

# Regarding Roses

## Tallahassee Area Rose Society

*Affiliated with The American Rose Society*



## President's Message: Jan Godfrey

May 2020

Unfortunately, because of the virus we will not be able to have our annual picnic in May. Hopefully, we will be able to have a gathering in August. I really missed seeing everyone this month. Check the web site for up to date information on future meetings. ([www.TallahasseeAreaRoseSociety.org](http://www.TallahasseeAreaRoseSociety.org))

Our roses were definitely ready for the Thomasville Rose Show this year. We had lots of blooms to choose from—more so than any other year. Alister Stella Gray (Noisette 1894) is blooming for the first time this year! There were lovely clusters of light yellow and cream flowers. We were about to give up on this rose as it hadn't bloomed since we planted it some years ago. We are pleased that our home is filled with the wonderful fragrance of roses. Souvenir de la Malmaison

(Bourbon 1843) and Rose du Roi (Portland 1812) are two of our favorites for fragrance, as well as being beautiful blooms. Souvenir de la Malmaison is listed commercially as "Queen of Beauty and Fragrance". Not that I'm complaining but there is a lot more dead-heading to do.

All of the vetch and winter rye are finished blooming and have gone to seed. They both make great mulch in the gardens by laying them down flat around the rose bushes. I have a neighbor who swears by Potassium Sulphate so we are giving it a try. Potassium enhances root growth, improves yields and quality of plants, balances plant metabolism to improve protein synthesis to energy and improves the plant's immune system to be resistant to disease. Sulphur is also very important to plant growth and adjusts pH.

Using Potassium Sulphate rather than Muriate of Potassium (Potassium Chloride) which contains chlorine eliminates the risk of burning the plants if over-used. We'll watch to see what happens.

I am sad to say that we lost two members of our Society recently. Nell Cunningham who had been very active in the Society and Mona Lisa Abbott who was photographer for many of our events and was a member of the Nominating Committee last year will be greatly missed and our condolences go to their family and loved ones.

I hope we will see each other in August if the coronavirus allows.

Stay safe and well.  
"A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness"

— Gertrude Jekyll

Jan

**May Society Meeting**  
**The Society will not hold the annual picnic previously scheduled for the May meeting.** It has been decided to re-schedule the picnic for the August meeting and the hopes are that the current situation because of the virus will be much improved by that time. Please follow all the precautions and stay safe. Take care of yourself and your roses.

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## Thought You'd Like To Know – Mothersday

*Mothersday* is a polyantha that was introduced in 1949. The blooms are deep red and bloom in clusters of up to 20. Blooms are double and globular in form. The foliage is small and glossy. It has a rating of 7.9. It might make a great addition to our garden. Polyantha's are generally easy care.

You can find it at Rose Petals Nursery, 352-215-6399 and they do ship. What a great gift for a rosarian mother on her special day.

*"Enjoy the little things,  
For one day you may look  
back and realize they  
were the big things"*

Robert Brault



**Mothersday  
(Polyantha)**

## Special Notes

- Volunteer at Goodwood Saturday mornings 9:00 am—Noon and third Wednesday 9:00 am.
- Volunteer at the Peace Garden to assist the city in its care. New plants are planted.

### ***Goodwood Roses***

There are still plants available following the annual sale. If you can volunteer any Saturday you will be welcomed. Currently some of the work has been scaled back. Hopefully the volunteers will be able to root enough plants for a 2021 sale. If you have cuttings you can share that would be great. The rose bed at the reflection pool has had a great spring bloom. For more information contact any of the regular volunteers:

Eva McElvy, 850-251-4810  
evarenemc@gmail.com  
Cheryl Gifford, 330-354-3087  
giffgarden@gmail.com  
Sam Miller, 850-459-3012  
sammiller6113@outlook.com  
Mary Maud Sharpe, 850-878-9625  
wjmsharpe@aol.com  
Ann Stevens, 850-576-1800  
stevensann@yahoo.com  
John Sullivan, 850-727-8636  
jdsiv014@gmail.com

### ***Hospitality Committee—Martha Dooley***

If you are willing to provide a goodie (sweet, savory, beverage) for 2020 meetings, please call me at 850-342-1711 or e-mail to mbdooley@embarqmail.com or text to 850-294-4016. Just let me know what item you plan to bring and I will coordinate with other member volunteers.

