

Shenandoah Rose Ramblings



Shenandoah Rose Society

A Society of the Colonial District
Chartered by the American Rose Society

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August 2013



August Meeting

The August meeting of Shenandoah Rose Society will be held Thursday, August 15, at 6 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church. The program will be "General Rose Care".



From the President

If you missed the picnic, you missed some good fellowship and good food. The weather cooled off just enough to allow for a look at the roses and a breeze in my carport made for a pleasant place to eat.

We will have a few items to discuss at our meeting in August. Capt. Eddy Krauss, our District Director, has informed me he is looking to us to host the Pre-Spring 2014. He has been unable to get another society to take it. The fall meeting and show for 2014 will be in Richmond. I will be going to the fall meeting in Martinsville (since I am the Vice Director) and will be conducting the business meeting as Capt. Eddy will be on a trip to Russia.



I am having trouble concentrating on what to write for watching hummingbirds outside my window on the butterfly bush. I have three visiting it regularly and one is the smallest in North America. When we first saw it we thought it was a bumble bee but looking closer we noticed it didn't act like a bumble bee. It was a hummingbird. I just wonder what the size this little bird's eggs would be. I can't even imagine! He is the brown spot just right of center.

Charles R. Shaner



Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

It seems like we are always talking about the weather conditions and the difficulties it generates in growing roses. This year is not different. We have had an over-abundance of rain in some areas and the conditions in my area are getting a little dry. Just 9 miles away there has been more rain. Then there has been the heat. The temperatures were in the 90s for over a week and in the 70s at night.

Learning to cope with ever-changing weather conditions is what we must accomplish to grow good roses. Watering has not been a priority with the abundance of rain. Even with all the rain I have had very little problem with blackspot or downy mildew. I have been doing regular spraying when the weather permits.
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Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

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I have always heard if you can get the spray to lay on the foliage for an hour it has done its job.

A stepped-up feeding program has provided good results. I am always looking for ways to grow better roses with less expense and ease of work. There are as many feeding programs as there are rosarians and no one can say one is better than the other. It is a matter of finding something that works for you and your growing conditions. You have read many times about my liquid feeding barrel and I keep adding to my formula and getting better results.

There are many organic items you may use in the liquid feed or “tea” barrel. My barrel is a 65-gallon capacity. I filled it with water and added in the ingredients to make the tea. I started out with Jobe’s Organic Plant Food which worked very well. Later I added in fish emulsion and this gave it a little more kick. This year I had some fish in the freezer we caught at Nag’s Head a few years ago which we were not going to eat. I ground them up and in the barrel they went. At this point my recipe was achieving a quite pungent odor.



Now, if this wasn’t enough, I went to the Farm Bureau and purchased a bag of alfalfa meal. This has kicked the fragrance way up! I apply 16 ounces of this tea to each rose plant twice a week. I also add in one tablespoon of Miracle-Gro per gallon. Every two weeks on one feeding I also add in one tablespoon of Epsom salts. After each feeding I will refill the barrel with water and add a 16-ounce cup of alfalfa meal. Once per month I add in a bag of the Jobe’s Organic Plant Food and a quart bottle of fish emulsion.

I have the best roses I have grown in years! My foliage looks like it has been waxed. I am getting longer canes and better blooms. It is amazing how something which smells so bad can grow something that smells so good.

This has greatly reduced my cost of feeding my roses. A 40-pound bag of alfalfa meal costs \$19, the Jobe’s is \$4.95, the quart of fish emulsion \$8.95, and the barrel was FREE! You can see it is costing me less than \$20 per month to feed 150 roses. It takes 15 gallons of the tea for one feeding, so the mixture gets more potent with each feeding. I leave the barrel up all winter and it is ready to go first thing in the spring.

As with any feeding program, you need to keep a watch on your pH. If you don’t have rain, watering is still a must. With the feeding program the roses are getting a quart of liquid per week which is concentrated food with a lot of bacteria. The bacteria is needed to break down nutrients in the soil which can be taken up by the plant. The alfalfa tea provided many minerals and vitamins the plants need along with a growth hormone which helps the plants produce new canes, shiny foliage, and better flowers. When I added the alfalfa meal, I could tell the difference within a week.

