



# TARS NOTES

**From the Tallahassee Area Rose Society (TARS)**

***Affiliated with the American Rose Society***

**September, 2025**

---

**Annual dues for the Tallahassee Area Rose Society**

**are only \$15 for an individual membership (\$20 for a Joint Membership)**

**To get a copy of the newsletter mailed to you via the US Postal Service, you need to be up to date on paying your TARS Membership and to include an extra \$10 to help with printing and postage costs.**

**Dues can be paid at the meetings or mailed to the address  
on the Membership Form (Found at the end of this newsletter)**

---

## **MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

**NEXT MEETING — THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2025 STARTING AT 5:30 PM**

**COMMUNITY ROOM OF THE EASTSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**LOCATED AT 1583 PEDRICK ROAD, TALLAHASSEE**

**OCTOBER MEETING – THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2025 STARTING AT 5:30 PM**

**LEON COUNTY MAIN LIBRARY, MEETING ROOM B**

**MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE LIBRARY ACCESSED FROM**

**THE LIBRARY PARKING LOT AT CALL STREET AND DUVAL STREET**

**TAKE STEPS OR ELEVATOR UP ONE FLOOR AND GO LEFT DOWN THE HALLWAY**

---

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

The next TARS meeting will be on Thursday, September 4, in the Community Room of the Eastside Public Library, located at 1583 Pedrick Road. The meeting starts at 5:30 pm with a social time and discussion focused on rose issues and answering questions posed by anyone, especially new rose growers.

This meeting is particularly important for two reasons. For one, it will include a discussion of Black Spot, a leading disease in roses in our area due to our warm, humid climate much of the year. Black spot was the topic of a recent webinar sponsored by the American Rose Society. Dr. David Zlesak, a researcher on black spot who presented at that webinar, very graciously shared with me his thoughts and slides on what is currently known about black spot and what is being done to deal with it. As part of this discussion, we will ask everyone to share their own experience with black spot. Is it a problem in your garden? Are some of your rose plants more likely to get black spot than others? When black spot strikes, how do you deal with it?

The second, and extremely important, topic for our September 4<sup>th</sup> meeting is the future of TARS and what TARS means to you. A summary of recent discussions on this topic can be found below in the minutes prepared by Teresa Watson for the August 7<sup>th</sup> ad hoc meeting of the Board of Directors. Two members of the Board (Paul Watson and Teresa Watson) resigned at that ad hoc meeting because they think TARS should disband, citing the limited participation of TARS members in many TARS events, including regular meetings, field trips to other rose shows and gardens, and social gatherings intended to facilitate camaraderie among our members and to share rose information. The other four Board members (Cheryl Gifford, Marion Nimis, Gerard Nimis, and Janet Newburgh) stated their wish for TARS to continue, even if it means operating at a reduced level.

It should be noted that TARS and its continuation have the full support of the Director of the American Rose Society's Deep South District, of which we are a part. To streamline our society, we have eliminated the storage unit, which had been our major expense. We have suspended plans for formal, juried rose shows until further notice because of insufficient help, but we hope to have a small informal show at a future meeting. Most copies of our newsletter go out electronically, so there is essentially no charge for the newsletter, as individuals wishing to receive a printed copy pay an extra \$10 with their membership applications. There is no charge for our meeting rooms at public libraries or in private homes. The small expenses for TARS membership in the Deep South District and in the American Rose Society are covered by our membership dues and volunteer contributions. Hence, TARS current expenses are very minimal.

Shutting down TARS as a rose society affiliated with the American Rose Society would be rather complicated, and re-organizing it at some future time would be expensive and a lot of work. As noted earlier, the District Director strongly encourages us to continue, even if it means further reduction in TARS activities.

For TARS to continue, it needs to serve the needs and interests of the members. Changes in TARS orientation and leadership are fine, and in fact are welcomed, if someone wants to step up to the plate. I would gladly give up my job if someone else wants it. Otherwise, I am glad to continue to serve as your president TARS for as long as I am able to do so.

The discussion planned for the September 4<sup>th</sup> meeting is extremely important. We want to hear from YOU, and especially from those of you who actively participate in TARS activities and meetings. We will discuss all this at the September 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, and then everyone in attendance will have a chance to vote. But do remember that we need to finish our business and be out of the meeting room by 7:45 pm. I hope to see you there.

Janet

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 7, 2025**

**Prepared by Teresa Watson**

Aug 7, 2025

Social started 5:30 PM

Food brought by Cheryl Gifford and Renee White, both were very good.

Attendance: 10 people

Meeting called to order at 6:03 PM

For those who went to the Rose Grower's Workshop this year, the following is a discussion of what things went right and what went wrong.

Members talked about the presentations, all positive. Discussion on the size of the venue revealed it was too small. It cost more this year and was smaller than last year. The following suggestions for new venue were recommended:

- Monticello might be an option for next year's forum: they would request a donation per hour/night; it might cost a couple of hundred dollars to get that facility. It would be a larger facility and have a kitchen.
- Renee volunteered to check for other places in the area to find something suitable.
- Paul recommended using the Dothan Botanical Gardens as a venue. It may be an option, but will people travel that far?
- Would prefer to have this in June, but it is never available at the Goodwood venue.

