

The Rose Vine

Newsletter of the Greater Gwinnett Rose Society

Affiliated with the American Rose Society

March 2008

From the President

Dear Fellow Rosarians:

It is hard to believe we are in March already! There are welcome signs of spring, too - crocuses are blooming, the smell of hyacinths and jonquils is in the air, and leaf buds are swelling on the trees. It is a wonderful time of year when it is warm enough on most days to take a stroll through your garden. For rosarians, March is always a busy time for planting, pruning, and getting the rose beds into shape after a long winter. The rewards, however, are huge during the growing season after the initial springtime clean up and care.

Rose Day at Bogan Park on February 23 was a good opportunity for everyone to get a refresher course on the basics. Due to watering restrictions, the society was not able to plant the remaining two rose bushes in the second rose



Linda Bohne

garden. Hopefully the project can be completed next year. Don Schwarz did a wonderful job in coordinating the event. The day was a success due to everyone's support. **Remember, no March meeting.**



Don Schwarz

Special thanks go to the following individuals this month – to Bill Belknap for organizing and distributing the Shealy and Chamblee orders, and to Al Coleman, Bobbie Reed, and Karen Radde for giving basic rose care programs at local garden clubs.

Our April meeting will include our annual non-rose plant swap. So dig up those plants that have gotten just a little bit too plentiful and bring them to the meeting to share with others. It is always a pleasure to see someone go home with a plant they want to grow in their garden.

While you are working in your gardens this month, take some time to enjoy the beauty of the season. Happy Spring!

Linda Bohne, CR

GGRS March Meeting Update

With Rose Day at Bogan Park just behind us, there will be no March meeting this year. However, we will return to the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center for our meeting on April 1. Anna Davis will talk with us about gardening in small places. Those of you who were lucky saw her presentation at the Deep South District Fall Convention and Rose Show. Many Gwinnett members at the convention were working in the rose show and gave up their opportunity to listen to Anna. Some of us have had the opportunity to see her jewel of a garden in person, or featured in books such as Landscaping with Roses. She has graciously agreed to repeat her program for us.

Don Schwarz, CR

In Your Rose Vine

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Dates to Remember

- March 4**—No meeting due to *Rose Day February 23rd*
- April 1**—GGRS monthly meeting, *Gardening in Small Spaces* with Anna Davis
- April 12**—Rose Day at Pike's Nurseries
- May 6**—GGRS monthly meeting
- May 10**—GARS Rose Show, Atlanta Botanical Garden
- May 16-18**—DSD Judges School, Bainbridge
- May 17**—SMRS Rose Show, Fayetteville
- May 30-June 1**—ARS Mini Convention & Rose Show, Oklahoma City, OK
- June 3**—GGRS monthly meeting
- June 26-30**—ARS Spring Nat'l Convention & Rose Show
- July 12**—GGRS Annual Picnic at Kim Borland's

March In the Rose Garden

By Bill Belknap

While the drought is still with us, winter should be leaving soon and time to start our gardening tasks - Pruning, fertilizing, soil test and spraying though I should start with the soil test.

Plant: Dormant roses and, once the warmer weather returns towards the middle of the month, greenhouse-grown roses and those that have broken dormancy may be planted. If you need to there is still plenty of time to transplant roses, but do it as soon as you can, ideally before the warm weather arrives. First, if it is a large rose, you will need to remove two-thirds to three quarters of the growth on the shrub depending on the size of the rose. This will make it easier to plant and reduces the foliage, which the roots will have to support. Smaller roses should still be pruned, but probably only about a quarter. Dig a hole at least three times the diameter of the pot or roots for bare root roses. If your soil is not topsoil, make a mixture of about 1/3 original soil, 1/3 sand and 1/3 compost or organic matter. Mix in about a 1/3 cup of lime and about the same of gypsum if the original soil is mostly clay. Mix in fertilizer, preferably an organic fertilizer, but Osmocote or another complete fertilizer will also work well. If you have it, mix in a handful of triple phosphate with the soil, which will be next to the

roots. Make sure if you dig it below the depth of the root ball to firm up the soil before planting. This will help account for the soil re-compacting once the rose is planted. Do the same as you fill in the hole. Once the soil is about $\frac{3}{4}$ full, water the rose well. Then complete filling the hole and water again. Finally, apply 2-3 inches of organic mulch.

