



TARS NOTES

From the Tallahassee Area Rose Society (TARS)

Affiliated with the American Rose Society

October, 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.

ROSE SHOW – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

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

We hope to see you there!

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 SEPTEMBER 3, 2026

Prepared by Mary Lou Chenevert

Place: Eastside Branch Library Community Room

Meeting Date: Thursday, September 3, 2026

Social Time: 5:30 PM

Refreshments provided by Martha Dooley with her Amaretto cake.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Vice-president Cheryl Gifford.

She handed out the pamphlets for the 39th TARS Rose Show titled "Autumn Roses" which is being held on Saturday, September 26, 2026 from 1:00 – 4:00 PM at the American Legion Hall, 1085 S. Water St, in Monticello, FL. Entries will be accepted that morning from 7:00 AM – 10:00 AM.

There will be 4 judges for the show, and 28 categories for entries. Martha Dooley is chairman of the clerks for the judges and the 4 clerks for the judges will be LeAnna Willison, Gerard Nimis, John Sullivan, and Mary Lou Chenevert.

Amy Bevin will help with the setup and tabulation.

Seymour Rosen is helping with the calligraphy.

Cheryl handed out event tags for the rose entries and gave a reminder that the tags must be filled out with pencil only, no pens, but you may use address labels for your name on the top and bottom of the entry tag.

LeAnna Willison and Mary Lou Chenevert will help with the classification and placement of entries.

For the food at the show, Martha Dooley will provide a breakfast casserole for the judges. Food for the helpers and other show personnel will be bought by LeAnna Willison and reimbursed by TARS.

Cheryl Gifford will have a power point presentation at this rose show to display photos from the last TARS Rose Show 2 years ago.

Clay Nelson from Nelson's Southern Roses in Thomasville, GA will bring roses to sell outside the Hall.

Setup for the show will be Friday, September 25, at the American Legion Hall at 9:30 AM.

Awards for rose entries can only be taken or picked up at the end of the show at 4:00 PM on Saturday and takedown for the show will begin at 4:00 PM.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Gerard Nimis, Treasurer, reported that the TARS account balance is \$3568.00 after spending \$632.00 on engraving trophies for awards.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Saturday, September 26, is the BIG DAY of our BIG ROSE SHOW! Cheryl and her team have been working hard to make this show spectacular! It is the first for the Tallahassee Area Rose Society in almost two years, and quite a few people are planning to bring beautiful roses. I hope you will be among them. Come and enjoy a lovely day among rose friends. Take a good look at your own garden and see if you find some beauties to bring. If rain threatens late on Friday or on Saturday morning, it might be best to cut the roses before the storm, put them in water, ideally with a little preservative, and keep them in a cool, dark place until time to bring them to the show on Saturday morning. The main aim is to come and to HAVE FUN!!

Those of us who come to the show, whether as exhibitors, helpers, or spectators, will no doubt find some lovelies that we just can't do without. This happens to me all the time! So bring a little \$\$ with you, just in case you are smitten by a particularly nice bloom. While none of the roses in the show will be for sale, Clay Nelson of Nelson's Southern Roses will be there selling rose plants grafted onto Fortuniana root stock. This root stock gives roses in this area an added boost to do well.

As a reminder, we **will not** have a monthly TARS meeting in October, so the next regular meeting will be on Thursday, November 5, in the Leon County Main Library, Program Room A. Meanwhile, we want you to put all your energies into the show itself. We hope that you also will consider attending the National American Rose Society meeting in Nashville on October 2-5 and/or, closer to home, the fall meeting of the Deep South District Rose Society on October 23-24 in Gainesville.

Above all, enjoy the roses and have fun with your rose friends!

CHAMBER BITTER REVISITED

ALONG WITH OTHER UNWELCOME BOTANIC INTRUDERS

As you may remember from the September newsletter, I have been dealing with a particularly challenging weed known as chamber bitter (*Phyllanthus urinaria*), also called gripeweed. I have heard from some of you that you also are encountering this unwelcome garden guest in your garden. It is capable of spreading out of control and can actually kill your roses and other garden plants.

As we discussed in last month's newsletter, chamber bitter has fern-like leaves and looks like tiny mimosas. Their leaves carry tons of seeds on their undersides. In my garden, these seeds are just beginning to ripen and to turn from green to reddish brown. Hence, it's a good investment of your time to pull as many of these plants out of your garden right away, being careful not to shake off their seeds. Because of its seeds, the chamber bitter plants that you pull should not go into the compost pile. Rather, I put them in the trash because I don't want to pass them on to anyone else.

If you have more chamber bitter in your grass than you can possibly pull, as I unfortunately do, a next best thing is to mow the grass fairly low, perhaps to one to two inches, to try to keep the chamber bitter from producing additional ripe seeds.

While you can try to control the chamber bitter with herbicides, my experience and what I have heard from others is that this nuisance plant is pretty resistant to chemical control under conditions that don't harm your desirable plants. You may, however, try a pre-emergent in the spring before the seeds sprout. If you do find something that works successfully, please let me know!

Chamber bitter is a warm-weather plant that dies down in the winter, but never fear, if you have any chamber bitter in your garden this year, it almost certainly will be back once the weather warms up in the spring. If you are diligent in pulling the weeds this year, your job next year hopefully will be easier. Nevertheless, it still will be important to keep a watchful eye and pull out any that you see, as soon as you see them. When all else fails, smother them with corrugated cardboard and mulch, as discussed in the September newsletter.

EARLY FALL ROSE CARE

Even though we are now in the latter part of September, daytime temperatures still reach the lower 90s and rainfall continues to be sporadic. Hence, we need to make sure that our roses receive adequate water on a regular basis. This is particularly important for plants that are in pots or that have been in the ground less than a year because they won't have extensive, deep root systems. I have quite a few roses in pots and I try to water them daily. It helps greatly to take the time to install an automated drip system. Such systems were the topic of a recent TARS meeting and can be installed easily and inexpensively. In any case, water your roses early enough in the day so that leaves and stems dry before nightfall, to minimize fungal diseases like black spot.

While sufficient water is always important for our roses, fertilizer administration should be reduced or even stopped as cooler weather approaches. The first frosts in this area tend to be in mid November, which is just a few weeks away. The coldest weather in this area is from about Christmas through the first couple of weeks in January, when temperatures can get down into the 20s. Soon, we will want to get our roses to prepare for cooler weather ahead and to reduce the amount of new growth that is more sensitive to freezing. Putting plenty of clean mulch around your roses also will help

them to survive weather changes. Do remove any spent flowers that still have petals, but you may want to allow the roses to make hips, which can help them to bed down for the winter.

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 – Renee White

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)

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)	_____
Donation to TARS	(Optional)	_____

You may mail your Tallahassee Area Rose Society membership application form and check to:

Tallahassee Area Rose Society
2645 Antietam Trail
Tallahassee, FL 32312

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

Or you may bring your application and payment to a meeting of the Tallahassee Area Rose Society, but please mail your American Rose Society membership directly to them.

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