



From the President

Dear Rose Friends:

The calendar says that it is January, but I have my doubts. While the roses are resting, if indeed they are, I feel that I should be resting too. Not so. Not so, friends and neighbors.

Deep South District meeting is next weekend, and I hope a lot of the members of our local societies will be in attendance. I have come to look forward to this brief period of gaiety and good fellowship. Some of the programs are interesting and informative, I have been told.

And, pruning is close upon us. The Fernbank event is scheduled for the last Saturday, Feb.26 at 9:30am, and we will visit ABG on Saturday, March 5 or March 12. More exact information as soon as I have it. Carroll Olson has agreed to get the Mills Magic delivered to us at Fernbank on Feb 26. An order sheet will be circulated, or you can email Carroll at coolson@mindspring.com.

The Southeastern Flower Show is to be held Mar 2-6 at the Georgia World Conference Center. Susan Clingpeel and Bobbie Reed have both suggested that we combine our Plant Society booth with Gwinnett and maybe South Metro. I think that is a wonderful idea, and so, I need a volunteer to coordinate this. Volunteers, please!

Here we go. A brand New Year and so many fun things to do. Does anyone have any projects or activities or ideas for GARS and the new calendar? Would you like to share? and volunteer? Let me hear from you.

Thank you.

Victoria

Another Successful Holiday Party!

Special thanks go out to *Shirley & Mose McCall* for hosting our Christmas party. Their house was beautifully decorated, as always, both inside and outside, despite their protestations that they had not been able to get all the decorations set

up. The food was fabulous – thanks to all who brought their special dish. Particularly appreciated was the venison provided by our host – it was particularly tender and tasty. The new time seemed to work well, with some folks driving home before dark and others staying on. In addition to the installation of 2005's officers, there was a fun gift exchange. All in all, it was a terrific time.

Thanks, Mose and Shirley!

COMING EVENTS

Jan 14th-16th – Deep South District Mid-Winter Meeting and Consulting Rosarian School, Lake City, FL. Call Cindy Dale at 770-631-3885, or e-mail rosepro@bellsouth.net.

Jan 18th – GARS meeting, Day Hall, Atlanta Botanical Garden, 7pm
Speaker: Paul Blankenship

Feb 15th – GARS meeting, Day Hall, Atlanta Botanical Garden, 7pm

Feb 26th – GARS Pruning Day and Mills delivery at Fernbank

Mar 15th – GARS meeting, ABG, 7pm

Apr 19th – GARS meeting, ABG, 7pm

Apr 24-29th – ARS Spring National Convention, Shreveport, LA. Contact Mary Ann Miller, 318-448-0521, or e-mail tuscanarosa@cox-internet.com

Apr 30th – Rose Day America at Lowe's

May 7th-8th – GARS Rose Show

Oct 21st-23rd – DSD Fall Convention, Augusta, GA

January Meeting Tuesday, Jan 18th Atlanta Botanical Garden

This month, our speaker will be Paul Blankenship from Augusta. His program is

titled: *Olde Hickory...The Blankships Love Affair With Roses.*

Paul Blankenship and his wife Charlotte began growing roses when they married in 1972. Over the years their hobby has grown to include a garden containing approximately 500 roses of all types. Upon retirement from the Medical College of Georgia in 2000, the Blankships began a cut rose business, "Olde Hickory Roses", named for a large pignut hickory tree adjacent to the rose garden. In 1993 they 'discovered' a lilac pink sport of *Playgirl* in their garden, which was registered and then placed in commerce through Roses Unlimited in Laurens, SC, under the name of *Charlotte Anne*. Paul and Charlotte are ARS Accredited Horticulture Rose Judges. Paul is also a Consulting Rosarian and currently Carolina District Chairman of Horticulture Judges.

Ryan's Calendar for January

Jan 3 - Give your roses a treat. Put on a 2-3" layer of fresh, aged horse manure from a local stable. This will insulate the ground and add organic matter and nutrients to the soil.

Jan 7 - Check weather forecasts regularly for expected cold snaps.

Jan 9 - Move roses anytime temperatures will stay above 35° for a few days. Be sure to mulch over the lower canes and water well after they are moved. Spray an anti-transpirant on the entire rose the day before.

