



TARS NOTES

From the Tallahassee Area Rose Society (TARS)

Affiliated with the American Rose Society

May, 2026

Membership is still only \$15 for an individual, or \$20 for a Joint Membership

To get a copy of the newsletter mailed to you via the US Postal Service, please include an extra \$10 with your new or renewing membership to help with printing and postage costs.

Dues are for each calendar year and can be paid at the meetings or mailed to the address on the Membership Form at the end of this newsletter.

NEXT MEETING – PICNIC TIME! SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026, 2:00 PM

TOUR OF NELSON'S SOUTHERN ROSES

AND POTLUCK PICNIC

4082 LOWER BOSTON ROAD, THOMASVILLE GEORGIA

Followed by an Optional visit to

The THOMASVILLE ROSE GARDEN, located at

420 Covington Avenue in Thomasville

**AFTER OUR SUMMER BREAK, THE NEXT MEETING OF THE
TALLAHASSEE AREA ROSE SOCIETY WILL BE THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2026**

STARTING AT 5:30 PM

LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

**PLEASE VISIT THE TARS WEBSITE (TallahasseeAreaRoseSociety.org)
and Follow and “like” our FACEBOOK PAGE (Tallahassee Area Rose Society)!**

**You can also communicate with the Society Through our new Email Address
at TallahasseeRose@hotmail.com**

Send us your photos for posting.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Clay and Marion Nelson have invited us to visit their rose nursery, Nelson's Southern Roses, located at 4082 Lower Boston Road, near Thomasville, Georgia. We plan to take them up on their offer on Sunday afternoon, May 3. The plan is for us to arrive around 2:00 pm and tour the nursery and greenhouse, and then to sit down for a pot luck picnic lunch around 3:00 pm in a covered area there at the nursery. The nursery is easily accessible from Route 19. I hope a lot of us make this trip, to see what the Nelsons are doing, to see some beautiful roses, and maybe even come home with some new plants. I always seem to do that! Let's go out and support these young folks who are trying hard to build a thriving rose nursery in the face of lots of challenges.

For the May 3rd picnic, please help us by letting me know ASAP if you plan to come and, if so, what dish to you plan to bring to share. We need this information in order to make sure that we have enough food and supplies for everyone. I will provide plates, utensils, napkins, bottled water, and iced tea for everyone.

After our May 3rd picnic, we will be on our usual summer break, but plans are under way for the Consulting Rosarian School on June 20 in Monticello. This school is will be held in the American Legion Hall, very generously arranged for us by Cheryl and Ed Gifford. The School will include a lot of good rose-related information should should be valuable to everyone whether or not you are a Consulting Rosarian or hope to become one. Everyone is invited to attend!

The next regular meeting of the Tallahassee Area Rose Society will be on Thursday, August 6, 2026, starting at 5:30 pm The meeting location will be announced when it is available.

Janet

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 2, 2026

Prepared by Mary Lou Chenevert

Place: Eastside Branch Library

Meeting Date: April 2, 2026

Social Time: 5:30 PM

Refreshments were provided by Renee White

There were 6 attendees at the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by President Janet Newburgh.

The Thomasville Rose Show on Friday, April 24, and Saturday, April 25, 2026 was discussed for rose entries in the show being needed Friday morning, and after the entries are judged, the show will be open to the public on Friday afternoon and Saturday.

The Rose Show in Dothan, AL, will be at the Botanical Garden there on Saturday, May 2, 2026.

The Tallahassee Area Rose Society (TARS) picnic and tour of Nelson's Southern Roses in Thomasville will be held on Sunday, May 3, 2026 where we will assemble at 2:00 PM to tour the

gardens first and then plan to eat a potluck lunch around 3:00 PM. After lunch, there may also be a visit to a large public rose garden in Thomasville which we were told about, for those interested.

On Saturday, May 9, 2026, TARS will have a table at the IFAS Open House and Master Gardener plant sale at the Leon County Extension Office and Gardens site on Paul Russell Road. LeAnna Willison and Renee White will set up the table with signs and TARS information by 9:00 AM when the sale opens to the public, and Mary Lou Chenevert will be there later in the morning to stay until closing time at 12:00 PM. They will have many, various types of plants for sale.

The Consulting Rosarian (CR) School will be held Saturday, June 20, 2026 in Monticello and all are invited, regardless of whether you are currently a CR or whether you plan to be one.

The Treasurer's Report was from Gerard, who stated that after district dues were paid there is a balance of \$4200.00.

