for rose suppliers. Locally roses may be purchased from Milmount Greenhouses or Waynesboro garden center. I have a tendency to stay away from the discount stores. They are usually older varieties and many times named wrong. Packaged roses are definitely a no, no to purchase. Boxed roses are good but do not go by the planting instructions. Take them out of the box and treat them as a bare root rose.

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*Charles R. Shaner*

# Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

## The Rambling Rosarian

by Charles Shaner

It has been a long time since I can remember a summer with the rain we are having this year. I believe I was about 10 years old at the time. I am having to mow grass twice a week. It is either that or bail hay.



I have got the deer problem solved. I installed an electric fence around the back yard and the deer have not bothered my roses since. Installed properly they will work and keep the deer out. It doesn't take a large controller to do the job. I use a small solar powered unit. After I got the fence up and working I checked the voltage at the longest distance from the controller and had 119 volts on it. It is not the voltage that is dangerous. It is the amperage. The electric fence is all voltage and no amperage. This is actually a low voltage unit. The farmer next to me uses one for his cattle that produces 3000 volts. If you really want to get nasty with the deer you can smear a little peanut



butter on a piece of aluminum foil and hang it on the electric fence. Deer love peanut butter and they will stick their tongue on it. SHOCKING!

Japanese Beetle should soon be leaving us. I do not have as many as last year. That may be because I put down the Milky Spore last summer. I should have even less nest year. I sprayed this morning and, later in the day I noticed many dead beetles as I was doing dead heading.

People seem to be very worried about the sprays harming the bees. If you spray real early in the morning, just after day break, the bees are not active and you will not harm them. I try to spray early on Sunday mornings.

I am feeding my roses twice a week with the brew from the barrel I have set up. I add a tablespoon per gallon of a liquid feed (something equal to Miracle Gro) to the mix. Twice a month I add in a tablespoon per gallon of Epsom Salts. I put 16 oz. of this per plant. The brew in the barrel is alfalfa meal and fish meal fermented in water. Oh, and each time I refill the barrel I add in a can of beer. Yes, beer. I want happy roses!

Roses do need to be deadheaded. This encourages new growth and better repeat blooms. You usually need to deadhead once or twice a week depending on the number of bushes you have. For me it is twice a week. I do not go with the old idea of counting the leaf clusters to prune. Every leaf axle has a bud eye capable of producing new growth. The rule of thumb I have found, the lower you cut on the cane the longer the new growth will be and the larger the bloom. The higher you cut the shorter the new growth and smaller the bloom. Always make your cut 1/4 inches above a leaf axle and on a 45 degree angle.

Roses are not like one woman told me years ago. She said she though all you did was stick them in the ground and forget them. Learning how to care for them is the key. The more you learn the better roses you can grow. You also learn how to make it easier and less time consuming.

# Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

## Late Summer Care

by Charles Shaner

We have had plenty of rain this season. I think I have had to water twice the entire summer. It looks like the rain is going to continue so you won't need to water unless we go without rain for over a week.

Spraying has been a problem because of all the rain. I try to spray early in the morning about daybreak and I spray once a week. Many are worried about the sprays harming the bees. If you spray early in the morning, and I mean as the sun is coming up, the bees are not active and there is less chance of the bees being harmed. With the rains, if you can get the spray to lay on the foliage for one hour the spray has done its job.

Spraying for Japanese beetle seems to be useless. You spray and a day or two later the beetles are back. Lowe's has a small 1/2 gallon pump up sprayer, very inexpensive, I use it to go around and just hit the blooms and new foliage under the blooms. This is what the beetles go for and it helps to keep them knocked down. I highly recommend using the Milky Spore. Do not be disappointed with it the year after you apply it because it takes about three years for it to reach full potential.

Deadheading is an important function. The rose blooms and then tries to form hips. That is the natural cycle of the rose. Deadheading restarts that cycle by encouraging the rose to send up new growth for a new bloom.

The normal bloom cycle on the average is 45 days. Some varieties are a little faster and a few a little slower. This is how we know when to prune a bush to produce blooms for a show. You count back 45 days from the show date and prune your roses. You will have fresh blooms for the show.



Feeding is important. Roses have a huge hunger and love to be fed. I feed my rose twice a week. Most know I "brew" my own rose foods. With 190 bushes this is the way to go. I probably spend less money on rose foods than anyone. It is a brewed tea combination of alfalfa meal and fish meal with Mericle Gro and Epsom Salts mixed in. When I refill the barrel with water I always add in a can of beer. It helps in the fermentation process. I give 16 oz. of this per bush twice a week. The mulch I use also feeds the roses as it is a combination of 80% poplar saw dust and 20% horse manure.

If anyone wants a complete breakdown of the process for making the tea I will be glad to share it with you. It is actually very simple, easy and inexpensive. It produces a product the roses love.



### Master Rosarians

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