For the August program, members brought roses from their gardens, showed them, and described them to the groups and told why they like the roses. There are a lot of very beautiful roses out there.

Janet brought 13 different roses to the meeting and challenged the members to identify them. She gave all members a list of names. We all learned a lot.

Door prizes:

Leanna Willison won the Mystery Box, which turned out to be terra cotta wine bottle waterers.

Marion Nimis won the second door prize, a book.

Discussion on the storage unit:

The tables will be donated to the American Legion post in Monticello

The vases can be donated to the 4H

Janet asked how many boxes would be needed for a rose show; 4 boxes was the estimate given.

The storage unit also contains table cloths and painter palettes.

The general meeting ended at 7:15 pm.

Ad hoc Board Meeting: this started immediately after the August 7<sup>th</sup> general meeting.

Paul Watson motioned to dissolve TARS. Teresa Watson seconded. The majority voted No.

Gerard Nimis motioned to remove the Rose Show and get rid of the storage unit. Teresa seconded that motion. The motion passed for getting rid of the storage unit, but the group did not want to say "never have a rose show again."

## **SEPTEMBER ROSE CARE**

If your roses are like mine, they probably are showing signs of doing better with beginning hints of cooler weather to come and temperatures on average five or so degrees below what they were recently. Average rainfall generally is decreasing from the frequent rains of summer—it tends to be higher at the beginning of September and to decrease throughout the month. Although one or more hurricanes can affect the amount of rain in September, it certainly is wise to pay attention to the amount of rainfall and to water our plants whenever the weekly rainfall is less than an inch.

September is a good time for clean-up pruning, opening up the middle of our rose plants, giving them a good shape, and keeping the garden clean. Removing dead or diseased leaves, stems, and branches helps to keep your plants healthy and minimize the over-wintering of diseases and pests. Staking many of your rose plants may be necessary to keep them upright and to protect them from wind damage. In particular, roses grafted onto fortuniana root stock may require more staking because of their relatively shallow root systems. Removing spent blooms, along with any infected leaves, helps to keep fungal diseases in check. Pruning down to the first set of five leaflets can help stimulate your plants to produce more blooms.

September is a good time to give your roses their last dose of fertilizer before winter, so they grow nicely during warm weather but stop putting out sensitive new growth when it gets cold. And after you clean up diseased, dead plant materials, a good layer of clean mulch will help keep their roots healthy and insulated from weather extremes.

Do enjoy your roses and consider entering your blossoms, arrangements, and photos in fall shows, especially the Deep South District show in Gainesville on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **TARS BOARD AND OFFICERS**

President – Janet Newburgh – [JanNewburgh@gmail.com](mailto:JanNewburgh@gmail.com)

Vice-President – Cheryl Gifford – [Giffgarden@gmail.com](mailto:Giffgarden@gmail.com)

Treasurer – Gerard Nimis – [GerardNimis@gmail.com](mailto:GerardNimis@gmail.com)

Board Member – Marion Nimis – [Marion@statistix.com](mailto:Marion@statistix.com)

Board Member – Vacant

Board Member – Vacant

### **TARS CONTACTS**

Meeting Coordinator – Martha Dooley – [DooleyMB@icloud.com](mailto:DooleyMB@icloud.com)

Programs – LeAnna Willison – [Aylabiology@gmail.com](mailto:Aylabiology@gmail.com)

Social Media – Ginger Benjamin – [Ginger\\_Sells@yahoo.com](mailto:Ginger_Sells@yahoo.com)

Website – Gerard Nimis – [GerardNimis@gmail.com](mailto:GerardNimis@gmail.com)

Volunteer offers to help, including service on the Board, and to write newsletter articles are welcomed!

**Disclaimer:** While the information and recommendations herein 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.



## Tallahassee Area Rose Society 2025 Membership

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

Joint Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City

State

Zip Code +4

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Home

Cell

Work

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Member

Joint Member

### Tallahassee Area Rose Society Membership

Annual Individual	(\$15.00)	_____
Annual Joint	(\$20.00)	_____
Postal Mail Copy of Newsletter	(\$10.00)	_____
Donation to TARS	(Optional)	_____

### American Rose Society

Annual Individual, Print Copy of the Magazine	\$77.50	_____
Annual Individual, Digital Copy	\$57.50	_____

Tallahassee Area Rose Society  
2645 Antietam Trail  
Tallahassee, FL 32312

American Rose Society  
P. O. Box 30,000  
Shreveport, LA 71130-0030

The Tallahassee Area Rose Society and the American Rose Society are 501c(3) nonprofit organizations. Your donation may be tax deductible under the law.

You may write one check for membership to both to the Tallahassee Area Rose Society  
and for your American Rose Society Membership.

The amount for your American Rose Society membership will be forwarded.

If you have questions, please call 240-281-4352.