

The Rose Vine

Founded in 1996

Newsletter of the Greater Gwinnett Rose Society

Affiliated with the American Rose Society



April 2017

In Your Rose Vine

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Refreshments

Note: we shall pass around a sign-up sheet to volunteer for refreshments during 2017.

Meeting Venue and Program

April 11th 6 pm Gwinnett Justice and Administration Building
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, GA
Grooming Roses for Rose Shows

President's Letter for April, 2017

Happy April Everyone! By now you should be seeing some nice blooms on your roses. Most of mine have started blooming, some of my Hybrid Teas have just begun to show color. But there are lots and lots of buds! To me, this is the most exciting time. The frost scare has passed, we have had some nice hot weather and some rain. Whether it's a rose you've had for years, or a new one you have never seen bloom yet, the first blooms are always a welcome sight. The cold snap last month set things back a bit, but we are still in good shape. There are Rose Shows going on already in warmer parts of the country and in a few weeks, we will have our Atlanta area shows.

April was a busy month for GGRS. First, we had our weekend at Family Tree Garden Center in Snellville. This was Family Tree's eighth anniversary and they had a big sale. If you were there before 10am, you were able to get their quality roses for only \$14.99! that is a bargain that even the GGRS volunteers there could not resist. One friend of GGRS went home with 18 roses! GGRS members were there on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We assisted members with choosing orders and gave advice on planting and caring for roses. And thanks to the hard work of volunteers, we gained four new members. Special thanks to Alba Sequeira to

arranging the special promo of a free rose raffle to any new members who signed up.

Our April meeting was our annual Plant Swap. Members gathered in the parking lot to share the extra bounty from their garden. We bought raffle tickets and when our numbers were called, we got to pick what we wanted. I was thrilled to come home with Crested Sweetheart from Diane Snyder's garden. Thanks to everyone who brought plants and helped to raise money for GGRS.

Next month our meeting program will be practicing grooming roses for rose shows. If you can, please bring some roses to the meeting, it doesn't matter which kind. This is timely because we have two local shows coming up. Mother's Day weekend is the Greater Atlanta Rose Society Show at the Botanical Gardens and the following weekend will be the South Metro Rose Society Rose Show. More info on those later. Also in May is the Heritage Rose Foundation 2017 Conference. The HRF is an organization dedicated to lovers of Old Garden Roses. The Conference is in Fredricksburg Virginia this year and will include tours of Monticello, Hollywood Cemetery and programs and speakers. If you love old roses, this will be a great trip. Info is here [LINK](#).

Bet Sobon, President

April in the Rose Garden

By Bobbie Reed, *Master Rosarian*
770-979-4237, berdks@mindspring.com

Observe – Yes, it's that special time of year. Spring is really, really here, and our garden is green! Temperatures have been warm for the first quarter of the year; we set three new high temperature records in the 80s during March. But there was a March Surprise; just as I'd given up all expectations of a late freeze,

March 16 found us in the low to mid 20s. Within a week, we were back in the 80s, with enough pollen to turn our gardens yellow.

The first rose blooms appeared back in February. Blooms have continued to grace our gardens, though with an odd sense of timing: shrubs bloomed before our traditional earliest bloomers like the Cherokee Rose and Lady Banks. Any buds on your roses when that last freeze hit *may* have been damaged; I saw only a little wilted foliage in our garden. It can take about 30 days from bud to bloom, so damaged blooms may show up through mid-April. But a damaged bud does not mean there's something wrong with your whole rose bush, and normal blooms should return by mid-April. If temperatures dipped below 20 degrees in your garden, there may have been more serious damage that will show up later.

Water – Our area had only 60 percent as much rainfall as normal in March, after a dry February. Lake Lanier is still down, and the headwaters of the Chattahoochee are still in drought. It's also been much warmer than normal, so our gardens already need watering. April (thunder) showers will provide some much-needed rain, but their sporadic nature means that your garden may not have received the rainfall you saw at work. Set up a rain gauge and water whenever you haven't had an inch of rain in the last seven days (yes, you'll need to keep a record of the rainfall, or at least empty the gauge once a week).

The northern suburbs of Atlanta remain in Level 2 drought; the southern half of our region is in Level 1. Current water use restrictions limit outdoor landscape watering to two days a week determined by odd- and even-numbered addresses. Even-numbered and unnumbered addresses may water on Wednesday and Saturday before 10am and after 4pm. Odd-numbered addresses may water Thursday and Sunday before 10am and after 4pm. Drip irrigation or hand watering are



allowed at any time, as is watering personal food gardens, and watering from wells or rain barrels.

Feed – Now is the time to feed your roses to give them energy for all their spring growth. You can use a fast-release-nitrogen fertilizer in addition to any organics that you like, to feed both plants and soil. Supplement the dry fertilizers with something liquid every week or two, like Miracle-Gro or Mills EasyFeed or fish emulsion, and watch those roses jump out of the ground! This time of year, feed early and often – your babies are hungry!

