

The Bulletin

Of the Deep South District
Of the American Rose Society



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In this issue

District Director's Report	1
DSD Spring Fling 2025	4
DSD Horticulture Judges	8
DSD Arrangement Judges	9
Consulting Rosarian Report	10
Roses In Review	12
DSD Treasurers Report	13
Officers & Committee Chairs	15
ARS Info	16
Upcoming Events	17

District Director's Report

Spring has sprung in the American Rose Society's Deep South District. Beginning with the renaming of the Mid-Winter District Meeting to "Spring Fling" by a roaring voice vote of the members at our meeting now held in early March. Ray Guillebeau submitted the winning entry in the contest to rename our district meeting. Thank all of you who submitted entries in the contest.

Our Spring rose shows, open garden tours and floral displays and are all in the final planning stages at the time I am writing this article. I hope you are able to attend a competitive rose show judged by certified ARS judges near you. The entries at these shows generally exhibit top quality blooms for each variety. Some rose societies have chosen to hold a rose display instead of a juried rose show at this time of the year. Also, many garden centers and public festivals are being held throughout the Deep South where the vendors offer a fresh supply of rose bushes for sale. These events are a great opportunity for local societies to display bouquets of garden grown roses, information tables and attract new members to your society.

I know many of you have heard tales of woe about the American Rose Society and I would be remiss not to address the issues the new officers and Board of Directors have faced since last Fall. I am happy to report that the ARS is now moving forward under a balanced budget.

Deficit spending has ceased. The Board of Directors under the leadership of our new President Craig Dorschel are focused on the critical needs of the organization.

My own reaction as a new board member attending the first meeting of the new Board in at the Rhode Island National Convention last Fall was that of shock. I last served on the Board of Directors twelve years ago. The organization during that twelve-year period amassed debt, maxed out lines of credit, owed money to vendors and was unable to pay down credit card debt. In order to tackle the debt issues, it became obvious that the ARS had to reduce spending. The staff has been drastically reduced. The Executive Director resigned along with several other staff members. Beth Smiley, our long-time publications director, accepted the Interim Executive Director position in addition to her prior responsibilities and is doing a superb job. We have put Christmas in Roseland, the Easter Bunny Visit in the Garden and the Fourth of July Fireworks events on hold indefinitely. The calendar publication has also been terminated.

The emphasis is now on serving ARS members and growing our membership. I hope in reading this, you are asking "what can I do to help the ARS?" First of all, please have patience when working with the staff to obtain certificates, medals, show supplies, insurance and similar information. We are exploring possible ways to make it easier to obtain many of these items. Each member of the remaining staff will respond to your needs as soon as they are able. Each individual has added many new responsibilities to their jobs.

The Second way you can help is to recruit new ARS members. New members can join ARS this year under a special annual membership fee of \$50.00. Consider giving a membership to a friend, member of your family or local society member. Spread the word of what the ARS has to give to its members.

The Third way to help is to ask your local Rose Society to make a donation to the to the Annual Fund. This is the operations fund for running the everyday business of the ARS. I know that some societies have limited resources, but all gifts are appreciated. Consider taking up a special collection at a local meeting just for the Annual Fund.

Finely, if you are in a position to make charitable gifts this year, consider making a donation to the ARS Annual Fund. The Board of Directors has asked that all districts represented on the Board of Directors make a One Thousand Dollar (\$1,000.00) donation to the Annual Fund. The Deep South District Board of Directors has approved a \$1,000.00 donation for the Annual Fund. I have requested a Five Hundred Dollar (\$500.00) grant from the Tampa Bay Community Foundation Fund to add to the DSD donation and I sent my personal check for \$1,000.00 to the Annual Fund to be added to the DSD donation.

