

Regarding Roses

Tallahassee Area Rose Society

Affiliated with The American Rose Society



President's Message: Jan Godfrey

October 2020

Another storm in the Gulf—Sally. I really hope that it doesn't land this far east. We're still dealing with the effects of Michael, two years later, and quite frankly don't need any more destruction.

Still weeding. I suppose that will go on for as long as I grow roses. All the organics are great for the roses *and the weeds*. Considering all of that, many of my roses are blooming almost continuously. Georgetown Tea (Found Tea), Papa Hemeray (China 1912), Princesse de Sagan (China 1887), Mrs. B R Cant (Tea 1901), and Pink Pet (China 1928) are among those blooming the most right now. Eugene E Marlitt (Bourbon 1900) is also blooming and it is one of my favorites for its lovely crimson flower and rich fragrance. Champneys' Pink Cluster (Noisette 1810) is putting on new

growth like crazy but very few flowers.

I started spraying with CALMAG & IRON, a liquid fertilizer from Humboldts Secret. This solved my yellow leaves with green veins problems and all the leaves are now looking much healthier. I have also started using one of the products Cheryl Gibbons mentioned in her CR Report—Eleanor's VF-11. I haven't noticed a flower size difference yet but the plants like it and it's still early days. I am also starting to use the "father of all foods" alfalfa. As a fertilizer, alfalfa is 5-1-2 providing a good source of nitrogen, calcium, iron, magnesium, phosphorous, zinc and vitamins A, D, B1, B6, K and U. These components provide roses with many of the nutrients they need to promote good growth and improve the soil. I purchased pellets which need to be worked

into the soil or used as an alfalfa tea. According to an article (The Value of Alfalfa by Gary Rankin) on the ARS web site, it can form the major part of the "drink of champion roses".

In past years I have always missed our Rose Show with blooms ready either a week before or a week after the Show. The March/April and May/June issues of The American Rose had a wonderful two-part article called "Showing Good Roses: Preparation The Key to Success" by Suzanne M. Horn, Exhibitor, Horticultural Judge, Master Rosarian. This was extremely helpful to me as she shares her weekly preparation starting at 8 weeks before the show and ending with the morning of the show. I have never been sure of what to do when but now this provides a helpful (Continued on page 2)

October Society Meeting

The Society will not hold an October Meeting.

The decision still remains to postpone all society events and the hopes are that the current situation because of the virus will improve soon. Follow all the precautions and stay safe. Take care of yourself and your roses. You will continue to receive newsletters monthly.

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Thought You'd Like To Know – Olivia Rose Austin

Olivia Rose Austin is on the cover of the 2021 ARS Handbook for Selecting Roses. It is the winner of both the Members Choice Award and Members' Choice Fragrance Award for 2020. It is a shrub with blooms of medium pink (a soft pink) The blooms are 3 1/2 inches with 40 petals. The fragrance is fruity. The foliage is

is glossy. The growth is vigorous and medium height. It is a David Austin Rose and has a rating of 8.5.

Shrubs are quite popular and if you are looking for a new one, you might want to consider adding this one to your garden soon.



Olivia Rose Austin
(Shrub)

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. The new plants are growing well.

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guide. If you haven't read the articles, I highly recommend them.

Hope you and your roses are doing well.

"Before anything else preparation is the key to success."

Alexander Graham Bell

Jan

Goodwood Roses

There are plants available now. 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. Wear a mask and come any Saturday morning to help. The rose bed at the reflection pool has had a great bloom this year. 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

wjmmsharpe@aol.com

Ann Stevens, 850-576-1800

stevensann@yahoo.com

John Sullivan, 850-727-8636

jdsiv014@gmail.com

Deadline for November Newsletter

The deadline for submitting information for the November "Regarding Roses", the society newsletter, is October 22. Please send information to the editor Mary Maud Sharpe at wjmmsharpe@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 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.

TARS—Regarding Roses

You will continue to receive issues of Regarding Roses. The society will use this major means of communication until we are able to meet at Goodwood. It is hoped that this virus situation will not continue much longer. We are thankful that our roses give us joy and happiness during these unusual times!

Tallahassee Rose Society Minutes

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

TARS Fall Rose Show

The society had planned to hold the annual society rose show on Saturday, October 31 and Sunday November 1 at the Conner Administration Building.

The virus situation will not allow us to hold our annual rose show. We feel that it is best that we made that decision.

DSD Mid-Winter Meeting—2021

Thomasville and Tallahassee Area Rose Societies have been asked to rescheduled and to host this meeting in March of 2021 which was originally scheduled for January. We have just learned of this from the district. Some tentative plans are being made. More news later.

Thomasville Rose Festival 2021

The Thomasville Rose Society, our sister society, is currently looking forward to celebrating their 100th Annual Rose Show April 23-24.

Please mark your calendars now and plan to exhibit and attend. There will be more information available later and schedules will be available to TARS folks. Help spread the word.

E-Mail Addresses

Please help the society by sending your preferred and/or updated e-mail address to Mary Maud Sharpe, wjmmsharpe@aol.com. This could be quite helpful.