New rose beds can be prepared or old ones renovated whenever the ground is workable and temperatures are comfortable. Wait at least 2 days after a rain before digging.

Add at least two cups of lime and gypsum to top inch of soil. Add an extra cup of lime if soil test indicates pH is lower than 6.0.

Jan 13 - Give roses another spray of an anti-transpirant like Wilt-Pruf, Cloud

Cover, and Vapor Gard. Supply moisture to canes due to frozen ground.

Jan 17 - Whenever temperatures will be above 35° for 24 hours, apply a dormant spray consisting of dormant oil combined with lime sulfur. Follow directions on label for amount to use.

GARS Awards ARS Bronze Honor Medal

The American Rose Society established the Bronze Honor Medal program as a way for local rose societies to recognize and honor those outstanding members who help to make a local rose society successful. ARS doesn't have many rules about whom the medal goes to, leaving it up to each local society to select someone they want to honor.

This award is for those "valuable people" who've been willing to take on the tough jobs, and who volunteer to do the things that are necessary to keep the society going. This is an honor we give to someone who has done a lot for the society, year after year.

Previous winners from GARS have included Maibelle Hodgins, Don Ziegler, Burl & Martha Brown, Kitsy Mostellar, Cathy Farmer, Anna Davis, Anita Smith, Sharon Phillips, Carroll & Dorothy Olson, Henry Everett, and Bob & Diane Snyder.

This year on December 11th, the Greater Atlanta Rose Society awarded its twelfth Bronze Medal to **Ryan & Wendy Tilley**. They've been GARS members since 1993. Ryan is an ARS Consulting



**Bobbie Reed presents
ARS Bronze Honor
Medals to Wendy &
Ryan Tilley**

Rosarian, and has often shared his rose knowledge with our society in programs. He served as Vice President in 1996 and as President in 1997. Ryan and Wendy have hosted the society in their garden on several occasions.

Most of us know Ryan and Wendy as the public voice of the Greater Atlanta Rose Society. For seven years, Ryan has been editor of **The Phoenix**. And, while only one name appeared on the masthead, we know that it has taken both of them to collect and write articles, type up the newsletter, and copy and distribute it to our members.

Congratulations, Ryan & Wendy!

Bobbie Reed



Weather Word

by Ryan Tilley, Consulting Rosarian

Well, another year, another 3 hurricanes! Wasn't that a wild ride in August and September? As a meteorologist of 25 years, I can safely say that Georgia will not see anything like that for many years to come. What those storms did was bring this year up to "normal" as far as rainfall goes. With reasonable rain in December, we will be assured a nice little rainfall surplus going into 2005. Will we have a bad winter? Based on the last 15 years or so, the odds would seem to say no. We really haven't had any bad winters since the mid 80's, although there have been some big storms, like the blizzard of 1993 and the double ice-storm whammy of a few years ago, but a few bad storms does not make a bad winter. I am always more concerned about March anyway.

Jan. 15	<u>Avg high</u>	<u>Avg low</u>	<u>Avg Rainfall</u>
Atlanta	50	32	4.75
Alpharetta	49	27	5.23
Athens	52	32	4.60
Blairsville	47	23	5.15
Columbus	56	35	4.59
Helen	50	28	6.21
Macon	57	34	4.56
Rome	50	27	5.26

January In The Rose Garden

By Bobbie Reed, Consulting Rosarian

Observe – Look at patterns of sun and shade in your yard, and consider where you can put those new roses you want to order. Take a look at how your bushes have fared, so you can decide which ones should be replaced. If growth was spindly this year, next year's won't be any better.

Water – Roses need water to help them get through the cold of winter. December gave us slightly above average rainfall, except to the southeast of Atlanta. Rains varied greatly over the year and around the region; much of the Atlanta area finished 2004 with a surplus, but Gainesville, Duluth, Jonesboro and Covington finished the year with below-normal rainfall. Keep an eye on your rain gauge, and be prepared to water before a cold snap.

Don't Feed – No more feeding until spring!

Spray – In theory, you should continue spraying fungicides as long as there are leaves on your bushes, and I certainly have leaves on mine, even after a 14° morning. However, I get busy with non-garden activities this time of year and fall behind. Some gardeners like to use a lime sulfur spray this time of year, usually in combination with horticultural oil like Sunspray, to clean up fungi and insects that may be overwintering on rose bushes (some wait to use it until immediately after pruning). Cover your nose – this stuff is really stinky!

