

# Regarding Roses

## Tallahassee Area Rose Society

*Affiliated with The American Rose Society*



## President's Message: Jan Godfrey

January 2021

CONGRATULATIONS, Seymour Rosen! You are 2020's ARS Bronze Medal recipient. Thank you for all you have done for our Society. Seymour is a long-standing member who participates in monthly meetings, has arranged and given informative programs, has attained his Consulting Rosarian designation, is very involved in the photography section of the Rose Show and supports the Society in all things. Well done Seymour.

Winter is definitely here. It has been a lot colder this year compared to last. There have been a fair number of mornings that I have had the pleasure of looking at the frost on my field with the sun coming up.

After Hurricane Michael changed our ecosystem from a longleaf pine forest with lots of shade to a place

of few trees and lots of sun, we have more places to plant roses—climbers can use broken pines and oaks as trellises to grow up and there are more sunny spots all round. Our Seven Sisters (Hybrid Multiflora before 1809) has gone completely crazy growing up into the few remaining trees. We will have to start some serious pruning to see if we can get it under control and trained to not wander too far.

Deer have always been a problem. Ordinarily I would really be upset after they had done their "pruning", however, I am glad to see that they have a way up out of the valley through the downed trees to get up to the top of the hill. As most rosarians know, roses are one of the deer's favorite delicacies,

especially the buds. They have been so active in one of my gardens that now a fence must be built so that we may have some blooms later—a January preparation for the year to come.

Since I had to "shovel prune" a few of my older plants I am going to replace them—they were some of my favorites. I have room to plant them in areas where no other roses have grown. Hopefully, they will last as long as the previous ones.

After trying many combinations of products, we have finally found the ones that seem to work best for our roses. Most of them contain only natural ingredients and many are OMRI certified organic. I hope to be able to put together a program for a future virtual meeting about growing roses naturally. What I found very helpful last year

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### January Society Meeting

There is no planned January meeting of society members. We are all hoping for the situation with gatherings will improve and that it will soon once again be advisable to hold group meetings. The health a safety of our members is top priority and the society will continue to follow guidelines from officials until such time as safe.

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## Thought You'd Like To Know – Chantilly Cream

*Chantilly Cream* is a hybrid tea that blooms spring to fall. The blooms are a soft yellow and have a strong very sweet fragrance. The blooms have 50—60 petals. It is disease resistant to rust, downy mildew and powdery mildew. It grows well in

warm temperatures. It may be hard to find, but should be well worth the look. Sounds as if it would be a good addition in local gardens. Good yellows are a favorite of many rosarians and *Chantilly Cream* promises to live up to the qualities of a great hybrid tea..



*Chantilly Cream*  
(Hybrid Tea)

### 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.

was having a monthly calendar showing what fertilizer, fungicide, etc. should be applied for all the different plants that we grow—roses, pears, persimmons, etc.

I also want to appreciate the many members of our Society who have been growing roses for a long time and are always willing to answer my questions. They always have good information and suggestions for anything that might be going on with my roses. I have to admit (even after being trained) that I don't know how to sharpen my clippers, especially if they need taking apart. Maybe this year I will learn.

I hope you are all keeping well. Stayed tuned because virtual meetings are on the horizon. We hope to organize and be ready for March.

"To smell a rose is to teach your soul to skip..."

— C. Joybell C.

*Jan*

### ***Goodwood Roses***

There are plants available now. If you can volunteer any Saturday you will be welcomed. Wear a mask and come any Saturday morning to help. The rose bed at the reflection pool has had a great year. The annual sale is planned for Saturdays February 13 and 20. 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

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Ann Stevens, 850-576-1800

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John Sullivan, 850-727-8636

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### ***Deadline for February Newsletter***

The deadline for submitting information for the February "Regarding Roses", the society newsletter, is January 21. Please send information to the editor Mary Maud Sharpe at [wjmmsharpe@aol.com](mailto:wjmmsharpe@aol.com) or mail to 7020 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee, FL 32311-4122. Contact by phone at 850-878-9625.

### ***TARS Bronze Medal 2020***

The ARS Bronze Medal and Certificate for the 2020 TARS recipient has been selected and President Jan Godfrey will present it to Seymour Rosen. We regret that this presentation can not be made at a TARS meeting. However, congratulations to Seymour for his support and service to the society.

*"I follow three rules.*

*Do the right thing,*

*Do the best you can,*

*and always show people that you care."*

Lou Holtz

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

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

### ***DSD—Mid-Winter Meeting***

This annual meeting of the district has been canceled. It had been rescheduled from January to Mid-March.

### ***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.

### ***Consulting Rosarian Report-January***

*By Mary Maud Sharpe*

January is still a planning month for rosarians. It is also a month to get a soil test done if you haven't all ready done it for the year. The Leon County Extension office will assist you. Your roses should be dormant and resting. Don't get the urge and prune too soon because there is still cold weather ahead and tender new growth would be killed. Wait until mid-February to the first of March to prune. There will be more information in the February newsletter on pruning tips. Do select and order new roses you will add to your garden. There is always a new one you would like to have or an older ones you have been wanting to try. You can check your supplies and tool so that you will know if you need to make purchases. Clean and sharpen your clippers as you will need them soon. Make a resolution to grow better roses. This is a favorite quote. "I all ready know how to grow better roses than I do."

