

# Regarding Roses

## Tallahassee Area Rose Society

*Affiliated with The American Rose Society*



## President's Message By Bill Dority

February 2011

I was pleased with the good attendance at our January meeting. Our speaker, Donna Legare, gave an excellent presentation and member participation showed the interest members have in the subject of organic gardening. The tips on cleaning and sharpening clippers during fellowship and refreshment time drew some takers. If we can keep all of our meetings and functions educational and informative as well as socially worthwhile, we'll have a great year! Society meetings and events don't just happen. They are the result of some very dedicated people to make it so. These dedicated people can always use extra help, so don't hold back and wait to be asked. Just let me know what you would like to help with and I'll find you a contact per-

son and get back to you.

February 19 from 2:00 till 4:00 p.m., I'm planning to have a pruning demonstration in my "Rose Patch", 3201 Brookforest Dr., Tallahassee. This event will be for society members and also open to the public. Invite others to come with you. My garden has all types of roses and pruning tips will be available on any type of rose you grow. As a follow up in May, you are invited back to see the results of the pruning and spring care of roses. More details later. The public is also invited to the May tour at my "Rose Patch". I'm hoping that this will create some excitement that will make people want to join us and be a part of the fun. Other members are asked to open their gardens for the May tour. I

welcome your participation. As they say, Try it—You'll like it.

**Bill Dority**  
850-570-7046,  
billdority@yahoo.com

### Soil Tests Results

All members who have received their reports of their annual soil test are asked to bring their reports to the February meeting. David Marshall is our featured speaker and he will be helping members interpret the findings on your specific results and answering your questions. Following through with your soil test recommendations is probably the most important thing you can do for your roses for their care this year. Roses like a good bed. Give them one!

### Society Meeting

Date: Thursday, 17, 2011

Time: Time 7:00 p.m.

Place: Jubilee Cottage at Goodwood Museum and Gardens

Program: David Marshall, speaker, "Primary, Secondary and Minor Nutrients and elements that roses need".

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## My Favorite Rose— Anna Olivier By Anne Tofield

Growing roses is a challenge on the Cody Scarp. We are east of town and miss, by a mile or so, most of the heavy showers enjoyed by those north and west of us. We live on sand, on what was the beach a million or so years ago. Not the best medium for growing roses, even with tons of

compost added each year.

So, even thinking of choosing a favorite roses fills me with confusion. What do I like best? Is it the shape, perfume, color or ease of care? They are all important but, in the end, it comes down to ....a favorite rose has to  
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**Anna Olivier**  
*A Tea*

### Special Notes

- Volunteer at Goodwood Saturday mornings 9:00 a.m. till noon. Call Bill Kerber 893-1165 for more information.
- Pruning Demonstration—February 19.
- May garden tour.
- Make your New Years Resolution to grow better roses!

### ***My Favorite Rose*** (continued)

be beautiful, smell good and grow well in sand.

A few years ago we dug out two large beds, replacing the sand with well rotted horse manure, compost from our bins and a thick layer of mulch. Then, at Goodwood rose sale, following Bill Kerber's advice, I bought my first ten roses. Two let me down, two bloomed their heads off and one was definitely in the wrong place. Two were outstanding and the winner, these few years later, is *Anna Olivier*. It was slow to take off; we live on a small lake and sometimes the wind is a bit much but it not only survived my clumsy first attempts, book in hand, at growing roses, it triumphed. Who couldn't love a rose like that? It really took off when we added drip irrigation. Easy to care for, it is lightly fertilized, when I remember, and studiously deadheaded.

The shrub has a lovely rounded shape. Its perfume is seductive and its soft creamy-coppery-apricot, blush coloring is straight from a Rubens painting. With its tinge of red on the back of the petals, my double Tea rose *Anna Olivier* is gorgeous. A bonus: in winter the shrub retains enough leaves to make an impression. It did so well I bought a mate for it which I planted right across the path. My 24th rose.

### ***Dues are Due***

Many members have paid 2011 dues. An additional form is enclosed if you have not all ready renewed. There is a four month ARS trial membership available to new local society members that is free. Local society members may also join ARS with this same trial membership for \$5.00. The ARS memberships listed on the form are for members who are all ready ARS members. The treasurer will be glad to help you with any of the membership offered by ARS.

### ***Remember to Call***

Call Isabelle de Sercey at 850-997-2170 to volunteer to bring "goodies" for the meetings.

### ***Goodwood Rose Sale***

Bill Kerber reports that the sale was a success. This 19th year annual sale was the biggest ever. Lovers of Old Garden Roses came to add to their garden and new rose growers came to begin their gardens with roses that are pretty and have a lot of fragrance. The few remaining roses will be sold next Friday and Saturday morning. Thanks to all the volunteers who made the event happen.

