

The Rose Vine

Newsletter of the Greater Gwinnett Rose Society

Affiliated with the American Rose Society

December 2007

From the President

Dear Fellow Rosarians:

It is hard to believe this year's growing season is just about over. Mother Nature has certainly kept all us gardeners on our toes this year. With no rain to speak of, the cooler temperatures have been a relief to many plants. Soon the roses will be able to go dormant and I will not feel too guilty about not spraying them for diseases. However, I know in the spring I will need to be more diligent about getting the rose beds prepared for the next growing season. Water may still be a concern.

We are lucky to have Susan Clingenpeel, her husband Bruce, and daughter, Madison, hosting our Christmas party on Saturday, December 15. I hope everyone will be able to attend. It is always an enjoyable time for fellowship with our members. Everyone had so much fun last year with the ornament exchange; we will be doing it again this year. So as you are out and about doing holiday shopping, look for that special ornament for the exchange. See additional details about the Christmas party later in the newsletter.

On January 18-20, 2008, the Tampa Rose Society is hosting the ARS Deep South District's 26th Annual Mid-Winter meeting in Valdosta, GA. For those of you who have not previously attended, it is a relaxed rose-filled weekend with excellent speakers. This meeting is a wonderful opportunity to meet other rosarians and to have lots of fun. Please consider attending and supporting the district.

Remember, as we start the New Year, membership dues are due in January. Dues can be sent to Kim Borland now, or bring them to the January meeting. Let's get a good start and see if we can have 100% membership paid by the first meeting of the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the individuals who served as officers in 2007. Don Schwarz, our program coordinator, did an outstanding job while continuing to take care of his wife Bobbie's needs during her illness. The speakers were wonderful. With the interaction between our members and the speakers, I believe everyone left meetings knowing a little more about roses. Thanks to Rani for

getting the word out about our society meetings and events. Her enthusiasm in promoting the meeting to the media and to her contacts has resulted in good attendance at the meetings. Kim Borland, our treasurer, has kept our finances in excellent order. Nancy Miller is doing a great job as editor of *The Rose Vine*. Bill Belknap has been doing a fantastic job keeping the society's web site going and updated with the latest society news while he is continuing to take care of his wife Mary's needs during her illness. He has also been a big help in coordinating our orders from Shealy and Chamblee, distributing the newsletter, looking after the Bogan Park roses, and much more. Diane Snyder continues to manage the yummy snacks at our meetings, for our rose shows, and at Rose Day. I would like to give special thanks to all our members for their continued support of the society. Without you there would not be a society. It is a pleasure to serve as your president. Happy holidays and a wonderful start to the new year ahead.

Linda Bohne, CR

Dues Are Due!

As we look forward to the beginning of a new year, it's time for everyone to remember that dues for 2008 are due in January. 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, Kim Borland, 6705 Mountain Meadow Dr., Clermont, GA, 770-983-3609, Kim.borland@med.va.gov.

In Your *Rose Vine*

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GGRS December Meeting
Saturday, December 15th, 4:00pm
At Susan Clingenpeel's Home

GGRS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY



Everybody is in the Holiday spirit, so let's have a Christmas party! Come join your fellow members at the annual

GGRS Christmas party for fellowship and good cheer.

We will be getting together at the home of Susan Clingenpeel and Bruce Leroy (and Madison), 1127 Loganville Hwy, Bethlehem. The party will begin at 4:00 pm on Saturday, December 15th. Meat will be provided. Members are asked to bring an additional food item— an appetizer, a side dish or salad, or a dessert.

To make sure that you get a seat at the table, confirm that you'll be there by calling our Hospitality chair, Diane Snyder, at 770-985-8861, or e-mail, roberthsnyder@bellsouth.net by Monday, December 10th. This is Diane's newest email address. Please be sure to let her know what dish you will be bringing.

For those who attended last year's party, I am sure you remember all the fun we had during the ornament exchange. So, let's do it again this year. The rules are confusing, but that only makes it more fun. If you would like to participate, keep the cost of the ornament to a \$5.00 maximum and bring the wrapped ornament to the party. Hope to see everyone there. Happy Holidays!

Directions from I-85: Take GA 316 east 21 miles to GA Hwy 81. Turn right onto Loganville Hwy, GA 81. Drive 1.2 miles south and Susan and Bruce's house will be on the right.

From Athens: take GA 316 west from Loop 10 about 16 miles. Turn left on GA 81 and drive 1.2 miles south to Susan and Bruce's house, which will be on the right.

Parking: People can park in either driveway (left or right), but it will be easier to park along the first drive, that goes up to their neighbor's house. He won't mind; just park a little off to the left of the drive (toward S&B's yard). When folks leave they can turn around in his field.



