

The Rose Vine

Newsletter of the Greater Gwinnett Rose Society

Affiliated with the American Rose Society

October 2007

From the President

Dear Fellow Rosarians:

Fall is my favorite season. The heat of summer gradually diminishes and the cooler day and night temperatures revive many plants. As the summer colors fade, fall brings a new display of colors. The roses do better at this time of year too. The blooms are larger, more colorful and seem to last longer. October is a busy month filled with lots of activities during a weekend. There are numerous craft shows, football games, and of course, fall rose shows.

At this point in my letter I would like to interject a note to our members. On Tuesday, September 25th, Karen Radde, President of NGRS and Rose Show Chairperson, sent the following e-mail.

“Dear all,

It has been decided today, that in light of the worsening drought, the 2007 NGRS/GGRS Rose Show to have been held October 13 and 14 will be canceled. There will be nothing done that weekend. The Garden would like to still have a presentation on EarthKind growing and roses, but we will plan to do that after the first of the year. We have started the process of advising judges, other societies, and others about the cancellation. Thank you for your understanding. If you have any questions, e-mail me or call at 706-255-4780.

Karen”

In light of this cancellation, I would like to encourage you to please consider sharing the lovely roses, which are blooming in your garden, at the Fall ARS Deep South District Rose Show, October 19-21 in Atlanta. Information is available at <http://deepsouthdistrict.org> or <http://www.atlantarose.org/index.htm>.

Roses are what make the show. Lots of blooms are needed. So bring your roses for the public to enjoy and admire

Our slate of officers for 2008 will be presented at the October 2nd meeting. At the November 6th meeting, nominations will be taken from the floor and

voted on. Installation will take place at the Christmas party on December 15th. Thank you Kim Borland and Nancy Miller for serving on the nominating committee this year.

The society shirts have been ordered and will be available from Rani von Wurtemberg at the October meeting. Checks are payable to the Greater Gwinnett Rose Society and should be given to Kim Borland. Please consider wearing your society shirt for the October 13th Rose Show.

I hope to see everyone at the October meeting and at the rose show and convention. Enjoy the fall season.

Linda Bohne, CR

October Hospitality

Diane Snyder will provide this month's refreshments.

Diane is looking for a volunteer for November to relieve Susan Clingenpeel who signed up for it earlier this year prior to volunteering for the Christmas party in December. Please contact Diane Snyder to let her know of your interest.

In Your *Rose Vine*

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GGRS October Meeting

Tuesday, October 2nd, 7:00pm
Gwinnett Justice & Administration Center
Conference Room C

Details of the DSD Fall Convention and Rose Show

In our October meeting, it is time to think about those gorgeous fall blooms and showing them off! Louise Stafford, Linda Bohne, and Karen Radde will talk with us about the Deep South District Convention and Rose Show. Louise will tell us about the overall aspects of the convention and inspire us to fill out registration forms. Linda will tell us about the horticultural section of the rose show and lure us into entering roses. Karen will explain a little bit about the arrangements classes and entice us to put in an entry. Be sure to attend for what promises to be a lot of fun.

Don Schwarz, CR

Dates to Remember

- Oct 2**—"Details of the DSD Fall Convention and Rose Show" by Louise Stafford, Linda Bohne and Karen Radde
- Oct 6-7**—Augusta Rose Society Rose Show
- Oct 13-14**—NGRS & GGRS Rose Show, State Botanical Gardens, Athens, GA
CANCELED
- Oct 13**—Georgia National Fair Rose Show, Perry GA
- Oct 19-21**—Deep South District Convention & Rose Show, Atlanta, GA
- Nov 6**—"New Rose Review" by Ryan Tilley, Election of 2008 GGRS officers
- Dec 15**—GGRS Annual Christmas Party at the home of Susan Clingenpeel
- Jan 1**—Membership dues are due

Welcome New Members

We would to welcome to our new members **Marion** and **Irwin Gandy** of Flowery Branch. We are very pleased to have all 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.

