

# Shenandoah Rose Ramblings



## *Shenandoah Rose Society*

A Society of the Colonial District

Chartered by the American Rose Society

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### August Meeting

The August meeting of Shenandoah Rose Society will be the annual picnic Thursday, August 21, 7 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church. The program will be "How to Show Roses". If you wish, you can bring a rose of your own and experiment with grooming for a show.



### From the President

The fall season is going to be a busy one for me. I will be going to Roanoke the first Sunday of September to give a talk to the Roanoke Rose Society. I am planning a rose exhibition for us in September. I am still looking into the location and the time. The first weekend in October is the District meeting in Richmond.

Mid-October I will be traveling to Tyler, Texas, for the ARS Board of Directors meeting. I will be flying down on Wednesday, Board meeting on Thursday, and flying back home on Friday. I have my plane tickets and motel reservations. The District has been gracious enough to give me some funding for the trip.

This will be an entirely new experience for me. I have served on the Board of Directors for other organizations before but this is different. The others have been local people but this is rose people from all over the nation. I am looking forward to it in one aspect and wondering what I am in for in another. New experiences usually give you this mixed feeling.

Yes, it will be a busy fall but it should provide me with new ideas and insight for both the Society and the District. It is a reminder that we are not by ourselves in the rose community. There is a much bigger world to explore, ideas to share, and information to bring home. I am thankful to the many people who have made these experiences available to me. Hopefully, I can fulfill the obligations as they should be fulfilled.

With the help of many we will grow and become stronger and explore the world of roses as we never have before.

*Charles R. Shover*



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It takes dedication, love and a little work to grow a beautiful rose but knowing how to shovel the manure will put on the finishing touches.

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## Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

I have heard it said the only way to get rid of wire grass is to move! My problem is if I move the wire grass follows. It is a tough battle but it can be won. RoundUp will do the job but you have to keep after it. One spraying just won't do the job. The rose bed where we planted the roses at Christ Lutheran Church has been invaded with wire grass. It was sprayed for the fourth time recently and it appears we are getting the upper hand.

The patent on RoundUp expired several years ago. The patents are only good for 20 years and then can't be renewed. There are generic versions on the market at a much lower price which are exactly the same chemical. I purchased a product called *Ultra Kill* from Lowe's which is the same chemical and about \$5.00 per quart less money. It is a heavier concentrate than RoundUp so you use less. In the long run the Ultra Kill is about 1/4 the price of RoundUp.

You can also "kick it up a notch" and it will give you a faster and better kill. When you mix the spray add in 2 tablespoons per gallon of horticultural oil and 3 tablespoons per gallon of Epsom salts. I tried it and it really works. It kicked the kill time up by about a week.

The summer is giving us a mixed bag. We have had hot, cool, wet, and dry. We have had to shift gears so many times if it were a truck we would have transmission problems. The conditions will vary from one neighborhood to another. I have left work in Stuarts Draft with a dry road, ran into rain on the way home, and no rain at home. It's only a nine-mile trip. The plant where I work sits almost at the foot of the mountain and I have watched it pour rain on the mountain and get none at the plant. I have watched it pour in the cameras on the back side of the plant and nothing on the front side.

With these conditions you can't go by a weather forecast or a scientific approach. It takes some good common sense to know what to do and when. It rained yesterday so I will spray this morning. Well, it rained again this afternoon, so what about the spray I applied? If the spray was on the foliage for one hour it did the job. If it hasn't rained for several days you may need to water. I get ready to spray and the wind is blowing.

This season it is not a matter of picking a time that suits me but a time that suits Mother Nature. I have not had a big problem with insects in general this year. I have had just a little touch of blackspot on a few roses that are more susceptible but nothing major. I did not have much in the way of aphids, but at the same time I have ladybugs everywhere. They take care of the aphids.

I have been feeding regularly with my liquid tea. I have spoken many times about this tea and it is the best and most inexpensive method I have found of feeding my roses. It's a little smelly but it works. As is said, "bad for the nose, good for the rose". You may not want to try this if you live in the city in a heavily-populated area. The neighbors may complain of a sewer leak! Something that smells so bad can grow a rose that smells so good.