DON SCHWARZ, CR

Dates to Remember

Dec 15—GGRS Annual Christmas Party at the home of Susan Clingenpeel starting at 4:00pm

Jan 1—Membership Dues are DUE

Jan 8—GGRS Monthly Meeting

Jan 18-20—Deep South District Mid-Winter Meeting in Valdosta, GA

Feb 23—GGRS Rose Day at Bogan Park, Buford, GA

December In the Rose Garden

By Bill Belknap

Winter arrives along with Christmas – Time to reflect on this past year and what we want to do differently next year. We have not had a good hard freeze yet so our roses are not dormant.

Plant: The next few months is the best time to either plant or transplant your roses. However, be sure that you will have sufficient water available via rain barrels or gray water. If you plant bare root roses, be sure they are dormant. For transplanting make sure we have had several days of freezing nights to be sure the rose is dormant. You only need to prune a large rose leaving 18 – 24 inches before transplanting it to its new location. You can prune it more during our annual pruning time in late February or March.

Prune: You can still prune dead and diseased canes. After some freezing weather consider trimming about a third of your rose bush or to about chest high for those larger roses with long canes. This will prevent them from blowing in our winter winds.

Fertilize: Do not fertilize now, but it is an excellent time to have our soil tested. Obtain several soil samples or have individual beds analyzed. Specify it is for roses and they will assess your needs. If needed, now is the best time to apply lime as it takes a few months for it to leach down to the roots. If your soil is high in clay, you should also add gypsum, about a cup per rose. If you can, work these amendments into the top inch or so of soil. Do this before you apply your mulch for the winter to save the trouble of removing it.

Spray: There should not be a need to spray unless



warm weather stays with us. In January or February, you can spray Lime Sulfur and/or Horticultural Oil to kill over wintering diseases and bugs. Be sure it will have time to dry before freezing weather arrives.

Water: Unfortunately roses still require moisture to prevent dehydration during winter months. If you do not receive sufficient rain, consider applying gray water or water from rain barrels. I recommend about a third to a half of the rose's normal needs while it is growing. With mulched roses you can reduce the amount of water, but still water deeply. Don't forget to water your newly planted roses more often to help prevent dehydration.

Mulch: Once we have had several days with freezing temperatures, it is time to apply a good layer of organic mulch to help the rose over winter. It will also tend to keep the rose dormant in late winter when we get those warm days. While it is best to remove the old mulch, it is not necessary before applying new mulch. Also, when you mulch consider covering the bud union to a depth of several inches. Use a loose mulch such as pine straw to allow some airflow. This will help prevent disease. If you do not mulch to cover the lower canes, you may want to have mulch ready in case we get really cold weather (in the mid teens or lower) later into winter. This is especially true for grafted roses to protect the bud union. For me the most likely time a rose is killed is in the spring when it starts to warm up and the rose starts new growth; the freezing weather arrives and kills the new growth and the shrub.

Rose of the Month

By Bill Belknap

I honestly do not remember how I happened upon this rose. It is a *Weeks Roses* introduction and the write-up on it implied it was an excellent rose. I purchased two one year when our society ordered a number of roses from *Weeks*. It was an own-root rose and I had just started my change to purchase only own-root roses. The color seemed really nice and I did



not have a climber. (Nor did I have a place to put them, but they looked so beautiful in the catalog and I was sure a space would turn up sooner or later.) To say it has done well is an understatement.

Tom Carruth with *Week's Roses* hybridized 'Fourth of July'; it is a cross of 'Roller Coaster' and 'Altissimo'. It was introduced in 1999 and was given the AARS award that year. It has a light, fresh cut apple and sweet rose sent. The blossom is unusual since, at least for me, it is a red rose with "bright white" streaks to varying degrees as shown in the photos. It is a very striking blossom with 10-15 petals, semi-double and blooms in clusters. Be ready for a fairly large climber, as it will easily reach 12 to 14 feet. In my yard canes are a maximum of about ten feet primarily because it is not on an arbor and properly supported. From *Week's Roses* website:

"An explosion of eye-popping color for the landscape is just the beginning of the festivities ahead from this fragrant new Climber. You'll get a bang out of the big sprays of large long-lasting blossoms. And the fireworks just seem to keep coming because it blooms and reblooms readily in the very first season. Sparkling green foliage, superb vigor and good hardiness complete the spectacle. The first Climber to take the coveted AARS award in 23 years, making it to the top through an unprecedented expanded 3-year trial period."

