

# The Rose Vine

Newsletter of the Greater Gwinnett Rose Society

Affiliated with the American Rose Society

March 2006

## From the President

### Dear Fellow Rosarians:

Spring is here! I am always so excited to get back in the garden after a long winter. It's always such a busy time



planting, pruning and getting your beds in shape but we will be rewarded with beautiful blooms later this spring. If you need a refresher course on the basics, we will be hosting a Rose Day Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, at Bogan Park in

Buford. All the basics of planting and pruning will be covered. This seminar will replace our traditional meeting for March. It serves as our main public outreach program for the year. Please come support our program. We will have refreshments as well as door prizes. If you are planning to remove some roses (or divide other types of plants) please consider donating them to our raffle.

I recently had a meeting with the current presidents of NGRS, GARS and SMRS to discuss the potential of co-hosting the Fall National Rose Show and Convention in Atlanta in the fall of 2010. Our society will need to vote on joining with the above societies to host. I will provide a detailed plan on what the requirements are for our society and we will vote on whether to commit to this undertaking at our April meeting.

It was wonderful to see such a tremendous turnout at the February meeting. I hope we continue to have such a large contingent at future meetings. As reported at the February meeting, we have a very special program for June. Ed Griffith, a Deep South District candidate for the vice-presidency of the American Rose Society

will be the speaker. He will be hosting international rose trial judges Mike and Gerta Roberts of England during their visit to the US this June. They will participate in the program as well and discuss how international rose trials are conducted. This program will be exceptional and we are very fortunate to have them as our guests. The Roberts' are very interested in participating in a local meeting. I hope we can support this meeting with an extra large turnout. Please mark your calendars. This meeting would be a great opportunity to bring guests to the lecture.

Special thanks (again) to Bill Belknap for organizing the Shealy order. Our members ordered over \$2000 in products. Bill is also organizing the orders with Chamblee Roses.

I wish everyone good luck in pruning. Remember that roses forgive you any mistake you might make.

*Susan Clingenpeel, CR*

## Rose Day 2006

**March 4, 2006**

**9 am – 12:00 pm**

**Bogan Park in Buford**

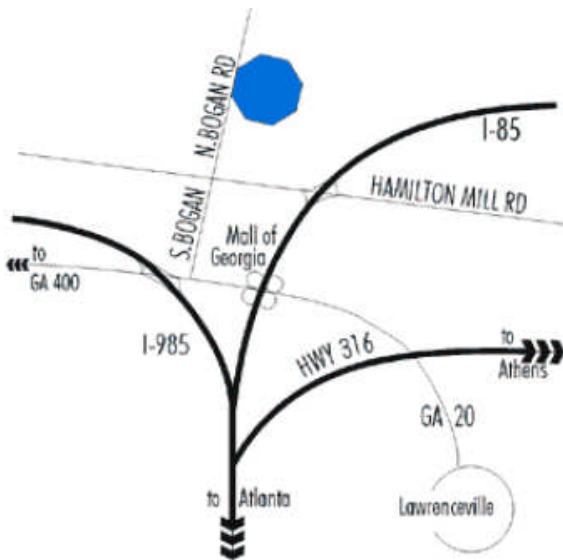
Come join us at Bogan Park on **Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>** to learn and have fun at Rose Day 2006. This is our society's annual opportunity to educate the gardening community and our members and to contribute to Bogan Park, our host and co-sponsor.

Two programs are scheduled. The first program, **Ready, Set, Grow! Selection, Planting and Caring for Bare Root Roses**, will be given by Sharon Phillips, who is a member of the Greater Atlanta Rose Society. We will pause with a short break for refreshments and an opportunity to purchase raffle tickets. Bobbie Reed will then give the second program, **How to Root a Rose Cutting**. After the programs, everyone will be



asked to join rosarians in the Bogan Park Rose Garden to observe pruning, fertilizing and mulching of the roses. The Greater Gwinnett Rose Society sponsors this garden, which began in 2003 with plantings of low-maintenance roses. After a few roses have been tended to, the audience will be asked to return to the building for the raffle. Garden tool sharpening will be available again this year for a small donation to the society.

Bring your neighbors, co-workers or gardening friends to enjoy this event. There will be hands-on demonstrations, refreshments, literature, catalogs and a raffle. We thank Bogan Park for their continuing support.