PROGRAM:

Janet Newburgh presented detailed information on a timely topic in this current period of drought on "Constructing a Simple, Relatively Inexpensive, Watering System". She said the first step is to figure out where the water is needed and also where it is available from a source. You may need to dig new underground lines to extend the source. When she personally set hers up, she liked working with PVC pipe on the portions of the watering system that were underground, and if the source is at a distance, you will have to dig a ditch to run the line. A potential problem to look out for is that PVC pipes and connector joint may rupture if water freezes inside them because they are rigid. But, if the pipe or line is underground, it shouldn't freeze or rupture because the ground here does not freeze in the winter. In her system a 6-foot hose from the faucet connects to the PVC pipe with a timer on the other end for automated, timed watering via a drip system. She showed us a programmable battery-powered water timer that is easy to program, but it will need a screen, if on a well, otherwise the drip system can clog up. And, a vacuum-breaker for the system is required to protect the water source from backflow. A Rain Bird Faucet Connection kit connects the drip irrigation system to an outdoor faucet and has a backflow preventer (vacuum breaker), 25 PSI delivery and 150-mesh filter. She found the whole kit online easy to install and use, as opposed to buying the needed pieces individually. A quarter-inch micro-drip line with emitters every 12 inches can also work with plants or pots that are a foot apart. The thin line comes in a roll and can be cut to any length. When assembling, it is easier to work with the line when it is hot because the heat softens it, or the lines can be dipped in hot water to make them more flexible.

Sources of information and supplies for drip irrigation: 1) Rain Bird Online Store – with online tutorials also available, 2) ACE Hardware, 3) Tractor Supply, and 4) Home Depot.

In closing, two drawings were held, the first for "The Fairy" Rose provided by Cheryl, which LeAnna won, and a second "mystery" door prize provided by Janet, which was won by Renee.

The next regular meeting of TARS after the May picnic will be held Thursday, August 6, 2026, after the summer break, where it is planned that LeAnna Willison will present a program on Rose Photography.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

ROSE CARE RIGHT NOW

We are now in a very severe drought, with extremely little rainfall, low humidity, some winds, and increasing heat. At the time of this writing, the drought is so severe that we are hearing serious warnings about wildfire danger.

So how do we best protect our roses and other plants we love in times of such drought? First of all, we need to get those weeds out of the garden, as they compete with our favorite plants for the limited amount of water that is available in the soil. Then, we water carefully, ideally putting the water just where the plant needs it, near the roots. In addition, we conserve moisture in the soil by adding mulch, which also helps to keep the weeds at bay. If we use organic materials for mulch, such as shredded wood products, pine straw, or even chopped-up leaves, those materials add value to the garden because they will in time decay and enrich the soil.

Do take frequent strolls through your garden, enjoying the beauty of your garden while checking on how things are doing. Check the soil for moisture, and take note of whether your plants are showing signs of water stress. Water when needed, but try to water early enough in the day that leaves, stems, and flowers have a chance to dry before nightfall, in order to minimize problems with fungal diseases.

Right now in my garden, the main insect problem seems to be hoards of young, small grasshoppers with voracious appetites, on their way to becoming Florida lubbers two or three inches long. I do not spray insecticide wholesale in my garden because I enjoy the bees, butterflies, and even the little lizzards that visit. The grasshoppers are difficult to control with insecticides, but if I see some of them, I sometimes spray insecticide directly on them. But my favorite, and most ecologically friendly way of controlling unwanted insect species is by squishing them!

As to fertilizing my roses, I minimize the amount of work by using extended-release fertilizers such as Osmocote, which is supposed to feed the plants over a six-month period. I also use Bio Advanced Rose & Flower Care All-In-One, which adds a bit more fertilizer and provides a modicum of insect and disease control.

Above all, enjoy your garden, and share your lovely blooms with others.

A FEW OF THE MANY OTHER UPCOMING ROSE-RELATED EVENTS

May 2, 2026 – Wiregrass Rose Society Rose Show – Dothan, AL

May 9-10, 2026 – Greater Atlanta Rose Show – Atlanta, GA

June 20, 2026 - Consulting Rosarian School – American Legion Hall, Monticello, FL

October 2-5, 2026 – American Rose Society National Convention and Rose Show – Nashville TN

October 22-25, 2026 – Deep South District Fall Convention and Rose Show – Gainesville FL

For more information about these and other rose-related events,

please visit: Deep South District Rose Society or American Rose Society (rose.org)

TARS BOARD AND OFFICERS

President – Janet Newburgh – JanNewburgh@gmail.com

Vice-President – Cheryl Gifford

Treasurer and Website Coordinator – Gerard Nimis

Secretary – Mary Lou Chenevert

Board Member – Marion Nimis

Board Member – LeAnna Willison

Board Member – Vacant

HELP WANTED

Newsletter Editor

Newsletter Article Submissions

Rose Photo Submissions

Refreshment Coordinator

Outreach Coordinator

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Tallahassee Area Rose Society 2026 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, Digital Copy	\$57.50	_____
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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.