Now for some very good news for the Deep South District. We welcome the following eight new Consulting Rosarians to the Deep South. Don and Janice Buckley from Pensacola Rose Society; David Eppley from the Orlando Area Historical Rose Society; Daniel and Rosemarie McParland from Bradenton-Sarasota Rose Society, Jennifer Phillips from the Birmingham Rose Society, Laura Porter from the Pensacola Rose Society and Adrian Rodriguez from the Tropical Rose Society. I want to personally thank Janet Newburg for all the work she did to put on a new Consulting Rosarian School at the Mid-Winter meeting. I am so very proud of our new CR's.



DSD 2025 'SPRING FLING!'



By: Bet Sobon

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This years formally known as our Mid-Winter Meeting, was Roses in Paradise. And it lived up to its billing. The lobby of the hotel was decked out in a Tropical Paradise of balloons and other festive Tropical theme. We checked in, and were given a very nice badge and lanyard and a copy of the program.

We then headed to the Florist Rose Propagation Workshop given by Denise Abruzzese, which was followed by Creating Fun Arrangements: Sandy Dixon, ARS Arrangement & Horticulture Judge.



Photo by Cindy Dale

We all tried to root a rose and Denise gave us instructions on how to use plastic cups as a mini greenhouse. And the arrangement class was fun, as always. The arrangements we made were then used as centerpieces for the banquet on Saturday.

After dinner on our own, we all joined in for Karaoke! Which was a lot of fun.



Saturday was the Welcome Kick Off presented by Kim Wendt, Conference Chair from the Greater Palm Beach Rose Society. The first lecture was Color and Design: Companion Planting for Roses with Victor Lazzari, Professional Landscape Designer. Which was a great presentation. I learned a lot about how to use colors in the landscape, for roses and other plants. Some of it had been doing without knowing, but it was wonder fun to have other ideas to use in the garden.

We then had a presentation of Editing Tips & Tricks: Fantastic Rose Photography for Everyone with Denise Domlesky, Photo Editor for People Magazine, which was also very interesting. I take so many pictures of my roses, but editing is something I rarely do.

We were then treated to Power Growing Roses the "Nelson Way" with Clay Nelson, owner of Nelson's Southern Roses. Nelson's were also a vendor and they had many fine roses. I was lucky enough to get one from them last year, a replacement for my beloved McCartney rose. Since this one is on Fortuniana, it has grown very well and is blooming like crazy right now.

We then had our Annual DSD Meeting, which Karen has spoken about.

Then the always fun and exciting Raffle Drawing! I was lucky to win the 'Bee Basket' that had a very nice honey server and some nice garden items.

Then it was time for the Awards Banquet. Glenn Schulman won both the Anita Smith Award and Outstanding Consulting Rosarian. The Local DSD Society Bronze Medal Winners were also announced.

Then it was fun time with awards for Best Conch outfit. We then went to the Hospitality Event, with Rose Pong. I am proud to say I won two roses!

Many Kudos to the Greater Palm Beach Society Team for a Fantastic Event!



Photo by Cindy Dale



Glenn Schulman wins the Anita Smith Award

DSD Horticulture Judges

By: Joanne Maxheimer

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Hi everyone

Spring is finally here and our gardens are getting ready for Spring Shows. The Societies having shows this spring are as follows: Thomasville, April 25 & 26, Wiregrass – May 3rd, Tampa, Greater Atlanta and Birmingham May 10th, So. Metro – May 17th. Those of us that love to exhibit will have wonderful chances to show our beautiful roses. Let the completion begin.

On May 30th and 31st there will be a Judging School in Thomasville, Ga. Friday will be the Horticultural Program with the Arrangement portion starting in the afternoon. Those wishing to take the Horticulture Exam do not have to do a practical exam as was done in the past. They must take the written test and pass it and then do a Pre-Apprentice Horticulture Judge Self Assessment. The candidate will attend a rose show to improve and assess their judging skills by working with the District Judge Chair, the show Horticulture Judges Chair and other Horticulture Judges. The candidate will not be assigned to a judging team. The candidate will instead move freely from one judging team to another observing and asking questions. As experienced judges offer their insight into the good qualities of the blue ribbon winners the candidate will better understand the requirements and values of point scoring different rose classes. The candidate will perform a self-assessment which will continue throughout the Apprenticeship. After filling out the prepared form they will give it to the District Horticulture Judge or the Horticulture Judges Chair for that show. The Judge will review it and let the National Chair know the results and then the candidate will start the actual apprenticeship.