Directions to Bogan Park:

**From Lawrenceville:**

Take GA 20 past the Mall of Georgia. Turn right (North) onto South Bogan Road. Cross Hamilton Mill Road. Bogan Park is on North Bogan Road on your right about ¼ mile north of the Hamilton Mill Road intersection. Rose Day will be held in the main building, first Entrance on your right.

**From Buford on I-985:**

Take the exit for GA 20 and go towards Lawrenceville, right (East). Just before the Toyota dealership, turn left (North) onto South Bogan Road, and follow the directions above.

## Dates to Remember

**March 4 — GGRS Annual Rose Day, Bogan Park, Buford, GA (pre-empts regular GGRS March Meeting)**

March 11 – Greater Atlanta RS Pruning Day at Fernbank and Mills Magic Delivery

April 4 – GGRS monthly meeting, Robin Ross from Eden Bioscience (Messenger)— Taming the Temperamental Rose

May 2 — GGRS monthly meeting, Oline Reynolds, DSD Director—Old Garden Roses

May 6 – Rose Day at Pike Family Nurseries

May 13-14 – GARS Rose Show, Atlanta Botanical Garden

May 20 – South Metro Rose Show, Fayetteville

June 6 — GGRS monthly meeting, Ed Griffith with International Rose Trial Judges Mike and Gerta Roberts of England – How International Rose Trials are Conducted

## March Hospitality

Diane Snyder, our Hospitality Coordinator, would like to say thank you to all who have volunteered to bring refreshments for Rose Day. She says you know who you are. Please bring finger food if possible. Surprise us with your favorite things. Diane will provide coffee, soda, tea, plates, napkins, etc.

## Chamblee Rose Order

Bill Belknap has finalized the Chamblee Rose Order. Our members placed a total of 60 roses! These roses will be due the week of March 13<sup>th</sup>.



**This your  
Last Newsletter  
unless you have paid your dues**

GGRS dues are \$15 for one person, or \$20 for two or more persons at the same address.

According to the amendments to our bylaws enacted in 2003, dues for all members are **now due in January** of each year, rather than in their anniversary month – this simplifies recordkeeping for all of us.

If you have any questions about your membership, please contact the GGRS Treasurer, Don Schwarz, 3388 Lennox Court, Lawrenceville, GA 30044, 770-979-4237, [berdks@mindspring.com](mailto:berdks@mindspring.com)

**Please rejoin the society – we  
need all of you!**

## March In the Rose Garden

By Bill Belknap

While winter is not over, our major rose tasks start this month. It's time for our annual rose pruning, fertilizing and planting.

**Planting:** Dormant roses can be planted any time this month. For potted roses grown in greenhouses however, it is best to wait until after the first week. Check the weather forecast to be sure no freezing weather is predicted before planting non-dormant roses. For grafted roses set the rose with the graft union about an 1 1/2" above the ground. Dig the hole only as deep as the roots are on the plant. If you dig deeper, the soil will settle and the rose will end up below the surrounding ground level. A good soil mixture is one part original soil, one part sand and one part compost and or decomposed manure. Since this is mostly new soil, I would add about 1/2 to 3/4 cup of lime. If you have clay soil, add about the same amount of gypsum [but have a soil test done first! ED]. The same

basic instructions also apply to container roses. Plant the rose at the same level as it is in the pot.

**Transplanting:** I recommend transplanting roses as soon as you can this month as it is starting to warm up. Be sure you have a good root ball and try not to disturb it while moving the rose to it's new home. If the root ball is too big to lift into a wheelbarrow, lift it onto a tarp and haul it to it's next home. Since you will probably not be able to get all the roots, the rose must put out new roots in its new location. Therefore, you should prune the rose back to help balance the root structure with the greenery. I like to leave about a third to a quarter of the rose. If you have Bone Meal, use it with the soil that will be put back into the ground around the roots. Bone Meal is excellent in helping build roots. Or you can use a fertilizer high in phosphorous, the middle number in NPK. A fertilizer high in phosphorous such as triple phosphate will also promote blooms. After planting, water the rose well. This provides moisture and also helps settle the soil. Don't be afraid to pack the soil with your hands when planting. This will help the soil to be in good contact with the roots. However, do not pack too hard as the roots also need air. Next mulch the rose well. Use only a light application of fertilizer since the rose needs to build root structure.

