

THE ROSE VINE

Newsletter of the Greater Gwinnett Rose Society

Affiliated with the American Rose Society

October 2005

From the President

Wow is it hot and dry. The temperature is up to 91 as I write this in late September. The skies were kind to us with lots of rain this summer but we are now forced to water frequently due to the lack of rain since the beginning of September. My show plans have been affected as well. I had pruned for peak bloom the week before the Memphis National show but the extra hot weather coupled with lack of rain has produce small bloom much earlier than planned. The blooms are much more typical of what we see in mid summer. Hopefully by the time you read this column conditions will have improved in everyone's garden. If conditions are still dry persevere in watering your bushes for the best production of fall bloom.



October marks one of the busiest times of the rose year. The Nationals, as mentioned earlier, will be in Memphis October 1st. Several of our members are planning to attend. There are a large number of people attending and it should be a great show and convention. We'll have a report at the October meeting.

Lilburn Daze Arts and Crafts Festival is from 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. on Saturday October 8th. Several members have volunteered their time and efforts to promote roses and our society. We can use more help. If you have a couple of hours to donate we could really use your help. It is a fun time. We have had several members who have joined from meeting our society members at this event. We will discuss setup details at the October meeting.

The following Saturday (October 16th) is our annual rose show. This year the Northeast Georgia Rose Society is hosting it at the Georgia State Botanical Gardens. Due to another function at the garden on the Friday preceding the show we will need to setup very early Saturday morning (prior to entries opening). We must have as many members present to expedite the setup as much as possible. The gates to the garden will open at 6 a.m. and we would like to complete the setup by 7 a.m. By having lots of people helping we can get the job completed quickly. This is a very extenuating circumstance and we need really your help. Please consider participating. Remember there are classes for novice exhibitors in both the arrangement and horticultural division. The Botanical Gardens has asked that we use the front (circular drive) of the conservatory to drop off any material we will be bringing into the building. There is another conference occurring the day of the show and it will be very busy at the gardens. We also still need clerks. Linda Bohne is in charge. The schedules are printed and will be available at our October as well as exhibitor's numbers. Please come to our meeting and show. Susan

Dates to Remember

September 29 – October 2 – ARS National Show and Convention, Memphis, TN Barbara Olive, (901)-385-9759 barbsroses@evl.net

October 4: GGRS monthly meeting, 7 pm Gwinnett County Justice Center

October 8: Lilburn Daze, 9 – 5

October 21 – 23: Deep South District Show and Convention. Augusta, GA Marcia Faglier (706)595-7964 mfaglier@aug.edu

October Meeting Update

Tuesday, October 4th
Gwinnett Justice & Administration Center

There are times throughout the year when rosarians are not able to care for their rose bushes. It does not matter if you have a few bushes or many. Frequently other things in their day-to-day lives take priority or during the summer it is just too hot to work with the roses. So you may think you have gotten lazy in taking care of your roses. If you have found yourself in this situation at any time, then you will not want to miss the presentation by our guest speaker, Ryan Tilley, *The Lazy Man's Guide to Growing Roses*.

Ryan is past President of the Greater Atlanta Rose Society and a former meteorologist at The Weather Channel. Since 1985 he has been a Consulting Rosarian and a Master Gardener. His company **Rose Gardens by Ryan** was started in 1995 as a second career choice based on his love of the rose. Ryan has a reputation for choosing, growing, and maintaining fabulous rose gardens all over the Atlanta area. His private garden boasts over 200 bushes and has been included in numerous tours including those offered at the Atlanta National Rose Show and Convention and the prestigious 'Connoisseur's Tour' sponsored by the Atlanta Botanical Garden. Ryan is a respected speaker, writer and educator on everything roses. Included in the presentation will be a brief review of the new roses as well as going from fall to winter in the rose garden.

