

# Regarding Roses

## Tallahassee Area Rose Society

*Affiliated with The American Rose Society*



## President's Message By Marion Nimis

April 2016

Welcome to Spring. My roses are breathtaking: And I don't know why! What with my surgery, and, of course, all the other excuses which apply, I've done very little in my rose garden this year. I don't deserve them.

We tried. My husband, Gerard, went about the garden haphazardly throwing fertilizer around until he ran out. He bought more, but by then he'd forgotten which roses he'd fertilized. And then he gave up. The word "pruning" does not describe what we did to our roses. Mutilating is probably the better word. Whenever we had fifteen minutes of energy, we'd rush out, clippers and shears in hand, and madly chop and hack at our bushes while promising to do better next year.

It's odd, but the year I treated my roses the best,

they looked their worst. I remember spending hours agonizing over which "outfacing bud" I should cut to; dragging my wheelbarrow full of fertilizer concoctions, carefully measuring into small bags. I could probably have bought a small car with the money I spend on chemicals. Who knew?

If people saw my roses today and realized how little I've done for them this year, they would know what we all know, that roses require little care to produce beautiful blossoms. Since I'm going for a full confession here, I didn't spray them either because I like butterflies, yet I have no bugs or blackspot. I'm also ashamed to say that I didn't water then regularly either, although I knew I should.

My climbers are drooping with the weight of so many blooms. All my expensive roses, which usually die right away, are making a

comeback and a rose I've had at least six years, but never seen a bloom, has produced two incredibly lovely peach-colored blossoms.

I've missed you all and apologize for not making recent meetings. I hear the CR question and answer program went well. But I will see you on Thursday, April 21, at 7:00 p.m. at Goodwood's Jubilee Cottage. Remember we decided to take advantage of the longer days and switch our meetings to Thursday. Our program, "Bring Your Favorite Rose Book" to share will be moderated by Cheryl Gibbons. Bring and share your favorite.

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## Thought You'd Like To Know – Diamond Eyes

*Diamond Eyes* is a novel velvet black-purple with a white eye miniature that was hybridized by Tom Carruth and introduced by Weeks Roses in 2013. The fragrance is a strong clove and spice. The blooms are pointed buds and the flower form is double, decorative with a petal count of 18 to 22.

The plants are medium to medium large, with very bushy, upright growth habit. The foliage is a bright glossy green and the disease resistance is very good. It was a winner in the most recent DSD photo classes of miniature/miniflora sprays and fully open.



*Diamond Eyes*  
(Miniature)

**April Meeting**  
**Date:** Thursday, April 21  
**Time:** 7:00 pm  
**Place:** Jubilee Cottage, Goodwood Museum and Gardens.  
**Program:** Cheryl Gibbons will moderate the "Bring and Share Your Favorite Rose Book". Cheryl has quite an extensive library of rose books. Members are asked to bring favorites and share interesting tips about their book. Books will be on display and passed around.

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### Special Notes

- Volunteer at Goodwood Saturday mornings 9:00 am till noon.
- Volunteer at the Peace Garden the first Wednesday March through October beginning at 9:00 am. Contact Mary Maud Sharpe, 850-878-9625, wjmm-sharpe@aol.com

### ***Goodwood Roses***

The Goodwood volunteers report that the 2016 sale has been successful. Help us by letting others know that there are still some plants available. The sale will continue on Saturday mornings from 9:00 am till noon. For more information contact any of the regular volunteers:

Mary Maud Sharpe, 850-878-9625

wjmmsharpe@aol.com

Ann Stevens, 850-576-1800

stevensann@yahoo.com

John Sullivan, 850-727-8636

joh4@aol.com

### ***Thomasville Rose Show***

The Thomasville Rose show will be held Friday, April 22 and Saturday, April 23. Mark your calendar now and plan to exhibit your roses. If you can't exhibit, plan to go and just see the show. The contact person for information is Gail Altman, 229-228-1638, vglane@rose.net. We will have schedules and entry tags available at the April meeting of the society. Jim Mills from K & M Roses plans to be there with orders and plants to sell.

### ***Peace Garden***

The Peace Garden volunteers in March got the garden off to a good start. We did a light cut back and fertilized. We went back in April for our monthly work day. We found that lots of dollar weed had invaded, but there was new growth, buds and some blooms. We will hopefully have some new plants to add to the garden sometime soon. The Peace Garden is located in the chain of parks in downtown Tallahassee in the east most park (Genevieve Randolph Park) at the east most end. Street parking is available. New folks are welcomed. We meet once a month on the first Wednesday of the month.