October In the Rose Garden

By Bill Belknap

While the hot weather is behind us the drought continues. Please follow watering restrictions for your area as a number of counties now have total watering bans. Cooler weather will also help produce great blooms on many of our roses. It's also now time to start assessing our garden and looking at what we would like to add or change and to pick the beautiful blooms for your friends and home.

Prune: We need to stop pruning early in October. Pruning encourages the rose to put on new growth and with winter approaching most new growth will be killed by the freezing weather. It is OK to prune diseased and dead canes. Crossing canes, especially if they could be whipped around in the wind during the winter, should also be removed or cut back.

Fertilize: You can fertilize your roses with liquid fertilizers about every two weeks, but only through mid October because winter is approaching. Do not apply dry fertilizers, as we need to stop encouraging growth over the long term.

Spray: Continue to maintain your spray program for fungal disease. Blackspot is still present and powdery mildew can occur with cooler weather. Also, watch out for thrips especially in your yellow or paler roses. Thrips can be treated with Insecticidal soap, *Cygon* or *Orthene*, every two to three days until they are under control. As always be sure to follow the manufacturer's directions and wear the proper clothing. Using a respirator is highly recommended, change and wash thoroughly after spraying.

Water: Our roses are still growing and still need adequate moisture. If you do not receive sufficient rain and your roses are actively growing, you need to provide needed moisture, about 2-3 gallons for small roses and 4-5 gallons for larger roses such as hybrid teas. When watering, always water well and avoid merely sprinkling. Be sure and follow any watering restrictions for your area. Note that many roses will easily survive on less water, though they may not bloom as much.

Observe: This is a great time of year as our roses put on the last show before winter. Look over your garden and see what you like and don't like and what needs changing.

Rose of the Month

By Kim Borland, *Consulting Rosarian*

What!!! It's my turn for favorite rose article!! was my reply having read my September newsletter.

So as I venture outside to spray this very lovely Sunday Morning, it's 7:15am (my favorite time to spray) Dear Hubby has already left for the golf course. Just me and my birds at their feeders. We have the world to ourselves.

I smile and take a long deep breath as I notice that refreshing crisp feel of fall in the air. How welcome it will certainly be this year after that sweltering summer heat. According to my favorite TV weatherman, we had nine days of record breaking high temps last month. The effect of heat stress can be seen in every living entity, *including roses.*

But to my unexpected surprise a darling little rose I bought on impulse last spring at a local farm supply store seems to have withstood much better than her more established neighbors.

A little polyantha call The Fairy. Introduced in 1932 by Star Roses, described as "light pink milk fragrance, with 25 petaled double blooms that perform throughout the year,"

While my other bushes appear "tired" The Fairy looks just as chipper as the day I brought her home. Not an incredibly large bush, only about 3' tall, she has lush green foliage, and



The Fairy photo Star Roses

clusters upon clusters of blooms that resemble pink popcorn. Now, here's the *really* amazing part (for me it is), *totally black spot free!!*

I'll admit I've never been attracted to polyantha's or shrubs before, but The Fairy has made me take a second more serious notice at what they have to offer for my garden.

*Mandi Borland will bring November's Rose of the Month article to you. The month of **December** is still open for anyone who wishes to volunteer.*

Put the Metal to the Petal: Cutting Roses That Last

By [Dr. Leda Horticulture](#), O. R.

Dr. Leda on the art of rose decapitation...

Dear Dr. Leda:

The roses I cut from my garden never seem to last more than a day or two, whereas the roses I buy from a florist stay fresh for a week. Is there anything I can do to make my homegrown roses last longer?

Pitiful Posies in Piedmont

Dear PP:

Florists tend to use special roses, which have been genetically bred to have long hollow stems to suck up water and slow-opening flowers that hang on to their petals with an unnaturally fierce tenacity. Unfortunately, these traits are often achieved at the expense of hardiness and disease resistance, so many florist varieties can only be grown in high-tech greenhouses or tropical republics where carcinogenic pesticides haven't yet been banned.

But the wily florists do have a few other clever tricks up their sleeves, many of which you can safely try at home. We'll get to those in a moment.

