

Shenandoah Rose Ramblings



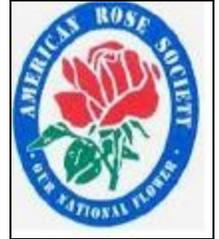
Shenandoah Rose Society

A Society of the Colonial District

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June Seminar

The June seminar will be held Tuesday, June 27, 7 P.M. at the home of Charles and Barbara Shaner, 93 Shaner Lane, Staunton. Our May meeting was rained out so we will try this again.

The seminar will be "Spraying Your Roses" given by Debbie Brown.

From the President

We had a very good Saturday at Millmount Greenhouses on June 3rd. There were a good number of people in the first three seminars. Millmount was very low on a selection of roses as their sales had been high this spring. I gave out many Rose Society pamphlets in hopes of getting some new members.

The seminars were about general rose growing and emphasized the important aspects of what to look for. Many had questions both during the seminars and the break in between. I helped several select a rose that fit the description of what they were looking for. With the selection being low there were some they just didn't have. It is dangerous to get me around where roses are being sold. I did come home with one new bush.

I noticed my Touch of Class has put up a sport of which I believe is going to be Classic Touch. If I remember correctly, Touch of Class is a sport of Classic Touch. I had both at one time and lost Classic Touch. I am trying to root the sport and if it takes I stand a chance of getting me Classic Touch back.

The District Show and meeting this fall will be held at Gettysburg, PA in conjunction with the National and along with several other districts. There will be more about this in the July issue and in the July Courier. I have the registration forms already and some information. If anyone would like a registration form before July let me know and I will send it to you. I will need to be there Thursday until Saturday as the ARS Board meeting is on Thursday. There will be a separate section in the show for the Colonial District trophies.

There are times when you just run out of ideas for seminar topics or topics for a newsletter. If anyone has something they would like to see a seminar on please let me know and I will work up a program on it. This is your rose society and your input is important. Any ideas of how to make it better and attract new members is always welcome.

CAUTION—Rose growing is addictive! Once you are pricked by a rose it gets in your blood and you just cannot resist planting more.

Charles R. Shaner

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Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

The Rambling Rosarian

by Charles Shaner

Our first bloom cycle came early this year and was basically gone by June 10th. I did not see a big problem with insects during the spring cycle and didn't spray but twice. It is a little difficult to spray when it is raining. The blooms were not as pretty as they should have been because of all the rain. I did have a very small problem with aphids but the lady bugs took care of that for me. Millmount sells the lady bugs if you do not have them around your property. Just keep the Sevan dust and Sevan spray away from them as it will kill the lady bugs.



I had to build two new beds to accommodate all my new roses this year. I presently have room for about 5 more roses and then it will be expand time again. Don't ever let a rose prick you. It does something to the blood stream and you can't resist getting more roses. I guess that is the true meaning of "It gets in your blood".

I have about twenty I set out this year that I rooted in my greenhouse over the winter and they are all looking very good except for two. One I rooted was a Snuffy and by what I am seeing I believe it is going to do better on its own root than budded. I may add that the budded plant is on Fortuniana root stock. I have been trying to root a Randy Scott but haven't had much luck. I may try again for the fourth time. It may be one of those varieties that just doesn't do well on own root.



All of the rooted plants I set out this spring are doing well with the exception of two. Many of them are blooming and sending up new canes. This is the largest group of cuttings I have ever rooted at one time.

I have about given up on Moonstone. It seems I just can't get one to survive through the winter. I have purchased I believe 3 plants and rooted one. The one I rooted finally came back this spring but is struggling. I am thinking it needs a lot of winter protection. This may be the reason I am having a little problem growing Randy Scott because Moonstone is one of the parents.

Feeding goes on forever with me. I think everyone knows I brew my own rose food and this year I have added another ingredient to the brew and that is Blood Meal. I am seeing heavier and greener foliage on my plants with this. Of course, they still get their beer. It seems everyone has their favorite feeding program and this is one I developed and is working great for me. My roses seem to love this feeding twice a week. It is easy to do and inexpensive which is the best part.



Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

Pruning

by Charles Shaner

Probably the most misunderstood part of growing roses is the pruning. Pruning is actually very easy. Don't be afraid to prune your roses. They love to be pruned and pruning encourages new growth.

There are several types of pruning

Spring Pruning – In the spring I just go over my roses and take out any canes that are dead or diseased. When finished I try to end up with 3 to 5 good canes. I have taken them down so far it looked like you had gone down my rose beds with a lawn mower. As long as you do not go below the bud union they will come back.

Dead Heading – This is taking off the spent blooms. How far down do I cut? You can cut anywhere on that cane as long as it is ¼ inch above a leaf cluster. Every leaf cluster has a bud eye in it capable of producing new growth. The lower down you cut the longer your new cane will be and the larger the bloom. The higher you cut the shorter your new growth and smaller bloom.

Shovel Pruning – Got a rose that isn't doing well or one you don't like? Use your shovel and dig it out. Replace it with something that you like better. I have done this several times.

Fall Pruning – Do not get in a big hurry to do this. You want your bush to be fairly well dormant when you do fall pruning. In our area I would say somewhere between Thanksgiving and Christmas. With the fall pruning you take the plants back to about 30 inches tall or belt high. This is to keep the wind from rocking the roots loose during the winter.

Take it easy until you get the hang of pruning. Remember, you can always take more off but you can't put it back on.

Shenandoah Rose Society website www.shenandoahrosesociety.org. You can also now access the website from www.shenandoahrosesociety.com. Visit us on Facebook.



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