With the cool nights we are having you may be having a little powdery mildew. I have noticed just a few spots on a couple of roses. Weekly spraying with a good fungicide will take care of this. I have also noticed just a little downy mildew on a couple of bushes. This also requires diligent spraying with Mancozeb to take care of it.

I have found it difficult to find a time to spray this season. It seems we either have rain or the wind is blowing. The best time is very early in the morning when wind conditions are usually at their lowest. This will also give the spray time to dry before the sun gets hot and the spray is less likely to burn.



## Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

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### *It's a "Rose Festival"*

Richmond has been working hard to plan a wonderful Fall District Meeting and Show on October 3-5, 2014, and we invite all to come and enjoy the fellowship and roses! We are very fortunate that our Show will again be held at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. During the judging there is plenty to do at Lewis Ginter. The gardens continue to grow in beauty and variety. The rose garden should be in good bloom. Don't miss the special exhibit, "Butterflies Live," in the Conservatory. It is a fascinating exhibit that you will enjoy. The gardens also have a large children's area with a huge fort, planting area, and much more. Even adults can enjoy it! Lewis Ginter also has a gift shop with many unique items and a Garden Cafe and a Tea Room restaurant. Relax and enjoy a beautiful place. Remember to bring your ARS membership card! It will give you free admission. There is no charge to only exhibit in the show.

We have made hotel arrangements with the Westin Hotel, 6631 W. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23230, a AAA 4-star hotel. They have given us a rate of \$100 per night (plus 13.5% tax). Note there is a 3:00 p.m. check-out on Sunday. Book your room by September 19 to obtain the special rate. For reservations, call 1-888-627-7786, reference: Richmond Rose Society.

Our social functions will be at the hotel. Friday evening's social will include a cash bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres. We have invited David Pike, CEO of Witherspoon Roses, to join us. His topic is "Five Essentials for Growing Roses". We will have a Silent Auction and Raffle. Saturday evening will begin with a social hour followed by a plated dinner banquet. Our speaker will be Lisa Chapman, horticulture director of Lewis Ginter.

The Colonial District business meeting will be held at 9:30 at Lewis Ginter. If you are interested in becoming a Consulting Rosarian, the class will be held following the meeting. For information on the CR School, please contact Ray Shipley at [navybng@atlanticbb.net](mailto:navybng@atlanticbb.net) or 301-729-8201.

Look in your *Courier* for a Schedule of Events and a Registration Form, or tap into the Colonial District's website to find the same. We invite you to come to the "Rose Festival!"

For further information, contact Don Penzler @ 804-360-9863 or 876-3140.



For further information, contact Don or Carol Fox @ 804-

## Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

### Praise the Lord and Pass the Soapy Water!

By Charles Shaner

They are here in force! They are eating everything in sight and it is their mating season. You guessed it—those pesky Japanese beetles. I know I wrote an article on them in the last newsletter but they are more plentiful this year than in the past several years.



I have always said you could predict the numbers according to the weather from the past summer and winter. Usually, if the summer is hot and dry followed by a cold winter the beetle population will be light. Our winter was hard on plants but the ground didn't really freeze so the grubs survived. This led to a heavier-than-normal beetle invasion. I put down Milky Spore a few years ago and it helped the first few years. The only problem with Milky Spore is that it is designed to kill the beetle grubs that it needs to remain active!

I tried spraying and did notice a few dead beetles. The problem with spraying is the beetle needs to eat for the insecticide to kill him and we don't want him eating. By the time he dies he has destroyed a bloom. I not only see them on the blooms but they are eating the foliage this year as well.

I have started hand picking them. Get a can or bottle with a wide top and fill it about half way with water and add in a few drops of dish detergent. Drop the beetles in and they will only last a few seconds. Baptizing beetles is the sure way to get rid of them. When I first started doing this around the first of August, by the time I made it through my 150 bushes it was time to start again. Once you initially get the population knocked down you may be able to only go over your roses three to four times a day. I find the infestation heavier from about mid-afternoon until about 8 in the evening with very few in the morning hours.

Around the first of August is also their mating season. If you can prevent them from getting back in the ground to lay their eggs, you have a start on next season. Breaking the life cycle is the best way to fight them.

There are many favorite ways of fighting Japanese beetles, but the soapy water seems to be the one where you are sure you have gotten rid of at least a few of the. Baptize the beetles! So, "Praise the Lord and pass the soapy water!"



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