**Spray:** You still have time to apply lime-sulfur, but do it as soon as possible. Don't forget to pick a day that the spray will dry before freezing temperatures. Lime sulfur may be applied to the entire plant and ground. This will help prevent disease. You can also apply a dormant oil to help control pests whose eggs will survive the winter. Once new foliage appears it is also time to start spraying for fungal disease. You will need to use either a one or two-week cycle depending on the chemical used. As always follow the manufacturer's instructions and use safety precautions – respirator, gloves, long sleeves and long pants. Wash immediately after spraying.

**Prune:** It is time for our annual pruning. Please refer to the **Basic Spring Pruning** article in this newsletter for details.



**Fertilize:** After you have pruned your roses, you need to fertilize. Apply a good basic fertilizer. If you have not applied lime during the winter and your soil testing indicates lime is required, apply the appropriate amount now. In general I have found about a cup for the average hybrid tea is sufficient. If your soil contains a lot of clay you should also apply gypsum at about the same rate – 1 cup per average size rose. For smaller roses such as miniature roses, reduce to about a third of a cup. After fertilizing, be sure to water your roses to help get the nutrients into the soil.

I prefer an organic fertilizer such as Mills Magic or Purely Organic. These fertilizers not only enrich the soil but also help improve it. The non-organic fertilizers generally contain the needed nutrients, but do not add to the fertility of the soil. You should also consider using both as the non-organic fertilizers generally become available to the plant sooner than organic fertilizers. Note that one-time bloomers should not be fertilized until after pruning. You can apply liquid fertilizers to help improve blooming and maintain the health of the rose, but delay dried fertilizer until after blooming.

**Mulch:** After fertilizing, it's time to replenish your mulch. Use a good organic mulch. Shredded bark, such as red oak, makes an excellent mulch. If you have only a few roses, I recommend removing the mulch before applying the fertilizer. For additional fertilizer, I like to use a layer of compost before as a top mulch dressing. If your soil has become hard packed, use a good layer of composted manure. This will significantly improve the soil. Do this at least twice during the season. After the layer of compost, put down a layer of organic mulch. The total should be between 2 and 3 inches thick. Do not put mulch on the canes or cover the graft union.

**Water:** Afterwards, water your roses well and make sure they get a good supply of moisture (about an inch per week). Once pruned the roses will need the moisture to start growing. Also, be sure to water recently planted roses more often

since they do not have the root structure of established roses.

## Rose of the Month

### Rio Samba

By Kim Borland, CR

Having been born in North Georgia and lived here all my life, the fine art of gardening was impressed upon me at an early age. I was probably in grade school before I realized that you could actually buy fresh vegetables and fruit at a supermarket. I also knew your ability to be a good



Kim with *Stainless Steel* at the 2005 South Metro rose show. Her first blue ribbon.

southern mother/wife was measured by three things; how well your children behaved in church, how tidy your house was kept, and last, but certainly not least, how beautiful your flowerbeds were. In the South, one of the finest gifts to bestow was a basket of "things from the garden",

fruits/veggies or a large bouquet of flowers.

The year was 1989. With two daughters in diapers, we moved into a larger home that had been vacant for quite sometime. The yard was a mess; apparently the previous lady of the house was not a gardener. So we donned our gloves, took up our rakes and set to work. It was about that time I received a rose bush as a Mother's Day gift. The tag said "*Rio Samba*," Hybrid Tea. My only previous experience with roses had been this "monster" of a red climber, probably *Blaze*, which my Grandmother had on a backyard fence. We kids had a very healthy respect for that rose - THORNS! I planted the bush and come fall it exploded with bright yellow and orange blooms! I



was hooked. Even after adding more roses and expanding my beds, *Rio Samba* has continued to be one of the more generous bloomers and is always the first to open each spring.

With my intro to the computer I began research; bloom cycle, fertilizers and pruning - oh my! Not only did I discover some really cool rose growing tips, I also discovered there were actual Rose Societies, with people who are just as enthusiastic as I am! So, I e-mailed this Bobbie Reed person, who invited me to a meeting. In September of 2001, I presented myself to a room full of complete strangers who had obviously known each other for quite some time. They referred to their gardens of 100 plus roses. I had just about convinced myself I was in the wrong place when this gentleman walked straight over to me, extended a large hand to shake, and said "hey, I'm John Griner". He very nicely proceeded to inquire about my roses, and made me feel instantly welcome. These wonderful people took me under their wing, didn't laugh at my stupid questions, and even convinced me I could enter my roses in shows.