WE WILL BE HAVING A DSD ROSE SHOW. Thomasville Rose Society will be hosting the DSD show in Gainesville on the 31st of October & November 1st. The late date is due to football games and prior reservations. We are in the beginning stages of getting everything lined up and are looking forward to a great show and wonderful speakers. So please mark your calendars. Glenn Schulman has agreed to get the speakers for us and I have asked Sandy Dixon to write the Arrangements Schedule and ask the judges. Gainesville is letting us use their properties and the hotel is setting everything up for the show. We will need some awards if you have any that you would like to donate. Nelson's Southern Roses has agreed to bring roses once again and we are getting other vendors for the show. Thomasville is excited to be able to take on this project and we appreciate all that are helping. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 1-229-403-1419.

Wishing you all a wonderful spring and many beautiful roses.

Joanne

DSD Horticulture Judge



DSD Arrangement Judges



By Sandy Dixon

sandyfdixon@comcast.net

It's Derby Day and it brings back fond memories of the 2018 ARS/DSD Convention and Rose Show. As I reminisce, I realize we have all had our world reshaped by Covid and other factors of life. Even though we have fewer rose shows, that doesn't mean we should allow all aspects of our culture of the rose slip away. We have an upcoming judges' school with both horticulture and arrangements that anyone may attend. So, send in your registrations and come with clippers and a helpful attitude (if at all possible)

to strengthen our knowledge and share a friendly and nurturing atmosphere. **May 30 is a Friday.** If anyone wants to take the test, let Joanne and/or me know immediately. There is a fee and required paperwork.

Be safe out there! Driving to and from rose shows can be fun, but be careful when spotting great line material on the sides of the road. Trespassing into military areas or private property is a hazardous endeavor. I don't recommend it. Long ago, one lady wandered onto a bombing range and almost "bought the farm."

My contact information is: Sandy Dixon, sandyfdixon@comcast.net, 6181 Deepwood Dr. E., Jacksonville, FL 32244, 904-521-6274 or 904-778-2887.



CONSULTING ROSARIAN REPORT

By Janet Newburgh/ Consulting Rosarian

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First of all, many thanks to the excellent staff for the Consulting Rosarian School that was held on Sunday, March 2nd at the Deep South District's Mid-Winter meeting. After a brief introduction on my part, Jill Haisten gave a very nice presentation on the key roles of Soil and Water in growing beautiful roses. Art Wade followed Jill's presentation with an excellent discourse about fertilizers and what is needed for roses to do their best. Then, Glenn Schulman reviewed the the role of Insects, both helpful and harmful, and Diseases in growing roses--how to watch out for the good and the bad, and what to do if problems arise. Bobbie Reed wrapped up the session with an interesting and important discussion about chemical safety--how to best protect ourselves, others, and the environment in our garden. Throughout the morning, Bob Pisz did an awesome job of managing the audiovisual duties.

This Consulting Rosarian School gave existing Consulting Rosarians (CRs) a chance to update their continuing education units as needed to maintain their CR status. It also gave new candidates a chance to join this elite cadre that represents the American Rose Society and local rose societies so well. Twenty-seven people attended the March 2nd school, including seventeen current Consulting Rosarians and eight new candidates who were applying to become Consulting Rosarians. All eight of the new candidates took the test after attending the School, and ALL PASSED!! I am very proud to welcome these brand new Consulting Rosarians. They include, in alphabetical order: Don and Janice Buckley of the Pensacola Rose Society; David Eppley of the Orlando Area Historical Rose Society; Daniel and Rosemarie McParland of the Bradenton-Sarasota Rose Society; Laura Porter of the Pensacola Rose Society; and Adrian Rodriguez of the Tropical Rose Society.