### ***Deadline for August Newsletter***

The deadline for submitting information for the August "Regarding Roses", the society newsletter, is July 23. Please send information to the editor Mary Maud Sharpe at wjmsharpe@aol.com or mail to 7020 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee, FL 32311-4122. Contact by phone at 850-878-9625.

### ***Still Asking for Your Help***

Ginger Benjamin, a society member, has volunteered to be responsible for publicity and spreading the word to the community of news from the society and inviting others to join us. She will need the cooperation of the members to keep her informed of special events, our interesting monthly programs and rose tips from your garden that you are willing to share. Her contact information is 2658 Millbrook Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32301-8562, 850-264-4490, Ginger\_Sells@yahoo.com. Let's all help Ginger spread the word about roses and TARS! Visit our face book page. There is good information there.

*"People are just as happy  
as they make up their minds to be"*

Abraham Lincoln

### ***Tallahassee Rose Society Minutes***

Since it was necessary to cancel the April 2 meeting of the society there are no minutes to report.

### ***Summer and Fall Care of Roses***

#### ***What to do now to have beautiful blooms in the fall***

Begin to shape your plants. Each time you cut roses you are pruning. During August begin to cut back longer stems. Cut out dead wood anytime and especially late summer.

At the end of August do pruning for fall. Cut back no more than one third of plant growth. Pruning should not be as severe as in the spring. Later pruning will result in tender growth going into winter. Cut back gives larger fall blooms.

Follow similar routine as in spring for fertilizing. Fertilizers containing nitrogen can be applied until early October. Plants need to be hardened off and develop dormancy before winter cold.

Continue weekly spray program. Spraying is a must as many pests may over winter.

Plan for new beds and plantings. Late summer / early fall is a good time to plan for moving plants, adding and preparing new beds. Evaluate the plants you have and select new ones if necessary.

Landscape with different types of roses. Read books and visit other gardens. You can make your garden more interesting with the many types and growth habits of roses. Mass plantings make a bold statement. Many roses especially miniatures and minifloras are good as a patio potted roses.

Yes, water, water, water. Water well if rain is not sufficient. Do not over water. Use a rain gage. Check your plants regularly by feeling the soil. Remember to water both before and after fertilizing and before spraying.

Enjoy your rose and share with others! Plan to enter the fall Society show the end of October.

### ***TARS Fall Rose Show.***

The society is planning to hold the annual society rose show on Saturday, October 31 and Sunday November 1 at the Conner Administration Building. The schedule will be much the same as in prior years with the exception of the changes made by ARS mainly to disqualifications. You may contact Ann Stevens with suggestions for improvements. Her contact information is 850-576-1800. stevensann@yahoo.com. Take care of your garden this summer so that you will have winning blooms to enter in the show. There will be more details in the August "Regarding Roses".

We will need many members to volunteer to help with all the many things that need to be done to make the show a success. Hopefully by the fall the current situation will be improved and the society can hold this scheduled annual event.

We'll see!

## ***Consulting Rosarian Report—May***

*By Cheryl Gibbons*

We all share the desire to have healthy soil and roses, and each one of us has special items that help us to do that. Today I would like to share some of mine. The first is the best watering wand that I have found. It is made for seniors who may have difficulty with arthritis or just want an easier tool to work with. It is called The Relaxed Gardener Watering Wand. It is a 15" garden hose nozzle sprayer with 8 adjustable spray patterns. It has a forward and backwards thumb control shut off valve. Lightweight and has a very fine spray for delicate plants. \$20.99 on Amazon. The next item I love is Xtreme Gardening Mykos Pure Mycorrhizal Inoculant Organic Root Enhancer. It enhances the transport of nutrients between the roots, stems, and leaves. It has to come into direct contact with plant roots so this is to be used at planting. But it is more than a root enhancer. It is a fungal inoculant that is important for the soil life and its chemistry. \$31.16 for 2.2 lbs. on Amazon. You don't need to use much of this for great results so it lasts a long time. For lots of flowers Eleonors VF11 Plant Food is a winner. It is a liquid plant food for indoor and outdoor plants. It does not burn. It was created over many years by a German botanist. The nutrients, while low in concentration, are readily available to all plants and are easily absorbed. This is due to the electrolyte balance in the formulation. \$15.61 for 32 oz. on Amazon. And, lastly, good old Root Naturally Azomite Rock Dust. It re-mineralizes the soil for optimum growth and improves root systems. It is organic and has 67 major and trace elements. Often these have been depleted from soil due to pesticides and quick result chemicals. One pound will do a 4 X 12 raised bed. \$15.99 for 2 lbs. on Amazon. I have only listed Amazon as a source to make it easier to find. Often we hear of great products but can never find them locally. Here is to less work in creating our gorgeous rose beds!

