

# Regarding Roses

## Tallahassee Area Rose Society

*Affiliated with The American Rose Society*



## President's Message By Marion Nimis

February 2016

OK. So the December and January days of rest and relaxation are over. And the days of wine and roses and hard work are upon us.

I hope you are better than I am and have already submitted your soil test to see what you need to add to your garden so you can have roses to brag about by April as usual. I had the best of intentions to get mine done early, but I forgot about the test kits until I found them stuffed in the cupboard with the Christmas stuff. It's not too late however. I still intend to send mine in.

February's program is a pruning one and demonstration on the Goodwood roses by John Sullivan, who really knows what he's doing and is generous enough to share his tips with us. We will meet at the Laundry Cottage at Goodwood. The business

of the society, some tips from John and the refreshments will be there.

Bill Dority has kindly offered to augment our pruning experience by opening his garden for demos on Saturdays, February 20 and February 27 from noon till 3:00 pm. Just show up if you're interested. Please remember to bring water, gloves and your pruning gear.

I hope you will be able to make it. Pruning correctly according to the different kinds of roses is one of the most important jobs in the garden.

*Marion Nimis*  
2105 Miller Landing Rd.  
Tallahassee, FL  
32312-9000  
850-894-1133  
marion@statistix.com

*"It is what you learn after you know it all that counts"*  
John Wooden

## Thought You'd Like To Know – Golden Showers

*Golden Showers* is an excellent, early blooming, large climber created by Dr. Walter Lammerts in 1957. The daffodil-yellow long pointed buds open quickly. Flowers which have 25-28 petals are borne singly and in clusters. The petals have a distinct ruffle and the stamens are red. The fra-

grance is moderate and sweet. It is an excellent bloomer and is good for cutting since the stems are thick and the foliage is glossy and mid-green. It can be a climber or can be cut back and grown as a shrub. It will also accept quite a bit of shade. We think that you would like it.

## Pruning Program for February Meeting

What you will learn

- Prune to correct, adjust and modify the size and shape of rose plants.
- To keep plants blooming all summer.
- Remove dead branches.
- Allow better air circulation.
- Rejuvenates your rose bush.
- When to prune—Valentine's Day till March.
- Tools you will need are clippers, loppers, saws, and good leather gloves.
- Cut twiggy growth.
- Shape your plant.
- Find the dormant bud eye.
- Cut to good healthy wood.
- Remove old canes.
- Remove suckers.



**Golden Showers**  
(Large Climber)

## February Meeting

**Date:** Sunday, February 21.

**Time:** 3:00 pm

**Place:** Laundry, Goodwood

### Program:

John Sullivan will present the program "Pruning Roses—Why, When and How" at the February meeting of the society. John is an ARS Consulting Rosarian, a master gardener, a Goodwood and Peace Garden rose volunteer and has a beautiful garden of his own. Experience matters and John has experience.

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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

### ***DSD Mid-Winter Meeting 2016***

Montine Herring attended and represented our society. From all reports the meeting was successful! The arrangement workshop was lead by Jim Harrell. The Saturday speakers were good and attendees purchased plants and supplies from vendors. The Anita Smith Award was presented to Jim and Kay Harrell of St. Simons Island, Georgia. The CR school on Sunday was well attended and was lead by Wayne Myers.

### ***TARS Board to Meet Soon***

The board has not yet met for the first quarter, so you still have time to make suggestions for programs or activities that you would like for 2016. Contact president Marion Nimis. See contact information at the end of her president's message on page 1.

### ***Goodwood Roses***

The Goodwood volunteers report that the 2016 sale February 13 went well. 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

### ***Tips on Sharpening Your Clippers***

To do a professional cleaning and sharpening all parts of the clippers should be taken apart and cleaned thoroughly. You will need a small wrench to loosen the nut. Lay the parts out so that you will remember exactly how to put them back together. All parts should be cleaned to remove any grim and also any plant sap or tar that has collected. "Goo Gone" may be the best, but any good solvent can work.

Most clippers are bypass and only the cutting blade should be sharpened. If clippers are extremely dull, start with a small file to begin the sharpening process. Use one stroke—not a back and forth motion. For finer sharpening continue with a whetstone, very fine sandpaper or special tape with a fine abrasive.

Use white grease (hardware store) on the inside part of the blades and wipe off excess.

Reassemble the clippers and adjust the tension on the nut so that the clippers move freely, but are not firmly tightened.

The test is to try to cut a regular letter paper. If you have done the process properly your clippers are ready to prune your roses without damaging the plant canes. You may have to adjust the tension.

**Congratulations!**

### ***TALLAHASSEE AREA ROSE SOCIETY Society Meeting—January 17, 2016 Laundry Cottage, Goodwood***

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m. by Pat Stanford, Past President, presiding.