On October 15, 2005 at about 5a.m. I decided to enter the NGRS/GGRS Fall Rose Show. I harvested my blooms in the dark, and headed over to The State Botanical Garden of Georgia in Athens. Arriving late and rushing to get my entries in, I inadvertently misnamed dear *Rio Samba*. Fortunately someone caught it and brought it to my attention.

When Judging was complete, I began taking inventory of my ribbons. I couldn't find *Rio*. I'm sure my heart skipped a beat when I discovered her at the Head Table!!! Never in my wildest imagination did I expect to see my name at the Head Table. I was so excited to see a big blue ribbon on my roses.

With my premiere rose bush; I had become the first recipient of the John M. Griner, Jr., Small Garden Challenge award. Had John Griner not gone out of his way to welcome me to the society, I probably would not have had that rose on that table. I couldn't have been more

honored had I gotten Queen of Show at that or any future show.

Thank you, Mr. Griner.

Editor's note: I was clerking with the two Judges who judged the John M. Griner, Jr., Small Garden Challenge award last October. The Judges were so overwhelmed with the spray of flowers on one stem that they questioned whether it was actually one spray or made up of multiple stems. I was overwhelmed with the cleanliness of the foliage. We are talking *Rio Samba* after all, the Queen of blackspot in my garden!

Kim's entry of *Rio Samba* impressed me so much that I knew I wanted her to share her story with our members in our newsletter. Thank you Kim.

## Great Roses

### *Bee's Knees*

By Bobbie Reed, CR

Looking for a great rose to add to your garden this year? Here's a rose that is so well thought of that it was voted the American Rose Society's "Members' Choice" for 2005 – '*Bee's Knees*'.

Introduced in 1998 by Jackson & Perkins, '*Bee's Knees*' is classed as a miniature, a cross of an unnamed seedling and *Haute Pink*, a pink hybrid tea. You never know what will come out of the hybridizing process! Keith Zary, the hybridizer, is the father of numerous other roses, including last year's Members' Choice rose, *Gemini*, and over 200 other favorites like *Veteran's Honor* and this year's AARS winner, *Tahitian Sunset*. '*Bee's Knees*' is a yellow blend, with touches of deep pink or red on the edges of its petals. The effect varies greatly with climate and season. This explains why the half a dozen specimens from around the country that I saw at the ARS show in Shreveport last spring looked like entirely different roses.

Jackson & Perkins doesn't sell a lot of miniature roses, so they only listed '*Bee's Knees*' in their catalog for a couple of years. It was discontinued so they could add another mini. It had already disappeared when rose exhibitors started to notice what a great rose it really was. '*Bee's Knees*' started winning Mini Queens in 2001, and by 2005, it was tied for 9<sup>th</sup>-most

frequent winner of queens among miniatures and minifloras, and had the second-highest rating for roses winning royalty awards. And while exhibition roses aren't always great garden roses, this one received the highest garden rating among eligible Roses In Review-rated cultivars, an 8.0 garden rating among 264 evaluators around the country. This rating is defined in RIR as a very good to excellent rose, one you would recommend without hesitation to anyone. Its exhibition rating was even higher.



'*Bees Knees*' was quite hard to find commercially for a while, but is much more widely available this year. It is a rose which is known to produce color sports; two have been registered, '*Erin Alonso*' (pure yellow) and '*Molly Redden*' (pink and yellow striped).

How well does it grow here? It won Mini Queen at our October 2004 show, and Mini Prince at the October 2005 show. Susan Clingenpeel won a lovely cycle of bloom class with it in Tulsa (shown above). And while ours is quite small and still in a pot, even we haven't managed to kill it.

Try it you'll like it!

## Do Your Roses Have Acid Indigestion?

By Cindy Dale, CR

Last September I finally admitted to myself that there was something seriously wrong with several floribundas that I had planted last spring. They were taking an unusually long time to get established, were abnormally small, the leaf color was pale, and repeat bloom was slow. Knowing

the importance of soil structure and pH, I finally did what I should have done much earlier, and tested the soil pH. The mystery of unhealthy rose bushes was solved when I discovered that the soil around those roses had a pH ranging from 3.6-5.8! Rose expert and monthly author for *American Rose* magazine, Dr. John Dickman, once told me that growing roses in a soil pH of 3.0 is like growing roses in lemon juice. In other words, it is a terrific handicap to the plant.

