

TARS NOTES

From the Tallahassee Area Rose Society (TARS)

Affiliated with the American Rose Society

November, 2026

Membership is now due for 2027! If you have already paid your 2027 dues or joined during August, 2026, or later, you are all paid up. Dues are 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 can be paid at the meetings or mailed to the address on the Membership Form within this newsletter.

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2026

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

PROGRAM ROOM A, FIRST FLOOR

HOLIDAY PARTY AT THE NIMISES!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2026, STARTING AT 3:00 PM

SINCE THERE WAS NO MEETING IN OCTOBER, THERE ARE NO MINUTES

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you to all for that you did to make our recent rose show so successful! Of course, the biggest kudos go to the Rose Show Chair, Cheryl Gibbons. Her long, hard work and creativity over days, weeks, and months really paid off. Rose entries were beautiful, and there was a good number of show visitors, who were impressed by what they saw.

The show was set up beautifully under Cheryl's guidance on Friday. Cheryl was aided by Ed Gifford, Martha Dooley, and Gerard Nimis. After the show, Mary Lou Chenevert joined that team in taking everything down and stowing it for the next event.

On show day, Martha employed her awesome organizational skills, leading the clerks who assisted the judges in evaluating show entries. The clerks included LeAnna Willison, Gerard Nimis, John Sullivan, and Mary Lou Chenevert—thank you! In addition to organizing the clerks, Martha also provided a delicious brunch for the judges.

As show entries were completed, LeAnna and Mary Lou helped with their classification and placement. Then, as the entries were judged, Amy Bevin tabulated the results, and Cheryl filled out the award cards with lovely calligraphy.

LeAnna provided delicious and bountiful food and beverages for the helpers and other show personnel that were enjoyed after judging was completed.

The judges were very complimentary and encouraged us to have more shows in the future. The whole team worked together smoothly and effectively. It was a lot of work, but we all enjoyed the roses and the chance to enjoy the camaraderie with other rose lovers.

THE NEXT TARS MEETING – ON NOVEMBER 5

Meeting Room A on the first floor of the Main Library Downtown

At our November meeting, we will celebrate our wonderful show that was held on September 26th, in a brand, new venue. There was a nice number of exhibitors, including an excellent rosarian from Pensacola, another top rosarian from Dothan, a very dedicated and enthusiastic rosarian from Madison, Florida, and a former member of the Tallahassee Area Rose Society who has a farm and grows roses near Ashville, Florida. There were several very nice local entries, and Clay Nelson, a younger-generation member of the Nelson family of rose growers, was there to sell roses from his new nursery near Thomasville. It was fun seeing so many people from Monticello visit the show. Our judges were top-notch and very enthusiastic. I am hoping that a list of winners will be available to share at our meeting.

For everyone who participated in any way—exhibitor, volunteer, or visitor—this meeting will be a celebration of what you did. We also want to get your thoughts about the experience. What did you like best about the show? Should we do this again in the

future? If so, what changes do you think we should consider for future shows? Did you like the venue for the show? Did you learn about new roses, their cultivation, showing them? Are you likely to enter roses, arrangements, or photos in future shows? Did you purchase roses at the show from Nelson's? What take-home messages did you get from the show?

We have several items that were obtained in the past for use as show prizes and/or awards, but which we no longer need. Several of these will be available at the November 5th meeting. You might want to put your name in the cups for random drawing, and maybe take one or more home. Any of these extra prizes that are not spoken for at the meeting will be donated to a local charity.

If you would like to bring snacks or beverages to the meeting to share, please let me know. I for one plan to whip up a batch of rose-caraway cookies using a recipe and rose syrup obtained at the recent Deep South District meeting.

I am looking forward to seeing you on November 5th, for snacks and camaraderie starting at 5:30 pm.

LATE FALL/WINTER ROSE CARE

With the recent dramatic reduction in temperatures, the gardens are preparing for a less active time of the year. Here in North Florida, while most varieties of roses slow down, many of them don't go totally dormant. We often are rewarded by a pretty bloom in the garden, even in the coldest months. Damaging insects tend to be less of a problem, but one should still be vigilant to potential issues.

What do we need to do to help our roses and other desirable plants get through the colder months?

- With cooler weather, plants generally need less **water**, but some water may be needed if there is no rain, which is often the case in winter.
- We still need to deal with **weeds**, which rob water, nutrients, and sunlight from our roses. In fact, cooler weather can bring a whole new crop of those pesky interlopers!
- **No fertilizer** should be applied until about March 1! New, tender growth is generally more susceptible to cold damage, and we don't want to encourage such growth this time of year.
- Almost **no pruning** should be done until Valentine's Day! Pruning should be limited to removing broken, dead, or diseased branches, so as to not encourage new growth in the winter months.

- **Deadheading**? You may want to quit deadheading, or severely limit it, again to encourage dormancy. If you do not deadhead the whole blossom, you should remove any spent petals to discourage botrytis fungal growth.
- Many rosarians allow their bushes to make **rose hips**, another measure to encourage dormancy. Rose hips can be very attractive and might even be harvested to make new rose plants or edible food products.
- A resounding YES to **mulching**! Abundant mulch of any organic material, be it pine straw, shredded bark or wood, or leaves, helps to protect plants from cold and drying weather. If very cold weather is forecast, perhaps temperatures in the 20s or below, I generally apply mulch even up around the base of the plant. When I do this, I seldom lose a plant due to winter weather.

Enjoy your break from many major garden chores, but do plan for what you want to do in the garden, come springtime.

GARDENING WHILE HANDICAPPED

As many of you know, I recently had knee surgery that has put a real crimp in my gardening and other activities. It has opened my eyes to the limitations that a handicap has on one's ability to do things, including gardening, and I know that many other people face such limitations. I have been strongly admonished by my doctor not to **fall,** which means that I will be making some major changes in my garden so that I can move through it safely. A U-shaped mulched path runs through my garden that is easy to navigate by cane or rollator, but there are plenty of areas of uneven ground that are rather risky to reach. In addition to trying to smooth out the uneven ground, I plan to install railings or fences in some of the less accessible parts of the garden. My automatic watering system is certainly a big help, as is the placing of mulch-covered cardboard to limit weed growth. Many of my roses are growing in pots that can be moved around easily with a pot mover, and I may be adding to my two small raised beds. Still, I realize that it might be necessary to reduce the number of rose plants (horrors!!!!) and quite possibly diversify in the kinds of plants in my garden, to maximize the beauty of the garden while working less.

I know that I am not alone in dealing with mobility issues, and I look forward to hearing from others about how they cope with physical challenges while trying to enjoy the pleasures of gardening.

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

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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

Also, 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

Or you may bring your application and payment for the Tallahassee Area Rose Society to a meeting. Your new or renewal membership to American Rose Society should be sent directly to them. Their mailing address is: P.O. Box 30,000, Shreveport, LA 7130-0030, or you can visit their website at Rose.org.

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.