

# Shenandoah Rose Ramblings



## *Shenandoah Rose Society*

A Society of the Colonial District

Chartered by the American Rose Society

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### July Meeting

The July meeting of Shenandoah Rose Society will be the annual picnic Sunday July 19, 5 P.M. at the home of Charles and Barbara Shaner, 93 Shaner Lane, Staunton, VA. This will be a covered dish. Meat and drink will be furnished.



### From the President

As every year I enjoyed the rose days at Milmount Greenhouses in Stuarts Draft. I gave three seminars during the day. People were carrying flowers, plants and roses out in literally truck loads. There was a display of David Austin roses which, by the time I left, was just about cleaned. I gave out about six membership applications of which only one was returned.

We must keep working on building our membership. When you talk to people mention you grow roses for a hobby. Talk to them about joining the rose society. It is surprising how many people I talk to who do not know such a thing as a rose society exists. That tells me we have missed our calling in promoting the rose--our National Floral Emblem.

We have the Colonial District Fall meeting and show coming up the weekend of October 3-5 in Richmond. It would be nice to have a good showing from the Shenandoah Rose Society.

The ARS fall convention is also in October. I plan to travel to Tyler, TX for the ARS Board of Directors meeting. As District Director I am on the ARS Board. I can't afford to stay for all the activities but I plan to fly down one day, attend the board meeting the next, and fly back home on the third day.

I also will be going to Roanoke later this summer to give a program to the Roanoke Rose Society. It will be busy times but somewhere in there perhaps I can find something that will benefit Shenandoah Rose Society

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*Charles R. Shaner*



Water, fertilizer, good soil and sunlight are the elements needed to grow a beautiful rose, but only the love of the rose and dedication can bring it all together.

# Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

## Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

They are here! Those pesky Japanese beetles. I have seen just a few over the past couple of weeks. These little devils will be with us for the next six weeks. They are hungry with a huge appetite. They will ruin your best bloom before you realize they are there.



It seems everyone has their own way of combating these little pests and some work while some don't. Spraying seems to be a very temporary remedy only lasting for a day or two. In the early years when the beetles first made an appearance in our area the beetle traps were popular. The only problem is that in order to trap the beetles you first had to attract them. You were bringing them into the area where you didn't want them. As we say, the best place for a beetle trap is in your neighbor's yard.

Many people will go out several times a day and hand pick them. This originally started by dropping them into a can half-filled with gasoline or kerosene but this wasn't practical because of the hazard factor. This soon changed to a can half-filled with water with a few drops of dish detergent. It works just about as well as the gasoline.

Some 10 years ago I had such an infestation that I broke down and used Sevin dust on my roses. I got rid of the beetles but developed another problem. The Sevin also kills your beneficial insects like ladybugs. For the next few years I had aphids I could not control because the Sevin killed all my ladybugs. I was at the garden center early one spring and they had a bag of ladybugs for sale and I bought a bag and turned them loose in my garden. The end of the aphid problem.



I learned a few years ago about the use of red geraniums. The red geranium is poison to the Japanese beetle. It doesn't actually kill them right away. The way it works is the beetle will take a bite of the red geranium and it will paralyze the beetle for eight hours. It will fall to the ground and in eight hours it wakes up, goes up and takes another bite and the process starts all over again. The beetle actually starves itself to death by eating. Only the red geranium works.

It took several years of literally beating me over the head with the proverbial 2 x 4 to get me to try Milky Spore. My main turn off in trying it was the expense, and the initial expense seems a little high. Milky Spore is produced by St. Gabriel's Labs in Orange, Virginia. They will go out to the sod farms and gather up the grubs as the sod is rolled up. The grubs are taken back to Orange where they are injected by hand with Milky Spore virus. They are then put into an incubator where they turn milky white and die. They are then dehydrated and ground into a powder which is the Milky Spore you buy.



The application is easy and safe. You purchase a reusable applicator tube which looks like a giant salt shaker and place the Milky Spore in it. You walk back and forth across the yard giving the tube a shake every four feet. The grubs in the ground become infected, turn milky white, and die. This produces more Milky Spore and spreads it in the ground.

As I said, the initial application sounds expensive but you have to consider one application will last ten to fifteen years. Now it doesn't sound so expensive. The beetles I have been seeing the past few years have been very few. Milky Spore works and is well worth the expense.

## 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 St., 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.

Elsewhere in the Courier you will find a Schedule of Events and a Registration Form. We invite you to come to the "Rose Festival!"

For further information, contact: Don Penzler 804-360-9863; or Carol Fox 804-876-3140



From the Lewis Ginter website

# Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

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## What Does The Future Hold?

By Charles Shaner

This is a question we can ask over and over again. In the time I have been growing roses I have seen many changes, some good and some bad. I can remember the number of nurseries that have fallen over the years. Many of them I purchased roses from. There aren't that many left.

I have seen new rose societies spring up and then fail. I know of some societies which are hanging by a thread and trying to decide whether to fold or try to keep going. Our sister society in Charlottesville ceased about 2002 and folded into Shenandoah. There have been others in the Colonial District and across the nation. The membership of the ARS was once around 30,000 and is now just above 7,000. Many of the people I became good friends with in the District are no longer with us. Others are at the age they can no longer travel to meetings. This says the average age of membership is increasing and new blood is not stepping up. Where do we go from here?

I don't mean to be the "Grim Reaper" with this but these are just the facts. If you are not a member of the ARS, I would ask you to please consider joining. The future of an organized rose society depends on membership.

Some say the ARS has failed us but I believe we have failed the ARS. The directive of the ARS and societies alike is to promote the rose. To educate our members, the public and the youth in rose culture. I talk roses to virtually everyone I meet. I am looking for potential members. It doesn't take much effort or energy to bring up in a conversation that your hobby is growing roses. You may find the person you are talking to likes roses and would like to know more about caring for them. That is a potential new member.

We need to cultivate our members as we cultivate our roses. Likewise, our members need to cultivate the society and the ARS. It is a two-way street. It is not only, "What can the society or the ARS do for me?" but also, "What can I do for the society or the ARS?". The ARS provides us with good educational materials mostly at no cost. The only thing you have to do is be an ARS member. For the society it is to be a member and help with activities as you are able.

Without members it will all wither and die. Your help is simple and not physically challenging. Just simply talk roses to people. Let them know that a rose society and the ARS exist and are there to help them grow better roses. Give them an addictive hobby that will grow, bloom and bring pleasure.



### Master Rosarians

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