I also want to thank the nineteen existing CRs and Master Rosarians (MRs) who sent me their annual report. The annual report is a stated requirement for all CRs and MRs, and the dedication of the authors of the annual reports sent to me was abundantly apparent.

Members of the Pensacola Rose Society had the high response rate; their members submitted five of the nineteen annual reports received. Over all, annual reports came from at least one member of each of twelve local societies.

The CRs and MRs submitting their annual reports were clearly very active in the rose community at a variety of levels. Essentially all of them had completed the Roses in Review survey, and most had made rose-related presentations, either locally or on a broader scale. The respondents were regular attendees of local rose society meetings and of Deep South District meetings, and six attended the National American Rose Society meeting in September, 2024. Twelve of the respondents actively show roses and/or judge rose shows.

When asked about their best or their worst roses, respondents' answers covered a wide gamut, but David Austins, German roses, Antique roses, and Old Garden Roses seem to do best. And what were common rose problems that these CRs and MRs encountered? Not surprisingly, those old enemies, black spot and chilli thrips, were voted the worst!



Roses In Review



As I write this, I'm hoping we are out of danger of that pre-Easter frost/freeze. Fingers crossed! I know a lot of us are getting geared up for the upcoming show season. This makes for an excellent opportunity to make some notes on how our newer cultivars are measuring up to our standards for exhibiting. I've made a list of what's new/newer in my garden so I can add notes to each as ideas arise. When the cultivar falls off the survey then I can remove it from my list. This way when the survey comes out in the July issue of American Rose, I have all the information

handy and that makes the online survey a breeze.

Again I want to commend our district for its online participation in last year's survey. We had excellent participation and only one manual entry to be done. Great job!

Unfortunately as of the time of this article, I don't yet have a preview of the cultivars for review. I'll have that next edition which will likely coincide with the actual survey.

Enjoy your spring blooms, bouquets, and shows!

Joseph Wood

District RIR Chairman

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DSD Treasurer Report

By Jean Stream

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streamj@gmail.com

Spring is such an exciting time, especially for rose growers. New leaves and beautiful buds. What more can we ask for.

We had a wonderful Mid-Winter Meeting (Spring Fling) which got us looking forward to our new growing season. Thanks to the West Palm Rose Society, their sponsors, vendors and friends for a grand time.

I am happy to report that most all the societies have sent me their club dues (donations) for 2025. This money does help pay the general expenses we encounter during the year. Thank you, club leaders, for helping with this process.

I'd like to remind you all to be sure to let me know when you have paid authorized DSD expenses so I can get approval and pay you for your expenditures. If you have any questions or need help, talk with Karen or me. We are here to help.

Judges, please be sure to send me your registration and payment for the May 30 & 31 Judging School in Thomasville. To date I have received nine registration forms and payments.

Enjoy your spring and your rose growing.

Love and best to all,

Jean Stream – Treasurer

352-591-4474

Rose Show Supplies Available

Hi, As many of you have learned, the Greater Gwinnett Rose Society is disbanding.

We have Rose Show Supplies that are available to any Rose Society. Here is a list of the items available:

Vases - regular size, mini, large

Bowls for Rose in a Bowl

English Boxes

Mini-Rose Display racks

ARS Certificates

Ribbons

Rosettes

If you would like any of these, please contact me at bet.sobon@outlook.com.

Thanks

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Alabama – Birmingham Rose Society's Annual Rose Show on Mother's Day weekend

DATES: SATURDAY-SUNDAY, MAY 10-11, 2025

Held at the beautiful Birmingham Botanical Gardens: 2612 Lane Park Road, Birmingham, AL 35223. This show is one of the largest horticultural shows in the southeast typically showcasing 400 roses on display along with beautiful artistic arrangements and stunning photography featuring the Rose! The judging is Saturday morning, but the festivities are all weekend.

