

# Shenandoah Rose Ramblings



## *Shenandoah Rose Society*

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

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### September Meeting

The September meeting of Shenandoah Rose Society will be held Thursday, September 19, at 7 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church. The program will be a report on the District Meeting and we will discuss winding down the season.



### From the President

We will continue! Our membership, like most other societies and organizations, has dropped over the past few years. Attendance at the meetings has dropped accordingly. The thought has crossed my mind many times that it may be time for Shenandoah Rose Society to say it was time to hang it up.

Many societies with more members and better attendance than ours have called it quits. It takes a determination and willingness of a few to keep on keeping on. We all have our priorities and there seems to be many. I can remember when we didn't have all the ball games, school activities, and various other things which occupy our time. Stores were closed on Sundays and people went to church and had family time afterwards. Am I telling my age? Most of you should remember for we do not have many "young people" stepping up to fill the gaps. They are all too busy going in other directions.

I, for one, enjoy growing roses and learning more about rose culture. I continue to learn every time I meet other rose people. Rose growing is changing and we need to change with it. New techniques are being introduced and the trend is toward organic gardening. We must keep up with the trend and learn the new.

We will continue!

*Charles R. Shaner*



### District Meetings

Charles Shaner—Vice Director, Colonial District

I will be attending the District fall meeting and show hosted by Patrick Henry Rose Society September 13-15 in Collinsville, VA. Our District Director, Capt. Eddy Krauss, is out of the country and I will be conducting the meeting. I need the faith and blessing of the members to do a good job.

I want to thank Shenandoah Rose Society for sponsoring me in this weekend. If it weren't for your backing and that of Patrick Henry Rose Society I would not be able to make this trip or be able to do my duties for this weekend.

Registration for the weekend is going slow but I know the Colonial District and many registrations will come in at the last minute. We will have a good weekend and a good show.

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# Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

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## Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

I have the best roses this year I have ever grown. This may be due to the dedication I have given them this season in care. I go to the District shows and see the roses many have grown and wonder why I could never compete with them. I always thought I was not in their league.

I soon learned if you want to grow roses like that it takes some strong dedication. I never thought I could get in that league because I didn't have the finances to buy the sprays and rose foods these people use. They say "necessity is the mother of invention" and that is true. I learned how to feed roses with very little expense. Sprays are trending toward organics and there are many you can make yourself from items in the kitchen pantry.

It has been said, "If you want to grow a beautiful rose, you first must shovel a lot of manure," If you don't have a lot of manure you must improvise. This can be done very easily. Plastic barrels are easy to come by. Many factories get chemicals and other liquid products in them and will sometimes give them away or sell them at a very low price. I have a 65-gallon barrel which I filled with water and added in Jobe's organic dry plant food. This can also be done with Mills Magic Mix. I also add alfalfa meal and fish meal. I had some fish in the freezer we weren't going to eat so I ground them up and put them in—bones and all. I do not make a bag or sock to put the dry ingredients in. I just dump in a 16-ounce cup of alfalfa meal one feeding and the fish meal the other. I add in the Jobe's once a month. I set up a siphon hose in the barrel and draw off a 5 gallon bucket of this "stinky" stuff and add in a tablespoon of Miracle-Gro per gallon and a tablespoon of Epsom's salt per gallon. I apply a 16-ounce cup of this to each plant twice a week. The roses love it!

When I helped my father clean out the barn or chicken houses he would say, "You look at that stuff and say how bad it looks and it smells even worse. You put it on the fields and it makes the grass grow. You cut the grass and feed it to the cow, then you butcher the cow and say how good it tastes." That is the way it is with this mixture. How could something that looks horrible and smells so bad grow such a beautiful rose that smells so good? It is inexpensive and really works.

For spraying, I am still using many chemicals but those across the counter. The patent on many sprays have expired and they are going generic. A good example is RoundUp. You can now purchase the generic version for about 1/4 the cost of the original.

The trend is going to organics and there are more and more hitting the market. Neem oil is a good one and has been around for a long time. You can take garlic, grind it, soak it in water, run it through a coffee filter, add this tea to your Neem oil or any horticultural oil and it makes a good spray, especially for aphids. The oils will also keep blackspot and powdery mildew at bay. Beneficial insects such as ladybugs are a necessity in an organic garden.