Consulting Rosarian Report—October By Mary Maud Sharpe

With the somewhat cooler weather rosarians will be experiencing some of the best blooms of the year. We hope that you have given your roses the tender love and care that they needed in late August and through September. Most rosarians use liquid fertilizer in October to give plants that special extra boost of energy. This can be liquid 20-20-20 and/or fish emulsion. Since the summer rains have dissipated, be sure to give your roses the watering that they need. Extra mulch if it has thinned will help conserve moisture. Be sure to discontinue fertilizer with a nitrogen content for the winter months. Having tender growth as winter approaches may cause damage to the foliage and to the growth of the plant. This is the time of the year that plants need some dormancy. To help achieve dormancy do not cut blooms but allow hips (seed pods) to form as cold weather arrives. If plants need staking, do so now so that winter winds will not do damage. Continue your spray program during October and even into the winter months if the plants still have foliage. This can help in preventing disease problems for the coming bloom season. Get plants for the 2021 growing season. Plants on fortuniana root stock are recommended for our area. Look for them at local nurseries and when you order

Fall in the Rose Garden
(Excerpts From ARS web site)

Usually the first thing to do in the garden in October is to enjoy it. The temperatures normally are back to a reasonable level and your rose bushes should be responding to the break from the heat stress of summer. October usually brings plenty of new growth and deep vibrant colors to the rose blooms. The bloom colors, size and production also start to improve as the temperatures drop. This summer has been an unusually hot, rainy and humid one for us, perfect conditions for black spot to thrive. We may have to wait a little longer for the cool down, as we are in a heat wave this week, and after a few day break, will have another next week. With rose shows and a garden visit coming up in a couple weeks, not ideal weather for us, but the beautiful fall garden will return at some point. Another thing to do with those gorgeous autumn blooms is to share them. Take some roses to friends, relatives, your doctor, dentist, hairdresser, or nursing home. They are sure to put a smile on someone's face, and there is no better feeling in world to see that. You may even stir enough interest in someone to bring a new member to the society.

FERTILIZING The end of August is the cut off time for granular fertilizers in our area, as we don't want the roses pushing new growth late in the year. New late growth will not harden off for winter and will just die off anyway. Sometimes I will apply a bloom booster liquid fertilizer for the September rose shows. Bloom boosters have a higher concentration of phosphorus which helps produce larger healthier blooms, without too much nitrogen that would push new green growth.

GARDEN MAPS It's also a good time to make a garden map. When you forget what went where, or lose the tags, the map will still know. It doesn't need to be fancy or neat; it's just a record of what is where. Mine has lots of white out, different color inks, and dirt all over it, but I wouldn't want to be without it. Mine is done on an 11 x 14 spiral bound artist sketch pad. I have 8 pages and 17 different garden sections for my 1,000 plus roses. After about 8 years, I usually start a fresh page and replace a really dirty or torn one. Other rose friends have done garden maps on their computer. Do whatever is comfortable for you. While you are creating or editing your map, it is a good time to evaluate your roses.

ASSESSING THE ROSES I have been ridding the garden of the worst black spot prone roses, some susceptible, despite a regular spray program. These are shovel pruned unless they are excellent show roses. Other candidates for replacement are ones that get too large for my crowded garden, stingy bloomers, barely surviving, or I'm just not love with the bloom or growth habit. You would think would be easy with 1,000 roses to choose from, but every year I struggle with making these cuts. New additions to the garden are ones that I think will show very well, will give a great display in the garden with few problems, are recommended by a rose friend, or ones that Kathy or I fall in love with when I see the

bloom or the bush in a garden setting. I also order favorites to have multiples in the garden, or to try one on multiflora rootstock Own root roses are ordered from Heirloom Roses, Roses Unlimited and For Love of Roses in the spring so they have time to get established before our winter comes.

NEW ROSES As summer ends, it also becomes decision time on what roses to add to the garden the following year and which go up for adoption or get shovel pruned. Nurseries start taking orders now and to get the best selection, you must order early. I'm considering the newer Kordes roses which are very disease resistant and winter hardy for me, and many do well on the show tables. I'm not sure which new varieties I'll be ordering yet, since the web sites have not yet been updated, but some that may be on my list are- Sonnenwelt, Märchenzauber (Bliss Parfuma), Frida Kahlo, Eyeconic Mango Lemonade, St. Tropez, Rose der Hoffnung (Rose of Hope), Fire Opal, Oh Happy Day. Other that I got as own root or maidens this spring, and can't wait to see how they do next year are- Babies Blush, Bold Ruler, Chessie's Favorite, Meghan Dawn, Olivia's Rose, Sunny Sundays, Toots, and Tangerine Skies. Some roses I got in the spring that grew in pots this year and will find homes in the ground this fall are - Highwire Flyer, Lady in Red, Parade Day, Pinkerbelle, Princess Anne and Cloud 10.

SOIL TEST It's a good time to check the pH in your garden. You can buy a pH. tester for as little as \$15 or as much as \$75. A soil test form Rutgers in N.J. or Penn State in PA is another way to check it. The soil test will also tell you about what is lacking or surplus in soil. The ph for roses should be between 6.0 and 6.5 If this is low, which is usually the case in this part of the country, you need to add lime to the soil to bring the number up. This takes a while so the fall is a good time to do it. Fertilizing heavily usually also pushes the number down. The first time I checked mine, some parts of the garden were down to 4.0, which explained way they weren't doing so well. Too low or too high ph makes certain minerals unavailable to the roses; they can't take them up through the roots.

PREPARING FOR THE NEXT SEASON If you are planning on a new rose bed next year, this is a good time to get it ready. Digging and amending the soil now will make planting easy next spring when your new roses arrive. It will also give the ingredients time to blend and the bed time to settle.

GARDEN VISITS October is a good time to arrange garden visits. It's nice to visit other rose grower's gardens to get ideas for your own.

"I'm a slow walker,

But I never walk backwards"

Abraham Lincoln

Upcoming Society Programs and Events

October 1—Society Meeting (Canceled by the board)

October 31—November 1—Society Annual Rose Show. (Canceled)

(Members will be notified when meetings and events are resumed)

DSD Events

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

March—DSD Mid-Winter Meeting—Tallahassee, FL, **(Tentative)**

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. 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

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

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

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*Denotes Master Rosarian

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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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