



The Phoenix



Newsletter of the Greater Atlanta Rose Society
Affiliated with the American Rose Society

January 2006

From the President

Dear Rose Friends:

During 2006, I will be serving as your president of GARS. This is your organization; so if you have any suggestions about how to make it better, please let me know by e-mail or by telephone. I think we do a good job reaching out to the public and educating it about the benefits and enjoyment of growing roses, along with taking our turns helping out with the maintenance at the Atlanta Botanical Garden and Fernbank. Any positive exposure like that improves the image of GARS and creates interest in our organization. We can always do better, however. Friends and neighbors are always full of questions about growing roses, and when we take a few blooms to shut-ins or older people who once worked in their own gardens, but no longer can, you would think we had delivered to them a pot of gold. Let's keep spreading our enthusiasm for growing roses. It IS catching.

There are people who attend our meetings for a time and then no longer come. Why? Please try to welcome each "newcomer" while still visiting with our "oldcomer" friends. If you hear of anyone who is sick or has had a death in the family, please let us know so we can respond and let the other members know. So many times, that information just doesn't get out, and people would like to be informed. We care so very much about roses. We also care about one another.

Because of travel plans made six months ago, I will not be at the January meeting – a fine way for a new president to start. I promise I will be more faithful the rest of the year. The first part of every year is always the busiest for GARS members. Enjoy the "dormant" season while it lasts. Before long, the activities that lead to those beautiful blooms around Mother's Day will be upon us. May it be the best ever!

John Keller

January Meeting Update

Tuesday, January 17

7:30pm, Atlanta Botanical Garden

This month's meeting will feature Atlanta's own hybridizer, **Robert Burns**. He'll tell us all about the process of creating a new rose. What kind of rose is he trying to make for us? Well, one of his favorites is pictured above, and he loves fragrant roses, so it should be wonderful! Bobby gardens at his parents' home in Griffin, and grows his seedlings in his apartment in Atlanta. When he's not concentrating on roses, he's working on a PhD in English literature at Georgia State University, among his many other passions.

We'll also be conducting some business, voting on by-laws changes, and getting back into the rosy swing for a new year. Join us at Piccadilly at Ansley Mall before the meeting!

Coming Events

Jan 17 – GARS meeting, 7:30pm, Atlanta Botanical Gardens

Jan 20-22 – Deep South District Mid-Winter Meeting & CR School, Lake City, FL.
Contact Bill Langford, 561-642-0200,
WHL2@prodigy.net

Feb 8-12 – Southeastern Flower Show

Feb 18-19 – Rose Festival at Hastings

Feb 21 – GARS meeting, 7:30pm, ABG

Mar 11 – Pruning Day at Fernbank, 9am-1pm

May 6 – GARS Rose Day at Pike Family Nurseries

May 13-14 – GARS Rose Show, ABG. Contact
Cathy Farmer, 770-928-2333,
duancath@bellsouth.net; or Linda
Schuppener, 770-489-4865,
linda2742@comcast.net

January In The Rose Garden

By Bobbie Reed, CR

Observe – Look at patterns of sun and shade in your yard, and consider where you can put those new roses you want to order.

Water – Roses need water to help them get through the cold of winter. Rainfall has been variable around the region, but generally on the dry side since September. If the dry spells continue, be prepared to water, especially before any arctic blasts.

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 20° morning before Christmas.

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 or Volck, to clean up fungi and insects that may be overwintering on rose bushes. If you use lime sulfur, try to spray on a day when the temperature will remain above freezing overnight. Cover your nose, too – 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 bush from whipping about in high winds, which can loosen your bush's roots in the soil. You might also want to cut back any canes that were broken in the ice storm, to minimize further damage. 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. As always, our temperatures this winter have been quite variable – December temps ranged from 70° to 20° or below in our area. This means most roses will have problems reaching full dormancy, and will therefore be more likely to suffer freeze

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.

