

# The Bulletin

Of the Deep South District  
Of the American Rose Society



**By Karen Prevatt,**  
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## District Director's Report

My name is Karen J. Prevatt and I am the new Deep South District Director. I was installed at the National Convention in Warwick Rhode Island in October. I am humbled and know that I have a tough act to follow in the shoes of Cindy Dale, our immediate past District Director. For six years she has done a dynamite job leading our district and serving on the ARS Board of Directors during some difficult times. Thank you, Cindy, for your leadership.

I would like to introduce myself to Deep South District rosarians in case you do not already know me. I live in Citrus County, Florida in the tiny town of Hernando. It is about 28 miles Southeast of Ocala. I served as the Deep South District Director about 12 years ago. My-My how things have changed in those 12 years! Most of us still had land line telephones, we were not familiar with Zoom meetings, electric cars, Pluto was still a planet, we were just learning about Apple Watches. Well, we all agree our lives have changed and so has our Deep South District. We have fewer rose societies in the Deep South and fewer American Rose Society members. The good news is that we are have survived difficult economic and inflationary times. Our rose societies and members are resilient and have the will to come back stronger than ever. We are attracting younger members as many of us are aging out of participation. We need to embrace the changes brought to us through electronic media. Open yourself to learning

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new ways to do things in our local societies and make it easier for everyone to participate. Consider holding joint rose shows with neighboring rose societies. Make it fun to grow roses and pass on our knowledge to others. Welcome expression of new ideas. We need to instill renewed enthusiasm in our members so we can continue well into the next millennium.

It is also vital to our existence to support the American Rose Society by contributing to the Annual Fund which the ARS uses to operate. Let your society's members know what ARS provides for local societies. ARS gives us a group federal income tax exemption. It gives us reasonably priced insurance rates for local society meetings and functions. It helps preserve appreciation of the rose. ARS gives us knowledgeable certified rose judges to judge rose shows. It creates the expansion of knowledge for gardening for the public through the Consulting Rosarian and Master Rosarian programs. Provides us with an award-winning magazine dedicated to the rose and the Handbook for Selecting Rose cultivars. I could keep reciting the benefits of the ARS, but I must tell you the most important benefit I have received because of my many years of ARS membership is sharing friendship with rose growers throughout the Deep South, the US and even gathering friends throughout the world of roses.

Please feel free to contact me or approach me at rose society functions. I want to listen to what you have to say whether it is a new idea or criticism.

We have instituted a move of our traditional January date for the Mid-Winter Meeting of the Deep South District to the end of February and first of March. This year it will be held in Gainesville, Florida on February 28-March 2. Since March is early Spring in many parts of the South and no longer the Middle of Winter, the board approved a change in the name of this special event. Please submit a suggested new name to Bet Sobon, our Newsletter Editor, or myself. We will vote on the new names submitted at the membership meeting at the Mid-Winter Meeting in 2025. See the following article.

We are very pleased to have the West Palm Beach Rose Society host the Mid-Winter meeting in 2025. The West Palm Beach members heroically stepped in on short notice to host the event when the rose society which had previously agreed to host the meeting had to step down. I am asking all rose societies to consider hosting a future convention or meeting for the District. As I write this article, we do not have any society to host the Fall convention or any meeting thereafter. The District is an all-volunteer organization. We have no staff. Our site Selection Committee for meetings is headed by Willie Mae Burley. When Willie Mae or I contact your society about hosting a meeting please say "Yes, we can do it."

I hope you have visited the new website for our district. The magic behind the new newsletter is our new Webmaster, Kim Wendt. Kim is a member of the West Palm Beach Rose Society and the Tropical Rose Society. She is knowledgeable and brimming with new ideas.

## DSD 2025 'MID WINTER' MEETING



**By: Bet Sobon**

770-561-6846

[bet.sobon@outlook.com](mailto:bet.sobon@outlook.com)

Well, it's really Winter. And most of the Deep South District is getting some real winter weather. We had ice storms in Georgia and Alabama last week and now it looks like snow, even into Florida!

That brings up our 'Mid-Winter' meeting. It has been moved from the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in January to the end of February-beginning in March. This was done because the January date was felt to be too close to October when we normally have our Fall Convention and Show. Also, it gives us more time to recover after the very busy holidays

So we can't call it 'Mid-Winter' Meeting anymore. Last issue we asked for suggestions for a new name, and we did receive some good ones. So once again, we are asking for new names for our meeting that we will have beginning on February 28th.