Cut Back – If you haven't already done so, trim the tops of large bushes to about chest high, to prevent the bushes from whipping about in high winds, which can loosen your bush's roots in the soil. But **don't prune!** Reserve hard pruning for late February or early March, when the forsythia is in full bloom in your neighborhood.

Mulch – If you haven't already, add mulch around your roses to protect them from extreme temperatures. Mound extra mulch around the bud union of grafted roses, or build a cage around the bush to hold even more mulch. Temperatures have been as variable as ever, ranging from 14° to 70° in the last month, so our roses are as

confused as we are, and are more susceptible to cold damage.

Work on Dirt – If the ground isn't frozen, start preparing new beds for late winter planting. Have the soil tested in rose beds if you haven't done it in the last year, and add lime if needed to reach your target pH of 6.5.

Enjoy – This is a great time of year to curl up with all those wonderful catalogs that hit the mailbox this time of year, to see what's new and what you can't live without.

Purchase of Mills Products

There may be sufficient demand for Beaty Fertilizer Co., Cleveland, Tennessee, to deliver orders for Mills Magic Mix and Easyfeed products on February 26 from 10am to 12 noon, during our annual Pruning Day at the Rose Garden located at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History, 767 Clifton Road, Atlanta. If anyone wishes to buy any products please call Carroll Olson at 404-633-9921. Please place your *order no later than February 24th*. The prices are as follows:

20# bag of Mills Magic Mix	\$13.00
½ Gallon Easyfeed (Liquid)	13.00
1 Gallon Easyfeed (Liquid)	22.00
2 ½ Gallon Easyfeed (Liquid)	54.00
5 Gallon Easyfeed (Liquid)	105.00
Cottonseed Meal (50#)	22.00
Alfalfa Meal (50#)	23.00
Bone Meal (50#)	35.00
Fish Meal	34.00
Fish Emulsion (1 Gal.)	14.00
Liquid Seaweed	21.00

Orders may be picked up in the parking lot (first right) next to the rose garden. Please have a check (payable to GARS) ready to cover your order. If you cannot be available to pick your order but wish to make a purchase, send Carroll your order *along with a check*, and he will pick it up for you. Mail payment to Carroll Olson at 1646 Princess Circle, Atlanta, GA 30345 (Phone 404-633-9921).

On the Local Front

Have you heard.....?

Bruce Gillett reports that his wife **Dale** is having a recurrence of the breast cancer she has battled for over 10 years. They have gone to the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston for further tests and treatment. Bruce says, "Dale has been fighting breast cancer since '93. I left practice in '95 for about 9 months when Dale had her first recurrence; we moved to Houston. Her cancer reactivated in 2001 and we went back to Houston after chemo failed. She had surgery again and she has done very well until this latest recurrence. Dale has a wonderful attitude. We hope that the recent tumors are regional spread and have not spread to other organs. We feel optimistic that newer medicines can help until a cure becomes available. Dale has family and many friends here and in Houston that send healing vibes. She believes in the power of positive thoughts." She would appreciate hearing from friends. Dale's e-mail is dpg@bellsouth.net and their mailing address is 948 Greymont Circle, Marietta, GA 30064. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Last call for the **Deep South District Midwinter Meeting, January 14-16th** in Lake City, FL. We'll have wonderful opportunities to hear great speakers, learn arrangements techniques, and partake of rosy camaraderie. Goodies, doorprizes, and raffle items look verrry interesting, and include a digital camera that you could use to win the 2005 Photo Contest. A Consulting Rosarian school will be held on Sunday, for those who need a refresher, those who want to become CRs, or those who just want to learn more about roses.

Area rose society members have received a special invitation from **Hastings Garden Center!** All rose society members are invited to **Hastings Nature and Garden Center on Friday, January 21st, and Saturday, January 22nd**, to have first choice of their bareroot rose selections, at special prices. Hastings will be offering AARS Winners and new introductions for 2005. This special event is for rose society members only. For more information on these roses, contact

Ernie Murphy at Hastings Nature and Garden Center, 3920 Peachtree Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30319, phone (404) 869-7447, www.hastingsgardencenter.com.