### ***DSD Exhibitor's School***

At the recent DSD Mid-Winter meeting the suggestion that the district try to sponsor a workshop for exhibitors was made. Current plans are to hold this school in May. More details will be available soon and we hope that many of our members will plan to attend and learn from the winning exhibitors.

## ***MINUTES OF THE TALLAHASSEE AREA ROSE SOCIETY, January 20, 2011***

A regular meeting of the Tallahassee Area Rose Society was held at 7:00pm at Goodwood Museum and Gardens in the Jubilee Cottage. President Bill Dority presided and welcomed all members and visitors to the meeting. Vice-President Marilyn Watson introduced the program speaker, Donna Legare, co-owner of Native Nurseries, and a gardener with thirty-one years of experience. Donna gave a presentation on "Growing Roses Organically," discussing techniques and practices of organic horticulture. She clarified what "organic gardening" means to growers, stating why definitions of this type of gardening are variable across organizations. There was much audience participation, with members and visitors asking questions and discussing ways to use organic practices in growing roses and the benefits of doing so. At the end of the presentation, President Dority thanked Donna for her delightful program and sharing her extensive knowledge in this area of gardening.

President Dority conducted a short business meeting. A motion was made to accept the Secretary's minutes for the November 18, 2010 meeting, as presented in the newsletter. The motion was seconded and carried. The Treasurer's report was accept. President Dority asked members to consider being a committee chairperson or serving on a particular committee. President Dority stated that several long-time members of TARS who are no longer growing roses plan to become emeritus ARS CR's and Judges. President Dority urged members to ask visitors to come to the meetings and consider becoming a member of the TARS.

Mary Maud Sharpe presented President Bill Dority with the official engraved presidential gavel.

Mary Maud gave highlights of the Mid-Winter meeting. Rick Thomas was honored as the TARS Bronze Medal winner for 2010. Pat Stanford attended the Consulting Rosarian School and passed the test to become an ARS Consulting Rosarian. The American Rose Society's President-Elect, Jolene Adams, presented an informative program on how light affects plants.

Mary Maud announced that the Goodwood sale of old garden roses would be held on February 12<sup>th</sup>, (rain or shine).

There were two door prize drawing, one for visitors was a rose bush and a bag of worm castings, donated by President Bill Dority and the other for visitors and members was a kit of supplies to use in sharpening rose clippers.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm and members enjoyed refreshments. During the refreshments and socializing time, a mini-workshop was presented on cleaning and sharpening clippers. A handout was available.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lennie Kennedy*, Secretary

## ***February Consulting Rosarian Report***

By Anna and Bill Price

February is an important month in the rose garden. Winter has taken its toll and the roses need some of your care. What you do now will pay off big time in a couple months. We begin by using a spray of lime sulfur at dormant strength. We fought using it for many years (it stinks) but all the seasoned rosarians use it each year and we have now joined the ranks. Lime sulfur is a powerful fungicide which was mainly used on fruit trees to prevent powdery mildew. Be aware that dormant strength will defoliate the bushes at least partially (which is OK) but it must be used before the new growth begins.

The one thing that everyone should do is prune. In our garden we do this around the middle of February. Begin pruning by removing dead and diseased canes, twiggy and nonproductive growth and those canes which cross over. Open the center of the bush to allow better air circulation, cut the canes to about pencil size or larger in diameter and to an outside bud aiming for a candelabra or vase shape to the bush as much as possible. Older canes do not produce as well as newer ones but their elimination depends on what remains. Do inspect the growth an old cane had last year. If it was skimpy and twiggy, it will do no better this year and deserves to be removed. There is some controversy over the height of the end result. One third to one half can be removed with little argument, some experts go lower. Remember that the sugar is stored in the cane for the plant's use as new growth starts.

The next best thing you can do for your bush is feed it an organic mixture at 2-3 cups per mature bush. What are organics? They are any materials that have been alive either as a plant or animal. The organics encourage the growth of soil microorganisms that change all nutrients into forms that the plant can absorb. Place the organics early even before the soil is warmed, because it takes a number of weeks for them to accomplish their mission. After organics, magnesium sulfate (Epsom Salts) at ½ cup per bush is important for strength of the bush. Instead of Epsom Salts, we use K-Mag which is a combination of potassium and magnesium.

Loosening the soil around each bush will make the roots very happy. As the weather warms add your favorite fertilizer, begin your regular spraying program and get ready for truly big rewards the bushes will give you for your efforts.

### ***Rose Tip for the February Meeting***

At the meeting this month, during refreshment time, there will be a demonstration of equipment and supplies needed for pruning.