### ***April Society Program***

Members will be sharing their favorite rose book at the April meeting. Cheryl Gibbons will be moderating the program. Bring any rose book that you have that is a particular treasure to you. Be ready to tell others about the book—what is unique about it, where you got it, and why it is your treasure. Be sure to have your name on your book and be sure to take it home with you.

Did you know that Goodwood has a library of gardening books? They do! You may want to visit it and/or make contributions to it.

### ***ARS Rose Photo Contest***

#### ***For High School and Middle School Students***

The society has made contact with some of the local schools and forwarded information to them. If you know of students who might be interested, please let them know about this opportunity. Visit the website [www.rose.org/category/news/](http://www.rose.org/category/news/) to download the entry form and the rules. Entries must be received by June 30, 2016. There are cash prizes.

### ***TALLAHASSEE AREA ROSE SOCIETY***

#### ***Society Meeting—March 17, 2016***

#### ***Jubilee Cottage, Goodwood***

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m., by Mary Maud Sharpe, Treasurer, presiding. The minutes from the February meeting, as printed in the newsletter, were accepted. The Treasurer's report was given. It was announced that we currently have 53 paid memberships.

The American Rose Society is sponsoring a photo contest for middle school and high school students nationwide. This is in an effort to encourage students to engage in rose related activities. The contest is to be promoted by the local societies. Mary Maud agreed to contact the area schools about the program. There will be cash prizes awarded to the winners.

The Thomasville Rose Show will be held on Friday and Saturday, April 22 and 23. Show schedules will be available at the next TARS meeting. They are in need of clerks, if anyone is interested. There will be a photo contest category at this year's show.

Mary Maud also reported on the Peace Garden. John Sullivan, Mary Maud Sharpe, Jill Harper, Jim and Martha Dooley and their grandchildren Connor and Emi Dooley worked at the garden on Wednesday. There is still a need for some replacement Peace rose bushes, but they are difficult to come by. Nelson Nurseries will have some available to us but not until July. They will be on Fortuniana rootstock.

John, Mary Maud, and Ann Stevens have been working on rooting roses for the next Goodwood sale.

No decision has been made on holding another Consulting Rosarian school.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

The program that followed was presented by Mary Maud and Hank Rosen answering questions on Consulting Rosarians – what they do, what's required, and sharing general information on growing roses.

Respectfully submitted,

*Martha Dooley*

Secretary

### ***ARS CR School, Horticulture and Arrangement Judging Schools***

To date there are none of these schools scheduled in the Deep South District, but are in the planning stages. We'll try and let you know about the scheduling as soon as possible. Would you please contact President Marion Nimis if you are interested so that she can pass this information on to the DSD chairman. Let her know if you are interested in the district sponsored events or in our local society sponsoring such events. Her contact information is on page one following the president's message.

*"If you don't have time to do it right, when will you have time to do I over?"*

John Wooden

## ***April Consulting Rosarian Report***

*By Rick Thomas*

It's that time again when we are all awaiting our first blooms and the Thomasville Rose Show. To get to this point, I'm sure that all organics, granular fertilizers, and systemic additives have been applied.

So what do I do? I've noticed over the years that it takes approximately 21 days for a tiny bud to develop into a bloom. The last 2/3rds of this time period is when it really gets labor intensive.

Every week beginning before the buds appear, I apply via the irrigation system 1 tablespoon of soluble fertilizer and 1 tablespoon of fish emulsion. Before the buds appear, I use 10-54-8 or something close. After the buds appear in switch to 20-20-20. Yes, the neighbors will love you (later).

When the buds start to show color the real labor begins for exhibitors. Every morning and every afternoon I mist the buds with an insecticide. I rotate chemicals to avert resistance. There is an array of chemicals out there to kill thrips. The thrips love lighter colored roses so be prepared. They do a lot of damage so get after them. If you don't show but rather share, do this too.

Enjoy! See you soon.

### ***Propagating Roses from Cuttings\****

This is probably the best time of year to take rose cuttings and root them. You may find cuttings in your own garden, the garden of a friend, a vacant lot, an old deserted homestead or even a country cemetery. Many of these may be plants that are now hard to find. They can be easily propagated from cuttings. There are a few tips that you will find helpful.

**Age**—Be sure to take your cuttings from firm and young stems. Generally the stem of a recently bloomed flower from which the petals have fallen. This type of aged wood can be used in the spring and on through the summer and fall.

**Leaves**—Cuttings usually root better if there are some leaves left on the cutting. Some varieties will root if there are no leaves, but it is best to have leaves if possible. Be sure to keep cuttings fresh by keeping them in water and misting the cuttings frequently so that they do not wilt.