"I planted 'Fourth of July' just this last March (1999) from a potted up specimen at my favorite nursery. In only four months this rose is now 8 feet tall and extremely vigorous, with abundant beautiful blooms and disease resistance. This is the very best rose in my garden to date and it's not even mature yet. The bloom and colors are outstanding, lasting blooms and wonderful fragrance. I can't think of one negative thing about it." Kay Stanley Slidell, LA

Below are a few photos of one of my two 'Fourth of July' roses. I initially heeled them into my vegetable garden and after a few years cut them back severely and transplanted them to a new bed near my neighbor's fence. It and a few blueberry bushes replaced some cannas a few of which can be seen in



the photo. I planted them in this location about two years ago. They did fine the first couple of years just

putting on a little growth. However, I only fertilize with Purely Organic in the spring and provide



only a little watering – less than five times during the growing season. They get mulched with compost and wood chips ground to a course consistency. I had planned that this year I would definitely put in a small arbor to link the two roses using 4x4 posts and rebar, but up to that time they had not done that well and I did not get around to doing it. Very bad idea. I watered even less this year and the roses have still put on phenomenal growth, especially one of them. They now need deadheading and a fair amount of pruning. The foliage is a nice fairly deep green and as you can see very little blackspot. I have been fairly good this year about spraying as it is susceptible to blackspot in our area, but it does respond well to spraying. I have been using *Bayer's Disease Control for Roses, Flowers & Shrubs* and *Mancozeb* or *Manzate* in powdered form combining them as a single spray. Bloom is fairly continuous throughout the year.

I really like the bloom and only regret that it is not located with a better view from inside the house. The blossoms vary quite a bit which gives the rose a really special showing. It certainly deserves its name. If you need a really beautiful, primarily red climber, and don't mind spraying, I highly recommend you try 'Fourth of July'; you will not be disappointed.

I hope you have enjoyed the Rose of the Month articles. I would like to thank everyone that contributed this year. Your articles have enriched our monthly reading and made the newsletter a better publication. I would like to ask the other members to consider writing an article for next year's newsletter. We would love to know about your favorite rose.

Nancy

A Few Odd Jobs for Early Winter

By Bill Belknap

What to do in December and January? We know we should review how our garden did and do the appropriate mulching and pruning in preparation for winter, but there are also some other jobs, which we sometimes neglect or forget, and often those jobs can make our work easier next year.

A couple of months ago Cathy Farmer spoke at our meeting. Cathy spoke on things we could do and compiled her "To Do" List. Below is Cathy Farmer's list of "It's never too late to":

Soil Test

Lime [If soil test indicates lime required; usually true as our soil tends to be acidic.]

Weed

Edge beds

Pick up leaves

Cut roses back lightly

Tie up Climbers

Build or buy trellis or other supports

Haul in manure, sand, Nature's Helper

Dig holes for new roses

Mulch over bud unions

Get rid of "non-doers"

Order spray material

Inspect tools and organize for spring pruning

Late winter – move rose plants

The above is an excellent list to start from. I've expanded a few of the items below and added to the list. Getting our soil tested in preparation for next year is one of the best things we can do for our roses, plants and trees. If the roses need lime, we can add Dolomite lime as it takes several months to penetrate into the soil and even more time given the little rain we have had to get it deep into the soil. Gypsum can also be added at this time if your soil is high in clay.

Edge and weed your gardens. This will help remove weed seeds and make for a neater landscape. When edging, plan on making about a 3-inch cut to deter grasses from entering the garden beds. A deep cut makes trimming easier also. If the edging is new, be sure and check for roots from trees and shrubs. For example, I do not edge around one of my magnolias



because the roots are just below ground level and extend some distance away from drip edge of the tree.

Sharpen our tools – pruners, loppers, edger, hoe etc. For the edger and hoe just a good filing should be adequate, as we do not need to have too sharp an edge. If you have a pick or mattock, you might want to look at it also.

Rain Barrels or Greywater collection – Make or purchase rain barrels. You might also want to consider collecting the rinse water from your washing machine – especially if you use a top loader since it uses a significant amount of water. Unfortunately our roses still require water in the winter to help keep them from dehydrating. If you are really ambitious, you may want to consider installing a cistern. If the drought continues too long, we could take a long time to recover and the Level 4 restrictions could be in place for some time.

Purchase or make one or more compost bins. A very simple one to make requires just a 3'x 25' roll of 1/2" galvanized hardware cloth. Cut it in half making two 12.5' lengths. Connect them together using 12 or 14 gauge insulated copper wire. Just cut four 1.5" pieces of wire and one twist should hold sufficiently; overlap the ends 2-3". Fill with chopped garden debris. Running the material through a mulching mower works well and will speed up the composting process. I find that grass clippings do not break down when simply piled up in a compost bin, especially Bermuda grass. This year I am trying another method – I alternated layers of shredded leaves with the grass clippings keeping the grass-clipping layer to about an inch. To make compost unfortunately we need water so save a little for your compost bins. Make sure the surface of the compost is sloped inward to allow the water to collect in the bin instead of just running off the edge; do this until the normal rains return because you also do not want too much water. You might also want to "mulch" the top of the compost pile with a layer of leaves. I find this significantly aids decomposition especially of the top inch or two.