His company **Rose Gardens by Ryan** is Georgia's only rose design and maintenance company. There is also an online garden shop, which is managed by Wendy Tilley, Ryan's wife, and her sister, Margery Morstein. The shop carries garden supplies, gifts and more. Wendy will be bringing to the meeting some of their products for you to see. Some of those products will be pruners and new gardening gloves – they

are both such new technology for the hard-core rosarian types. For other gardening needs you may want to visit their website at www.rosegardensbyryan.com. Wendy will be available after the meeting to answer any of your gardening tool questions.

Come join us. It will be a fun evening.

With Sympathy

We are sorry to note the passing of Don Schwarz's Mother on Tuesday September 20th. Bobbie and Don are two of our most active, contributing members and we extend our most heartfelt sympathy to them.

October In The Rose Garden

Observe – What's happening in *your* garden? Since we haven't had rain since Katrina came through things in the yard are looking pretty dry and brittle. Grasshoppers are also a problem in my garden but like most insects, they are just left alone. The spiders are building webs everywhere so hopefully they will ensnare some of them!

Water – Roses still need lots of water to produce the most beautiful blooms. Try to water as often as possible before the show, so your roses will have lots of "substance" – the water in the petals that makes them look good and last a long time.

Feed – If you've been using a granular fertilizer or dry organics, Labor Day was your last chance to feed. But you can still use "fast food" – liquid fertilizers – every other week through early October, and your roses will appreciate any of these. To get the most beautiful blooms this fall, change to a 10-50-10 formula now.

Spray – There's some residual blackspot out there, but the recent rains, cloudy days, and humid evenings have brought the return of powdery mildew. While blackspot makes the leaves age

and drop off prematurely, powdery mildew distorts the developing leaves and flowers. Prevent both by continuing to spray fungicides. Keep an eye out for thrips, too. Mist *just the buds and blooms* with Orthene or Cygon every two or three days to keep them under control.

Deadhead – It's almost time to quit deadheading. Beginning in early October, let faded blooms remain on the bush, or remove just the petals if the faded blooms are too ugly. This will let the rose bush know that it can slow down and stop producing new flowers, as it concentrates on producing hips, those Vitamin C-packed fruits of the rose. If you haven't been spraying your roses with pesticides, you can collect ripe (red or orange) rose hips to make tea or jelly.

Exhibit – Collect some of your better roses to bring to the show at the botanical garden in Athens on the morning of October 15th. There will be folks there to help you enter your roses, and you'll have the pleasure of sharing your roses with the public.

Enjoy – Even though it is still warm outside, at least the humidity is down so it is a lot more pleasant to be outdoors. Keep that mosquito spray close at hand and a big stick to knock down the webs instead of catching them in your hair and enjoy the last month of great roses before the winter.



St. Patrick is at its best at this time of year

Louisiana Is Not For Sissies

By [Dr. Leda Horticulture](#), O. R
(originally written for Regan Roses)

September, 2005

Mother Nature gives Dr. Leda a break....

It was five and a half years ago that I moved from Berkeley, California, to a small rural town in south Louisiana, right smack in the heart of French-speaking Cajun and Creole country. Needless to say, I was in for a heavy dose of culture shock. I'll never forget the very first time I ventured into the local Wal-Mart. Being a typical Berkeley person, I had never set foot in one of these behemoth box stores in my life.

I wandered around like a lost soul for what seemed like hours, searching the vast sterile boxiness in vain for a simple box of laundry detergent. This super-store was so expansive it comprised four zip codes, six area codes, and at least three USDA climate zones. And yet, it seemed that all I could see, for acres on end in every direction, was mile after mile of aisle after aisle of shelves containing only two items: hair spray and fire ant poison.



What was left of Dr. Leda's rose beds after Hurricane Lili in 2003

Good grief, I thought as I stared dumbfounded at the endless array of these two alien products that are virtually unknown (perhaps even legally

banned) in Berkeley. Is this all they ever do down here, subdue their coifs and murder ants? There can't possibly be a hair on the head of a single female in this town that has moved since the Summer of Love. And what is that strange whirring sound I hear? Could that be [Rachel Carson](#) spinning in her grave?