We have several good suggestions, but if you want to make a suggestion, please send to me at [bet.sobon@outlook.com](mailto:bet.sobon@outlook.com) or Karen Prevatt at [kjprevatt@gmail.com](mailto:kjprevatt@gmail.com)

And speaking of our meeting, following is all the information you need to register and plan your trip. Stay warm and I hope to see you all in Gainesville!



*"Roses in Paradise" - a tropical-themed, Key West styled Event!*

## 2025 Deep South District Mid-Winter Meeting

February 28 through March 2, 2025  
Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel in Gainesville, Florida

**Want some winter excitement?** Then come to Gainesville this Mid-Winter for a fun, tropical-themed educational conference the weekend of February 28 to March 2, 2025.

DSD Mid-Winter 2025

**Where:** Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel and Conference Center on the north side of Gainesville, FL just west of I-75, at the 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue/SR222 exit (Exit 390). Hosted by the Greater Palm Beach Rose Society. **Mid-Winter Hotel Reservation Link:** [DSD Mid-Winter 2025 Conference - Hotel Rooms at BWGG](#)



Hotel Reservations

**Friday** afternoon, grab your secateurs and sign up for the *Hands On! Florist Rose Propagation Workshop* taught by Denise Abruzzese, CR. Afterward, Sandy Dixon, our beloved ARS Arrangement & Horticulture Judge, will teach us new whimsical tricks in *Creating Fun Arrangements*. Connect with friends and enjoy Friday night dinner at the eatery of your choice. After dinner, wander over to the Continental Mezzanine for Parrothead Snacks, Grog (beverages), and Key West styled Games - Rose Pong!

**Saturday's** outstanding seminars include: "*Color and Design: Companion Planting for Roses*" with Victor Lazzari, Professional Landscape Designer; "*Editing Tips & Tricks: Fantastic Rose Photography for Everyone*" with Denise Domlesky, Photo Editor for People Magazine; and "*Power Growing Roses the 'Nelson Way'*" with Clay Nelson, owner of Nelson's Southern Roses. There will be a Deep South District Annual Meeting with Karen Prevatt, our Deep South District Director.

Angel Gardens, K&M Roses, Nelson's Southern Roses and Rose Petal Nursery will delight us with a myriad of roses for sale on own root and Fortuniana rootstock. Purely Organics will also be there. Be sure to preorder your roses and amendments for the best selection. Most preorders for roses begin around January 15<sup>th</sup>. Vendor inventory/price lists will be emailed when available.

**Raffles!!!!** Please check out the wonderful raffle prizes. Raffle winners are announced after the DSD Annual Meeting and you must be present to win.

**Roses in Paradise Banquet:** Enjoy an excellent Margaritaville-inspired plated dinner, cash bar, and an amazing line up of Rosarian Awards and tropical fun: Anita Smith Award, Bronze Merit Award Winners and even **Tropical Paradise Awards**. (*Tropical banquet attire is suggested - your choice of tropical-themed, business casual to semi-formal attire.*) Get creative! There are chances to win super prizes for Best Key West, Jimmy Buffet or Parrothead Attire or Costume.

**Sunday** morning is the **Consulting Rosarian (CR) School** for new or recertifying CRs, however anyone can attend who wishes to learn more about growing roses. **New candidates need to apply at least 30 days ahead of time** by contacting our Deep South District CR Chair, Janet Newburgh at: [JanNewburgh@gmail.com](mailto:JanNewburgh@gmail.com)

DSD Mid-Winter 2025



Online Registration

**REGISTER ONLINE** using the QR Code at left or click: [2025 Mid-Winter REGISTRATION](#). You can also use the registration form found in the DSD Newsletter and on the DSD website.

Head to 'Margaritaville' in 2025 for some relaxing, tropical fun this Mid-Winter!

Kim Wendt, 2025 Mid-Winter Chair, Greater Palm Beach Rose Society  
Cell: 561-436-8555, Email: [kwendt.palmbeach@gmail.com](mailto:kwendt.palmbeach@gmail.com)



*"Roses in Paradise" - a tropical-themed, Key West styled Event!*

## 2025 Deep South District Mid-Winter Meeting

February 28 through March 2, 2025

Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel in Gainesville, Florida

### Event Schedule

#### Friday, February 28

*Vendors Open! 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm*

8:00 - 1:00 pm	Vendor Set Up	San Felasco & Sante Fe
Noon	Check In Begins - Raffle Ticket Sales	Lobby
1:00 - 4:00 pm	<b>Hands On! Florist Rose Propagation Workshop:</b> Denise Abruzzese, CR followed by <b>Creating Fun Arrangements:</b> Sandy Dixon, ARS Arrangement & Horticulture Judge	Springhill Ballroom East
4:00 - 7:00 pm	<i>Check In, Dinner on your own - See your Swag Bag for a list of Local Eateries</i>	
7:00 - 11:00 pm	Hospitality Time: Parrothead Snacks, Grog (Beverages), and Key West Games - Rose Pong!	Continental Mezzanine (and Room 135)