If you have tools with wooden handles, consider applying a good finish to the wood to help maintain it. A mixture I obtained from a neighbor uses 1 part tung oil, one part exterior grade polyurethane and 2-3 parts mineral spirits. This finish works well for wooden items that are left outside such as a wooden bench also. Apply at least three coats to your tool handles if it is bare wood and four or five coats for items that stay outside. If it is bare wood, sometimes the first and

second coats will dry quickly because the mineral spirits dilutes the mixture so much. If you have several items to do, you may find that you can apply the second coat right after the first. I use a tablespoon full as the base for jobs requiring a fair amount of material. For just a few hand tool handles use just one or two teaspoon full as the base. Also, there is no need to clean your brush with each application. Just wrap the brush well using aluminum foil. This will keep for several days [I have done it for a few weeks though I do not recommend it.], but keep them indoors out of the sun.

To provide aggregate to our soil when planting flowers and small shrubs consider using Perma Till. It can be purchased at some garden centers and at the GPC Native Plant Botanical Garden in Decatur. The "rocks" are actually crushed kiln-fired expanded slate. Each piece is about a 1/4" in size and has a highly irregular shape making it an excellent choice to help maintain loose easily drained soil. Paving "sand" which is often just finely crushed granite works well also, but often contains a lot of very fine material while the Perma Till is much more consistent.

Need mulch? Below are sites in Gwinnett County for free mulch and chips or call a local tree service company from the telephone directory.

County Line Recycling in Tucker (770-938-3994)

Behind Lawrenceville City Hall (770-963-2414)

Gwinnett County Department of Public Utilities (678-376-7157)

81 Inert in Loganville (770-466-3676)

You can obtain free compost from DeKalb County.

DeKalb County Public Works collects landscape debris and composts it. The compost is piled at four sites in the county. The biggest pile, available 24/7, is near the Central Transfer Station, across the street from the county jail complex at Memorial Drive and I-285.

The other sites in DeKalb are limited to weekdays and Saturday pickup.

I hope at least a couple of the ideas work for you.

November Meeting Recap

By Nancy Miller

I give you a synopsis of a very important and informative meeting:

We thank Wendy and Ryan Tilley for coming all the way to Gwinnett County to be with us for our November meeting. Ryan spoke to us on the challenges of this summer's drought conditions and gave us ideas on how to provide for our roses. Ryan also tempted us with the new rose introductions while enlightening us with important facts on the size of bush, stem and flower as well as the anticipated general hardiness of the roses in our climate.

The members present voted and approved the slate of officers for 2008: Linda Bohne-President, Don Schwarz-Vice-President, Rosie Tripp-Secretary and Kim Borland-Treasurer. These officers will be installed at the annual Christmas Party at Susan Clingenpeel's home on December 15th.

"A Southern Reunion"

The Tampa Rose Society is hosting the 26th annual Deep South District Mid Winter Meeting on January 18th through 20th in Valdosta, Georgia. Go to: www.tamparosesociety.org and click on "2008 DSD Mid Winter Meeting" for additional information. You can also download a registration form, draft agenda and hotel layout. This is a laid-back activity of the DSD with no rose exhibitions to fret over. Come for the camaraderie and great speakers. You will leave knowing new friends and having much more wisdom of your favorite flower, the rose.

Ed Griffith, DSD Arrangements Judges Chair, will offer a free Arrangements Workshop on Friday. Speakers include Steve Jones, ARS President, Mike Shoup, owner of *Antique Rose Emporium* and Michael Marriott, Technical Manager of *David Austin Roses*. David Clemons and Ray Guillebeau will moderate the New Varieties session. A Consulting Rosarian school will be available on Sunday for those wishing to take the exam or audit the class.

Nancy

Membership Directory Update

Please update your copy of the GGRS Membership Directory.

Correct address for *Marilee Williamson*:
3719 Old Alabama Rd., Suite 300-G PMB13
Alpharetta, GA 30022
770-518-5951

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

*Every rose is an autograph from the hand
of God on his world about us.
He has inscribed his thoughts in these
marvelous hieroglyphics which
sense and science have, these many
thousand years,
been seeking to understand.
Theodore Parker*

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

Vice-President: Don Schwarz; CR, 3388 Lennox Ct.,
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Secretary: Rani Von Wurttemberg, 62 Herbert Hayes
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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.

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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

The Rose Vine

A Publication of the Greater Gwinnett Rose Society

Nancy Miller, Editor

1974 Branches Way

Lawrenceville, GA 30043



*Diane Snyder's
Winning entry at
The DSD Fall Show
'The Fairy' for Best
Polyantha Spray*