What is this thing called pH? It is a measure of acidity or alkalinity of the soil on a scale of 0-14 with 0-6.9 being acid, 7.0 being neutral, and 7.1-14 being alkaline. As we know, Georgia has heavy clay soil which tends to be significantly acidic and the addition of organic soil amendments can lower the pH even more. Roses thrive in a very slightly acidic soil pH of 6.0-6.5.

The main problem with a pH that is too low or too high is that all the wonderful fertilizers that you've been feeding to your bushes are tied up in the soil and unavailable for use by the plant. For instance, of the major nutrients, growth-stimulating Nitrogen availability decreases at 5.5 and 8.3 and root-strengthening Phosphorus is disabled below 6.0 and above 8.0. Fortunately, Potassium, which promotes bloom color, root growth, and overall vigor, is the least affected by pH, decreasing very little and only below 5.5. The availability of micronutrients such as Boron and Molybdenum is compromised in acid soil while uptake of Copper, Zinc, Iron and Manganese is inhibited in alkaline soil.

To avoid these problems you should have your soil tested at least annually. Home test kits are available at most garden centers but the most accurate method is to take small soil samples from various places in your bed, mix them together well, and take them to your county extension office where, for a small fee, they will have the sample professionally analyzed. In a matter of days you will receive a report detailing the levels of pH, macro and micronutrients, and solutions for any problems that they have identified. Another testing option is the one that I use, the



Kelway pH meter, which is guaranteed to be accurate within plus or minus 0.2. This method allows me to individually test as many roses as I want, as often as I want with confidence, as long as I follow their directions regarding probe cleaning between each measurement.

If you find that your soil is acidic, the problem can easily be resolved by “sweetening” the soil with lime at the rate of two cups per bush for every 0.5 increase in pH that you want to achieve. Dolomitic lime is used if the soil is lacking in magnesium and calcitic lime is used if it has acceptable amounts of magnesium. Remember, granular or powdered lime moves very slowly through the soil so testing and lime application may need to be done as often as every six months to maintain optimum pH levels. In an emergency situation such as my precariously low pH levels described above, you may want faster results. These are achieved through the use of liquid lime. I used *Liquid Flowable Limestone F* from Cleary Chemical Company every two weeks at ¾ ounce per gallon of water for each needed 0.5 increase in pH. If your soil pH is 7.5 or higher, powdered sulfur can be worked in at 3 pounds per 100 square feet to acidify your garden.

This story has a happy ending. The floribundas responded very well to several short-acting treatments of liquid lime and one long-acting treatment of the granular dolomitic lime. In the few months before they went into dormancy there was a dramatic change in their growth and vigor. Now they looked like they should have much earlier in the growing season instead of being a shovel’s-length away from the pile in the woods.

References:

1. Consulting Rosarian Manual. (2001) Shreveport: The American Rose Society.
2. Reddell, R. C. (1998). The rose bible. San Francisco: Chronicle Books.
3. McDonald, E. (1995). Traditional home rose gardening. Des Moines: Meredith Books.

**Cindy Dale is the President of the South Metro Rose Society and an accomplished exhibitor.**

## February Meeting Recap

By Rani Von Wurttemberg

Our President, Susan Clingenpeel, opened the meeting and welcomed the members and guests. She announced the upcoming Southeastern Flower Show, February 8-12 and the Rose Festival at Hastings, February 18-19. GGRS has been asked by GARS to be co-sponsors with NGRS and SMRS for the 2010 Fall National Rose Show and Convention. Susan Clingenpeel and Bobbie Reed met with representatives from the other north Georgia rose societies to discuss the ideas for hosting the 2010 program. Susan also reminded us to make preparations for Rose Day at Bogan Park in Buford on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Linda Bohne introduced our visitor, Rob Russell, who is running for the Deep South District Director position. Rob stated if he were to win the directorship, he would make improvements on how the rose societies are operated. He said he has learned from past experience how to keep a rose society vibrant and growing and expressed the desire to apply them during his term. He gave a positive outlook for the future if he were to win the director position. Bill Belknap reminded us to place our rose orders for Chamblee Roses. Bobbie Reed extended congratulations to Linda Bohne and Nancy Miller who both passed the Consulting Rosarian exam. She also announced there will be a Judging School June 2-4 in Bainbridge, GA. Don Schwartz gave a convincing presentation on the 10 reasons for joining the American Rose Society. In preparation for our new rose growing season, Bill Belknap shared with us the various ways and reasons for mulching our roses. Thank you Nancy Miller for providing February’s refreshments.