Clearly, I muttered to myself as I valiantly pushed my cart off towards a distance horizon that had a slim chance of being home to the elusive cleaning products aisle, the people who live down here in south Louisiana spend an inordinate amount of time arm-wrestling with Mother Nature. I wondered why.

Yeah, well. The very next day I opened my back door and stepped right in the middle of a fire ant nest. And thus began my extensive education at the Louisiana Is Not For Sissies School of Learning to Coexist With Nature.

I learned all about fire ants, oh yes indeed I did. And also about [giant stinging caterpillars that drop from the trees without warning](#). And about killer flower thrips, and brown recluse spiders, and swarms of enormous, aggressive mosquitoes carrying West Nile virus.



A huge pecan tree crashes onto Dr. Leda's house in 2004

More fire ants, the hard way. Kudzu and other carnivorous killer vines. Blackspot. Mold. [Rattlesnakes in the floribunda beds](#). Ruthless weeds that are armed and dangerous. Staggering heat, sweltering humidity. Accidental afros, the kind where you wake up in the morning looking

like O.J. in *Naked Gun 2 1/2*. Roaches the size of Buicks that scuttle across the floor at night, leaving you clinging to the chandelier.

More blackspot. Tornadoes. Sink holes. Parasites. Rabid armadillos. Formosan termites. Fire ants. Stink bugs the size of ping-pong balls. Electrical storms that sound like World War III and fry the electronics. Voracious carpet moths that destroy obscenely expensive handwoven Turkish wool rugs in less than an hour. Freezes. Floods. Fire ants.

[Trees crashing dramatically onto houses during the night](#). Militant wasps. Rats the size of Great Danes. More blackspot. Oh, and fire ants. Have I mentioned the fire ants? Those blasted things are guaranteed to alter anybody's attitude about Mother Nature and her benign and bountiful generosity.



A statue of the Greek god Pan supposedly protects Dr. Leda's garden from panic and pandemonium

And, of course, hurricanes. Yes, I've learned an awful lot about hurricanes down here.

Many, many heartfelt thanks to all you dear kind readers who inquired about my safety in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. I was deeply touched by your concern, but rest assured, I am fine and my roses are unscathed. I got lucky this time around. My intrepid little town, which is about 150 miles northwest of New Orleans, managed to dodge the Cone of Doom. But even if we had been directly in the path of Katrina's brutal



Mother Nature decorates Louisiana at sunset

Louisiana standards is practically nosebleed country. We all but prance around in lederhosen and yodel our lungs out way up here in the Cajun Alps.

Which means that now, like every place that's high and dry in this neck of the world, my little town has become a haven for thousands of newly homeless, jobless, and often penniless hurricane evacuees whom we're frantically trying to house, feed, clothe, and comfort. The town's population literally tripled overnight, and the infrastructure is groaning. But so far the disaster has brought out the best in everyone. And believe me, all of us down here are grateful to all of you out there who have contributed to the hurricane relief fund of your choice. Even though the horrifying headlines are slowly beginning to fade from front pages, there are unimaginable numbers of desperate people who still need all the help they can get and probably will for many months to come.

Meanwhile, I have tentatively opened my door a crack and peeked out into the yard. She's still lurking out there somewhere, I know she is, that crazy violent psychopathic witch, Mother Nature. Part of me wants to never set foot in her domain again, just lock the doors and never go outside. I could send out for pizza for the rest of my life, like Boo Radley. But another part of me craves the therapy. There's nothing on earth like working in the garden, restoring a little order and cultivating some beauty, to calm the frazzled nerves we inevitably develop every time Ms. Nature reminds us of the [Noble Truth of Impermanence](#).

destruction, we have an advantage over New Orleans in that we're perched high atop a ridge 75 feet above sea level, which by

The very act of making a garden—or building a house, or a town, or a city—is an act of hubris, a rebellious thumb of the nose at Nature. And sooner or later, she *will* remind us, gently or not so gently, that [We Are Not In Charge](#). Should we just give up? Or should we call a truce and keep trying? This is something we each have to decide for ourselves.