#### Saturday, March 1 - Daytime

*Vendors Open! 9:00 am to 5:00 pm*

*Raffle Tickets sold during breaks - Don't miss out!*

9:00 am	Check In - Raffle Ticket Sales	Lobby & Ballroom Hallway
9:30 am	Welcome Kick Off with Conference Chair	Springhill Ballroom East
9:45 - 10:45 am	<b>Color and Design: Companion Planting for Roses</b> with Victor Lazzari, Professional Landscape Designer	Springhill Ballroom East
11:00 - 11:30 am	<b>Editing Tips &amp; Tricks: Fantastic Rose Photography for Everyone</b> with Denise Domlesky, Photo Editor for People Magazine	Springhill Ballroom East
11:30 - 1:00 pm	<i>Lunch on your own - See your Swag Bag for a list of Local Eateries</i>	
1:00 - 2:15 pm	<b>Power Growing Roses the "Nelson Way"</b> with Clay Nelson, owner of Nelson's Southern Roses <i>(followed by a Q&amp;A session - bring your questions, get expert advice)</i>	Springhill Ballroom East
2:30 - 3:00 pm	<b>Deep South District Annual Meeting</b> with Karen Prevatt, Deep South District Director	Springhill Ballroom East
3:30 - 5:00 pm	<b>RAFFLE DRAWINGS!</b> <i>(must be present to win)</i>	Springhill Ballroom East



*"Roses in Paradise" - a tropical-themed, Key West styled Event!*

**2025 Deep South District Mid-Winter Meeting**

Friday, February 28 through Sunday, March 2, 2025

Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel

4200 NW 97th Blvd., Gainesville, FL 32606

DSD Mid-Winter 2025



Online Registration

**EVENT REGISTRATION INFORMATION (or scan QR Code at right)**

Name 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Name 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Rose Society: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fees	Price	# of Attendees	Total Amount
<b>Early Registration</b> ( <i>postmarked/online by 2/1/2025</i> )	\$48.00	_____	\$
<b>Late Registration</b> ( <i>postmarked/online after 2/1/2025</i> )	\$55.00	_____	\$
<b>Hands On! Florist Rose Propagation Workshop</b> followed by <b>Creating Fun Arrangements</b> . Friday, February 28 at 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm	\$25.00	_____	\$
<b>Roses in Paradise Banquet: Saturday at 6:30 pm</b>			
Banquet/person (if attending convention)	\$39.00	_____	\$
Banquet/guest (if NOT attending convention)	\$49.00	_____	\$
Guest Name: _____			
<i>Please choose entrée:</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Key Lime Mahi-Mahi ( <i>seared Mahi-Mahi finished with a key lime butter sauce</i> )			
<input type="checkbox"/> Bourbon Glazed Chicken ( <i>boneless chicken breast dressed in a sweet &amp; savory bourbon glaze</i> )			
<input type="checkbox"/> Paella in Paradise (Vegan) ( <i>a medley of rice, spices and fresh vegetables finished with lime</i> )			
<b>Consulting Rosarian School: Sunday 8:00 am - Noon</b>	\$10.00	_____	\$
<b>Total amount enclosed</b>			\$

Make checks payable to "Greater Palm Beach Rose Society." Please mail your check and this form to:

Denise Abruzzese, 4680 Foxview Place, Lake Worth, FL 33467.

Questions: [foxviewroses@gmail.com](mailto:foxviewroses@gmail.com); Cell: 631-988-5244

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Registration fee less 25% will be refunded if requested by 2/6/2025.

No refunds after 2/8/2025.

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS:** Please make hotel reservations directly with Best Western Gateway

Grand Hotel, 4200 NW 97th Blvd., Gainesville, FL 32606. **Scan QR code** at right, click the **Reservation Link:**

[DSD Mid-Winter 2025 - Hotel Rooms](#) or Phone: 352-331-3336. Group Name: Deep South District, ARS. Room cost

per night: Double Room or King Suite: \$129 plus tax. Single or double occupancy. To obtain this special rate, rooms

must be booked by February 7, 2025. Rates after this date are subject to availability. Parking is free.