The **Southeastern Flower Show** is scheduled for **March 2-6** at the Georgia World Congress Center, and volunteers are needed to clerk at the show. If you're interested, contact Lynne Thomas at 770 992-4623, or Lynney@mindspring.com. GARS will also be sending volunteers to staff the local societies' booth, so mark your calendar.

Rose, Prose and Poetry

By Bruce Gillett, MD, Consulting Rosarian

“For marriage is like life in this – that it is a field of battle, and not a bed of roses.”

Virginibus Puerisque

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)

The importance of the rose bed and the rose bed amendments are emphasized in this month's column. IT IS NOT A STATEMENT REGARDING MARRIAGE. Do you remember the marital battlefield in the 1989 film noir *The War of the Roses*, with Michael Douglas (Oliver Rose) and Kathleen Turner (Barbara Rose)? Need I say more?

Autumn is the best time in our region to prepare a new rose bed. The bed can be at the existing soil level, or it can be raised and bordered with landscape timber, stone, brick, etc. If you desire a bed that is level with the surrounding soil, dig down about eighteen inches and discard the clay. The remaining clay in the bed needs to be tilled to a depth of six inches and then mixed with the amendments. The amendments and their volumes will be described later in this article. If a raised bed is desired, construct a border about two feet high and add a mixture consisting of one-third coarse sand, one-third organic material, and one-third top soil, all measured by volume. A typical raised bed measuring five feet by twenty feet will accommodate about fourteen hybrid tea roses, planted as a double row. Railroad crossties

should not be used as a border because the creosote may kill the rose plants.

Sandy loam is the best soil structure for roses. It consists of 60% coarse sand, 20% silt, and 20% clay particles. Sand allows good drainage and air penetration. Silt, formed from the breakdown of sand, helps hold the available water in the soil. Clay, through its negative ionic charge, helps hold nutrients in the soil. A soil that is too sandy will require more water and fertilizer; a soil that has too much clay will not drain well. Sandy loam amended with a large amount of organic amendments is ideal. The organic amendments improve soil tilth, water retention, water filtration, microorganism health, and nutrient balance. Organic amendments decompose to form humus and humic acid. Humic acid enhances the breakdown of inorganic material into micronutrients. Once a rich sandy loam is prepared, many years must pass before amended sandy loam matures into the best rose growing medium.

Some organic amendments lower the pH of the soil mixture; therefore, dolomitic limestone will probably need to be added. If the magnesium content of the soil is high, calcitic limestone should be used. The following organic soil amendments are listed with their pH: sphagnum peat moss (3.3 - 4.5); sawdust (3.8 - 8.0); mushroom compost (7.0 - 7.4); ground bark (4.0 - 8.0); homemade compost (around 7.0); leaf mold (4.0 - 7.0).

Because some organic amendments initially reduce the amount of available nitrogen for rose plants, nitrogen needs to be added to the amended soil. Some organic amendments, including their nitrogen needs by weight, are as follows: sawdust (50 lb. needs 1.5 lb. nitrogen); wood chips (50 lb. needs 1.5 lb. nitrogen); and leaves (75 lb. needs 1 lb. nitrogen). Peat moss, compost, and grass clippings do not require additional nitrogen.

Numerous organic amendment mixes are commercially available at nurseries and home improvement centers. If large beds are prepared, it is prudent to purchase certain

amendments by the cubic yard. Bulk purchases can be made at landscape supply companies and at a few nurseries. Compost, composted manure, mushroom compost, ground bark, sawdust, leaf mold, peat moss, finely ground wood chips, ground corncocks, grass clippings, and leaves are organic materials that can be used to amend the sandy loam.

Submit a sample of your amended soil for a soil test to determine whether or not the soil pH needs adjusting or if additional micronutrients need to be added. Soil test information and soil collection bags can be obtained at the Cooperative Extension Service. The soil pH is a measure of the acidity or the alkalinity of the soil. Roses grow best in soil with a pH of about 6.5. It takes months for the pH to adjust and for the organic material to break down. By preparing your rose beds in the fall, you will give your rose plants a healthy home in the spring.

