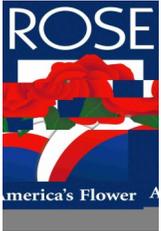


Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

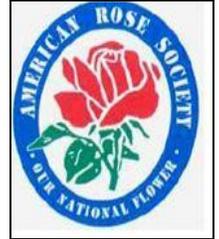


Shenandoah Rose Society

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

Volume 17, No. 8

September 2015



September Meeting

The September meeting of the Shenandoah Rose Society will be held Sunday, September 20th, 2 P.M. at the home of Charles and Barbara Shaner, 93 Shaner Lane, Staunton. The meeting will be "Rosy Fall Care".



From the President

I was going to build?

We are winding down our rose year. I can not believe the summer is almost gone. It seems that the kids are starting school earlier every year. What happened to that new rose bed

The summer is almost gone and that means it is about time for the fall District meeting and show. This year it is in Virginia Beach hosted by the Tidewater and Virginia Peninsula Rose Societies. It is being held October 8th—10th and there is still time to register. Registration forms may be found on the District website www.colonialdistrictroses.org or contact me and I will get you one. There will also be a CR school and recertification there. If you are not a CR and would like to become one let me know and I will get you started with the paperwork. If you are a CR you may recertify at the fall meeting.

I will not make it to Syracuse because of work commitments. I was looking forward to going but it would require missing three days of work and being short staffed it just is not possible.

We would normally have our Rose Exhibition in September but that will be set aside again this year due to lack of help and a good location to have it. Hopefully we can get back to it next year.

The Knock Out roses we planted at Christ Lutheran Church are doing wonderful. All of the bushes survived and are now triple the size from when we planted them if not larger. They have provided blooms all summer. I have had to spray Round-Up several times during the summer as weeds continue to want to grow there. The deer seem to be leaving them alone.

Charles R. Shaner

The rose is native to the United States. The oldest fossilized imprint of the rose was left on a slate deposit found in Florissant, Colorado, and is estimated to be 35 million years old. It is therefore fitting that President Ronald Reagan signed legislation in 1987 that made the rose the United State's National Floral Emblem.

Inside this issue:

From the President	1
Rambling Rosarian	2
To Do or Not To Do	3
Master Rosarians	3
Consulting Rosarians	3

Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner



The wheel bug, in the family Reduviidae, is one of the largest terrestrial true bugs in North America, being up to 1.5 inches in length. A characteristic structure is the wheel-shaped pronotal armor. They are predators upon soft-bodied insects such as caterpillars, Japanese beetles, etc., which they pierce with their beak to inject salivary fluids that dissolve soft tissue. Because most of their prey are pests, wheel bugs are considered as beneficial to the garden as ladybugs. They are also known for eating stinkbugs. While Wheel Bugs are not aggressive toward humans, they should be handled with caution as they are capable of inflicting a painful bite. I have not seen one of these but its good to know we now have a predator to the Japanese Beetle and Stink Bug. The Wheel Bug occurs primarily in the eastern and central U.S., but populations occur as far west as California and into Central America. The

Wheel Bug's odor--which is produced by orange-red scent sacs that it everts from its anus, especially when disturbed--isn't as potent as that given off by its cousin the Stink Bug, but the aroma is still strong enough to make an impression on a potential predator. The Wheel Bug's odor--which is produced by orange-red scent sacs that it everts from its anus, especially when disturbed--isn't as potent as that given off by its cousin the Stink Bug, but the aroma is still strong enough to make an impression on a potential predator.

I had the largest infestation of Japanese Beetles this year than I have seen in several years. There are times when you need to experiment with insecticides to discover what really works and what doesn't. I guess I am the experimenter. I tried spraying with Bayer All In One Rose and Flower Care which is actually supposed to be used as a drench. I mix it at the rate of one ounce per gallon along with one ounce per gallon of an oil spray and am getting excellent results with it. I do get a good kill on the Japanese beetles but as with other sprays the new foliage growth is unprotected. I have the best looking foliage I have had in years. At the same time I do not have black spot or downy mildew. It also has feeding capabilities so I suppose my roses are getting some food benefits from the spray on the foliage. Even with the hot weather we have been having I do not see any spray burn and my foliage looks like it has been waxed and polished.

We were having ample rain fall up until a few weeks ago and then it turned hot and dry. I live just outside of the city and have noticed storms going around on all sides of me. Not a drop of rain for me! I have not had to water all summer until now. With it presently hot and dry I am watering every other day. I use my usual method of an open ended garden hose applying 15 seconds of water per bush. This way I do not waste any water and it all goes at the base of the plant where it will do the most good.

In trying to get ready for the show in October I am also feeding my roses twice a week from my "tea barrel" with a table spoon of Miracle Gro per gallon of tea. With all the previous rain, watering and feeding something is working. I have the tallest, healthiest roses I have ever grown.

Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

To Do or Not To Do?

By Charles Shaner

It seem spring and fall are the times when I get the most questions about what to do with roses. Both times of the year it seems many people get a little over anxious to do their rose work. The “rule of thumb” differs with the area you live in. The area covered by Shenandoah Rose Society is unique in that it covers two different planting zones. The planting zone splits at the top of the Blue Ridge mountain. The eastern side of the mountain has spring 2 weeks earlier and fall 2 weeks later than the western side. This is as a general rule which does not always hold true especially in the spring. You get on further east toward Richmond and especially Norfolk area the difference may be as much as a month or more.

In the spring people are always wanting to do their spring pruning too early. This can cause some damage to the plants and in some cases set their growth back if we have an extended cold weather. The fall is no different. Wanting to prune the bushes back for winter too early can cause damage. If we have an extended warm fall this could cause new growth to emerge and if there is a sudden cold snap that new growth will freeze and die. The answer to both situations is like they always told us in the Navy “Hurry up and wait!”. Wait for the roses to go dormant which is after Thanksgiving. I had someone from somewhere in the nation to send me an e-mail last year telling me I was wrong, that roses do not go dormant. Apparently that person has never lived in a clement with cold winters. Yes, roses in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and the northern clement will go dormant.

The theory on fall feeding has changed somewhat over the past few years. When I first started growing roses about 25 years ago, I was always told to stop feeding my roses around the first of September. Around mid September or the first of October to apply triple phosphate to the roses. I no longer follow this practice. For one thing it seems out fall is coming later in the year than 25 years ago. I no longer feed the triple phosphate. When I stopped I did not see any difference in my roses. If I can not tell it is doing any good then I am not going to spend the time and money on it. The ideal of the triple phosphate was to slow down the effects of the feedings you had been giving your roses. These effects naturally takes care of its self. Chemical fertilizers only last for 2 weeks. If you are feeding organics, the organics last much longer but stop working when the soil temperature drops below 40 degrees. Why spend time and money to do something that nature is already doing for you?

Doing the right thing at the right time will make your roses healthier and reward you better. So just “hurry up and wait”.



Master Rosarians

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