Mary Maud Sharpe announced that the January newsletter was available at the meeting and would be mailed to the general membership on Tuesday. She also announced that following the meeting there will be a workshop on "How to Use Lime-Sulfur Spray."

There was no Secretary's report as there were no minutes taken at the December Christmas party.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Mary Maud Sharpe. Members were reminded that 2016 dues are due. Members numbered 71 in 2015. It was agreed that TARS would continue with the same insurance package used in the previous year.

Under New Business, members were asked for suggestions for future programs. The Goodwood rose sale is scheduled for Saturday, February 13. Bill Dority will host two pruning demonstrations at his garden from 10-3 on Saturday, February 20 and 27. Hank Rosen will give a presentation on roses on Saturday, February 13, at Tallahassee Nurseries. The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

The program, "Roses in My Garden," was presented by Seymour Rosen. It was a slide presentation on roses blooming in December in Sy's garden as well as city gardens in Tallahassee and Thomasville.

Refreshments and the workshop followed.

Respectfully submitted,

*Martha Dooley*

Secretary

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

The Thomasville Rose show will be held Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27. 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 is Rick Thomas 1-800-234-9536 or rthomas@rose.net. We will have schedules available at a later meeting of the society.

### ***Peace Garden***

The Peace Garden volunteers plan to meet March 2 at 9:00 am to get the garden off to a good start for 2016. We will be doing a light cut back, fertilizing and adding new straw mulch. We will hopefully have some new plants to add to the garden sometime in early March. 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.

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

*By Pat Stanford*

February is a busy and important month. With this year's cold snaps and wet weather, you may need to **find** time to prepare rose beds by weeding, clearing and mulching. It is also a good time to test your soil to see how the pH in your garden has been affected. Kits are available at most garden centers but they vary on effectiveness. It may not be too late to send a sample to the Agricultural Extension Office. Remember, roses grow best in soil pH that ranges between 6.2 to 6.7. If your pH is lower than 6.2, add dolomite lime to bring it up. If pH is too high, you can use agricultural sulfur to lower it.

While this may be a good time to plant bare-root plants, it is not so good for potted ones; wait until Mid-March for those. When you do plant, use a combination of 1/3 organic matter, 1/3 existing soil, and 1/3 coarse sand. Use sustained release fertilizers (such as Osmocote) and organics (such as bone meal and milorganite) in the planting holes.

This, of course is the main time of year for pruning and getting ready for a regular feeding schedule. While the local protocol has always been to prune on or near Valentine's Day, as long as you get it done by mid-March you are good. Once you prune, it signals plants to start putting out new growth, so be aware of any early March freezes from damaging young buds. If you need advice, we will have a workshop meeting on February 21 at Goodwood. Also, our own Bill Dority is conducting his annual pruning demonstration on two subsequent Saturdays February 20 and February 27).

Basically, pruning cuts should be diagonal and positioned approximately ½ inch above a bud eye, preferably facing outward. Remove all diseased or dead canes and leaves, any canes that cross over others, which may rub and cause damage. How much to prune? It may come down to what remains once you are done. I was always told not to prune more than a third, but have removed as much as a half some years with no harmful results.

Hybrid Teas and Miniatures are different than Old Garden Roses, in that you want to keep the largest canes and shape the plant so it is open and airy (a good visual is to make it like a vase). For OGRS, I usually just get out the hedge shears and whack away. They are all very forgiving plants anyway.

Lastly, after pruning, you should begin regular spraying and watering. You may want to wait until you see some growth before feeding. Water your plants the day before, then water again after feeding. Once you begin to feed plants, they need to be watered regularly. Requirements depend on rainfall of course, so a rain gauge in your beds will help. But as a rule, twice a week is good.

Once you get all this done and see new growth, you will need to begin a spray schedule using fungicide to control the black spot spores remaining around the newly pruned bushes.

The March report will probably have more on spraying.

Happy Rose Gardening!

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

Dues for 2016 are due and a membership form is enclosed if your dues have not yet been paid for the year. We hope that you will join us for an exciting year of rose programs and activities that the board is planning. Remember to invite others to visit our meetings and activities. Everyone who loves roses is welcomed to be a member. Trial membership in the American Rose Society is free to new member

### ***Planting a Rose***

Most rose plants are sold as potted plants and are best planted late winter or early spring in our area

Be sure that your plant has sufficient root ball as some nurseries pot bare root plants so that they can be sold over a longer period of time. Keep in pots if necessary or plant as bare root plants. Information is usually supplied.