Develop a program which works for you and fits your conditions. A good feeding program will reward you with beautiful roses. The barrel like I am using is great if you can get around the smell.

Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

District Meeting

Reigning Roses

Very soon, you will have the opportunity to join rosarian friends for a perfect weekend at Collinsville's Dutch Inn. The talking about roses, sharing growing information, and showing the beauties from your garden will fill events as "perfect as a picture". With classes planned for almost any presentation of a rose, five Royal Families will be crowned; District trophies and a rotating ARS bowl will be cherished; and student designs will be, as always, deeply appreciated. However, the real gold, silver, and bronze awards will be granted to the nonfading memories of the fellowship.

Please save the dates of September 13-15 for the 2013 District conference and rose show with all events in one place. Come to southside Virginia with buckets of roses! The Collinsville area is a beautiful, scenic place. Stay a week, follow the old wagon road, research your family heritage at the acclaimed Bassett Heritage Foundation, visit the Virginia Museum of Natural History, hunt for Fairy Stones, travel the Blue Ridge Parkway, rest a bit, and then attend the ARS National Miniature Show in Winston-Salem, NC, on September 21. Only 55 miles to the south, the "Mini Magic" show will cap a regal week.

Printed in this copy of the *Rose Ramblings* are the registration form, rules for the MS Hershey Trophy, a planning chart for the District and National challenge classes, and the rules for the photography division. The District website will have a link for each of these items, and in mid-August the actual schedule (booklet of classes and events) will be added. Please print these and share with your society.

The Patrick Henry Rose Society welcomes you to the fall conference and rose show at the Collinsville Quality Inn - Dutch Inn:

Reigning Roses...lovely as a picture!



Master Rosarian

Charles Shaner	Staunton , VA	540-294-2875
Meredith Yeago	Waynesboro , VA	540-943-7874

SRS Consulting Rosarians

Raymond Shipley	Lavale, MD	301-729-8271
Al Minutolo	Crozet , VA	434-823-1092
John Huddle	Waynesboro, VA	540-943-2229

66th Annual Colonial District Conference and Rose Show
38th Annual Patrick Henry Rose Society Show

"Reigning Roses"

13-15 September 2013

Quality Inn – Dutch Inn Hotel and Convention Center
1360 Virginia Avenue, Collinsville, VA 24078

Reservations: 276-647-3721

Come enjoy the friendship with fellow rosarians and bring your roses!!
We'll swap information and enjoy splendid roses, arrangements and photos!

Note: The rules for the ARS M.S. Hershey Bowl Trophy, District Challenge Classes and
Photography Classes are on the *Colonial Courier* website.
Plan to enter these challenges.

Name(s) as wanted on name tags _____

Address _____ phone number _____

Home Society _____ email address _____

Cost x # = Total

Three-day General Registration: \$15 x ____ = \$ _____

Add: Friday Reception heavy hors d'oeuvres: \$25 x ____ = \$ _____

Add: Saturday Awards Banquet:

Prime Rib (Medium Rare) \$25 x ____ = \$ _____

Broiled Salmon \$25 x ____ = \$ _____

Chicken Cordon Blue \$22 x ____ = \$ _____

Add: Sunday Breakfast followed by the Business Meeting:

Full Breakfast \$15 x ____ = \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED (includes gratuities) = \$ _____

Planning to exhibit (Y/N)?

Challenge Classes? ____ Arrangements? ____ Horticulture? ____ Photography? ____

General registration fee is required for all activities **except** for those individuals who are **only** exhibiting roses. This year, the rose show will also be at the hotel. Breakfasts & lunches will be on your own.

Registration checks should be made payable to Patrick Henry Rose Society /PHRS and mailed no later than Tuesday, 3 September 2013 to:

District Show, Glenn Sellers, 659 Rosewood Ave, Martinsville VA 24112

Questions: h: 276-632-6128 c: 276-340-8816 2sellers@comcast.net

A confirmation note with exhibitor number will be e-mailed to early registrations.

Room Reservation: \$59.95 per night This price does not include breakfast.

Please mention Colonial District Rose Society when contacting the hotel (phone number above). Rooms have been blocked-off and guaranteed only until Friday, August 30, 2013.... So, don't delay!!

For Other Information: Katherine Craig.... roselady2@comcast.net or 276-629-7723