

Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

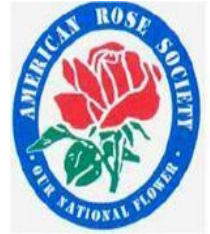


Shenandoah Rose Society

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

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October Meeting

The October meeting of Shenandoah Rose Society will be held Thursday, October 17, 7 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church. The program will be a discussion of this year's season-- what problems we encountered and what we can do to correct them.



From the President

Our rose season is coming to an end but we are still rosarians even if our roses aren't growing. We still think and talk roses.

I have enjoyed working with everyone over the past 20 plus years I have been in the Shenandoah Rose Society, and I hope that can continue for 20 plus more. I have learned much and am still learning. I had the best roses this year I have ever grown. Learning is the key to everything including growing roses. We learn by sharing with others; not only our roses, but information on growing roses. I find others are very interested in learning and sharing information.

Memberships are up for renewal and I hope everyone will do so. Being a member of the rose society gives you a perfect opportunity to learn by sharing information. Anyone can write an article for the newsletter and send it to me. I am always looking for new articles. If you have a question about roses, send it to me and I just might make a newsletter article with it. Knowing what your needs are gives me information to use in the newsletter.

Renew your membership and try sharing information!

Charles R. Shover



Time to Renew

Can you believe it has been a year? It is time again to renew your membership by paying your dues. The price of renewal has not gone up and is still \$12 for a member and spouse. You may renew at the October meeting or send it to our Treasurer, Meredith Yeago, at 2926 Hermitage Rd., Waynesboro, VA. I hope everyone will renew.

New members are always welcome. Many of you know other people who grow roses and are not in the rose society. This is a good time to see if they are interested in joining. You never know if they will if you don't ask, and if you don't ask, it's sure they won't join.

We try to have interesting and informative meetings, share information, and make our growing experience easier and more rewarding. Our treasury is in good shape but it is expensive bringing speakers in who have to travel some distance. Attend a meeting and learn more about roses.

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Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

When Barbara and I had the ice cream shop and worked 12 hours a day, 7 days a week, I didn't have much time for my roses and they suffered. I didn't grow very good roses. When we closed the ice cream shop I got a job working weekends. That left more time for my roses, but working part time didn't give much in the way of funds to purchase the items I needed to take proper care of the roses. After one summer of working like that, I moved to full time and had weekends off. But there was another problem--I was working from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Again, not much time for the roses. After a few months of that my schedule changed to 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.--a little better but still not much time. I am now working 6:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. and that is much better.

This also brought on the need for doing a better job at a lower cost. They say, "necessity is the mother of invention". That was the case here. These "high-potent, high-dollar" sprays just aren't for me and I can't afford them, so I rely on across-the-counter chemicals and some very good organics. There are also some tricks to deter or trap insects which are inexpensive and work very well. You have heard me talk about using the blue cups and STP. Neem oil works very well in the sprayer. I always use some form of horticultural oil in my sprays. A good insecticide and fungicide such as the Bayer products gives good protection. Putting down milky spore for Japanese beetles sounds expensive, but considering it lasts 10 to 15 years makes it very inexpensive.

Feeding is another item I had to invent a more efficient and inexpensive way to do. I obtained a 65-gallon plastic barrel for free. I filled it with water equipped with a siphon hose. I started out dumping in Job's organic plant food and fish emulsion. I would siphon off 15 gallons, add Miracle-Gro and give 16 ounces of this to each bush twice a week. This was good but I felt I needed to kick it up a notch, so I purchased a bag of alfalfa meal and added in a 16-ounce cup of this each time I did a feeding. That was an improvement, but I thought I could kick it up *another* notch. I purchased a bag of fish meal and I now add in a 16-ounce cup of fish meal after one feeding and then alfalfa meal after the other. Next year I plan to kick it up another notch and add in Mills Magic Mix to the tea.

Man does this mixture stink(!), but it sure does grow roses. I have the best roses this year I have ever grown. I have hybrid teas that are 6 feet tall and miniatures 4 feet tall. I have large blooms with brilliant colors, larger canes, and beautiful foliage. My roses seem to be healthier with more resistance to disease and insects. I put 15 blooms in the District show in Martinsville and came away with 1 blue ribbon, 10 red ribbons, 1 yellow, and one white. I was very pleased for there are people there I will never be able to compete with.

With these experiments, I have learned to grow better roses at less cost and time. It takes me just over 1/2 hour to feed 150 roses. As far as expense, I am caring for my roses for less than \$20 per month. I spend about 45 minutes per day in my roses--every day. There is always something to be done in the roses.

I have dazzled many people with my roses this year. I supplied Barbara's class reunion with roses and gave many away. I did it all at a low expense and didn't spend a lot of time. You can do it, too. Try it--you *will* like it.

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US EPA Announces New Pesticide Labels to Better Protect Pollinators

Submitted by Debbie Brown

On August 15, 2013, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the development of new pesticide labels that prohibit the use of some neonicotinoid pesticide products where bees are present. Many factors are involved in bee colony decline, including pesticides. The Agency action is to protect bees from pesticide exposure.

The new labels will have a bee advisory box and icon with information on routes of exposure and spray drift precautions. Affected by this change are products containing neonicotinoids, imidacloprid, dinotefuran, clothianidin, and thiamethoxam. The EPA will work with pesticide manufacturers to change labels so that they will meet the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) safety standard.

This past May, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and EPA released a comprehensive scientific report on honey bee health. The report showed a scientific consensus that a complex set of stressors are associated with bee decline, including loss of habitat, parasites and disease, genetics, poor nutrition, and pesticide exposure.

The EPA will continue to work with beekeepers, growers, pesticide applicators, pesticide and seed companies, and federal and state agencies to reduce pesticide drift dust and advance best management practices. The Agency also issued new enforcement guidance to federal, state, and tribal enforcement officials for enhancement of investigations for bee kill incidents.

Additional information on the upcoming labels changes and pollinator protection efforts can be found at: www.epa.gov/opp00001/ecosystem/pollinator/index.html



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