Prune: March is our annual pruning time except, of course, for those OGR's and one-time bloomers, which are not pruned until after blooming. How should I prune my rose? Should I cut this cane? There are very few absolutes to pruning just keep in mind your overall goal for the shrub you are pruning. First, remove all dead, diseased and crossing canes. Cut back to all green wood - no dead in the middle of the cut cane. Use bypass pruners when cutting live wood. You will need access to the lower portion of the rose to apply fertilizer, amendments and mulch so remove the lower growing branches back to the source as you do not want another cane to branch from the one you are cutting. Open up the entire shrub for both light and air by removing most canes growing in the middle of the shrub, but don't remove them all. You now have a good starting point. If you cannot water because of the drought, I would recommend pruning out one third to one half of the shrub; for a large shrub about chest high. If you have already removed that much, you should still remove small canes since they will not support much more growth. When pruning, cut at an angle about a quarter of an inch above a possible bud or all the way back to the main cane. You want to achieve a well-rounded shape. For climbing roses remove the older canes to get the most blooms.

Fertilize: If you have not done so, it is a good time to get your soil tested. Any of the necessary amendments may be applied now or when you apply the fertilizer after pruning. Generally, about a cup each of lime and gypsum, if your soil is high in clay, is a good rule of thumb for the average hybrid tea or large rose. For a miniature, use about a third of that amount. Ideally, remove the mulch from around the rose; a small iron or adjustable rake works well. Next spread and work the amendments and fertilizer into the top $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch of soil. A garden weasel works well for this task and you can remain standing while doing it. After applying the amendments and fertilizer, if possible, water them well into the soil about 3-5 gallons for a large rose and 1-2 gallons for a small rose.

Spray: While the weather remains cool it is not



too late to apply Horticultural Oil and/or Lime Sulfur to kill over-wintering pests and diseases, respectively. Application of Lime Sulfur is especially recommended if you had blackspot on your roses last year. After pruning if you have any foliage, it is also time to start spraying the roses for fungal diseases. A combination of a contact spray such as *Daconil* or *Mancozeb* plus a systemic such as triflorene, *Cleary's* or *Banner Maxx* work very well. Dress appropriately and follow the manufacturer's directions. A hat, goggles or glasses, respirator, long sleeve shirt and long pants are always recommended to help prevent spray from getting on your skin. After spraying remove your clothing. Spraying in the morning is generally best as there is plenty of time for the spray to dry and it is generally not as windy.

Water: Unfortunately, watering will mostly depend on the watering rules for your county or water supply agency. If possible, providing adequate moisture now will allow your rose to get off to a good start. Give about an inch of water or about 3-5 gallons for a typical rose and about one third that amount for miniature roses.

Mulch: With drought conditions using a good organic mulch is probably our best way to help our shrubs and trees cope with the lack of water. Not only will the mulch help to prevent evaporation, but also provide humus, which allows the soil to both absorb and retain moisture much longer. Apply an inch or two of compost and then 2-3 inches of a good organic mulch.

Welcome New Members

A special welcome to our new members *Annette Nesler of Atlanta and Mark Warner of Cumming*. We are very pleased to have both of you as a part of our dynamic society. We look forward to seeing you at the meetings and hope your association with GGRS helps you grow in knowledge and enjoyment of your roses. Please feel free to ask us any questions you may have about growing your roses.

A note to new members: Please pick up a copy of the Greater Gwinnett Rose Society – The Basics of Rose Culture For Our New Members manual from Linda Bohne at your next meeting as we will not be mailing them. This manual is packed with information on growing roses especially in the South with our clay soil and humid weather.

The Earliest Blooms of Spring

By Bobbie Reed, *Consulting Rosarian*

April showers bring May flowers, they say. But aren't you more eager than that for the first roses of spring? What, you say, it's early March, we're just now pruning, we won't see roses for months! Want to bet? Most years, there will be roses in March, or at least by early April, blooming right along with the bulbs, spring ephemerals, and azaleas.

How does that happen? Often the earliest bloomers tend to be species roses, which are programmed genetically to bloom early. The *Cherokee Rose* (*R. laevigata*) and *Yellow Lady Banks Rose* (*R. banksiae lutea*) are regular early visitors to Gwinnett gardens. Well, to be honest, our garden contains the only *Cherokee Rose* that refuses to bloom, but there's one at Knight Elementary that we often see blooming in mid-March, if the groundskeepers haven't gotten too carried away with chainsaw massacres. I've recorded first blooms on our Lady Banks between March 21 and April 8, depending on that year's weather.