Spray – I've already found powdery mildew and blackspot on our rose bushes. That means it's time to use fungicides to keep those diseases under control, so start your regular spray regimen. Put it on the calendar, and continue to spray every seven days with a mixture of systemic (BannerMaxx, Honor Guard, Compass, Cleary's 3336) and contact fungicides (Pentathlon, Daconil, mancozeb); be sure to rotate those systemic fungicides to discourage resistance. Banner Maxx allows a longer spray interval, 14 days, but with lots of new growth, you may need to spray more frequently to protect all those tender new leaves. If powdery mildew is your problem, you may want to use a potassium bicarbonate fungicide like GreenCure or an oil-based fungicide like neem or jojoba oil to help fight it. For those who want to avoid the chemical arsenal completely, observe which varieties are more prone to disease, and decide if some should be moved, re-pruned to allow better air circulation, or replaced with healthier stock.

Thumb Prune – We've finished our major pruning, but there's more to do. As you walk around in the garden, watch for places where three buds are trying to grow from a single point on a cane, and brush off two of them with your thumb – it's much easier now than it will be later, and if you let all three grow, none of them will grow as well. Also, keep an eye on the direction of new growth – if a new

stem is heading for the center of the plant, cut it out now, before the bush invests much energy in growing something that will inhibit sunshine and airflow through the bush.

Disbud – As you find rosebuds on your bushes, remember to “disbud”. On average it takes 30 days from tiniest bud to open bloom, so your rose show entries will have already appeared in your garden by mid-April. As you examine your roses, look for a stem with only a couple of buds, one big, one small. Pinch off the little one, the “sidebud”, to let more energy go to the other, single bloom. If you find a stem with three or more buds, pinch out the center one. This allows all the buds to open at the same time, without a hole in the middle of the spray, or an old bloom in the middle of a fresh spray. I know we cherish every bud and every potential bloom, but selective disbudding helps us have more beautiful blooms. This is especially important for exhibitors and for those who want to use their blooms in arrangements.

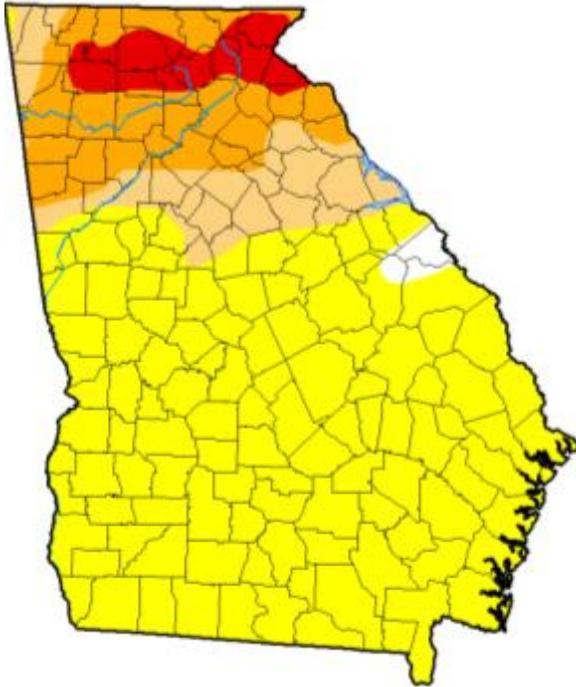
Mulch – As you begin to fertilize, check on your mulch. This is a good time to refresh or replace mulch, as needed. Mulching now will help your plant conserve moisture and protect it from the hot summer days ahead. Three to four inches of an organic mulch will protect your roses.

Plant – Potted rose plants are coming into nurseries and mail-order nursery deliveries are arriving. Get your new babies off to a good start in a great hole. Don't forget to check and adjust the pH of the soil, add something to lighten the clay (coarse sand or expanded shale are good), and add organic material. Mulch well, and don't forget to water regularly after they're planted.

Learn – My roses are always trying to teach me something, and pruning is the perfect time for a conversation about their health. Once again I found some crowded centers filled with powdery mildew, and some leaves that had clearly had blackspot for months – we need to start spraying sooner. Some other bushes had

foliage so discolored that I suspect the pH is out of whack.

Enjoy – April is so full of blooms that I *have* to spend time in the garden, until the pollen chases me back indoors. Pick a mild day and



some iced tea, and enjoy the beauties of the season.

Another Visit to Family Tree Nursery

Al Coleman, CR

GGRS again sent members to Family Tree to help customers in selecting roses and to answer any questions on the care of roses. An additional benefit was the Opportunity to promote GGRS.

This year there were changes from previous years. This year we sent teams on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and our visits this year coincided with Family Tree’s anniversary sale. Early shoppers were given a coupon good

for a large deduction on items purchased during the day. When our team arrived on Saturday morning the parking lot was full and remained full for most of the day.

This year the roses and our location were moved outside. The weather was cold and windy but did not hinder customer interest in or purchasing roses. There was a wide selection of healthy looking grade 1 roses in 3 gallon pots with a reasonable price of \$24.95. If you had a coupon, the price was a good bit lower. One lady. With our help, bought 20 new roses and another one 5 new roses. Sales were brisk with some varieties being sold out.



