



TARS NOTES

From the Tallahassee Area Rose Society (TARS)

Affiliated with the American Rose Society

September, 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 within this newsletter. Dues paid after August 1 will cover 2027.

NEXT MEETING OF TARS – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2026, STARTING AT 5:30 PM

EASTSIDE BRANCH OF THE LEON COUNTY LIBRARY – Program Room

The library is located at 1583 Pedrick Road

ROSE SHOW – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

At the American Legion Hall, 1085 S. Water Street, Monticello, FL

THERE WILL BE NO MONTHLY MEETING IN OCTOBER

As we relax after the big show!

THE NEXT MONTHLY MEETING WILL BE ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2026

STARTING AT 5:30 PM IN THE LEON COUNTY MAIN LIBRARY,

PROGRAM ROOM A, FIRST FLOOR

SOME OTHER UPCOMING ROSE-RELATED EVENTS

October 2-5, 2026 – American Rose Society National Convention and Rose Show – Nashville TN. For more information, visit rose.org.

October 23-25, 2026 – Deep South District Fall Convention and Rose Show – Gainesville FL. For more information, visit deepsouthdistrictrosesociety.org.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 6, 2026

Prepared by Mary Lou Chenevert

Place: Leroy Collins Main Library

Meeting Date: Thursday, August 6, 2026

Social Time: 5:30 P.M.

Refreshments provided by Janet Newburgh with her homegrown blueberries and cookies provided by Gale Dickert.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

Janet announced our TARS group has 2 new Consulting Rosarians after their success at the test administered at the Consulting Rosarian School on June 20, 2026: Congratulations to Cheryl Gifford and LeAnna Willison!

The TARS Rose Show will be held Saturday, September 26, 2026, in Monticello at the American Legion Hall on 1085 S. Water Street.

The ARS National Meeting will be held October 2 – 5, 2026 in Nashville, TN.

The Deep South District Rose Show and Meeting will be held October 23 – 24, 2026 in Gainesville, FL.

The Ugliest Rose competition at the meeting was won by Janet with two entries: one a green rose from China and the other a dead rose bloom that had Botrytis and black spot on its leaves.

PROGRAM:

LeAnna Willison gave a very comprehensive and informative presentation titled “From Garden to Gallery: the Art of Rose Photography”.

She explained that she got into photographing roses because “a bloom is fleeting” and she wanted to preserve her roses in her 5 raised beds and some pots, which she enjoys

as they are mostly shrub roses with high fragrance. She showed us slides of her roses, her goal being to showcase the beauty of the bloom at various stages, and she has won several awards at rose shows she has entered with her photos.

Some key points to consider when photographing roses are: Position, Light, and Background, where the rose is the focal point and draws the eye. The rose needs to take up the majority of the frame, so make sure the roses are clean, petals crisp and clear, with no distractions and avoiding empty space in the frame. The focal point could be a fully open flower or even an insect on the flower, but make sure any stamens showing are fresh, not old. Circular blooms are better than oval or ones with gaps. A top view is more desirable than a side view. And, she cautioned that some roses are not as photogenic as others; some look 'washed out' or the color is too saturated, as with a yellow Julia Child bloom she showed us. She talked about changing the focal point and depth of field on the camera to get the results you want.

She also discussed light reflectors that help direct the light onto the rose and brought some she owns to show us. They are different colors such as white, black, and silver, etc., that you can experiment with in your own photography. And, she emphasized that print quality matters when entering an 8 x 10 photograph at a show to be judged, so make your print the best possible. Lastly, she advised to just have fun photographing roses!

BUSINESS DISCUSSION:

Gerard Nimis, Treasurer, announced that the TARS account has a balance of \$4,021 after the recent website renewal of \$200. Also, starting October 1, TARS will be able to sell tickets to rose school events online and he is working on membership renewals being online in the future also.

The next TARS meeting will be Thursday, September 3, 2026 at the Eastside Branch Library, where Cheryl Gifford will discuss the updates on plans for the TARS Rose Show in Monticello on September 26, 2026.

IN CLOSING:

The door prize drawing was won by Gale Dickert, which were pretty ceramic rose candle holders.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Very exciting news!! The Tallahassee Area Rose Society (TARS) will hold its first rose show in nearly two years, under the expert leadership of Cheryl Gifford. The show will be held at the American Legion Hall, located at 1085 South Water Street in Monticello, Florida. This is the same site where the Consulting Rosarian School was held last June.