Another regular March bloomer is *Old Blush*. This antique China rose either blooms for me in March, or has buds on it that I cut off while pruning. In recent years it's been near the beginning of my pruning schedule, so it often loses those first buds. But Diane Snyder reports that it is always the first to bloom in her yard, and then continues to bloom prolifically for the rest of the season. I've found buds on *Old Blush* as early as February 26, and I've found open blooms by mid-March – well before the azaleas reach their peak bloom!



'Old Blush'

This is where microclimates come into play. We live in a nice warm pocket near Five Forks, where it's often just enough warmer to promote early growth. If I don't cut off those early buds, my bushes will bloom a week earlier than Diane's, although she's only five miles away. Some pockets of my yard are warmer than others, some roses are in pots and can warm up more quickly, some get more sun, some are more protected from wind. So in any given year, the first blooms can vary widely.

Among the earliest bloomers have also been *Isabella Sprunt*, *Papa Gontier*, *Safrano*, *Francis Dubreuil*, and *Homère*, all old Tea roses in pots in our



'Isabella Sprunt'

garden. Had I tried to prune them early, they might not have bloomed until August – they'll really sulk – but their occasional blooms are a cheerful addition to the March garden. Another early China bloomer for me has been *Mme. Laurette Messimy*. And an assortment of other roses

have risen to the top from year to year – *Baby Love* (miniature), *April Moon*, *Carefree Beauty*, *Chireno*, *Mary Rose*, *Outta the Blue*, and *Thérèse Bugnet* (all shrubs), *La Marne* (polyantha) and *Fourth of July* (climber).

The roses that will never appear on this list are the ones we prune hard, like hybrid teas. I find that the old European roses, like Gallicas, tend to bloom later, as if they were better adapted to the vagaries of spring. Sometimes, those earliest bloomers are zapped by late frosts, but they still make my heart sing in early spring!

DSD DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

By Diane Snyder, *Consulting Rosarian*

Hello Photo Enthusiasts! Here I am again to remind you that it is time to start thinking about the annual DSD Photo Contest. I hope those of you who participated last year enjoyed the contest and the results. We would love to have lots more of you join the fun this year. The results were published in the last bulletin and I hope everyone got to see and enjoy them.

The contest rules follow and they are pretty much the same as last year. Class 15 was something of a challenge to many of our exhibitors. To clarify, please include people and roses in the photograph, as several entries were disqualified for including one or the other but not both. People need not be society members—how about family, pets, or total strangers? Everyone enjoys roses and we love to catch them in the act.

Again, entries in classes 1 to 11 no longer have to be only the entrant's own roses. This should give our photographers incentive to visit gardens and shows to get the best pictures.

I am looking forward to seeing all your entries and hope we are a big hit again this year. Please email me

at roberthsnyder@bellsouth.net with questions and entries.

Thank you in advance for your participation,
Diane Snyder

CONTEST RULES

1. May enter up to four images per Class (1-16)
2. Photos must be submitted in JPEG Image format; may be cropped to any size but must NOT be touched-up or enhanced in any way.
3. Images must be taken by an amateur photographer who is a member of ARS residing in the DSD or a member of a local DSD Rose Society.
4. Digital images that have won awards in previous ARS or DSD photography contests are not eligible.
5. Images in Classes 1-11 and Class 16 must be identified by their ARS exhibition names. Grooming the rose(s) is encouraged, and artificial backgrounds may be used.
6. **Name each digital image to reflect its Class (1-16), ARS exhibition name.**
Example: C#1Jema.
7. Email entries to: roberthsnyder@bellsouth.net. Include your name, address, phone number and local society.
8. **ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED by: Thursday, July 31, 2008.**

CLASSES

1. One bloom, exhibition stage, HT or Gr, no side buds.
2. One spray, HT or Gr, two or more blooms.
3. One bloom F or Pol, exhibition stage, no side buds.
4. One spray, F or Pol, two or more blooms.
5. One open bloom Ht or Gr, stamens must show.
6. One bloom or spray of a shrub.
7. One bloom or spray of an OGR.
8. One bloom or spray of a Climber.
9. One bloom of a miniature/mini-flora, no side buds.
10. One spray of a miniature/mini-flora.

11. One open bloom miniature/mini-flora, stamens must show.
12. Artistic Standard Arrangement- Design must meet ARS standards. Indicate arranger's name and name of roses if known. Can be any style- Traditional, Modern, Oriental, etc.
13. Artistic Miniature Arrangement- Design must meet ARS standards. Indicate arranger's name and name of roses if known. Can be any style- Traditional, Modern, Oriental, etc.
14. Abstract or Impressionism- A non-objective design, form or content of a rose, rose plant, or any portion thereof. This does not mean abstract rose arrangements. Get creative!
15. People and Roses- A picture of people enjoying roses. May be of any rose activity but must include people and roses. Include the society name of the activity and or people in the picture, if known. Remember, children, pets and perfect strangers can be used. Let's catch people in the act of enjoying roses.
16. Stages of Bloom- 3 photos of one rose: HT, Gr, miniature, or mini-flora, showing the stages of bloom. Include the ARS exhibition name.