First, a quick review of Rose Economics 101. I have, with my very own eyes, seen cut roses selling for as much as \$15 a stem. So, supposing you cut 50 roses each year (a conservative estimate) from a single bush in your garden, you will save \$750. If you grow 50 rose bushes, that's \$37,500 a year. Thus, the more roses you grow and cut, the wealthier you will be. Roses make you rich! Any questions? Of course not. Now, on to the tricks. Barring cryogenics or séances, here are the six most effective steps you can take to extend the life of your cut roses.

1. **Correct Cutting:** In the sweltering inferno of Louisiana, early morning is the time to cut, when the roses have recovered from the previous day's heat stress. Evenings work in cooler climates, but avoid cutting during midday heat. Always make a nice, clean cut with sharp pruners or florist shears; dull scissors will crush the cellular structure of the stems, curtailing water uptake. Roses last longest if they're cut when they're just beyond the bud stage, as the petals are beginning to unfurl. A rule of thumb: roses with more petals can be cut at a more open stage, while roses with fewer petals should be cut tighter. Buds cut before the sepals have turned down will usually refuse to open in the vase. In general, Hybrid Teas tend to last longer than roses with shorter stems and flimsier petals. You'll want to



experiment to determine which of the roses you grow are best for cutting.

2. **The Container:** Bacteria and fungi can plug the tiny stem tubes that conduct water up to the flower, so you can magically extend the vase life of your roses by using a scrupulously clean vase. Merely rinsing it out is not sufficient; soak it with a 5% solution of household bleach, or run it through a very hot soapy dishwasher, and use a bottlebrush to scrub away all that slimy green residue. Personally, I adore the look of roses in a silver pitcher, but I've found that some metal containers (copper and silver, alas, but not stainless steel) seem to shorten the life of my roses.
3. **Re-Cutting:** This is a biggie. After you've cut your roses once, bring them indoors and place them in a large bowl or bucket of lukewarm water. Make a second cut underwater, about an inch up the stem. This prevents air bubbles (embolisms) from plugging the cells of the stem's water-conducting tissues. Using a clean sharp knife or shears, make the new cut at a 45 degree angle to create more surface for water absorption and to prevent the stem from sitting flat on the bottom of the vase. Strip off any leaves that might be submerged in the vase (their rot and decay would cruddyfy the environment), then move the stem quickly from the cutting bowl to a pristine water-filled vase.
4. **The Preservative:** I balked for years, but finally conceded that adding a floral preservative to the water is the single most dramatic thing I can do to make my roses last. I know many people swear by various homemade concoctions, including aspirin, 7-Up, and Listerine mouthwash, but I've found the commercial preparations to be far superior. A good floral preservative serves three functions: it kills bacteria and fungi that can rot stem tissue and block water uptake; it acidifies the water, which accelerates uptake and also stabilizes color pigments; and it provides sugar as an emergency life-support nutrient. Ironically, the sugar can also feed the very bacteria the preservative is frantically trying to kill, so the water should be changed and new preservative added every 2 or 3 days. You can also fight bacteria by immediately removing any flowers that appear to have passed on to the blessed afterlife, lest their *compadres*, like lemmings, follow suit.
5. **Hardening:** Ok, now we're moving into advanced territory, using one of the fancy but easy tricks of competitive rose exhibitors. To harden your roses, place the freshly re-cut stems in a clean vase filled with 110 degree F. water (usually the hottest tap water available). The heat produces kinetic energy,

which forces the water molecules to move very rapidly up through the stems. Next, add your preservative to the water, and place the vase in a very cool location for several hours. Most roses don't mind being refrigerated, but keep them away from ripening fruits and vegetables that give off ethylene gas, an agent which promotes wilting and premature mortality. While the cool air temperature is retarding water loss from the flowers, the energized stems are furiously guzzling water at a phenomenal rate, thus "hardening" the roses for a long, happy vase life. I'm always amazed at how well this works.