Soil Testing For Home Lawns & Gardens

C. Owen Plank, UGA Extension Agronomist
Soil Testing & Plant Analysis

Soil tests such as those conducted by the University of Georgia Soil Testing and Plant Analysis Laboratory will help you develop and maintain a more productive soil by providing information about the fertility status of your soil. Information from a soil test will help you select the proper liming and fertilization program to obtain optimal growth of lawn, garden and ornamental plants.

One of the most important steps in soil testing is collecting the sample. Soil test results can be no better than the sample submitted to the laboratory for analysis. A soil sample weighing about 1 pound is used to represent thousands of pounds of soil in the landscape or garden. Therefore, it is extremely important that soil samples be properly and carefully taken.

The new officers for 2005 were presented at the GARS party in December. From Left to Right: Outgoing President, Bobbie Reed;

2005 President, Victoria Fleming; Vice President – Programs, Anna Davis; Vice-President Membership, Dave Ely.



A Good Soil Sample Should Be Representative of the Area

- Take soil from a minimum of 10 random locations in the sampled area and mix together in a clean bucket.
- For trees and shrubs, take soil from six to eight spots around the dropline of the plants and mix.
- Areas that have been treated differently should be sampled separately
- Areas where plants grow differently and/or the soil appears different should be sampled separately.

Do Not Contaminate the Sample

- Use clean sampling tools and containers.
- Never use tools or containers that have been used for mixing or applying fertilizer or limestone. A small amount of residue on containers can cause serious contamination of the sample.

Sample to the Proper Depth

- Remove any surface litter such as turf thatch or mulch.
- For lawns, sample to a depth of 4 inches. For gardens, ornamentals and fruit trees, sample to a depth of 6 inches.
- Use a trowel or sampling tube to collect soil samples. To use a trowel or spade, push the tool to the desired depth into the soil. Then push the handle forward, with the trowel or spade still in the soil, to make a wide opening. Cut a thin slice from the side of the opening that is of uniform thickness – about ¼ inch thick and 2 inches wide, extending from the top of the ground to the depth of the cut. Scrape away any grass thatch or mulch, and place the slice of soil into a clean bucket

or other container. After the soil is taken, remove the shovel or spade and let the soil fall back in place.

Soil Samples Should Be Carefully Mixed and Packaged

- Do not use sample bags other than those provided by the University of Georgia Soil Testing and Plant Analysis Laboratory. All cores taken for a given sample should be collected in a clean bucket and **thoroughly mixed**.
- Fill the soil sample bag to the indicated line with the mixed soil.
- Supply all the information asked for on the soil sample bag. List your **Name** and **Address, Plant to Be Grown, Sample Number** (please use a simple code and do not exceed 3 digits, e.g. 1, 2, 3, ... 20, 21, 22, ... 321, 322 ... 32A, 32B ...) and your **County**. This information is essential for the return of your sample results and fertilizer recommendations to the proper county extension office. On the bag, indicate tests desired by checking the proper box. For lawns, gardens and shrubs, a routine test will suffice. If a special analysis, e.g. nitrate-nitrogen (NO₃-N), organic matter (O.M.) or boron (B) is needed, first consult your local county extension office. Samples should be dropped off at your county extension office for mailing to the laboratory. Soil sample bags and other pertinent information are available at your county extension office.

When and How Often Should Soils Be Tested?

Soils can be tested any time during the year; however, be sure to sample well in advance of planting or spring green-up. This is particularly important on areas where lime is likely to be needed. Lime reacts fairly slowly and should be mixed with the soil several weeks before planting. Generally, fall is the most desirable time to sample soils, because landscapes and gardens are usually dry and easily accessible. Soils should be dry enough to till when sampling. If wet samples are collected, they should be air



dried before being placed in the soil sample bag. Once medium or high fertility levels are established, lawn and ornamental areas only need to be sampled every two to three years. Vegetable gardens should be sampled every one to two years.

Cooperative Extension Service, The University of Georgia
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Not Tonight Deer, I'm Questioning Reality

By Dr. Leda Horticulture, O. R.

Dr. Leda answers yet another random question from a total stranger on the internet...

Dear Dr. Leda:

I recently came across a recipe for a concoction that was supposed to keep deer from eating roses, but I seem to have misplaced it. What do you recommend? These deer are destroying all my blossoms!

