

event fun, widely attended, educational and have a positive financial impact.

This was the first time in many years the membership had even been consulted about the Rose Show. It had previously been a foregone conclusion. The only significant change to the Rose Show format would be the addition of a non-judged Display of Roses. When the Festival format vote was taken, 47 out of 48 members approved the event.

In November of 2010 we had our first Festival of Roses. We had nine exhibitors total. As always, the quality of roses was excellent. We had an attendance of 150 from the public (a three-fold improvement). We had a beautiful display of non-judged roses, which drew much attention. People left the Festival with many interesting ideas they could use, in addition to seeing hundreds of beautiful roses to inspire them.

Most importantly, we had 13 new members. All of them have remained regular participants in society activities. One is already an Executive Officer. The first MCRS Festival of Roses far exceeded our expectations.

On October 29th, 2011, we held our second Festival of Roses. Attendance from the public was down a bit (130), but we gained 21 new members. The quality of our visitors was exceptional. The Festival also generated a profit of \$ **639.00**.

If one objective is present at all times in our rose society endeavors, it is maintenance of an atmosphere of fun, lighted-hearted camaraderie, while learning about and appreciating, roses.

To reiterate, we should not expect members to meet *our* expectations. We should provide opportunities for them to learn about roses and grow in the direction to which they are best suited.

Some will exhibit, some will be organic gardeners, and some will continue to come for the refreshments. All should be welcome. We must also recognize that the social element of the rose society is of great importance.

As in any business, we, as a rose society, have a product to market. New methods must be tried if the old ones are not working.

A critical component for success is to identify individuals who have varied capabilities, and apply them well. The MCRS currently has those individuals. Many rose societies do not. If that is the case, it will take someone in that society with a “fire in their belly” to get things rolling and make things happen.

The ARS and all local rose societies must face one very important fact: grow or die. Anyone who believes that a society can flourish without change is naive. Anyone who insists on following the same dogmatic practices that are not producing positive results does a disservice to his or her rose society. Anyone who is satisfied with the status quo is not working in the best interest of rose growing or the ARS.

Our local rose societies are like any rose bush. You must provide what is necessary to stimulate and maintain growth. You must groom and remove deadwood regularly. You must keep a watchful eye on it to make sure you are achieving the desired results. If you do not, your bush will become stagnant, not produce new growth and ultimately die.

My husband and I have always said, “if our rose society experience ceases to be fun, we will find other activities. ” Though there have been a few bumps here and there, growing roses, and the camaraderie it has brought us, has been the most enjoyable non-business activity in our lives.

For all of us, if the foremost focus is on *having fun*, everything becomes much easier.

Local Society Rose Show Calendar 2012

April 14 Central Florida RS, First United Methodist Church, Winter Park FL, Contact: Catherine Ghattas, cande10683@aol.com, 407-595-8460

April 21 Gainesville RS, Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, Gainesville, FL, Contact: Tom Mullins, mullins32@bellsouth.net, 352-378-4231.

April 21 Golden Isles RS, SSI Presbyterian Church, St. Simons Island, GA, Contact: Kay Harrell, kay@fairmarsh.com, 912-634-0323

April 27-28 Thomasville RS, Contact John Grotgen jgrotgen@surfsouth.com

April 28 Wiregrass RS, First Methodist Church, Dothan, AL. Contact Pat Wente pjwwaw@hughes.net

April 28-29 Greater Palm Beach RS, Mounts Botanical Garden, West Palm Beach, FL, Contact: Debbie Coolidge geoffcoolidge@comcast.net, 561-684-2421

April 28 Jacksonville RS, Garden Club of Jacksonville, FL, Contact: Lyndy Myers, at rosefan@bellsouth.net or for artistic information contact Sandy Dixon, sandydixon@comcast.net.

May 5-6 Greater Atlanta RS, Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Atlanta, GA . Contact: Lori Nelson, loriannnelson01@bellsouth.net, 404-433-2685

May 12-13 Birmingham RS, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, for up to date info go to <http://601534476299226511.weebly.com/2012-birmingham-rose-show.html>

May 12 Tampa RS, Westfield Citrus Park Mall, Tampa, FL. Contact: Barbara Adolphson, barbaraadolphson@yahoo.com. 727-392-8326

May 19-20 South Metro RS, Fayette County, GA Contact Steve Bell stevebelltex@gmail.com

May 26 Huntsville-Twickingham RS Parkway Place Mall, Huntsville, AL. Contact: Jill Chapell, greenmtnroses@comcast.net
256- 880-3773

October 13-14 Greater Gwinnett RS, Bogan Park, Buford, GA. Contact Nancy Miller, 2manyroses@bellsouth.net, 770-963-6490

October 27-28 Tallahassee Area RS, Doyle Connor Building, Tallahassee, FL, Contact: Pat Sanford, wordhacker@centurylink.net,

November 3 Marion County RS, rose show and rose festival, Ag. Center Auditorium, Ocala, FL, Contact: Carol Green, carol@bgacranes.com, 352-797-0900.