Prep will begin at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday morning.

Doors will open to the public from 1-5 on Saturday and 1-4 on Sunday.

CLICK HERE FOR: 2025 BIRMINGHAM ROSE SHOW PROGRAM-SCHEDULE

Website: <http://www.birminghamrose.org/>

Georgia – Greater Atlanta Rose Society's Annual Rose Show on Mother's Day weekend DATES: May 10 – 11, 2025

Atlanta Botanical Garden

1345 Piedmont Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30309

Step into a world of enchantment where nature's most beloved bloom takes center stage. The Magic of Roses is an extraordinary celebration of one of the world's most timeless flowers. From velvety reds to blushing pinks, radiant whites to vibrant yellows, this immersive rose show invites visitors to explore the captivating allure of roses through artistry, color, and scent.

The public can view the roses after judging Saturday May 10th at 1pm, as well as Sunday 9am-5pm. If you would like to enter a rose in the show – the roses will need to be placed by 9am on Saturday.

Florida– Tampa Rose Society's Annual Rose Show DATES: SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025

Save the Date! Website: <https://tamparosesociety.com/>

Georgia – South Metro Rose Society’s Annual Rose Show on DATES: SATURDAY-SUNDAY, MAY 17-18, 2025

Always the weekend AFTER Mother’s Day. See, smell, and photograph hundreds of exhibition roses and rose arrangements 1-4 pm both days! Rose bouquets for sale. Information table manned by our Consulting Rosarians. Terrific raffle prizes! FREE admission and parking! Location right off the main square in Fayetteville, GA. **See South Metro’s Facebook Page:** facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064550088342.

Georgia – ARS Horticulture and Arrangement Judging School

DATES: May 30 and 31, 2025

The Deep South Judging School will be held at Dawson Street Baptist Church located at 1025 N. Dawson Street, Thomasville, GA 31792. We will have the Horticulture Judge portion on Friday and the Arrangement Judges portion on Saturday.

The Registration fee is \$30.00 per person (required). Fee includes rental of facility, maintenance fees, insurance, and snacks. Lunch will also be served. Fee for test materials is \$10 per person.

All students taking the test(s) should have access to the most current ARS Guidelines for Judging Roses and/or Guidelines for Judging Rose Arrangements. Written tests will be open book, but familiarity with guidelines is expected. School begins at 9:00 AM (not 8:00 AM as was previously announced) on Friday and Saturday.

It is important that current judges attend as well as those wishing to become a judge. Current judges will receive four years credit before having to take another school. Those wishing to become judges must have been a member of ARS for three years prior to taking the test.

[Click here to download the Registration Form](#)

Contact **Joanne Maxheimer** at iamjomax42@gmail.com for more information

Florida – Deep South District Exhibitor’s Forum

DATE: July 12, 2025 (Saturday) – SAVE THE DATE

Location: Goodwood Plantation, 1600 Miccosukee Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32308. Nestled in a grove of live oak trees in the heart of Tallahassee, Goodwood is a historic gardens, museum and event venue. Whenever the gates are open, take a stroll in our heirloom gardens and check tour times to visit the Goodwood Main

Full day of A to Z Rose Show Preparation instruction. Cost: TBD. Everything from how to prep roses, open them up, how to do tags, staging for floral arrangements, photo entries and more! Snacks and lunch provided. Hosted by the Tallahassee Rose Society.

To ensure that your event is listed in the next issue's Upcoming Events, please send the information to Bet Sobon, Editor, 770-561-6846, betsobon@gmail.com,

Visit the DSD Website at <http://deepsouthdistrict.org>

<https://fb.me/DeepSouthDistrictAmericanRoseSociety>

**The DSD Bulletin
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The Bulletin

2024 Print Subscription Form

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