DSD Mid-Winter 2025



Hotel Reservations

## DSD Horticulture Judges

**By: Joanne Maxheimer**

229-403-1419

[iamjomax42@gmail.com](mailto:iamjomax42@gmail.com)



Hi everyone:

Well Old Man Winter is trying his best to send some cold weather here in the Deep South. Although some days it still feels like spring.

Now that we don't have to be working in the garden as often it's time to make some decisions for the New Year. Which roses do I want to get rid of and what new ones do I want to add. Decisions, decisions, decisions!!!!

And while you're deciding what to add or discard you might want to look at some of the new roses that have just come on the market or articles on fertilizer, spray materials, etc. So sit back with a cup of hot chocolate and let your imagination go wild.

We will be having a judging school on May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> in Thomasville, Ga., at Dawson Street Baptist Church. As many of you know we held our last school here and it is a great facility and good location. The cost of the school this year will be \$30.00 per person. We will have the registration forms ready after the first of the year. We encourage all judges to attend and those that are thinking of becoming a judge. If you want to become a judge you must have been a member of ARS for three years.

Wishing all of you a wonderful New Year filled with beautiful roses.



## DSD Arrangement Judges



**By Sandy Dixon**

[sandyfdixon@comcast.net](mailto:sandyfdixon@comcast.net)

**BRING YOUR CLIPPERS!!!!** I didn't want anyone to forget them if you are coming to the Deep South Meeting (or whatever we're calling it now) at the **end of February** to participate in the arrangement fun. You will have an interesting arrangement to enjoy, both at the Saturday night dinner and to take home. Come play with us!

It is also a good time to think about coming to the **DSD Judging Schools**. Both horticulture and arrangements judges should attend if at all possible. We also wish to invite those who would just like to improve their exhibiting.

Knowing what the judges look for is important if you want to win any of those blue ribbons,

rosettes (high awards), and trophies. Plus, we have great conversations and pretty good food, too. Since this takes place after all the DSD spring rose shows, you have time to save a little money for it. Mark your datebooks, calendars, etc. - **May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>**, Thomasville, GA.

I know some of you have had a rough winter. Snow has fallen, even in Florida. I hope everyone stayed safe and warm. There is some warmer weather coming up and soon we will have to prune our roses. Don't forget to keep up with your tetanus shot, as well as any other vaccinations that you are able to take that give you protection. You are important to us, as a friend, as well as a competitor.

If you are considering becoming a rose judge, please contact Joanne Maxheimer or myself. There is a bit of paperwork that needs to be handled ahead of time. If you need to send me questions or information (photos, etc.), please send me a text (**904-521-6274**), alerting me to your email. Otherwise, it may not be read in a time-sensitive manner. I hope I see all of you at some rose show in the near future.

My contact information is: Sandy Dixon, [sandyfdixon@comcast.net](mailto: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

240-281-4352

[jannewburgh@gmail.com](mailto:jannewburgh@gmail.com)



Happy New Year to you, and welcome to a brand, new year! We are off to a running start. I hope that you have had a wonderful 2024 and that your roses, and your rose friends, have brought you much beauty and joy. We want to hear all about what you did, rose-wise, in 2024, especially if you are a Consulting or Master Rosarian. The best way to let me know about your rose-related activities in 2024 is by completing your Annual Consulting Rosarian Report, which is a requirement for all Consulting and Master Rosarians. This report is a very valuable and educational way to take stock of all that you have accomplished over the last year, and to share those activities with others. The Report Form is available on the Deep South District website. To find it, look under Resources and CR Information, and then scroll down a bit. Please send your completed Annual Consulting Rosarian Report to me by either email, at [JanNewburgh@gmail.com](mailto:JanNewburgh@gmail.com), or by US Mail, at: PO Box 237, Woodville, FL 32362, by January 31, 2025.

I also want to let you know about two Consulting Rosarian Schools coming up in the next few weeks. If you are not now a Consulting Rosarian but would like to become one, attendance at one of these schools is a great opportunity for you! (These schools contain a lot of information on growing roses that is very useful for anyone, Consulting Rosarian or not.) If you are a currently active Consulting or Master Rosarian, attending a Consulting Rosarian school will extend your Consulting Rosarian status for another four years. If you have been a Consulting Rosarian in the past but, for whatever reason, your status has lapsed, the Consulting Rosarian schools will be your ticket to get back into the cadre of the American Rose Society's largest outreach group.