I walk through my roses every day and do finger pruning and pulling weeds. I mulch my roses with manure and sawdust from a nearby horse barn. I spray them once a week. Using tiki torches filled with ammonia will keep deer away. Blue cups coated with STP oil treatment will trap thrips.

I was asked what to do for stink bugs. Stink bugs will become immune to sprays with almost one spraying. The best thing to do is fill a cup about half full of water and add a few drops of dish detergent. Hand pick the bugs and drop them in. They will only last about one minute. This will also work for Japanese beetles.

Learning new methods, saving costs and growing better roses is what it is all about. Attend meetings, learn from others, protect the environment, and share your experiences—what works and what doesn't.

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## Diary of a Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

August 1—Finger pruned my roses. Gave them a feeding from my barrel. How can something that smells so bad grow something that smells so good? The District show is coming up in six weeks. Hope I have something good. Added alfalfa meal and Jobe's organic to the barrel.

August 2—It's Friday. Watered my roses. Haven't had much rain recently. Finger pruned.

August 3—Deadheaded. Finger pruning is an every day job but it doesn't take long.

August 4—It's Sunday. Up early and spray my roses. Always add 1 tablespoon of oil to my spray and 2 aspirin per gallon of spray. Sprayed with Ortho's Orthenex. Little to no blackspot, powdery mildew, or downy mildew this year. See a few aphids but my ladybugs will take care of them. Weekly spraying is very important. Finger pruned in the evening. Aphids are mainly dead after morning spraying.

August 5—Finger pruned and organic weed control--2 fingers grab and pull. Gave a feeding from my barrel. Added in alfalfa meal.

August 6—Watered, deadheaded, finger pruned, and pulled weeds. Set 3 cuttings for rooting.

August 7—Walked through the roses, finger pruned, set 1 cutting for rooting.

August 8—Finger pruning is an every day chore if you are preparing for a show. Looks like there may be some rain.

August 9—Gave a feeding, finger pruned and pulled a few weeds. No rain.

August 10—Finger pruned and pulled some weeds. 3/10 inch of rain.

August 11—4/10 inch rain overnight. Finger pruned, deadheaded and pulled weeds. Set 3 cuttings for rooting.

August 12—Gave a feeding from my barrel, finger pruned and pulled some weeds.

August 13—Dead headed, finger pruned, set 2 cuttings for rooting, pulled some weeds.

August 14—Finger pruned, set one cutting for rooting.

August 15—Finger pruned, sprayed using oil, aspirin, and Orthenex, feeding from my barrel

August 16—Feeding from my barrel, finger pruned

August 17—Watered, sprayed RoundUp around the edges of rose beds.

August 18—Rained 1.3 inches, cut a vase of roses.

August 19—Fed from my barrel, deadheaded and finger pruned. Pulled a few weeds.

August 20—Finger pruned, seeing a few aphids.

August 21—Finger pruned, pulled some weeds.

August 22—Finger pruned, sprayed with Orthenex, oil and aspirin. Rained an hour after spraying.

August 23—1/2 inch rain. A walk through with some finger pruning. Very wet!

August 24—A feeding from my barrel, pulled a few weeds and a little finger pruning. Very few aphids.

August 25—Deadheaded and finger pruned, seeing more aphids--may have to spray again after the rain.

August 26—Finger pruning, pulled a few weeds. Some aphids and a couple of stink bugs.

August 27—A feeding from my barrel, finger pruned and pulled a few weeds.

August 28—0.6 inches rain still raining, finger pruned

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August 29—Finger pruned, pulled some weeds

August 30—Finger pruned, pulled some weeds, seeing some aphids, deadheaded

August 31—Finger pruned, pulled some weeds, sprayed with oil and Orthenex

Man, what a month! Trying to get roses ready for a show and fighting the elements and insects; cool one day and hot the next. I sprayed, pruned, deadheaded, finger pruned, fed, pulled weeds, and walked through over and over again. Hope it will all be worth it. Now that my month is done I think it is time for a nap.



### Annual Rose Exhibition

Normally, we have a rose exhibition every September. I am sorry to say I have to cancel our exhibition for this year. I have been unable to find a suitable location. The Staunton Mall (where we usually hold the exhibition) is in such turmoil I cannot get an answer from them. I have checked other public locations but they do not have space for us unless we hold it outside on the parking lot. That just won't work. Maybe next year will be better.



#### 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