***Let everything you do  
be done as if it makes a difference***

## ***Pruning Your Roses***

Pruning rose can be intimidating to rosarians. Actually it is very good for the plants and it is better to prune than to let them grow rampant. To become an accomplished pruner takes time and practice, but it is very hard to kill a rose with bad pruning. Most mistakes will grow out very quickly. There is a great deal of disagreement on how and when to prune. However there is agreement that pruning encourages new growth and bloom. Pruning should remove all dead wood, improve air circulation and shape the plant. The tools that you will need are a pair of by-pass clippers, long-handled loppers and thick gloves (long ones are preferable). Always use clean sharp tools. Look at the overall plant before you begin and start from the base of the plant. Open the center of the plant to light and air circulation. Make cuts at 45 degree angle and about 1/4 inch above a bud that is facing toward the outside of the plant. The cut should be clean not ragged. Remove all dead, dying, diseased canes and cut back until the inside of the cane is white. Remove all twiggy branches that are thinner than a pencil. You may seal with a white glue (in our area we do not generally have problems with cane borers and most rosarians do not seal cuts). Remove all sucker growth below the graft if your plants are grafted plants. Most rosarians remove the remaining foliage from earlier growth. Pruning in our area is best from the middle of February until early March. If your rose blooms on last year's canes, wait to prune until after spring flowering. Hybrid Teas and Grandifloras bloom on new wood and should be pruned in early spring. Ramblers should be pruned to remove any dead wood or to shape and should be pruned after flowering. Mature modern shrub roses should follow the one-third method. Each year remove one-third of the oldest canes. Climbers may be repeat bloomers and should be pruned to remove dead wood before flowering and after flowering to shape and keep their size in check. Miniature and Miniflora roses are pruned mainly to shape, and also to reduce their size. Spring pruning is best and some cut back in late summer. During the bloom season remember that each time you cut roses you are pruning. This keeps your plants shaped and helps with repeat blooming. Deadheading should be done regularly and often.

### ***Up Dated List of Chemicals***

Enclosed is an up dated list of chemicals that are approved for use on roses. This list includes the pest and the treatment, amounts to use, the active chemical and the toxicity. Pay particular attention to the toxicity column. Slightly toxic and toxic categories carry the signal word "Caution". Moderately toxic carry the word "Warning" and highly toxic carry the word "Danger". Plan to use the least toxic chemicals if possible. Always take the proper precautions when using chemicals. Read the label.

## ***Upcoming Society Programs***

**February 17, 2011:** David Marshall of Leon County Extension Service will present a program on the primary, secondary and minor nutrients and elements that our roses need. Bring your soil sample reports. Soil test results will be reviewed and recommendations made..

**March 17, 2011:** Mike Jenkins of Florida Native Plant Society and Florida Division of Forestry will give a program on techniques for safely removing invasive exotics from your property. Let Marilyn Watson know of specific invasive plants on which you need information

**April 14, 2011:** Hank Rosen will lead a panel discussion and demonstration on "Photographing Roses". Several TARS members are very accomplished photographers. We expect to have laptops set up to show "real time" results of techniques that our photographers use in various settings.

## **Calendar of Events**

**February 17, 2011-Society Meeting**

**February 19, 2011—Pruning Demonstration**

**March 17, 2011—Society Meeting**

**April 14, 2011—Society Meeting**

**April 22- 23, 2011—Thomasville Society Rose Show, Big Tent downtown Thomasville, GA. Contact: Rick Thomas 229-226-8310, rthomas@rose.net**

**May 19—Picnic**

**May—DSD Exhibitor's School—TBA**

**June—No Scheduled Meeting**

**July—No Scheduled Meeting**

**August 18—Society Meeting**

**September 15 —Society Meeting**

**October 20—Society Meeting**

**October 29-30—Annual Rose Show**

**November 17—Society Meeting**

**December—No Scheduled Meeting**

## **Information**

**The Tallahassee Area Rose Society meetings are at 7:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month except June, July, and December at the Jubilee Cottage, Goodwood Museum and Gardens.**

**Membership:** Annual dues are \$10 individual, \$15 joint. Contact the treasurer, Mary Maud Sharpe, 850-878-9625, WJMMSHARPE@AOL.COM

**The Deep South District of the ARS issues a quarterly E-mail copy of the Bulletin for \$10 a year or \$25 for three years. Printed copies are \$15.00 a year or \$40.00 for three years. Kay Harrell, DSDBulletin@fairmarsh.com**

## **2011 TARS Officials**

President	Bill Dority 3201 Brookforest Dr. Tallahassee, FL 32312-2002 billdority@yahoo.com	850-570-7046
Vice-President	Marilyn Watson dantebaron@earthlink.net	850-342-1193
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\*Denotes Master Rosarian

## **"Regarding Roses"**

Newsletter of the Tallahassee Area Rose Society

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