

Shenandoah Rose Ramblings



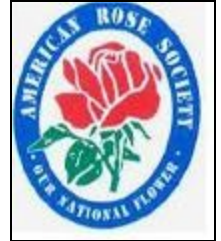
Shenandoah Rose Society

A Society of the Colonial District

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The August seminar for Shenandoah Rose Society will be held Tuesday, August 29, 7 P.M. at the home of Charles and Barbara Shaner, 93 Shaner Lane, Staunton, VA.

We will discuss the problems with the summer season and what could have been done.

From the President

Our summer has been one of hot and dry until August arrived and it cooled down. We finally started getting some much needed rain. I recently spent a day in Nags Head. They are usually dry this time of year with lawns brown unless being watered. Not so this time. In the 40 or so years I have been going to Nags Head, this is the first time I have seen puddles of water standing with moss growing and mushrooms growing yards. One of the residents told me they have had rain almost every day.

It has been a very busy summer for me. I put the July society activities on hold because of hot weather and timing problems. We will try to get back on track this month.

For this month we will discuss Summer Care and the problems seen this season. Besides hot and dry the Japanese Beetles have hit in full force. I haven't decided exactly what to do for September but in October we will have a hands on seminar on how to root cuttings and you will have one to take home with you.

I will be gone four days in September to Gettysburg. I will be in the ARS Board of Directors meeting on Thursday and then the Colonial District business meeting on Sunday. The best thing about these meetings is renewing old friendships, making new ones and seeing what is new in the rose world. I am getting to where I am like many, I enjoy the time but not the drive up and back.

This is actually outside of the rose world and I will give the moral of the story. Most of you know I carry almost everywhere I go and have a permit. It is for the safety of myself and of the people around me. Recently in Nags Head I ask a person working at one of the pears about the N. Carolina gun laws. He must have been an anti-gun person for I found he gave me false information. I checked the laws on the internet and found something much different than what he told me. I ask another local and got an answer much closer to what was on the internet. As a result I did an open carry as per the internet and had no problem in stores or restaurants. The concealed carry seemed to be a little fuzzy. The moral to my story related to roses is to make sure you get the correct information for someone who knows. I have seen information on the internet that isn't exactly correct and people giving information that was not right. . If

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someone gives information about rose care that is not correct and it damages that person's roses, the person giving the information can be held liable.

Charles R. Shaner

The Rambling Rosarian

by Charles Shaner

I have always said you could predict the crop of Japanese Beetles by the weather. If you have a damp summer combined with a warm winter, you will have a great many Japanese Beetles the following summer season. This seems to have held true this year.

The beetles go to the ground in late summer to lay their eggs. If the ground is dry and hard they cannot get very deep. That combined with a cold winter will cause the grubs to freeze and die. We had a warm winter this past winter and the ground did not freeze more than just on the surface. This gave us an abundance of beetles for this summer.



I have seen many of the beetle traps going out of stores this year along with horror stories of how often they fill up and need to be dumped. This is fine if you need the exercise and don't mind dealing with the smell of these nasty bugs. Just make sure you put the traps a good distance from what you are trying to protect. Like what is said "the best place for a beetle trap is in the neighbor's yard. The traps work by drawing the beetles in and you do not want to draw them into you rose garden.

I am going to say it again, put down the Milky Spore. It is the best thing since chewing gum. I had large quantity of beetles this year but that is because my Milky Spore has been down so long that it needed to be renewed. It will last for 10 years. I have reapplied it in the area of my rose beds and plan to cover

more area later.

One odd item, I have deer all around me and they have not bothered my roses this year and I have not done anything to keep them away. The deer are playing all over the yard and not bothering anything. We were sitting in the living room one evening and my wife started punching me and saying look, look! I looked out the front door and there was a six point buck looking in the door.

I have had to do more spraying this year. It seem black spot is wanting to get the upper hand even though we have not had the rain. I do not get my foliage wet when watering so it is not from that. I go out in the mornings and notice the grass is damp so the morning dew is what is causing it. A regular spraying is the only thing you can do.

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Bugs, Bugs Everywhere

By Charles Shaner

This has been a summer for bugs and especially misquotes. They are the little tiny ones that like to attack you as soon as you walk out in the yard. I have to use Off or a bug repellent to work in the yard.

I ordered a bug zapper from Amazon and it seems to be doing a good job. The first night it was up I walked down to it and bugs were hitting in it so fast it sounded like it was popping popcorn. The one I have is supposed to cover ½ acre and I have noticed a big reduction in the number of insects.

Regular spraying of your roses will help protect them but will not do much for misquotes. Thrips are usually a problem but I believe the bug zapper is helping with that problem as well. The blue cups coated with the STP work but I have not used them this year because they are so messy. Not only messy when you are coating them with the STP but also in the hot sun the STP will thin down and run off. Someone needs to come up with a blue sticky paper like fly paper to take care of this problem. All that would need to be done is for the companies that make the fly paper is to use a blue background instead of a yellow. Hang these around in your garden and problem solved.

It is obvious I cannot spray my entire yard with the size of it. I can treat it with Milky Spore which I did some ten years ago. I have started that treatment again this year. It did really help. Two years after I applied it I counted a total of four beetles that year and that continued for several years. As it kills the beetle grubs there are fewer beetles to lay the eggs. As a result there are not as many beetles to spread the virus in the ground and keep it alive. When it wears out in about ten years it must then be reapplied.

You will never kill them all. The beetles migrate at a rate of one mile per year. You will still get a few coming in from neighboring property. A Japanese Beetle will walk a mile for a rose.



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