— Living a Life of Quiet Desperation in the East Bay Hills

Dear Quiet Desperation:

You have my deepest sympathy. Trying to stop deer from eating roses is like trying to keep a dog from scratching fleas. The only rational, legal, and completely effective solution is to eliminate every single one of the fleas. Or in your case, the rose bushes.

Um, QD? You're staring at me like I've got a big red "666" tattooed across my forehead. What exactly are you planning to do with those Felcos?

Ok, QD. Let's just take a deep breath now and back up a bit. You can *keep* your roses, ok? Ok! We'll sit down and review several possible strategies for your deer problem. Some might appeal to you; some might even work. For a while, anyway. Ready?

1. For starters, you can **adopt a pet mountain lion**. These deadly natural predators are Mother Nature's preferred means of keeping deer populations in check. Of course you'll have to keep yourself, your children, your guests, your pets, your grandmother, and your livestock locked securely inside the house 24 hours a day

for the rest of their lives. This could potentially diminish your enjoyment of the rose garden.

2. Alternatively, you can just **pretend that you've adopted a pet mountain lion**, tricking the deer into believing your yard is a veritable Bermuda Triangle of grisly predator attacks. The goal is to inspire them to avoid your property the same way you would steer clear of a dark blood-splattered alley behind a convenience store at 2 a.m.

To accomplish this, spread large amounts of evil smelling blood meal around your roses. Next, spray commercially available predator urine (please don't ask me who collects this "glans extract" from coyotes and lions, or how; I'm really not ready to think about that) on the flowers and foliage. My quirky friend Noel has several of those life-size plastic statues of Bambi lying around her garden in various states of macabre dismemberment (I don't know whether they actually fool any deer, but occasionally turkey vultures swing by to investigate).

The drawbacks of this method are: (a) the deer learn to ignore the stench of blood and urine (and mutilated plastic) long before the humans have stopped gagging; and (b) predator urine tends to attract lovesick members of the same predatory species. You might end up with militant mobs of amorous coyotes milling around your premises, too intent on courtship (or eating the resident house cat) to bother the deer.

3. You can **relocate your home and garden to the inner city**, a habitat rarely visited by antlered mammals. Unfortunately, this sometimes entails trading one set of woes for another. Instead of marauding deer, you may now have to deal with constant noise, traffic, pollution, congestion, concrete, crime, gang wars, neighborhood crack houses, and very, very tall buildings that block all the sunlight. Frying pan, or fire? It's your call, QD.

4. You can **make your garden so thoroughly hideous and repulsive**, the deer will decide to pack up and move to the inner city themselves.

Step one: make the whole yard look ugly. Start by stringing up bars of unsightly mint-green Irish Spring soap in all the trees and shrubbery. Create unsanitary little sacs using pre-worn

pantyhose and fill them with wads of unwashed human hair (if you don't have enough to spare from your own head, collect clippings from a barber shop floor). Dangle these unsavory ornaments wherever there isn't already a bar of soap, then drape distracting strips of fluttery tinfoil from all the rose bushes. Install annoying mirror balls, strobe lights, scarecrows, windmills, sprinklers, and exceedingly loud air horns that are all hooked up to motion detectors.

Step two: make the rose garden smell (and taste) as awful as possible. Hang rags soaked in ammonia between the soap and the hairy nylons. Every evening, stroll around the yard and take a whiz on each of your roses. (If you have a dog or a husband, he may enjoy assisting you in this project.) Once a week (or right after a rain, whichever comes first) spray the roses with a foul-smelling deer-repelling concoction, such as that AWOL recipe that prompted you to contact me in the first place.

There are many variations on such recipes, all relying on the somewhat wobbly theory that since deer lack opposable thumbs they are incapable of holding their noses, and therefore, when they encounter a deeply repulsive odor, their only recourse is to curse silently and back slowly away from the source of the smell.

Homemade repellents are usually blends of readily available household ingredients, such as rotten eggs, sour milk, garlic, chili peppers, and malodorous bodily waste products. If you'd rather restrict your blender to mixing Mai Tais, ready-made products such as *Liquid Fence*, *Deer-Off*, or, predictably, *Not Tonight, Deer!* (they do have a cute logo) are available at most nurseries.

