

THE ROSE VINE

Newsletter of the Greater Gwinnett Rose Society

Affiliated with the American Rose Society

May 2005

From the President

Dear fellow rosarians:

The spring seems to be progressing very quickly.



The amount of rain we received is wonderful for avoiding the task of watering, but spraying on a consistent basis and controlling black spot is difficult. Try your best to prevent the black spot fungus before it becomes a problem. It is much easier to prevent the disease than to

eradicate it once it becomes established. The roses I purchased from both Week's and Chamblee's through our society sale are doing very well. I hope everyone else is pleased with their bushes. There are many rose activities occurring in the next several weeks. I encourage everyone to participate in one or more rose shows this spring. Rose shows provide a great chance to see a wide range of roses at their prettiest. The Greater Atlanta Rose Society (GARS) Show will take place on Saturday May 7 at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. There are many classes including one for novice exhibitors who have never won a blue ribbon. South Metro Rose Society will hold their show Saturday May 14th. Hopefully we will have schedules available for each show at our May meeting. First time exhibitors should not be intimidated. There will be many friendly, experienced exhibitors at the show to help novices with their entries. We have been invited by GARS to a picnic for all metro Atlanta rose societies at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday June 25 at the Fernbank Science Museum. Fernbank has a lovely garden, which GARS helps maintain and our picnic will be in this attractive

setting. I encourage all members to attend. We will have directions and details in our June newsletter.

Bill Belknap, Nancy Miller and I attended a meeting at Vines Botanical Garden recently. Vines was a privately operated facility that is now being maintained by Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation Department. There is portion of the garden, which contains approximately 100 OGR's, and shrubs. We met with Kim Joens, a recreation program coordinator with Gwinnett County. The county is interested in developing a large volunteer base to help with maintaining the gardens. She has asked our society to provide guidance in the rose care and possibly donate volunteer hours to the garden. We would be responsible for duties such as feeding and pruning of the bushes. There are other volunteers to handle more of the menial maintenance such as weeding and mulching. Our society has a history *(President's letter continued on next page)*

Dates to Remember

April 30: Rose Day America, all Lowe's Building Supply stores nationwide

May 3: GGRS monthly meeting, 7 pm, Gwinnett Justice & Admin Center. Program will be.

May 7-8: GARS Rose Show, Atlanta Botanical Garden

June 7: GGRS monthly meeting, 7 pm, Gwinnett Justice & Admin Center.

June 25: Greater Atlanta Rose Society Picnic – All other area societies are invited. Fernbank's Staton Rose Garden.

(President's letter continued from front page)
of assisting Vines in their rose care. I feel this collaboration between our society and the park department can provide another wonderful opportunity for public outreach. We will be discussing this possible partnership at our May meeting. I will say that considering the neglect the roses in the park have had recently they look in very good shape. I believe with a little T.L.C. from our members they could flourish.

See you at the May meeting!

Susan Clingenpeel

April In The Rose Garden

What's in Your Garden? We had a couple of warm weeks early in April and I think that has encouraged a lot of buds to open. The colors of the roses this time of year are intense – even my Knockouts are a dark velvety red. I have seen few aphids this year – but if you have them, try spraying them with water before resorting to insecticides which could kill the good bugs. I have also seen very few tent caterpillars this year. More on them elsewhere in the newsletter.

Water, Water Everywhere – Early in April we were having consistent rain. The past couple of weeks have been fairly dry. It is important to water roses now – water them at least 1 – 2 inches a week. Water all of this at one time.

Let Them Eat – Our plants are hungry at this time of year. Keep on whatever regular feeding schedule you have established. I start with an organic feeding shortly after pruning. I am now using a liquid fertilizer which provides nutrients quicker.

An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure – Since Atlanta is in the “black spot belt” it is important to start spraying fungicides as soon as leaves start appearing. If you are using the Bayer All-In-One product then of course you should not

have to spray.