6. **Location, Location, Location:** In order to get the most mileage from your cut roses, keep them away from direct sunlight and hot spots like computers or television sets. Flowers have high rates of respiration anyway, and a rose at 85 degrees respire, or loses water, 45 times faster than a rose at 32 degrees. This inevitably leads to unsightly aging followed by unattractive death. Next time you visit a florist, notice they keep their roses in coolers set at 35 to 40 degrees F. Cut roses should also be kept away from drafts created by fans and air conditioners, since blowing air accelerates respiration, hastening that bitter end.

That's it! Whether you're creating sophisticated artsy arrangements or throwing together simple bouquets, these six easy steps are well worth the time and effort. Your beautiful cut garden roses will last a week or more, brightening every room of your house, filling your workspace with color and fragrance, gracing the homes of your friends and neighbors, and bringing great joy to the various objects of your affection. And according to the logic of Rose Economics 101, that's pretty darn close to being a millionaire.

Dr. Leda Horticulture, O. R. (Obsessive Roseologist) aka Elizabeth Churchill, is a rosarian who worked for eight years at nurseries in the San Francisco Bay Area. She recently retired and moved to a beautiful old Victorian in southern Louisiana. If she told you how much room she has for new roses, you would hate her.

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ggrs shirts are here!

Our GGRS embroidered shirts will be available for pickup at the October meeting. Please bring cash or check with you to payable to Greater Gwinnett Rose Society for them. Thank you Rani von Wurttemberg for handling this project.



Membership Phone Directory Update

Please update your copy of the GGRS phone Directory, which you received at the meeting:

Correct email address for *Sonya and Mikhail Shames*:

smikhail7@wmconnect.com

New Members:

Mary Ann Hall

802 Crested View Circle

Loganville, GA 30052

Tel: 770-466-1072

Email: hall_maryann@bellsouth.net

Irwin and Marion Gandy

7019 Valley Forge Dr.

Flowery Branch, GA 30542

Tel: 770-967-6436

Alternate: 770-845-8861

Email: IMGandy@bellsouth.net

Contact Linda Bohne if there are any changes to be made to your contact information. E-mail:

Linda.bohne@mindspring.com

telephone: 770-822-6933

Karen Radde volunteered to be the speaker for the Cherokee Garden Club on 14th November.

Louise Stafford is the Chairperson for the DSD Convention 19th to 21st October at the Atlanta Sheraton Buchhead Hotel. She is to be contacted for registration forms and all other information.

The meeting was then handed over to Cathy Farmer who spoke to us on how to treat our gardens for the best for show in October. She let us know that she keeps an optimistic and calm attitude about all of her bushes, does her best with them and lets Mother Nature do *her* best. She listed a few of her favorite fall roses that she likes to grow.

Our finale came when we auctioned a large blooming rose bush, 'Cajun Spice' donated by Henry Everett and won by guests Marion and Irwin Gandy.

We enjoyed refreshments provided by Kim Borland.

*"If I had a rose for every time I thought of you, I'd be picking roses for a lifetime."
Swedish Proverb.*

September Meeting Recap

By Rani Von Wurttemberg

As we gathered for our September meeting, we were all relieved there was a slight change in the weather, raising our anticipation for autumn. Linda Bohne welcomed our guests, Marion and Irwin Gandy and members.

Linda launched right into our upcoming Rose Show at the State Botanical Garden in Athens, GA on 13th and 14th October. She covered information such as sign up for exhibitors' numbers, the judges' luncheon and sale of EarthKind roses. Karen Radde is in charge of the rose sale. A table will be set aside just for the sale of EarthKind roses.

We have an outreach program that is planting a rose bush at each home rebuilt by Habitat for Humanity for those who have been affected by Hurricane Katrina. Susan Clingenpeel is our contact person.

David Austin catalogues will be ready in October for distribution.

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.

President: Linda Bohne, CR, 1960 Travers Circle,
Lawrenceville, GA 30044, 770-822-6933,
Linda.bohne@mindspring.com

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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

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A Publication of the Greater Gwinnett Rose Society

Nancy Miller, Editor

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Cathy Farmer at the September meeting speaking on Fall Roses