**Cuts or wounding**—Roses are able to form roots any where along the stem. You may cut the stem at any point. You may either slit the base of the stem or lightly scrape the sides of the stem with a sharp blade of your clippers or a small knife. This is done to produce more roots.

**Rooting hormones**—Most varieties can be rooted without the use of hormone powders; however, the use of a commercial hormone does stimulate the production of strong roots and using it is generally recommended. Simply dip the end of the cutting in the hormone powder before inserting it into your rooting soil.

**Moisture**—Probably the most important thing in successfully rooting cuttings is maintaining the right

moisture in the rooting soil and also in the humidity of the surrounding air. A simple way of doing this is to cover your cutting that is in a pot of moist sand or soil with a plastic bag, glass jar or inverted soft drink bottle with the top cut off. This will make a mini greenhouse to maintain high humidity around the cuttings. So that plants do not over heat, place them in some shade such as the north wall of a building or under a tree.

**Season**—Most cuttings in our area root their best in spring or early summer, before the heat of summer. If you root cuttings at other times of the year it may take longer and your success may not be as good. Some cuttings will root well even in the fall.

**Timing**—Some varieties root faster than others. Some will have roots in as little as two weeks. Allow three to four weeks and it may take as long as seven to eight weeks. If you see roots coming from the drainage holes at the bottom of the pot you have been successful. You may gently invert the pot and carefully slide it partially off to observe roots. Cuttings that are growing new leaves will usually have a good root system. Remove your mini greenhouse and leave rooted cutting in a shaded area to harden off. Later move plants into brighter light or plant in your garden.

\*This information is a summary of an article written by Malcolm Manners, Professor of Citrus and Environmental Horticulture at Florida Southern College. He has a collection of more than 400 rose varieties and teaches classes in plant propagation.

*The Goodwood volunteers have questions about the procedure we use in propagating old garden roses. Basically we follow the suggests of Malcolm Manners. We do wound the base of the cutting by lightly scraping and we do dip in rooting powder hormone. We do; however, have a "mister" system that keeps the leaves damp during the process of rooting. You may want to visit on a Saturday morning and get some more tips. Try propagating some roses this year. They make excellent gifts for friends.*

### ***May Covered Dish Picnic***

It is a tradition to have an annual society covered dish picnic social as our May society event. There is no business just good food and fellowship. The date will be our regular meeting date which is Thursday, May, 19. There will be more specific information in the May newsletter. Please reserve this date on your calendar now and plan to join us.

*"Your smile will give  
A positive countenance  
That will make people  
Feel comfortable around you."*

Les Brown

### *Upcoming Society Programs*

**April Meeting**—Thursday, April 21 at 7:00 pm. Program “Share Your Favorite Rose Book” moderated by Cheryl Gibbons.

**May Picnic**— Thursday, May 19 at 6:00 pm.

**June**—No Society Meeting

**July**—No Society Meeting

**August Meeting**—Thursday, August 18 at 7:00 pm.

### *DSD Events*

**Fall Convention and Rose Show**—October 7-9. Hosted by Atlanta Rose Societies. Contact Chris Woods, 770-309-0645, cewoods1268@yahoo.com

### *ARS Events and News*

Four month trial memberships are still being offered by ARS. You get free access to the monthly bulletins and two issues of the American Rose magazine plus much more. There is much interesting information in the ARS magazine such as news from ARS, articles on varied rose topics, beautiful photos, national, district and local events and much more.

Visit the ARS website [www.rose.org](http://www.rose.org) there is valuable information for local society members. As a member you have access to the members only information in addition to information for all who visit the site.

Publications such as Horticulture, Arrangement and Consulting Rosarian Manuals are available for reference and download. The Rose Registration Listing is also available.

ARS e-mails members the publication of ARS & You which you will find helpful.

**Information:** [www.tallahasseearearosesociety.org](http://www.tallahasseearearosesociety.org)

**The Tallahassee Area Rose Society meetings** are at 7:00 pm on the third Thursday or 3:00 pm on the third Sunday of the month except June and July at the Jubilee or Laundry 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](mailto:wjmmsharpe@aol.com)

**The Deep South District** of the ARS issues a quarterly copy of the Bulletin. It is available though e-mail to all ARS members. A black and white copy is also available to members who do not have an e-mail address. Make check for \$10.00 to Deep South District and mail to Kay Harrell, 121 Shore Rush Circle, St. Simons Island, GA 31522-1420

### **TARS Officials**

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Anna* and Bill Price	(No Contacts Please)
Stuart Smith*	(No Contacts Please)
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\*Denotes Master Rosarian

### **“Regarding Roses”**

Newsletter of the Tallahassee Area Rose Society  
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