Grateful Deadheading – To encourage continuous blooming it is important to cut off the spent flowers. Roses spend a lot of energy creating their hips. By deadheading we are directing that same energy into producing more flowers.

Keep it Cool – Mulch now becomes an important ingredient in the gardens. It is used to keep the ground cool and somewhat moist. See Bill Belknap's article on mulch elsewhere in the newsletter.

Now – Smell Those Roses – We grow roses because we love them. Now get out there and enjoy the fruits of your labor!!

Mulch-Mulch-Mulch

By Bill Belknap

When we moved to Atlanta there were several Dogwoods and a Ligustrum in the yard. After two years the dogwoods and the ligustrum had hardly grown. I decided to till up the grass and put mulch down. No lime, no gypsum, no fertilizer, just mulch. What a difference – almost immediately they started growing. The dogwoods grew so fast I had to dig them up and transplant them as they were too crowded. While I doubt the effect on roses will be as dramatic, mulch does make a big difference in the ability of the rose to prosper.

Mulching has many desired effects some of which are not as readily apparent. Obviously, the mulch helps maintain the moisture in the soil and helps keep the weeds at bay, but there is so much more. Below is probably only a partial list of the benefits of mulching.

Mulch not only helps maintain the moisture levels in the soil but also helps to maintain the temperature of the soil. Mulch helps keep the soil cool in the early spring delaying the sprouting of the leaves; in so doing it can help avoid early

sprouting which are susceptible to cold temperatures. To help warm up the soil you may wish to remove the mulch for a week or two. In the summer mulch again helps to keep the soil cool.

Organic mulch will add the nutrients to the soil as it breaks down over the growing season. This has many side benefits. Since the source is organic the nutrients released are in the proper proportion for use by the plants. With the soil being moist and organic matter being added, the worms will be more plentiful aiding the spread of nutrients throughout the soil and help loosening it.

The organic matter adds humas to the soil a necessity especially in our hot weather. This aids in the microbial action in the soil which makes the nutrients available to the plant.

I like to use two layers of mulch. The first is compost. I make my own, but manure composts are even better. Make sure the manure is well composted so that the decomposing does not add heat to the soil and burn the roots. Mushroom compost is also available in both bulk form and in bags. Apply about an inch of compost. Next apply your usual mulch. I prefer a wood based mulch – red oak or similar mulch I believe works best. Cypress mulch is good, but it takes a long time to decompose; if you only need a little though it is available in bags. Pine straw works well as a mulch, but will not help build the soil as it does not readily decompose. Pine bark is good for maintaining the moisture levels to, but similar to cypress mulch it breaks down very slowly delaying benefit to the soil. While inorganic mulches will help maintain soil moisture levels and help prevent weeds, it does not add to the soil itself.

Mulch your roses well when you fertilize in the spring. When you need to add dry fertilizer after the first flush of blooms, you should find that much of the compost will be gone. Add more.

Over time you will find that the soil will be improved; it will have more humas and be lighter. In addition, it will be much easier to work when weeding or adding dry ingredients. It's hard to believe, but after several years you will find that the clay soil is no longer solid. It has a much deeper color and should begin to look like topsoil.

If you do not prune, fertilize, lime or any of the other things including watering(except for newly planted roses which must be watered until a good root system is established) - mulch. Mulch will help overcome all the other tasks. I have had roses which were not watered, even during our dry summers. They probably did not bloom as much, but I did not get any dead leaves or canes from lack of moisture and the roses were in sun most of the day. Mulching also works for potted plants. When mulching do not cover the canes, as this aids the spread of disease.

Vines Revisited, 2005

By Bobbie Reed, CR



One of the lesser-known jewels of Gwinnett County has been Vines Botanical Gardens. Originally the private estate of Charles and Myrna Adams,

the land for Vines was donated to Gwinnett County to be used as a park in 1990, and was named after Mrs. Adams's father. The Vines Botanical Garden Foundation was established in 1994 to handle operation of the site, and in 1997 the Manor House was privatized, and leased to Georgia Fine Restaurants (Little Gardens); the Foundation continued to operate the gardens.