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



Weather Word

By Ryan Tilley, CR

What a weird year we have had in 2005. First, the spring was very, very cool. Then, we had hurricanes in July and August along with lots of other rain, which resulted in record rainfall over the summer. Fall came with hot and dry conditions where almost no rain fell in September, October, and the first half of November. Then December came with very cold weather, which pretty much abruptly ended the rose season. What will this winter bring? Tornadoes on President's Day?

Jan 15	High	Low	Rain
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

The Traveling Rosarians Things We Should Do in Winter

By Linda & Walt Reed, CR

First let me say I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and I hope you find the New Year filled with much happiness and some very beautiful roses.

January is a time for some rest from the Rose Garden here in North Georgia but if you are like me you will want to make sure you do a few things that will give you a head start on the things

that may give you problems this year. If you have ordered some new roses you can be busy making a place for them. It is a good time to transplant any roses you may want to move. If you have some roses that haven't performed for you it may be time to do some shovel pruning. There are always new roses that can fill up a vacant spot in your garden. Remember, a rose always does better if you take the time to prepare a good hole in which to plant it. Prepare the hole 18 to 24 inches in diameter the same way you would a new bed using the steps outlined below. If you get those holes ready now planting will be much easier when your new bushes arrive in February or March.

I have already cut back some of the longest canes in my garden and added some mulch around the plants to minimize the canes weakening and cracking in the wind. A frozen cane can split if it bends excessively in the wind. I do my pruning for next year's roses after Valentine's Day. I will be doing some spraying this month; I will spray with Volck Oil and Lime Sulfur to try to minimize overwintering insects and blackspot spores.

If you are starting a new bed or garden, here are a few of the basics. Pick a spot in your garden with five to six hours of sun that has well drained soil. After you have selected a spot, remove about a foot of soil and replace with one-third river sand, one-third good humus and topsoil and one third of the clay soil you removed from the bed. You may want to add some gypsum (helps break up the clay soil) and lime to the soil, blend in well. A soil test is a good idea so you know the amount of lime to add.

Many of the best rose gardens are on raised beds. If you are building a raised bed you can save some work, as you do not have to remove as much dirt. You just remove enough dirt to save the clay you need to add to the mixture of sand and topsoil and fill up your landscape timbers or whatever you are using to build the raised bed. An 8' by 16' bed, 12" deep, is a good size as most common landscape timbers are 8' in length. Larger beds can be built by

adding increments of 4' or 8' to achieve the desired size. (Some people have built their bed by laying the landscape timbers directly on the ground and filling the raised bed with the one-third sand, one-third topsoil and one-third clay).

January is the time to relax a little in preparation for another year of beautiful roses.

Mills Magic Products Available

Beaty Fertilizer of Cleveland, TN, will deliver orders for Mills Magic Rose Mix and EasyFeed products on Saturday, March 11, 9am – 1pm at our Fernbank Pruning Day, if there is sufficient demand. Please come early to pick up your order. If you wish to buy any products please call Carroll Olson at 404-633-9921 **not later than March 9.**

A new Mills product available this year is BloomKote, a controlled-release fertilizer for blooming plants, with basic plant nutrients plus balanced trace elements and iron.

The products are available at special discounted rose society prices for this sale. If you purchased them elsewhere, you'd pay up to 100% more, so don't miss this opportunity!

Sale prices are:

Mills Magic Rose Mix – 20 lb bag	\$14.00
Easy Feed – ½ gallon liquid	13.00
EasyFeed – 1 gallon liquid	23.00
EasyFeed – 2½ gallon liquid	57.00
EasyFeed – 5 gallon liquid	110.00
BloomKote – 20 lb	47.00
BloomKote – 40 lb	78.00
Cottonseed Meal – 50 lbs	15.00
Alfalfa Meal – 50 lbs	15.00
Bone Meal – 50 lbs	25.00
Fish Meal – 50 lbs	28.00
Fish Emulsion – 1 gallon	11.00
Liquid Seaweed – 1 gallon	15.00

Please bring a check payable to GARS to cover the cost of your order at the pick-up date. If you cannot pick up your products at Fernbank, be sure to make other arrangements (and payment) in advance with Carroll Olson.