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

We have learned that Saturday, July 18th is an available date at Goodwood and we hope that you will plan to attend. There will be tips on exhibiting in horticulture, arrangements and photography for both beginning and experienced exhibitors. The morning sessions will be on horticulture and the afternoon sessions will be on arrangements and photography. We will begin at 9:00 am and plan to be finished by 3:00 pm. Lunch will be served and is complimentary. The three societies hosting this DSD event are Pensacola Rose Society, Tallahassee Area roses Society and Thomasville Rose Society. You are asked to contact Glenn Schulman, 850-261-3991 or glenn.schulman@att.net and let him know that you plan to come so that enough supplies, space and food can be available. This is a great opportunity to learn more about our rose hobby. A registration form is enclosed.

## ***Let's Talk About Mulches***

One of the most important things you can do for your roses is to add a good layer of mulch around them or if planted in beds, the entire bed. Now is the time of year that you should check to see if mulches need to be replenished. There are a number of benefits from proper mulching.

- First, mulching helps to conserve the moisture in the soil. It helps reduce evaporation and drying out of the soil around plantings.
- Mulching helps to keep the soil temperatures more even by keeping soil temperature warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. Your roses grow better.
- Mulching helps to prevent erosion. This is most important if planting on uneven surfaces or inclines.
- Mulching helps to retain and filter water into the soil by minimizing runoff of excessive water during heavy rainfalls.
- Mulching adds nutrients to the soil as it slowly composts over time.
- Mulching can also help with weed problems. It forms a barrier which can help prevent weed seeds from growing.
- Mulching improves the over all appearance of your garden. It can make your rose plants look better.

There are many different materials that can be used for mulch such as tree bark, pine straw, leaves, wood chips. Pine straw is the one most commonly selected by rosarians in our area. Generally mulch should be 3 to 4 inches deep. The amount of mulch depends on the mulch you select to use. Fluffing mulches occasionally with a wire rake can extend their life and keep them effective. It is also very important not to have too much mulch. Excessive mulch may reduce the oxygen supply to roots, if it is applied too thickly.

Mulching is an important part of rose culture. Keeping your mulch at the right levels will make your roses happy and healthy.

### ***American Rose Center***

#### ***Great Garden Restoration Project 2017-2022***

The gardens of the American Rose Center were first created in 1972. A five year master plan has been created to restore the gardens. The new gardens are made up of four large circles. The first circle is made up of the most colorful modern roses. Other circles will take visitors back in time to discover the history of the rose to the species roses that were found in China centuries ago. The master plan when completed in 2022 will celebrate the garden's 50th year! To complete the plan and to maintain the gardens requires support from members. A generous donation to this project would be greatly appreciated by ARS. Please send donations to DSD Treasurer, Kay Harrell, 121 Shore Rush Circle, St. Simons Island, GA 31522-1420 and she will forward to ARS.

## Upcoming Society Programs and Events

**May 7—Annual Picnic—The Picnic has been postponed until the August Meeting.**

**June and July—No Society Meetings**

**August 6—Annual Picnic (Details Later)**

### DSD Events

**July 18—Exhibitor's School.** Goodwood Museum and Gardens. Contact Glenn Schulman, 850-438-5269, gkenn.schulman@att.net

**October 16-18 —DSD Convention and Rose Show—** Gainesville, FL Contact Ralph and Jean Stream, 352-591-4474, streamj@gmail.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 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.

### Information:

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

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

**Membership:** Annual dues are \$15 individual, \$20 joint. Contact the treasurer, Mary Maud Sharpe, 850-878-9625, [wjmmsharpe@aol.com](mailto:wjmmsharpe@aol.com)

**DSD Bulletin:** 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	Jan Godfrey 986 Winding Creek Rd. Quincy, FL 32351-5290 <a href="mailto:JannieG@tds.net">JannieG@tds.net</a>	850-442-9076
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Board Member (Past President)	Marion Nimis <a href="mailto:marion@statistix.com">marion@statistix.com</a>	850-894-1133

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### Emeritus ARS Consulting & Master Rosarians

Sam Cunningham*	850-539-8314
Bill Price	(No Contacts Please)
Martha Jean 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.

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