The history of our society is linked with that of Vines. Our early meetings, Rose Days, and our

first Rose Show were held there. For several years, Greater Gwinnett Rose Society members were involved in caring for the rose garden as a society project. More recently, individual members have been involved in consulting and training staff and volunteers who worked in the gardens, and one of our members, Mary Bachner, has been on the staff.

Over time, the gardens have suffered from curtailed staffing and limited funds, while volunteers with varying levels of expertise cared for the garden. Nevertheless, the rose garden has remained as a special place, demonstrating the history and myriad beauties of the rose. Master Gardeners have taken on much of the care of the rose garden.

Now, Vines is changing again. On March 1, 2005, the Gwinnett County Commission voted to take over 17 of 25 acres, previously leased to Georgia Fine Restaurants, which will open to the public as part of a 79-acre Vines Park dedicated to passive recreation (I think that means no ball fields). County staff arrived the next day to begin the take-over, erecting a fence between the Manor House and the lake, beginning the transformation of the area. The rose garden will be part of the County's Vines Park, the Foundation will be dissolved, and "Botanical Garden" will be dropped from the name.

The future of the rose garden is uncertain at this time. Hopefully, the county will find some way to maintain it.

damage than even Japanese Beetles but good grief – I could not kill a potential butterfly! After some research I discovered that they are called Eastern Tent Caterpillars and that they morph into a moth, not a butterfly. We had quiet a few wild cherry trees around the house and each had one or more airy, spun-silk sort of nest. These are the nests of the caterpillars. If you look you can actually see thousands of small caterpillars in the nest. I had read that if the nest is punctured birds will eat the caterpillars. I did this but I still had hundreds in the roses. We eventually cut down every cherry we could find. This year I have very few of these hungry diners.

If you do have these trees in your yard and you do not want to cut them down, try removing the nest. Use a long pole and insert it into the nest. Then turn the pole and wrap the nest around it. Or you can just pick off the caterpillars from the roses. But be careful. As is the case with a lot of these furry insects, some folks are sensitive to them and you may feel like you have been stung

Greater Atlanta 2005 Rose Show

“Shall we Dance?”

May 7 and 8

Prep area open Saturday 6:30 – 9:30

Show open to public Saturday 1:00 – 5:00

Sunday 9:00 – 5:00

Eastern Tent Caterpillars

By Louise Stafford



You may have noticed these caterpillars devouring the leaves of your rose bushes. When I first saw these creatures I thought they were butterfly caterpillars. They seemed to be doing more

Dues Are PAST Due!

If you have not already done so – please remember to pay your dues. Dues are \$15 for one person, or \$20 for two or more persons at the same address. Elevated dues levels are always welcome.

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.

GGRS Officers and Rose Help Line

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

Officers for 2005

President: Susan Clingenpeel; 1127 Loganville Hwy.; Bethlehem, GA 30620; 770-868-4476; Roses4sjc@aol.com

Vice-President: Linda Bohne; 1960 Travers Circle; Lawrenceville, GA 30044; 770-822-6933

Linda.bohne@mindspring.com

Secretary: Nancy Miller; 1974 Branches Way; Lawrenceville, GA 30043; 770-963-6490 njmiller1992@msn.com

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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 in January. If there is an error in your mailing address, please notify **Don Schwarz;** 3388 Lennox Ct.; Lawrenceville, GA 30044

While the advice and information in this newsletter is believed to be true and accurate, neither the authors nor Editor can accept any legal responsibility for any errors or omissions that may have been made. The GGRS or ARS makes no warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to the material contained herein.

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*. **For a limited time, new members may join at a reduced rate of \$32 per year, and will also receive a free rose from Nor'East 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

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.angelfire.com/al3/arsdtd

THE ROSE TIME

A Publication of the Greater Gwinnett Rose Society

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