By-Laws Revision

A committee, consisting of Kitsy Mostellar, Sharon Phillips, and Bobbie Reed, has been working on updating the By-Laws of the Greater Atlanta Rose Society. **The proposed changes will be voted on at the regular meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2006.**

Most changes proposed are to clarify the language; others are to ensure that the by-laws agree with how we actually do things. Duties of the various officers and committees are specified, so that they match current practice. The dues amounts have been removed, so that they can be changed more easily as needed.

The existing by-laws were written 30 years ago, and the way our society works has changed since then. A previous effort to clean up the by-laws a few years back was defeated.

A copy of the proposed by-laws is being sent to all members who receive the e-mailed version of *The Phoenix*. If you receive only the printed version, you may request a printed copy of the by-laws by contacting Sharon Phillips at 770-973-2166. Additional copies will be available at the January meeting.

A Year of the Rose

By Bobbie Reed, CR

Looking for a New Year's resolution you *can* keep? Here's an idea!

As I review the year past to see what I did right and what I could do better, I frequently find that I don't actually remember what it was I did in the garden. Did I actually spray every 14 days? What chemicals did I use? When did I prune that rose, and when did it bloom? Did I actually remember to water and fertilize as often as I thought I did? And how did all that combine with the rain (and snow and ice) in our garden?

So, for those of us with a forgetful streak (and I think I can say that includes all of us, from time to time), we need a garden diary for the year, to keep track of all that useful information. I know there are "garden diaries" for sale, but that always seemed to be more (or less) than I needed. Fortunately, around the time when we started gardening seriously, a relative gave us a 6"x 8" date book. It shows a week at a time, from Monday through Sunday, with several square inches of space for each date. Increasingly, we use this to record all our garden information. And when the year is over, we move that one into nearby storage and start a new one. I'm fond of the ones by the Sierra Club and Audubon Society, but occasionally we'll find one with rose pictures.

Day by day, when we empty the rain gauge [it's conveniently located along the driveway, so we walk past it every morning on our way to get

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Notes From the

Thanks to *Mose & Shirley McCall* for hosting our holiday party again this year! Their home is wonderful, and their hospitality is unequalled. The party was the highlight of the season! And thanks to *Victoria, Anna, Dave, Louise, and Lowrie* for serving as our GARS officers in 2005.

On a sadder note, Ken Muncy passed away in December. Many of us knew him as owner of Muncy's Rose Emporium, formerly of Sarasota, now of Cairo, GA. Our sympathy goes out to his widow Sue.

Hey, **Consulting Rosarians!** Don't forget that annual CR reports are due NOW. If you have not

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attended a CR school since 2002, your last chance will be at the January 22 school in Lake City.

Dues are due in January! The membership renewal form can be found on page 10 of this newsletter. While a short grace period can be given, your dues must be paid in order to keep receiving this newsletter, and to be included in the member directory, which will be published in April. Send your dues in now!

Would you like to reach customers who are serious about growing roses? Advertising will be included in future issues of the newsletter. Contact the editor for rates.

Bobbie

the newspaper or mail], we write down how much rain we had. If there's snow or ice, we note that. When we have extreme temperatures, we note that, too – both the temperature on the radio, and the temperature on our outdoor thermometer. On each page I run a rainfall total for the year-to-date, and perhaps a comparison to the "official" rainfall amount and normals from the newspaper. If we miss a few days, we just insert the total and carry on from there.

When I do something to the roses, or elsewhere in the garden, I write that down, too. In February and March, I note which roses I prune each day as I work my way through the garden. I note when we fertilize, which bushes, and how much. I note when I spray, what chemicals I used, and how much mix it took to spray all the roses. I note when we purchase or plant a rose, or more likely in our case, repot one. And I note when we water; with the irrigation system, I note how long it was run. I also tend to note first bloom for various bushes, or any bloom for those that bloom infrequently, and other performance issues. Not just the roses, either. I note when I mow or fertilize the lawn (what's left after the roses took over), and we keep track of Don's myriad native plantings.