Plants may be planted in individual holes or in a bed. In either case it is generally recommended that amendments be added to the soil and mixed well. It is desirable to prepare the soil several weeks before planting so that any organics added will have time to "mellow". The soil should have a pH of 6.5 so that nutrients added will be utilized by the plants. The soil should be of a consistency that will form a firm ball in your hand which will easily fall apart if jarred. Roses need well drained soil. They do not like wet feet. Potting mix, compost and other amendments can be purchased if necessary. Many rosarians use raised bed very successfully. Super phosphate to help with root growth, a slow release fertilizer, Milorganite and manures are common additives. Chicken manures should be well aged as it will otherwise burn tender roots. The size of the hole will depend largely on the size of the plant. A hole with a depth of 18 inches and a width of at least 24 inches is generally satisfactory. Many plants can become quite large. Allow room for growth between plants. Plant above ground level since plants tend to sink in newly prepared soils. Mulch well. Water frequently for the first several weeks after planting until plant roots become well established and extend.

Do not cut back plants at planting time. Many plants do not need pruning for the first several years of growth.

Goodwood plants are own root not grafted plants. Therefore there is no need to worry about the height of the graft or protecting it. There may be more than one plant in the container that you have purchased. If so, it is suggested that you not split out the second plant. For a fuller and better rose, each container should be planted as purchased.

Enjoy your Roses!

### *Upcoming Society Programs*

**February Pruning Workshop Meeting**—Sunday, February 21 at 3:00 pm.

**March Meeting**—Thursday, March 20 at 7:00 pm. Program TBA.

**April Meeting**—Thursday, April 21 at 7:00 pm. Program TBA.

### *TARS Events*

**Goodwood Old Garden Rose Plant Sale:** Continues on Saturday mornings 9:00 a.m. till noon.

### *DSD Events*

**Fall Convention and Rose Show**—Hosted by Atlanta Rose Societies.

### *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**

President	Marion Nimis 2105 Miller Landing Rd. Tallahassee, FL 32312-9000 <a href="mailto:marion@statistix.com">marion@statistix.com</a>	850-894-1133
Vice-President	Vacant	
Secretary	Martha Dooley <a href="mailto:jkdooley@embarqmail.com">jkdooley@embarqmail.com</a>	850-342-1711
Treasurer	Mary Maud Sharpe <a href="mailto:wjmmsharpe@aol.com">wjmmsharpe@aol.com</a>	850-878-9625
Board Member	Hank Rosen <a href="mailto:hankrosen@hotmail.com">hankrosen@hotmail.com</a>	850-545-9167
Board Member	Ann Stevens <a href="mailto:stevensann@yahoo.com">stevensann@yahoo.com</a>	850-576-1800
Board Member (Past President)	Pat Stanford <a href="mailto:wordhacker@centurylink.net">wordhacker@centurylink.net</a>	850-519-3745

### **ARS Consulting & Master Rosarians**

Bill Dority <a href="mailto:billdority@yahoo.com">billdority@yahoo.com</a>	850-570-7046
Montine Herring*	229-872-3316
Hank Rosen* <a href="mailto:hankrosen@hotmail.com">hankrosen@hotmail.com</a>	850-545-9167
Robert Schelhorn <a href="mailto:bschelhorn@comcast.net">bschelhorn@comcast.net</a>	850-907-1325
Mary Maud Sharpe* <a href="mailto:wjmmsharpe@aol.com">wjmmsharpe@aol.com</a>	850-878-9625
Pat Stanford <a href="mailto:wordhacker@centurylink.net">wordhacker@centurylink.net</a>	850-519-3745
John Sullivan <a href="mailto:joh4@aol.com">joh4@aol.com</a>	850-727-8636
Rick Thomas* <a href="mailto:rthomas@rose.net">rthomas@rose.net</a>	229-226-8310
Martha Jean Woodward <a href="mailto:mjayw@tds.net">mjayw@tds.net</a>	850-627-7371

### **Emeritus ARS Consulting & Master Rosarians**

Sam Cunningham*	850-539-8314
Anna* and Bill Price	(No Contacts Please)
Stuart Smith*	(No Contacts Please)
Sylvester Woodward	(No Contacts Please)

\*Denotes Master Rosarian

### **“Regarding Roses”**

Newsletter of the Tallahassee Area Rose Society  
Disclaimer: While the information and recommendations in this newsletter are believed to be correct and accurate, neither the authors, editor nor the Tallahassee Area Rose Society can accept responsibility for errors or omissions that may be made. The Society makes no warranty expressed or implied with respect to the material herein. Articles, information, etc. for the newsletter will be greatly appreciated.

Send to:

Mary Maud Sharpe  
7020Apalachee Parkway  
Tallahassee, FL 32311-4122  
[wjmmsharpe@aol.com](mailto:wjmmsharpe@aol.com)