In preparation for this show, Cheryl will lead the September 3rd TARS meeting, and she will describe the exciting plans that she and her team are making for the show. She will want your help and cooperation to make the show a success. At this meeting, Cheryl will distribute copies of the show pamphlet that contain much valuable information for the show, including the schedule for the day and the various categories in which you can enter your roses, photographs, and arrangements. Be sure to attend the meeting to get the latest information first-hand, and to get your own copy of the show pamphlet! It is my understanding that Clay Nelson of Nelson's Southern Roses will be at the show, selling roses. I hope you will plan to be there, too—as volunteer, exhibitor, or simply as a visitor.

Please note that we **will not** have a monthly TARS meeting in October. We want you to put all your energies into the show itself, or into attending the National meeting of the American Rose Society on October 2-5, or the fall meeting of the Deep South District Rose Society on October 23-24. Do, though, mark your calendar to attend the TARS meeting on Thursday, November 5th, in Meeting Room A of the Main Leon County Library in downtown Tallahassee.

THE BOX—HOW IT CAN HELP

WITH LATE SUMMER AND EARLY AUTUMN ROSE CARE

Since I live at some distance from most shopping opportunities, I do a lot of my shopping online. It's always exciting when a corrugated cardboard box of any size gets delivered to my front door, even if it just contains a bag of dog food. Up until recently, I would open the box, put away the contents, and then break down the cardboard shipping box and put it in the recycling bin. As I discuss below, I recently started putting those corrugated shipping boxes to a new use in my garden.

These very warm, humid days, my garden is being overrun by weeds of all kinds, especially the particularly challenging chamber bitter (*Phyllanthus urinaria*), also known for good reason as gripeweed. This aggressive weed originated in tropical Asia but is now naturalized globally. As shown below, its fern-like leaves look a lot like miniature mimosa plants and it produces tons of seeds on the undersides of the leaves. It loves warm, moist conditions like my irrigated summer garden, and I think it multiplies before my very eyes. It is, of course, important for the health of your roses to control competing weeds.



Chamber bitter, growing in the ground.



Uprooted chamber bitter, showing the seeds and abundant roots

Now, back to the boxes. Several years ago, I went to Mary Maud Sharpe's house to help her out by pulling weeds in her rose garden. As she was very elderly at the time, the garden had been neglected for some time, and there were weeds everywhere. As I worked, I saw that parts of the garden had corrugated cardboard under a thin layer of soil, and the weeds in that part of the garden were fewer, mainly growing on the surface, and were much easier to pull out.

So as I struggled to control the bountiful weeds in my own garden, consisting mainly of chamber bitter but also other obnoxious interlopers, I decided to try that old trick, and to make use of the corrugated cardboard that otherwise would be discarded. My technique is to first pull all the weeds in a designated area, open up the cardboard box, place it in open areas between my garden plants, and then cover the cardboard with cypress mulch. The photos below show what this looked like.

The results look promising so far. Hopefully, it will now be easier to control the weed population. The cardboard should degrade naturally and at some point may need to be replaced. But in the meantime, We'll just try to keep putting those boxes to work!



Cardboard Only



Cardboard Covered with Mulch

TARS BOARD AND OFFICERS

President – Janet Newburgh – JanNewburgh@gmail.com

Vice-President and Show Chair – Cheryl Gifford – Giffgarden@gmail.com

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

PLEASE VISIT THE TARS WEBSITE

(TallahasseeAreaRoseSociety.org) and Follow and “like” our

FACEBOOK PAGE ([Tallahassee Area Rose Society](https://www.facebook.com/TallahasseeAreaRoseSociety))

You can also communicate with the TARS by Email -

TallahasseeAreaRoseSociety@gmail.com

or TallahasseeRose@hotmail.com

And send us your photos for posting.

For questions, please call 240-281-4352.

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 2027 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)	_____

The newsletter and other information related to the Tallahassee Area Rose Society is emailed to all paid members. You can also receive printed copies by paying the \$10 Postal Mail fee above, to help defray printing and mailing costs.

You may mail your membership application form and check to:

Tallahassee Area Rose Society
2645 Antietam Trail
Tallahassee, FL 32312

Or you may bring your application and payment to a meeting of the Tallahassee Area Rose Society.

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