Some people swear by this approach, or isolated components of it, while others report that their luck ran dry after a few years or even minutes of faithful adherence. The main problem (besides the fact that *Fine Gardening Magazine* never seems to want your garden on its cover) is that deer are *not* reliably snobbish when it comes to aesthetics. They are, however, reliably obsessed when it comes to roses. If the corner drug dealer was handing out free heroin, how long do you suppose the village junkies would turn up their noses, just because his socks clashed with his tie?

5. Last but very far from least, you can **build the Great Fence of China** around your rose garden. This method has, by far, the highest success rate. To be 100% effective, a deer fence should be at least 8-10 feet high; made of high-tensile wire, mesh fencing, and/or electric wiring; and should not have any operable gates or openings.

The main drawback here is that large fences can be quite expensive (plus, in the absence of gates, you'll have to throw in the cost of a few ladders so you and your family can enter and exit the compound). If you (like *some* of us, ahem) have already blown your entire landscaping budget on roses, you may elect to erect a version of "the poor man's deer fence." Thrifty (or broke) gardeners can opt to drape black Dacron netting over each rose bush, to construct chicken wire barriers around individual rose beds, or perhaps to plant a solid ring of 30' Saguaro cacti around the perimeter of the yard.

Whatever you do, always remember this: in the end, growing roses should bring you much more pleasure and joy than stress and misery. If you're the sort who loves to rise to a challenge and who can view an endless series of battles with a detached win-a-few-lose-a-few attitude, then YOU GO, QD! Woo-hoo! Get out there and outsmart those wily deer.

If, on the other hand, inevitable losses and defeats tend to harsh your mellow and leave you feeling depressed, dispirited, and filled with despair (quiet or otherwise), then – and, for the record, I'm crouching behind a bullet-proof desk chair as I type these apostate words – then maybe, just maybe, in all honesty, growing roses isn't the sport for you. Search your heart, QD, and decide whether you really might be happier if you (I'm ducking again!) just forget about growing roses, and concentrate on enjoying the many blessings and benefits of living in deer country.

Meanwhile I'll keep you posted if any revolutionary new deer answers come along. And, readers: if you have any good recipes for venison, send them in!

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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Dr. Leda's monthly column can be found at the Regan Nursery web site. www.regannursery.com. Regan Nursery offers over 1000 varieties of grade #1 roses and ships bare root nationally and internationally from January through April.

Rose Day America at Lowe's

By Don Myers, rokrose@frontiernet.net
ARS National Coordinating Rosarian Chair

As you know *Saturday, April 30, 2005*, is Rose Day America. In order to be successful we need everyone to pull together. I can tell you that our partners (Lowe's, Bayer Advanced, and Jackson & Perkins) want it to be successful, and they will do what they can to make it so. Our CRs and other knowledgeable rosarians will be making presentations at Lowe's stores throughout the USA. The more stores that are involved, the greater is our opportunity for success. And how do we measure success? Certainly our mission as Consulting Rosarians is to reach the general gardening public and provide basic rose growing information. The seminar is also an opportunity for us seek new members for our rose societies and ARS.

As national CR coordinator I will do what I can to provide you some tools for Rose Day America. The first of these is what I have called "presenters' notes," a detailed outline to assist the presenters, providing comprehensive information on what needs to be covered in the seminar. You will receive several other pieces to support the seminar early in the year. These will include some ad material from our partners and a simple how-to-grow roses booklet. If all works according to plan, our presenters will be able to walk into their selected Lowe's store April 30 with everything in readiness. I would suggest that each presenter visit their store several weeks before the seminar to meet the

Lowe's employee who will be coordinating the event and make sure that there will be no surprises.

If you have any questions about Rose Day America, I will be happy to respond to any questions. Thanks for your support and participation.

Happy rose growing!

Rose Day America in Georgia

By Bobbie Reed, Consulting Rosarian

It's time to mark our calendars for this important date – please hold *Saturday, April 30th*, to participate in Rose Day America.