So then, when we ponder just how old that rose bush is, or why the roses seem dry (or waterlogged), or why there's so much (or so little) blackspot this year, we have something concrete to look at, to help figure out the answer.

We certainly didn't jump in with all these notes – if you start with just when it rains, and when you spray, you'll be ahead of the game. And you don't have to start at the beginning of the year, although that's usually when the calendars are readily available. I've found that for us, a garden calendar helps us to be better gardeners – and I always need more help with that.



Whirlaway, one of Sandy's Picks for 2006

Sandy's Picks for 2006

By Sandy Lundberg, *Master Rosarian*

Part of the fun of rose growing and exhibiting for me has always been trying new varieties. For several years, it seemed that not many new exhibition hybrid teas were being introduced to the market. During the past couple of years that has changed, in part, due to Eddie Edwards introducing many of his new exhibition varieties through K&M Nursery, Johnny Becnel Show Roses, J&P, Edmunds, Weeks, and Witherspoon.

The mini-floras are still being introduced at a fast pace and I am glad to see that some of the hybridizers are still creating new miniatures.

Hybrid Teas

'Blake Hedrick' These high centered red roses created quite a stir when Eddie Edwards won the English Box in Shreveport. We finally got a bush so am anxious to see how it performs for us.

'Boardwalk' The summer blooms on the new bush were small but with good form. Flowers are light to medium pink in the center and darker pink on the outer centers.

'Cajun Pearl' Blooms have been large on this white rose that has a hint of pink in the center. Good high centers, but outer row of petals tends to drop.

'Cajun Signature' Planted last spring, the bush is beginning to produce some attractive medium size blooms. This sport of 'Signature' has the same form but color is white with pink on the outer parts of the petals. Needs another year for evaluation.

'Here's Gert' Eddie Edwards named this coral pink blend hybrid tea for his mother. The blooms have exhibition form and are of good size. Good potential!

'Ida' Steve Singer's 'Ida' has an attractive red blend coloration on exhibition blooms similar to 'Dublin', but the bloom size is much smaller on this first year maiden.

'Johnny Becnel' Johnny Becnel selected this bush to be named for him before he passed. This variety has beautiful creamy white and peach colored blooms. The blooms appear often in clusters and have great form but unfortunately they are very small for a hybrid tea. The bush

has been slow to grow and is still small after a year in our garden.

'Let Freedom Ring' We had good form and decent size on the blooms on our two bushes during last summer's and fall's heat. Blooms are an attractive medium red that have not burned. Bushes have not been prolific in the first season.

'Park Place' Mauve blooms that have been very small in the summer and fall heat (unusually hot fall here). I have noted the same problem for other Carolina growers.

'Stephanie Ann' Bush has produced several blooms with good size and form even in the summer heat. Dark red petals with white reverse on blooms that have high centered form.

'Vino Rossi' New florist rose from Jim Mills. Looks like this has some good potential based on first blooms. Dark velvety red blooms on this florist rose have had good form and size.

Miniatures

'Best of '04' Whit Wells' new mini has nice hybrid tea form. The orange/golden yellow blend coloration is somewhat similar to that of 'Soroptimist International'.

'Caliente' An Award of Excellence winner from Frank Benardella for 2006, the blooms are medium red and true miniature size. Our bush has been slow to grow.

'Chattooga' Mike Williams' 2005 A of E winner is a very deep pink. The blooms have lots of petals and good form similar to 'Pierrine'. The bush is a rapid grower producing lots of blooms and a few sprays. Good for exhibition and garden.

'Erin Alonso' This sport of the great 'Bee's Knees' is a bright yellow and frequently the outer parts of the petals are white. The blooms have the same excellent exhibition form as 'Bee's Knees'. The bush is a vigorous grower and produces lots of exhibition blooms. A great choice for garden or exhibition!

'Heather Sproul' For some reason, this variety doesn't like our microclimate and is having a hard time growing. We are anxious to try this on fortuniana next year because the form is excellent on these light pink blooms.