## From your Editor:

My fingers are twitching. I just can’t wait to get out there and use my new Barnel pruners and ergonomically correct Bionic rose gloves with the extra long gauntlets. I’ve been saving them both

for this most hallowed of moments in a rosarian's life – **Spring Pruning!** A chance to begin anew, a chance to put last years mistakes behind me, a chance to have the best darn roses I can grow. Has anyone seen the forsythia in bloom yet?

I wish to you, my fellow rosarians, a happy pruning/renewal time.

*Nancy Miller*

## Basic Spring Pruning

By Logan Shillinglaw

Pruning is the process that signals the plant to start rejuvenating by removing old and damaged wood and promoting healing and new growth. If done properly and with a plan, pruning can encourage new basal growth – the emergence of new canes from the bud union.

You want to prune your rose plant to eliminate weak canes that can sap energy from the rest of the plant. Pruning lets you shape the plant so that you can get the growth habit you want, a habit that will encourage a balanced plant with tall, healthy canes.

Pruning is the way in which you can "open up" the middle of the plant to allow a good flow of air. Why is this important? **Good airflow minimizes your risk of fungal disease – black spot, mildew, etc. – and makes care much easier.** Clearing the middle also provides room for new growth that will sustain the plant throughout the growing season.

What do you need to easily and effectively prune your roses? It's really quite simple.

**Quality pair of "bypass" pruning shears (Felco or Fiskars are among the best):** A good pair of pruning shears makes all the difference in the world.

This is one area where you don't want to cut corners. Clean and smooth cuts help ensure the health of the rose. The blade should be sharp because you want to cut the cane, not crush it.

**Loppers – Long-handled pruning shears designed for thick canes and branches:** Don't try to "muscle" a thick cane with pruning shears. A good pair of lopping shears makes the job easy and does not damage the plant. If you try to cut heavy wood with pruning shears you can permanently damage both the plant and the shears. Plus, you

have to work too hard if you do not have the right tool.

**Small wire brush:** Why a wire brush? To brush away old dead bark from around the bud union. By doing this in the spring, you are helping encourage basal breaks and new growth by making it easy for the rose to send out those new shoots.

**Puncture-proof gloves (Goat skin preferred):** Good gloves are a must! The last thing you want to do is stick yourself with those pesky thorns. Not only are they annoying, but they can lead to infections and illness. Take one extra precaution and make certain you are current on your tetanus shot. You want to remain healthy so you can enjoy the fruits of your labor. (*A tetanus shot is good for 10 years.*)

I always do better if someone tells me basic rules, so here are mine.

### **Rule #1: DON'T BE AFRAID TO CUT!**

This may seem to be the easiest, but when I started getting serious about having good roses, this was the hardest. I was always hesitant to cut away on a plant that was living or showing signs of new growth. I pruned sparingly and then wondered why my stems and blooms were not what they should be. My good friend, Marsha Tucker, put it simply and clearly, "If the stem isn't at least larger than a pencil, then gets rid of it." That makes perfect sense because a cane is not going to produce a stem larger than itself.

Cut out all the spindly and weak growth. This will encourage the rose to produce new growth on strong healthy canes.

### **Rule #2: CUT TO WHITE WOOD!**

When you prune, you want the center of the cane to show white, healthy wood. You want green bark and a white center. If you don't get that in your first cut, cut some more and keep cutting until you get a white core. The stem may be green on the outside but if the core is not a white pith, then you will be wasting time. That cane will cause you more headache than it is worth. Remember it is okay to cut back to the bud union. Joan and I have been on the trophy table with a St. Patrick that was nothing but bud union when I finished pruning.

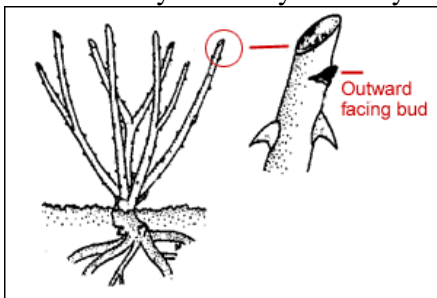
### **Rule #3: MAKE THE PROPER CUT**

This is really quite simple. Find a dormant bud



eye (slightly swollen spot where a leaf cluster is or was connected) on a strong cane. Choose a bud eye that faces away from the center of the plant. Make a 45° angle cut about ¼" above the eye. The cut should angle down and away from the eye. When you are done cutting to good wood, put a drop of Elmer's glue on the cut to seal it. This will help protect from insects that might enjoy boring into that fresh wood.