There are 51 Lowe's stores in Georgia, 29 in our part of the state (yes, more than there are Pikes stores). Fortunately, the other local societies are also covering stores, but it will take all of our Consulting Rosarians, and many other members, to cover them all. Some of the stores that still need a presenter are:

Acworth:	3250 Cobb Parkway, Kennesaw
Alpharetta:	10580 Duke Drive, Alpharetta
N. Alpharetta:	4925 Windward Parkway, Alpharetta
Atlanta Midtown:	1280 Caroline Street NE, Atlanta
Austell:	1717 East West Connector, Austell
Camp Creek:	3625 N. Commerce Drive, East Point
Cartersville:	301 Marketplace Blvd, Cartersville
Chamblee:	4950 Peachtree Indust. Blvd, Chamblee
Cumming:	935 Marketplace Blvd, Cumming
Douglasville:	7001 Douglas Blvd, Douglasville
Ellijay:	380 Highland Crossing, East Ellijay
Marietta W:	2650 Dallas Hwy SW, Marietta
Sandy Springs:	5925 Roswell Rd NE, Sandy Springs
Woodstock:	575 Molly Lane, Woodstock, GA

The following stores have been "spoken for," but additional help from CRs would be welcome:

Buford:	1955 Buford Mill Drive, Buford
Conyers:	1901 Georgia Hwy 138 SE, Conyers
Gainesville:	1514 Skelton Road, Gainesville
Norcross:	2035 Beaver Ruin Rd, Norcross

A sign-up sheet will be available at the January GARS meeting. Pick your store now!

Dues Are Due

Now that we've arrived in the New Year, it's time for everyone to remember that **dues for 2005 are due this month!** Dues are \$20 per household. Elevated dues contributions are always welcome, especially from those who receive a print copy of the newsletter.

Dues statements are being mailed. Please send payments to the GARS treasurer, Louise Stafford, at 1280 Hollytree Lane, Snellville, GA 30078-5995. For more information, contact Louise at 770-985-6014, or roseylou@earthlink.net. When you pay your dues, please be sure we have your current address, including telephone numbers, and e-mail, so we can keep in touch.

Additional Rose Resources

American Rose Society, PO Box 30,000, Shreveport, LA 71130, phone 318-938-5402. Annual dues are \$37 or \$34 for those 65 or older; a three-year membership is \$100. Associate membership for the spouse of a regular member is \$13. **For a limited time, new memberships are discounted by \$5, and you'll also receive a free rose from Nor'East.** 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. 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.angelfire.com/a13/arsdtd

ANTICIPATION...

Our roses will be worth the wait, promise.

With nearly 170 varieties of roses to choose from, we are sure to have something new for your garden.

<i>Latest AARS winners</i>	<i>Fortuniana rootstock</i>
<i>David Austin</i>	<i>Hybrid Teas</i>
<i>Miniatures</i>	<i>Antique & Species</i>
<i>Floribundas & Grandifloras, shrubs & more...</i>	

www.autumnhillnursery.com

Be sure you are on our mailing list to receive the "list" in February. Reserve yours & save 10-15%.



NURSERY & LANDSCAPING

4256 Earney Rd
 (off Hwy 140 in Hickory Flat near Crabapple)
 770-442-3901



New number: 770-TOP SOIL



Autumn is a great time to prepare new rose beds or expand existing beds. And the soil you should use in those beds is the "Rose Mix" from Green Bros Earthworks. I've used their soil for over 4 years with great results. And the price can't be beat. Need to make a French drain? No problem! Green Bros has the gravel you need. They also have other soil mixes as well as all the mulch you'll need. So head on down to Green Bros or have them deliver a load for you because... "They've got the dirt!"

762 N. Main Street, SE Alpharetta, GA 30004 770-475-8660	680 Franklin Road, SE Marietta, GA 30067 770-590-8220
Buford store phone number	770-614-9515



Greater Atlanta Rose Society Officers

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WEB SITE: www.atlantarose.org

The Greater Atlanta Rose Society is affiliated with the American Rose Society. We meet at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, Piedmont at The Prado, Atlanta, on the third Tuesday of most months. Membership is open to anyone interested in growing roses. Annual dues are \$20 per household. 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 due in January. Interested in joining? Please send \$20 dues to Louise Stafford, Treasurer, 1280 Hollytree Lane, Snellville, GA 30078-5995.

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 GARS or ARS makes no warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to the material contained herein.

The Phoenix

Newsletter of the Greater Atlanta Rose Society

Bobbie Reed, *Editor*

3388 Lennox Court

Lawrenceville, GA 30044-5616



**REMINDER: Our meeting is Tuesday,
January 18th, at 7pm at the Atlanta
Botanical Garden**