'Miss Megan' Hot pink color on the petals with yellow at the petal base make an attractive bloom. Color is similar to 'Hot Princess' and the blooms

have good exhibition form. It could use another row of petals.

'Nancy Jean' 'Nancy Jean' has exquisite exhibition form. It has taken only two years for 'Nancy Jean' to rank #14 on Bob Martin's list of top 25 minis. The blooms have needlepoint centers and are a deep apricot color. This Queen machine was hybridized by Vernon Rickard. It also does well in collections, winning 3 different types of collections in Indy and Memphis for us.

'Pina Colada' Peter Alonso has hybridized his first mini. He crossed 'Olympic Gold' x itself to see what improvements he could make. The bloom is a very light yellow, the center petals are a medium yellow with good form similar to 'Olympic Gold'. We grafted the wood he sent last year and planted the fortuniana plants late in the spring. The first bloom from a new bush placed on the mini court at the All-Mini Show in Indy.

'Rachel' It seems that Vernon Rickard has another potential winner with his newest introduction, 'Rachel'. This deep pink mini has outstanding exhibition form and comes on a vigorous plant. Exhibitors will want this one!

'Simple Splendor' Mary Carle found this sport of 'Autumn Splendor'. It is a beautiful mini single that has the same yellow and orange petals. It produces both one to a stem blooms and sprays. My new plant is "jumping" out of the ground.

Mini-Floras

'BENseah' Frank Benardella always has an arsenal of new roses waiting to be introduced. The blooms on our test plant are pink with a few darker pink stripes on the outer edges of the petals. Exhibition form.

'BENuno' Future rose from Frank to watch for! Beautiful high centered exhibition form on this white rose with a touch of pink in the center will make this a winner on the show tables. This test rose has been impressive in our garden.

'Camden' This mini-flora has been an excellent grower. It produces deep rosy lavender exhibition blooms on long stems. It has dark green glossy foliage.

'Charismatic' 'Charismatic' is a beautiful new mini-flora from David Clemons. It has lots of petals that are white in the center, go to pink, then red on the edges. The red edges are much more vivid in the spring and fall. The blooms are

exhibition form and have medium green foliage. **'Class of '73'** 'Class of '73' is an excellent grower and has beautiful form if you work on opening it. But for our climate, the color is a muddy gray-white. We did not get red petal edges until November, when the show season had ended. I've seen nice ones from NC.

'Foolish Pleasure' This is another great new mini-flora from amateur hybridizer, David Clemons. The petals are pink and white in the center. The form on the pretty blooms is excellent with high centered exhibition form complemented with lush medium green foliage. One of my favorites!

'Jerry Lynn' Overall, this is a nice introduction from Robbie Tucker. It grows well and produces lots of light apricot exhibition form blooms. The apricot is more pronounced in the cooler weather [photo, right].



'Louisville Lady' A winner in my book! We have had the bush 1½ years and it has won 4 Queens, two places on Court, and a national Mini-Flora Princess. The hot pink blooms have great high centered form, have excellent substance, and grow on long stems with glossy medium green foliage.

'Luscious Lucy' The color of this rose from Robbie Tucker is stunning. The color is a unique blend of lavender to cream to yellow. Great form. Our blooms on the first year bush have been smaller than the typical mini-flora, but I have seen others at nationals that are mini-flora size.

'Memphis King' Another great mini-flora by Whit Wells, this dark, dark red beauty has excellent exhibition form. The foliage is not oversized as is typical of so many mini-floras. The bush's growth habit is marked by a tendency to sprawl.

'Peter Cottontail' Bob Martin's 'Peter Cottontail' is one bunny that I am happy to have in my garden! It is a sister seedling of 'Butter Cream' so it has the same superior exhibition form and the same excellent substance. The white blooms have a hint of pink in the center. Shade can cause it to become yellow. It made its debut on the show tables for us as part of our winning Ben

Williams entry in Tulsa and won its first Mini-flora Queen for us in Indy at the All-Mini Show. **'Regina Lee'** Another Whit Wells creation, this is deep red with a splash of red in the centers, similar to 'Kristin' in coloration. Exhibition form on long stems with dark green foliage.