### ***"Zoom" Meetings***

The society is looking into the possibility of hosting zoom meetings in the future. Janet Newburgh will be setting this up for the society and you are asked to send her your preferred E-mail to [JanNewburgh@gmail.com](mailto:JanNewburgh@gmail.com). The first zoom program is planned for March. We hope you will plan to join us.

### ***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!

### ***ARS/CR Seminars***

Currently the ARS is sponsoring seminars on most Saturday afternoons at 2:00 pm. Check the ARS website for more information and how to join.

## ***Soil Testing***

A soil test can provide useful information about the pH, nutrient levels and organic matter. Determine the desired breadth and accuracy of the test results and more importantly, what you intend to do with the test results. (implement recommendations, continue your established yearly routine, etc.). There are several choices for soil testing.

- Professional soil testing laboratories or agricultural extension services provide the most accurate and complete way to test the soil. Such tests can measure pH, major and minor nutrients, and organic matter.
- Use a home test kit to measure just pH and major nutrients. The kits can be relatively accurate and reasonably easy to use. However, results can vary based on the technique used and the age of the test reagents. pH measures should include at least one decimal point for dependable accuracy. Unfortunately, most DIY home test kits do not meet this specification. A good calibration is to occasionally take a larger soil sample, send part to an agricultural lab, and test remaining soil using a home test kit. Determine the accuracy of the test kit by comparing results.
- Use an electronic meter to measure soil pH. However, low-cost pH meters that do not use calibrating solutions may be inaccurate. Such meters depend upon the conductivity effects of the soil to measure the acidity and are easily fooled by many soil conditions such as moisture level. It is easy to get a highly acidic reading from an alkaline soil and thus aggravate the problem. Better quality meters measure pH more accurately, some to 0.1 pH accuracy.
- pH test strips have several color spots on each strip. For reasonably accurate results, there should be a measuring scale of at least three spots and a range of 5 to 10. However, it is unlikely to measure more accurately than one pH unit. This method is low cost, easy to use and an acceptable quick test.
- There is also a relatively simple, fairly accurate and inexpensive method for testing soil pH.

**Changing Soil Acidity** Soil pH is defined as the acidity or alkalinity of the soil. pH is the inverse log of one over the hydrogen ion concentration. Numbers 0-6.9 are acid, 7 is neutral, and 7.1-14 are alkaline (basic). Soil pH is often determined by the amount of leaching rainfall and by the original material from which the soil was created. For example, in places where rainfall is much higher than the evaporation rate, such as in the eastern part of the United States, the excess water leaches alkaline materials from the soil and thus the resulting soil is acidic. Where rainfall is closer to the evaporation rate, such as in a desert area, then the alkaline materials do not get leached from the soil and the resulting soil is more alkaline. Nutrient availability is highly affected by soil pH. pH is a measurement of the relative acid or alkaline content of fluids or soil in a range of 1- 14. With pH lower

than 6.0 or higher than 7.0 primary nutrients in soil become unavailable to roses and in addition systemic chemicals may not be properly absorbed by the roses. P is mathematical shorthand for the inverse log (or negative log) “H” is the chemical symbol for hydrogen. pH of 7.0 is considered neutral because the concentration of hydrogen ions (acidic) exactly equals concentration of hydroxide ions(alkaline). 1.0 pH is very strong acid (think concentrated sulfuric acid) and pH of 14.0 is highly alkaline (think caustic lye). Credit: American Rose magazine Consulting Rosarian Manual 5-6 The “p” mathematic shorthand comes into play with comparison of units of pH. Water or soil with a pH of 6.0 has 10 times the concentration of hydrogen ions as water or soil with a pH of 7.0. Water or soil with a pH of 5.0 has 100 times the acidity of water or soil with a pH of 7.0. A reduction of two pH units doesn’t make water or soil twice as acidic. It makes is 100 times more acidic. This is why pH testing is so important. Changing the soil pH is a slow and usually continuous process. In alkaline conditions, the pH can be lowered by adding sulfur to the soil. In acidic conditions, the pH can be raised by adding limestone. Which type of limestone to add depends upon the level of magnesium in the soil. If the soil is low in magnesium, dolomitic limestone should be used. If magnesium levels are sufficient, then calcitic limestone should be used. Most organic amendments will slightly lower the pH, but will also increase the tolerance of the soil for the lower pH. Thus pH correction may not be required when using organic fertilizers or mulches. Most chemical fertilizers will lower the pH, some significantly. Highly acidifying fertilizers such as ammonium sulfate should be avoided for very acidic soils. Calcium nitrate would be a better choice on acidic soils since it raises pH. The recommendation for alkaline soils is obviously exactly opposite. Acknowledgements Most of this chapter was written by Steve Steps, Saratoga, CA. (This information comes from the ARS/CR Manual)

### ***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.

Sarcastic Al says:  
*“A New Years resolution  
is something that goes in one year  
and out the other.”*

## Upcoming Society Programs and Events

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

Look for zoon meetings soon. Hopefully March.

### DSD Events

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

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

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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