

# Shenandoah Rose Ramblings



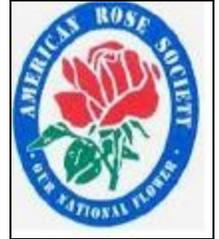
## *Shenandoah Rose Society*

A Society of the Colonial District

Chartered by the American Rose Society

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### Meeting and Seminar

Our July meeting is an informal covered dish picnic, which will be held at my home, 93 Shaner Lane, Staunton, VA on Sunday, July 24 at 4 p.m. Meat and drink will be furnished.

Please RSVP by July 17 so plans can be finalized.



### From the President

Our Rose Days at Milmont Greenhouses was a success. I gave two seminars during the day. We offered a free 2016 membership to anyone who purchased a rose on that day and we had 14 people take advantage of the offer. We welcome them into Shenandoah Rose Society and hope they will decide to stay with us in years to come.

I will be traveling to Pennsylvania this month for the ARS Board meeting to be held on July 28. I will only be staying for the board because of work commitments. This is in conjunction with the National Mini Rose Show in Harrisburg, PA.

The fall Colonial District Meeting, Seminars and Show will be September 30 through October 2, hosted by Arlington Rose Foundation in Fairfax, VA. It will be a wonderful weekend to see many different varieties in the show and learn more about roses and rose culture.

At present, the Colonial District does not have anyone to host the 2017 Pre-Spring meeting and seminars. If no one steps forward it will probably be hosted by the District again this year, with any proceeds going to the District. It worked out well doing it this way this past spring in Staunton. Members from around the District shared in the planning.

Our July meeting is usually an informal covered dish picnic. This will be held at my home, 93 Shaner Lane, Staunton, VA on Sunday, July 24, at 4 p.m. Meat and drink will be furnished. I am always being asked if I give tours of my garden. For the new members this is a chance to see my rose garden. I have some 175 bushes consisting of hybrid teas, floribundas, grandifloras, miniatures, minifloras, and climbers. I have put in two new beds this year to accommodate miniatures and hybrid teas.

### Inside this issue:

From the President	1
Rambling Rosarian	2
Rain, Rain Go Away	3
Master Rosarians	3
Consulting Rosarians	3

# Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

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## The Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

I saw my first Japanese beetle on June 20. So far, the infestation has been light but I am also spraying once a week which seems to help. A regular spray program will keep unwanted pests and diseases out of your roses. The blue cups coated with STP oil treatment also help with pest control.

With all the rains we have had I see very little blackspot. I seem to have more problem with the high winds breaking off canes. A row of evergreen trees on the southwest side of the property seems to help break up the wind. I do not have this protection on the lower beds, but it does seem to help the upper beds.



I have not had a problem with deer while using mothballs. I tried this last year and the deer stayed away. It is a simple, inexpensive fix. I went down to the Dollar Tree and got some pint food containers with lids. Drill 1/8 inch holes around the sides at the top and again at the bottom. Put 8 or 10 mothballs in the container with the lid on it. I set them about every 10 feet in my rose beds and the deer stay away. The moth balls will need to be replaced about every six weeks.

I try to spray every week. A regular spray program is essential for good pest and disease control. There are many good sprays on the market and everyone has the one they prefer as do I. Some of these work better than others as long as they are used as directed.

One thing I started doing years ago and had excellent results with is adding two tablespoons per gallon of a horticultural oil to the spray. By doing this I found I have much better control over blackspot and powdery mildew. Also, when using the oil I no longer have to use a spreader-sticker. Remember to always spray early in the morning before the hot sun gets on the roses or late in the evening. This will help to prevent spray burn.

Watering has not been a problem this season. I believe I have had to water one time so far. At times there has been too much rain at one time. Two inches in as many days is just a little much. I am glad we didn't get what some areas did where everything was lost. We need to keep them in our prayers.

Weed control seems to be the one item hard to keep up with this season. I have been pulling by hand in the rose beds and spraying with week killer around the edges. It is a never-ending process. I just wish some other things would grow as well.

Pruning is something that never ends during the growing season. With the first bloom cycle gone there was plenty of deadheading to be done. It seems finger pruning is a daily job. I had several I shovel pruned this year. They were varieties I just didn't like and were not show material. I already have one in mind to shovel prune for next year.

There is some work in growing roses, which I consider a labor of love. With the proper knowledge and techniques, it is not hard and the rewards are tremendous.

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## Feeding Roses

By Charles Shaner

I have seen many feeding programs by as many people, all of which are good. I have tried many of them and some require a good amount of time and work while others are very simple. There is also the difference between organic and chemical feeding.

To explain the difference between organic and chemical feeding is very simple. Most of us are familiar with chemical feeding as with putting fertilizer on a lawn. Most of this is chemical. Organic would be something like manures or anything naturally grown. Chemical fertilizers go to work instantly when applied and last about two weeks and then need to be reapplied. Organics will take several weeks to break down and go to work but will last much longer in the soil.

What I feed is actually a combination of organic and chemical applied as a liquid. I brew my own and many of you have heard this recipe before, but there is an added ingredient – beer. I have a 55-gallon barrel which I fill with water. To get it started I put in 16 oz. of alfalfa meal and 16 oz. of fish meal. The barrel is located in full sun so it can brew faster. It takes 15 gallons to feed my roses, applying 12 oz. of the liquid per plant. I do this twice a week. I draw this off in 5 gallon buckets and add in 1 tbs. of Miracle-Gro per gallon. Twice per month I also add in 1 tablespoons per gallon of Epsom salts. I will refill the barrel with water and alternate adding 16 oz. of alfalfa meal after one feeding and 16 oz. of fish meal after the other. I also add in one can of beer after each feeding. The beer aids in the fermentation process and also contains nutrition for the roses.

This mixture is very pungent to the nose but the roses love it. I have noticed heavier growth with larger canes and bigger blooms with brighter color. I found it a better way to feed my roses, giving better results with less expense.



### Master Rosarians

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