'Solar Flair' I can't say it better than the Nor'East catalog....utterly dazzling! Frank Benardella feels that this is his best so far. The deep golden yellow and bright red blooms have superb exhibition form.

'Whirlaway' David Clemons latest new rose is a white mini-flora with excellent exhibition form. He feels that it is his best so far. We just got a plant so will have to do a review next year, but if they all look like his Mini-flora King in Memphis, it will be a winner.

Floribundas

'Pinnacle' New floribunda from Frank Benardella that has blooms with red on the outer part of the petal and white on the inner portion and a white petal reverse. Good for floribunda one bloom and spray classes.

'Night Out' One of Dennis Bridges two new floribundas, 'Night Out' is a color similar to the hot pink of the mini 'Doris Morgan'. The first blooms on the new bush had good form and should show well.

'Remarkable' 'Remarkable' is Dennis' other new floribunda. The bloom is an orangy red/golden yellow blend. The first blooms on the new bush have had good form.

From the Winter 2005 issue of the Carolina District Newsletter, Sandy Lundberg, Editor.

Ryan's Garden Notes

By Ryan Tilley, CR

And now it is time to relax. Yes, as winter approaches, it's time to just let nature take its course and put your roses to bed for at least a few months. The only things you really need to do are cut back your hybrid teas to about 4-5' once they stop growing, and get some mulch over the bud unions

I did plant a few new roses on fortuniana this year, so I will do my usual protection for them, which entails wrapping an 18" tall piece of

chicken wire around the rose, hooking it together, and filling it with some finely shredded pine mulch. I will leave the mulch on until late March to protect it against any late freezes. The last two years have not been too bad out here in the frozen tundra of south Cherokee, as late March temperatures never dropped much below 27°. But this area continues to be as much as 15° colder than downtown Atlanta on a clear calm winter night, so I still have to be careful. I will not cut my roses back until the 4th week of March to protect them and their new growth from a late hard freeze or frost. For all of you who live inside the perimeter or close to big metro areas, you are quite lucky and can do your un-mulching and major pruning a few weeks earlier, usually with no ill effects.

The roller-coaster weather we have been experiencing in 2005 continued through the fall. If it stays dry, don't forget that your roses still get thirsty. Water them every few days if it does not rain and at least one day before a big cold snap threatens.

With the approach of winter, I can now sit back and reflect on the past year's successes and failures. As a whole, I had a terrific year, with my existing roses growing bigger with more roses than ever before. That is one additional reason that I am reducing the size of my garden. Many of my bushes were putting out a hundred good cutting stems at a time, way more than I could possibly cut for the house or for friends. So why take care of those roses that I didn't really have time to cut and enjoy? I figure 150 bushes will keep me swimming in roses and give me enough room to try some of the new varieties that I think are worth growing.

As for the new roses, a few of them look like keepers. *Sun King* (on fortuniana) grew well, and by October, started putting out some nice-sized, very fragrant blooms on longer stems. The color was awesome, bright golden yellow blooms with bright orange edges (darker bronze edges in the fall). If the stems get a bit longer next year, this will be a very worthwhile rose to grow.

Honey Dijon (also on fortuniana) was also a good grower, reaching 6' by the end of the year with plenty of blooms. Most of the blooms came in sprays on short stems and the color never quite

achieved the brownish yellow color it advertised. It had more of an orange tint and in October it looked a lot like *About Face*, with a light orange bloom and deeper orange reverse.

Speaking of *About Face*, it did quite well and was a client favorite. Blooms were indeed orange with a deep bronzy orange reverse on a very tall-growing bush. It was not a heavy bloomer, but that may change next year.

Another promising rose on fortuniana is *Milva*. I like orange roses and the color of this rose is hard to describe, as it is a bright orange blend with a variety of orange hues coming through from time to time. It is also quite fragrant. The bush has been a slow grower so far with smallish blooms. I am crossing my fingers that the growth and stems will improve next year.