Customer interest was even more than previous years. We answered many questions and gave out information on what i call “the 10 commandments on growing roses”. Many signed up to receive our monthly newsletter “The Rose Vine”. Best of all we signed up four new members with dues paid. All in all, this year was a big success for both family tree and GGRS. We look forward to another success next year. By the way, if you are not familiar with Family Tree nursery, located on main street in Snellville, you will be pleasantly surprised. Also, near by is Mary Jane’s. The only place i know where you can get banana and chocolate pudding on the breakfast buffet.

Please like our Facebook Page! Click on the picture to join



For more information & to confirm meeting details:

Contact and Membership Info:

Greater Atlanta Rose Society (**GARS**)
Meets third Tuesday of most months at
Atlanta Botanical Garden (ABG)
Contact: Melissa Cobb, President (404-
663-4018) email: gadawgs1@msn.com
Website: www.atlantarose.org

2017 Calendar	
May 9th	May GGRS Meeting
13th	GARS Rose Show, Atlanta Botanical Gardens
16th	GARS May Meeting, Atlanta Botanical Gardens
18th-20th	HRF 2017 Conference, Fredricksburg, VA
20th	South Metro Rose Show, Fayetteville, GA
23rd	South Metro RS meeting, 6:30pm, Heritage Bank, Fayetteville

Greater Gwinnett Rose Society
GGRS

Meets second Tuesday of most months, usually at the Gwinnett Justice & Admin Center

Contact: Bet Sobon, President, at 770-561-6846, e-mail betsobon@gmail.com
Website: www.gwinnettrose.org

South Metro Rose Society

Meets fourth Monday, 6:30pm, at the Heritage Bank, 440 N. Jeff Davis Drive, Fayetteville
Contact: David Dale, President, at 770-631-3885 .

GGRS Officers and Rose Help Line

The following GGRS officers, Master Rosarians (MR) and Consulting Rosarians (CR) are available to assist you with your rose questions:

President: Bet Sobon (CR)
770-561-6846
betsobon@gmail.com

Vice President: Alba Sequeira
(404) 483-4004
albaz2@bellsouth.net

2nd Vice-President, Membership and Secretary:
Rani von Württemberg (CR)
770-963-2699
rani@bellsouth.net

Treasurer : Jesse Uselton
770-938-3134
dandlioncat@comcast.net

Hospitality Coordinator:
Diane Snyder, MR
770-985-8861
roberthsnyder@msn.com

Web Site: <http://www.gwinnettrose.org>
We are also on [Facebook](#)

Consulting Rosarian (MR) Coordinator

Linda Bohne 404-274-1492
lindabohne1492@gmail.com

Consulting (CR) and Master (MR) Rosarians:
Bet Sobon (CR) 770-561-6846
betsobon@gmail.com

Linda Bohne (CR) 404-274-1492
lindabohne1492@gmail.com

Al Coleman (CR) 678-432-4792
alsara.coleman@att.net

Sara Coleman (CR) 678-432-4792
alsara.coleman@att.net

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Diane Snyder (MR) 770-985-8861
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Rani von Württemberg (CR) 770-963-2699
rani@bellsouth.net

West
Linda Schuppener (MR) 770-489-4865
linda2742@comcast.net

Emeritus Members:

Louise Stafford (MR) 770-985-6014
roseylou@earthlink.net



Greater Gwinnett Rose Society encourages you to join our parent organization, the American Rose Society. Membership benefits include the **American Rose** magazine, the **American Rose Annual**, the **Handbook for Selecting Roses, and reciprocating gardens admissions**. Annual dues are \$49 or \$46 for those 65 or older; a three-year membership is \$140. Associate membership for the spouse of a regular member is \$13.

For more information please visit www.rose.org. ARS also publishes five specialty quarterly bulletins that can be accessed from the "Members Only" section of www.rose.org at no charge: **The OGR & Shrub Gazette, Mini News, Rose Exhibitor's Forum, Singularly Beautiful Roses, and The Rose Arranger's Bulletin.**

The **DSD Bulletin** is the quarterly publication of the **Deep South District**. It is provided electronically to all ARS members in the district who have valid e-mail addresses. Yours will be e-mailed to you by your local newsletter editor. Black & white print copies are available if you do not have e-mail capability. You can receive a black and white copy of the Bulletin for \$10 per year. In order to receive this version of the **Bulletin**, mail a check to the **DSD Treasurer, Kay Harrell at 121 Shore Rush Cr., St. Simons Island, GA 31522.**



The Greater Gwinnett Rose Society: Membership

Membership in the Greater Gwinnett Rose Society is open to anyone interested in growing roses.

Membership benefits:

- The GGRS newsletter, *The Rose Vine*, via email
- Meetings with informative speakers and programs
- Problem solving assistance
- Chemical recommendations and sources
- Rose variety sources and locations
- Members-only garden tours
- New product evaluations
- Site visits and behind-the-scenes tours of growers and gardens
- Bulk purchases of roses and rose care products
- Contact with some really nice rose-growing people

Membership dues:

One year (Individual) \$15.00

One year (Family Membership) \$20.00

Please make checks payable to GGRS

To: *Jesse Uselton, Treasurer, 2690 Gleneagles Drive Tucker GA 30084, Tel: (770) 938-3134.*