What makes this a proper cut? Why cut to an outside eye and why cut away? I wondered that



myself until I read a great article by Dr. Tommy Cairns. It really makes sense.

Cut to an outside eye to keep from having

all your canes growing together in the middle of the rose bush. You want the center of the plant to be open to promote good air circulation and new growth. This also gives the bush a more attractive rounded shape. An easy way to remember this is to clear out the center so you could rest a mixing bowl in the middle.

Cut at an angle away from the bud eye because the natural sap of the plant will rise to seal the cut and by cutting away from the eye, the sap will not interfere with the natural growth of the eye.

See, there's really nothing mystical about it at all.

**Rule #4: EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED**

What? I thought this was all pretty straightforward stuff? It really is. All I mean by this is to expect Mother Nature to keep us on our toes. We all know how temperatures can change on a moment's notice. So be prepared.

The mulch that you pulled away from the plant so that you could prune should be kept near the plant. Watch the weather and if cold weather or frost is expected, go back out and lightly cover any new and tender growth. If the forecast is for several days of sub-freezing weather, then mound the mulch around the plant to keep it from freezing. When warm days return, simply pull the mulch back and

let the plant enjoy the warmth of the sun.

One last reminder – **your plants want water.** A typical spring will provide the rain necessary, but don't take that for granted. Don't let the soil get dry. I am a terrible rainfall guesser so I invested a couple of dollars in a rain gauge. Now I can easily see if my roses are getting the two inches of rain per week they need.

This may sound like a lot to do but it really doesn't take much time – especially if you have a small and easy-to-manage garden. Believe me, you will be rewarded handsomely for the time you spend now doing it the right way!

Adapted from the For Beginners page at Rosemania.com.

**Additional Rose Resources**

**American Rose Society**, PO Box 30,000, Shreveport, LA 71130, phone 318-938-5402. Annual dues are \$37 or \$34 for those 65 or older; a three-year membership is \$100. Associate membership for the spouse of a regular member is \$10. Membership benefits include the *American Rose Magazine*, the *American Rose Annual*, and the *Handbook for Selecting Roses*.



The **American Rose Society** also publishes four specialty quarterly bulletins: *Rose Exhibitors' Forum*, *OGR & Shrub Gazette*, *Mini News*, and *Rose Arranger's Bulletin* (\$15 for REF, \$10 each for the other three), to help you explore the world of roses. Website: [www.ars.org](http://www.ars.org)

The **DSD Bulletin** is the 2003 Gold Medal-winning quarterly publication of the Deep South District of the ARS. Subscriptions are \$10 per year, or \$25 for 3 years. Mailing address: Jim & Kay Harrell, 121 Shore Rush Circle, St. Simons Island, GA 31522. DSD email: [DSDbulletin@Fairmarsh.com](mailto:DSDbulletin@Fairmarsh.com) DSD Website: [www.deepsouthdistrict.org](http://www.deepsouthdistrict.org)

*When love first came to Earth, the Spring spread rose-beds to receive him.*  
Thomas Campbell

### GGRS Officers and Rose Help Line

The following GGRS officers and Consulting Rosarians (CR) are available to assist you with your rose questions.

**President: Susan Clingenpeel, CR**, 1127 Loganville Hwy,  
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### *The Rose Vine*

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Rio Samba photo by Star Roses

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**The Greater Gwinnett Rose Society**, which is affiliated with the American Rose Society, meets at the Gwinnett County Justice and Administration Center, 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, on the first Tuesday of most months. Membership is open to anyone interested in growing roses. Annual dues are \$15 for one person or \$20 for two people at the same address. Membership benefits include the newsletter; meetings with informative speakers and programs; and conversations with some really nice rose-growing people! Contact any officer for more information, or come to a meeting.

**Renewal: All memberships are now due. If there is an error in your mailing address, please notify Don Schwarz, 3388 Lennox Ct., Lawrenceville, GA 30044**

**REMINDER: No Regular Meeting This Month. Rose Day on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, at Bogan Park, Buford**