The Easy Guide to Shooting Pictures of your Roses Just for Fun

By Bob Bauer

Have you ever been wandering around in your garden and spotted a bloom that truly amazed you or even broke your heart, it was so beautiful? You know: a single flower or a cluster at the perfect point in time, the best bloom you had ever seen on that bush? All that's left now of that rose is the good memory.

It doesn't have to be that way. You can shoot a photo of your wonderful rose and preserve that bloom forever. Grab a camera, get out there and capture that perfect moment. Do it just for YOU. And do it just for the fun of it.

Photography is easier than ever, thanks to the invention of digital cameras. For as little as \$200, you can buy a digital camera that will give you great results with just a little effort.

These cameras all have auto focus, auto exposure, auto light color balance and enable you to just point and shoot. You can even fix your mistakes later on the computer and print your own pictures at home. You don't even need a computer! You can take your reusable camera memory card to the local drugstore and get prints and a CD to store the digital images forever.

10 Easy Tips for Shooting Great Rose Pictures

1. Shoot in any light, but keep the sun at your back for best results. The more light the better. (A tripod will help you, but isn't a must.)
2. Use the viewfinder only (NOT the TV screen at the back) to frame your picture.
3. Fill the whole frame with the rose; don't just put the rose in the middle. Make sure to look at the edges of the frame, as everything you see will be in the picture.
4. Wind is bad, so shoot in the morning in order to avoid it.
5. Shoot it NOW! Keep the camera by the back door ready to go. Your bloom will NOT wait for you.
6. Turn the camera 90 degrees and shoot a vertical picture once in a while. Half the world is vertical.
7. Look at the rose from different angles before you shoot. Walk around it a bit. Don't just march up to the plant and fire away.
8. Watch out for mottled light and shadows. They will show up as ugly blotches.
9. Include multiple blooms or buds in the same picture, not just single blooms all the time. Move the camera around while you are looking through it and pull the trigger when it looks right.
10. Throw away the rulebook and play around a bit. Feel free to screw up. It isn't serious.

A Few Camera Buying and Technical Tips:

- Buy a camera with a close up lens or close up capabilities
- Get a camera with at least 5 mega pixel sized images.



- Use the highest quality setting on your camera menu.
- Get a storage card (SD card) at least one gigabyte in size.
- Take a few minutes and browse your camera's instruction manual. (Most people don't.)

Remember photographing is easy. It is a simple skill that can be learned by anyone. Everyone is creative; you just need to relax and tap into it. Like riding a bicycle, if you mess up, simply get back on and try again. We only have to impress ourselves.

Here is a link to much more detailed information on my Rose Photography pages:
<http://www.bauerphoto.com/phototips.phototips.html>

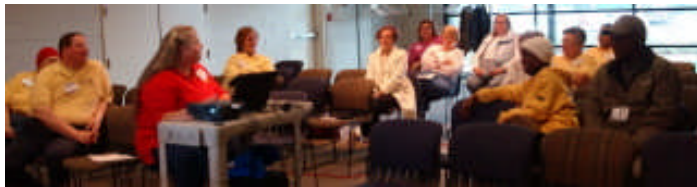
2008 Rose Day

By Nancy Miller, *Consulting Rosarian*

'Twas the morning of Rose Day, when in the far end of the rooms,
 We put out the sausage balls, brownies, fruit, coffee and spoons.

The rose paraphernalia were placed on the tables with care,
 In the hopes eager gardeners soon would be there.

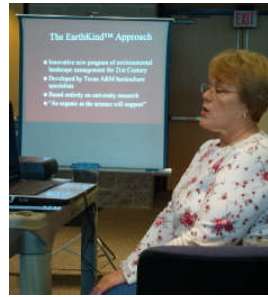
The roses for raffle were nestled all snug in their pots,
 With visions of guests coming; we hoped there'd be lots;



Louise Stafford leads discussion on pests and diseases

I'll now shift to normal prose, 'cause it got even cheesier after that last verse!!!