If you liked *Brandenburg Gate*, you might like another rose of this color class called *Stephie Ann* (formerly *Lo Lo*). This rose started off small with blooms of poor substance, but come October, it suddenly put out a growth spurt with longer stems and much larger flowers with better substance. The pinky red blooms sport an attractive silvery reverse that looks great in the garden. I will have to see next year whether it will increase its bloom production.

Lasting Love started out great with lots of very fragrant dusky red blooms. But it was a bit of a slow grower and only reached about 4' with generally small blooms. But this may change next year just like *Firefighter*, another very fragrant red rose that was new to my garden last year, which did well for me this year.

Another new, very fragrant rose was the grandiflora *Maria Shriver*, which did indeed have very fragrant, pure white blooms. But the first bloom cycle had very small weak stems and the plant as a whole has been a bit slow to establish. So it looks like next year will be the litmus test for this rose as well.

The new floribunda from Jackson and Perkins, *Tuscan Sun*, did very well in its first year. It was a strong grower and the blooms started out apricot orange and at times had a strong pink tint to them. This is definitely a great rose for garden color.

Another rose I looked forward to seeing was *Black Baccara*, a so-called "black rose". Of

course it was not black, but the buds were almost black and they opened up into a very dark red bloom with rounded edges. It was a bit of a slow starter, but was in a part of my garden that got the least water from my irrigation system. So I expect to see better growth from it next year. I put one in a client's garden, and it got a good bit bigger than mine did.

I was really looking forward to *Aromatherapy*, a rose with *New Zealand* (one of my favorites) as one of its parents. This rose got off to a really slow start with very small blooms. As the year wore on, it grew slowly but steadily and the bloom size increased somewhat. The color was light to medium pink blend, a bit deeper than *New Zealand*. The blooms were nicely fragrant. So overall, it was a bit disappointing.

Two new English roses did not disappoint. *Christopher Marlowe* was very colorful with orange/pink blooms that had a nice fragrance. As I expected, it is going to be a bit bigger than advertised. Look for it to get about 5' tall and 6' wide with some longer canes that would make it suitable for a pillar or small trellis. *Golden Zest* had very large, full petalled, fragrant, old-fashioned cupped blooms, just like its parent *Golden Celebration*, with a bit more yellow than its parent. It will form a moderate-sized bush so give it at least 6' of room in your garden.

As for *Lemon Zest*, it will make a small bushy plant with smallish light yellow blooms that have some fragrance, but not as much as advertised. This is strictly a rose for the front of the border for landscape color.

I tried two new climbers this year, *Blaze of Glory* and *Scent from Above*. Unfortunately, they did not have the amount of water that they should have and were slow starters. So I will have to tell you more about them next year. I put another new climber, *Lemon Meringue*, in a client's garden and it grew quite well, even in half shade. In its first year it did not bloom a lot, but with *Westerland* as its parent, you know that it will be a good bloomer and have some fragrance.

That's about it for the new kids in my 2005 garden. I'll let you know about the new ones for 2006 later this year.

Convention Countdown

A Stitch in Time

By Kathy Wyckoff

The inaugural American Rose Society Quilt Show was held at the Spring 2005 convention in Shreveport, LA. Despite only 13 quilts being entered – which is not bad for a first-time event – the show was considered an unqualified success, drawing many favorable remarks from the attendees for the beauty and inventiveness of the rose designs. Four of the quilts were donated for a silent auction to benefit the ARS, raising a total of \$1,025. The quilt show was featured on the cover, and in a 4-page article, of the July 2005 **American Rose** magazine written by Mary Peterson, who was the moving force behind the show.