The first upcoming Consulting Rosarian School is being offered online by the American Rose Society, so you can attend this school from the comfort of your own home. This online school will involve two Saturday sessions. Part 1 is on February 15, 2025, from noon till 3 pm EST; it

covers the Mission and Ethics of the Consulting Rosarian Program, plus Soil and Water, and Fertilizers, and will be presented by American Rose Society President Craig Dorschel and Consulting Rosarian National Chair Diane Wilkerson. Part 2 of the online course will be on February 22, also noon till 3 pm EST; this part covers Insects & Diseases and Chemical Safety and is taught by Baldo Villegas and Jim Beardley. Those wishing to become new Consulting Rosarians or to reinstate their lapsed status should plan to take an online test on Saturday, March 1, 2025. Those individuals will need to complete the Consulting Rosarian application, which is available online, and to send it to me by January 15, 2025. Registration for the online school is now open for all, at [Rose.org](http://Rose.org).

The second upcoming Consulting Rosarian School will be offered in person on Sunday, March 2, 2025, as part of the Deep South District's Winter/Spring meeting on February 28-March 2, 2025, in Gainesville. All are welcome to attend the March 2<sup>nd</sup> Consulting Rosarian School, but if you are seeking to use attendance at this School in order to become a new Consulting Rosarian or to renew your Consulting Rosarian status that has lapsed, you will need to complete the Consulting Rosarian application form and send it to me by email or postal mail by January 31, 2025.

I continue to urge everyone to log on to [Rose.org](http://Rose.org) to check your status, as an ARS member and, if you are a current Consulting Rosarian or a Judge, to check your next audit date(s). This is particularly important because several people who had been on the list of Deep South District Consulting or Master Rosarians seem to no longer be included on the American Rose Society's records as such. If that happens to you and you feel that you should still be included as a continuing Consulting or Master Rosarian, please let me know and we'll do what we can to figure out the situation and to see what can be done about it.

Meanwhile, I'm already looking forward to spring, and to seeing you in Gainesville at the February-March Deep South District meeting. Stay warm, healthy, and happy.



## Roses In Review



Dear Rose Friends, As I write this the snow and ice are melting and I'm looking forward to warmer weather and pruning season.

I'd like to report that the Deep South District had 86 participants in Roses in Review 2024. That's the 4th largest participation of all the districts in the US!

Thank you to all who took the time to complete the survey online. 85 of you completed the survey online with only 1 person submitting a paper entry. We've come a long way in our acceptance of

the online version of this important review. I thank you for that.

I'm including the final results of all the cultivars rated for 2024.

Joseph Wood

RIR Chairman





## DSD Treasurer Report

**By Jean Stream/ Consulting Rosarian**

352-591-4474

*streamj@gmail.com*

I was happy to be elected as your new DSD treasurer. I am here to help you in any way that I can, so please don't hesitate to notify me if you need me.

My primary job is to collect, distribute and manage our funds. One of our sources of income is the local society's annual dues. The DSD by-laws state the dues should be paid by the end of May each year. Local societies with 100 or more members are asked to pay \$50/year and those with less than 100 members are asked to pay \$25/year.

In January, once I have a current list of society presidents, I will be sending a letter to each president requesting your dues. I would greatly appreciate you help letting me know if your club will have a problem meeting the May, 2025 deadline for remitting your payment. Currently the DSD does not have a credit card machine or any other method for you to use in sending the dues. We are currently working on setting up Zelle but that is not yet in place. I will let you know when this is available for your use as an option.

I hope 2025 will be a fun year for everyone as we enjoy our rose growing hobby. Let us find ways to support and encourage each other and invite those new growers to join us.

Love and best to all,

Jean

## 2024-2027 Deep South District Officers & Committee Chairs

### District Director

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Vacant current

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Feb 28 - Mar 2 2025

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DSD 'Mid Winter' Convention  
Gainesville, Florida  
More Info to come

## May 2025

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Judging School, Tallahassee Florida  
More Info to come

**More information on Local and District Events can be found here:**

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**<https://deepsouthdistrict.org/upcoming-events/>**

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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](mailto:betsobon@gmail.com),

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

<https://fb.me/DeepSouthDistrictAmericanRoseSociety>

The DSD Bulletin  
Bet Sobon Editor  
2388 Coinsborough Way  
Buford, Georgia 30518

# The Bulletin

2024 Print Subscription Form

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**The Bulletin is distributed in color by e-mail to all members of local rose societies within the Deep South District, and to all American Rose Society**