Rose Day was a great day of fun and learning, seeing old friends we hadn't had the opportunity to visit with in a while and meeting some new people and talking roses with them. It's that time of year when the ground hog isn't the only one wanting to come out of his den. We're aching to don those gloves, pick up those seculars, grab



Karen Radde and her EarthKind roses talk

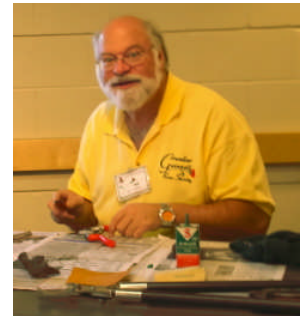
some fertilizer and mulch and hit the road running. We met some nice people who came to rose day with the same things on their minds.

Our hope is they walked away not only with some fine roses they won in the raffle, but a sense of how to care for and receive

many years of enjoyment from them.

There were about 20 plus people in attendance, 5 of them were guests. Two of our members renewed their membership and Annett Nesler of Atlanta and Mark Warner of Cumming, GA joined our society. Annette and Mark, we look forward to seeing you at the next monthly meeting on April 1st.

We raffled off around 32 roses and Bill Stafford sharpened and cleaned several pruning tools, earning the society \$170.00. I can see that coming in handy for the rose show in October!



Bill Stafford with tools

Bill Belknap and Mikhail Shames worked

tirelessly pruning and amending the two rose beds. Be sure to thank those guys next time you see them. They were awesome!

Our presenters were Linda Bohne, Kim Borland, Bobbie Reed, Nancy Miller, Louise Stafford and Karen Radde. We again were very fortunate to have Bogan Park offer their facility to us for this event.

Denver in the Spring

By Nancy Miller, *Consulting Rosarian*

The Denver Rose Society invites all to the "Gems of the Rockies" 2008 ARS Spring National Convention and Rose Show this June 26th -30th in



Denver Colorado. Many fabulous programs will be presented as well as excellent garden tours. Our very own Susan Clingenpeel, National Horticulture Judges Chair, will teach the fine points of judging challenge classes in the Horticulture Judges Seminar. Roses of unbelievable quality will be exhibited at the Rose Show and quilts and photographs will vie for acknowledgement in their respective categories. This is a must see convention and rose show. Peggy Williams, National Convention Chairperson, can be reached at 303-691-2790 or pegwilliams22@comcast.net. The convention web site is www.2008arsdenver.com.

February Meeting Recap

By Rosie Tripp

The President Linda Bohne called the meeting to order. Eighteen members attended.

Shealy order - Pickup was before the meeting in the parking lot. Thank you to Bill Belknap for the handling of orders.

Dues – Dues are past due. Dues must be paid by February 15th to continue to receive newsletter and benefits.

Request for speaker – Garden Club is requesting a speaker for February 26th at 7:30 pm. Garden club meets at St. Oliver Plunkett Catholic Church in Snellville. Bobbie Reed volunteered.

Roses in Review – Deep South District missed winning by 12 votes. Rosarians should submit review even if none on the list are being grown.

Chamblee roses - Bill Belknap is taking orders for roses. Groups of any 12 roses must be ordered at a time.

Rose Day Program -

Rose Day will be at Bogan Park on February 23rd from 9 am to 12:30 pm. Don Schwarz will be contacting members for help.

Good Day Atlanta on Fox - Ryan



Jessie Usleton manning the DVD presentation

Tilley's green house will be highlighted on Valentine's Day with discussion on growing roses. Taping is on February 7th.

Program – There was a DVD presentation of "Pruning Shrub Roses" with David Stone. A lively discussion on different pruning methods was discussed afterwards. Thank you to Jesse Usleton for handling the projection.

Thank you to Evelyn Beggs for the evening's refreshments.

Next meeting – Tuesday April 1st at 7:30.

*"It matters not what goal you seek. Its secret here reposes: You've got to dig from week to week To get Results or Roses."
Edgar Albert Guest*

Additional Rose Resources

American Rose Society, PO Box 30,000, Shreveport, LA 71130, phone 318-938-5402. Annual dues are \$49 Individual, \$62 Joint, \$46 Senior (65+), \$59 Senior Joint, \$10 Youth and a three-year membership is \$140 Individual.

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. ARS Website: 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 DSD Website: www.deepsouthdistrict.org

GGRS Officers and Rose Help Line

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

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◆ *Master Rosarian*

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 Kim Borland.

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A Publication of the Greater Gwinnett Rose Society

Nancy Miller, Editor

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Bill Belknap (left) and Mikhail Shames (right) pruned the two rose beds at Bogon Park on Rose Day 2008