Bowing to popular demand, we have decided to stage ARS Quilt Show II (we get Roman numerals just like the Super Bowl) at next spring's Seattle ARS National. Since many of you will want to start on your quilts now, as well as asking Santa for a long arm machine for Christmas, the following are the preliminary rules for the show. For further information or clarification, please contact Kathy Wyckoff at 206-824-3307 or kjwyckoff@msn.com

ARS Quilt Show Rules

1. Roses and/or rose themed fabric/design must predominate.
2. All entries are to be completely stitched by one person, except in the Group categories (long arm quilting may be done by a different person).
3. All quilts must be quilted by hand, by machine, or by both. No "tied" quilts will be accepted.
4. Quilts must have been completed after 2001.
5. Quilts displayed in any previous quilt show or made from pre-cut or stamped kits are ineligible.
6. Categories/sizes and their dimensions are:
 - a. Large quilts – 60" x 80" or larger
 - b. Lap quilts – minimum of 40" x 40", maximum of 60" x 60"
 - c. Miniature quilts – no larger than 24" on a side. Miniature quilts are to be miniature in scale, not simply small

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quilts. All aspects of the quilt are to be reduced in scale.

- d. Wall quilts – 24” x 24” or larger.
- e. Quilted wearable items (clothing) – no set dimensions

7. Proper identification must be firmly attached to the back of the quilt on the lower right-hand corner.

8. Quilts must have a “sleeve” attached to top/back of the quilt for display purposes.

Other information: You **do not** have to be registered for the convention to enter your quilt. You **do not** have to be an ARS member to enter; however we’d love it if you were. Good quality digital pictures of your quilt, plus a \$10 entry fee, will be required for entry. You must arrange to get your quilt to the show, and have it picked up by you or a designated agent (a signed note will be required) when the show ends. Quilts donated to the ARS will be sold at a silent auction. The American Rose Society is a 501(c)3 organization, so the value of donated quilts qualifies as a tax deduction.



Stan’s Rose Care

Stan’s Rose Care program is designed to keep your roses blooming, healthy, and disease free throughout the annual rose season. Program services include:

- Monthly feedings of premium organic foods with chemical supplements
- Spraying as required to prevent fungal and viral diseases such as blackspot, rust, and powdery mildew.
- Pruning, pre-bloom season (Feb-Mar) and mid-bloom season (July)
- All feeding and spraying materials
- Pre-season soil analysis and soil amendment

Stan’s Rose Care

Atlanta, GA 30340 (770) 833-2569

e-mail: stansrosecare@bellsouth.net

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Greater Atlanta Rose Society 2006 Membership Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ - _____

Phone (H) _____ (Work/Cell) _____

E-mail Address _____

GARS Membership Dues Categories (Per Household) Regular Membership \$20.00 _____

Senior Membership (65 and over) \$15.00 _____

I would like to support GARS with an elevated membership:

Friend of GARS \$25 - \$34 _____

Contributing Member \$35 - \$49 _____

Sponsoring Member \$50+ _____

I would prefer to receive the **full-color** Society newsletter by _____ E-mail, or

I would prefer to receive the black & white newsletter by _____ U.S. Mail

I am an American Rose Society member. Yes No Number of Rose Bushes in my Garden _____

Make check payable to “GARS” and forward to:

Stan Leacock, Treasurer
3871 Gladney Drive
Atlanta, GA 30340

Need Help With Your Roses?

Our society is fortunate to have a number of members who have been trained and certified as Consulting Rosarians and **Master Rosarians** of the American Rose Society. These members are available for advice and consultation. Please call on any of them whenever you need help with your roses.

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Linda & Walt Reed

770-632-9907 linwalreed@aol.com



This is one of the winning rose quilts from the April 2005 show. It's time to start quilting now for the ARS 2006 Quilt Show!



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.



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 e-mail: DSDbulletin@Fairmarsh.com

DSD website: www.deepsouthdistrict.org

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The Phoenix

Newsletter of the Greater Atlanta Rose Society

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Solar Flair, one of Sandy's Picks for 2006

REMINDER: The GARS meeting will be 7:30pm, Tuesday, Jan 17 at ABG

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.

Memberships & Renewals: 2006 Dues are now due! Mail payment to: **Stan Leacock, Treasurer, 3871 Gladney Drive, Atlanta, GA 30340.**

While the advice and information in this newsletter are 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 and ARS make no warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to the material contained herein.