And here's what I've decided: pass me another can of hair spray, and get out of my way. I'm going out! The shelter down the street needs another pair of hands, and my roses need watering and deadheading, and there's way too much to be done to even think about giving up. I hope you'll all join me.

Alice in Wonderland

The following is a short description of the arrangement classes for our upcoming show. The show committee has spent a lot of time coming up with some unusual topics to inspire our creativity. Lets all try one!

Class 1 – Kay Raney Trophy – "The Cheshire Cat" An arrangement of David Austin English roses using at least three different varieties, **all fresh plant material. Designer's choice** of style must be written on entry tag. *Best entry is eligible for ARS Certificate of Appreciation.*

Class 2 – Novice – "Tweedledum and Tweedledee" This class is restricted to novice arrangers who have never won a first place award in an ARS show. **Designer's choice** of style (Traditional, Modern, or Oriental) must be written on entry tag. *Best entry is eligible for ARS Best Novice Certificate.*

Class 3 – "The Queen of Hearts" A design, using **all fresh plant material. Designer's choice** of style (Mass, Line-Mass, or Line) must be written on entry tag. *Best entry is eligible for ARS Royalty Award.*

Class 4 – "Through the Looking Glass"

Designer's choice of style (Free-Form, Abstract, Transparency, etc) must be written on entry tag. *Best entry is eligible for ARS Artist's Award.*

Class 5 – "Tiger Lily"

An oriental design, using **all fresh plant material**. **Designer's choice of style** (Moribana, Nageire, or Free Style) must be written on entry tag. *Best entry is eligible for ARS Oriental Award.*

Class 6 – "EAT ME" An informal functional tray, supplied by the exhibitor, to include a dish for food, a vessel for drinking and a rose arrangement. Any other components are elective. No flatware is allowed. *Entry is eligible for ARS Court of Etiquette Certificate.*

Class 7 – "A Mad Tea Party" A miniature exhibition table (non-functional) featuring a rose arrangement, with dishware, drinking vessel, and other desired components (excluding flatware). *Entry is eligible for ARS Mini Court of Etiquette Certificate.*

Miniature Arrangements

Class 8 – "Red Queen and the White Queen and Alice and all!" A miniature design, using **all fresh plant materials**. **Designer's choice** of style, (Mass, Line-Mass, or Line) must be written on entry tag. Design will be staged at eye level, and is not to exceed 10" in any direction. *Best Entry is eligible for ARS Mini-Royalty Award.*

Class 9 – "'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves did gyre and gimbel in the wabe" Designer's choice of style (free-form, abstract, etc) must be written on entry tag. Design will be staged at eye level, and is not to exceed 10" in any direction. *Best entry is eligible for ARS Mini-Artist's Award.*

Class 10 – "All in the golden afternoon"

Designer's choice of style (Moribana, Nageire, or Free Style) must be written on entry tag. Design will be staged at eye level, and is not to exceed 10" in any direction. *Best entry is eligible for ARS Mini-Oriental Award.*

Class 11 – "We called him Tortoise because he taught us"

This class is restricted to accredited and apprentice ARS judges (Horticulture or Arrangements) working this show. **Designer's choice** of style (Traditional, Modern or Oriental) must be written on entry tag. Design will be staged at eye level, and is not to exceed 10" in any direction. *Best entry is eligible for ARS Best Judges Entry Certificate.*

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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WEB Site: www.mindspring.com/~wmb1/GGRS

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

Dues

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.

THE ROSE BINE

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Gold Medal