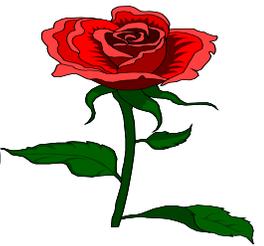


Basal Breaks



Winter 2026

Volume 40 Issue 1

From the President

Hi everybody!

It's time to start thinking about rose ambitions before the upcoming season.

I encourage you to go and buy a small dedicated notebook to bring to meetings this year. It can be a rose journal to jot down your ideas and ambitions for the growing season. You can record what worked and what didn't work, and weather conditions. Bring your notebook to meetings and record what you learn. That way you can easily go back and refer to past notes when that information is needed.

I refer to my notes often throughout the growing season. What was that variety they talked about? Where can I buy such and such? When should I do this and that? I don't know about you, but note taking reinforces my memory.

I referred to my 2025 notebook to get the trivia questions for the Christmas party (which was a complete success by the way). I may be doing that again this year!

We learn from each other in our meetings. And the fellowship is wonderful. So make an effort to come to the meetings as often as you can this year!

P.S. Anybody who shows me a new notebook at the February meeting gets a prize!

See you at the next meeting and bring a friend!

Sandee Jenkins



Tri-State Calendar

February 15, 2026

Monthly Society Meeting

Two of our very own members, Levonne Call and Juanita Wade, will present a PowerPoint presentation on the Tennessee "Smart Yard" certification program. The program provides guidance on the best practices for gardening and landscaping to promote ecological health and water conservation.

We will also be collecting orders for TurfCare fertilizer sale. Please remember that you must pay in advance when placing your order.

The meeting will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hixson, TN. We will have light refreshments at 2 pm followed by the program at 2:30 pm.

February 27-28, 2026

Tenarky Winter Workshop

The annual Tenarky District Winter Workshop will be held at the Holiday Inn University Plaza, Bowling Green, KY. There will be excellent programs along with vendors. More information can be found on page 2 of this publication.

March 15, 2026

Monthly Society Meeting

Our guest speaker is no stranger to our club. Ron Daniels from Nashville, TN will be with us to talk about pruning roses. Ron is an accomplished rosarian and great speaker. He always has a good program.

The meeting will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hixson, TN. We will have light refreshments at 2 pm followed by the program at 2:30 pm.

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Miss Ann's Musings.....

Ring Around the Rosie

by Ann Bartlett



Although Clusius grew it in the emperor's Vienna botanical garden, there has been debate over whether *Rosa Hulthemia* (a.k.a. *R. persica*) is really a member of the rose clan. This deep rooted, thorny, suckering shrub grows wild throughout the arid steppes of Iran and Afghanistan. Its single ring of petals features a distinctive red central zone. Hybridizers have longed to replicate this trait with limited success.

In the late 1980's, the British firm Harkness introduced a few roses featuring the distinctive central ring. These were not snapped up by rose lovers. Unfortunately, they only bloomed once in the spring. Only one of them, Tigris, produced viable seed for crosses.

Amateur hybridizer Jim Sproul of Bakersfield, California took up the cause in the 1990's. After several frustrating years, he



speculated that the genes for the "eye" might be linked to non-repeating blooming. Fortunately his efforts continued, resulting in the 2011 introduction of reblooming Eyeconic roses. Classified as floribundas, these roses feature a distinctive central red eye framing prominent yellows stamens. Well suited to the West, they lack blackspot resistance.

Work continued to bring these roses to the rest of the world. Ringo was introduced in 2018, the first in a series of disease resistant hulthemia hybrids from Proven Winners. Tom Carruth brought us In Your Eyes in 2019. Like Ringo, it is widely available and very disease resistant.

I added Ringo to my garden last spring. It thrives in a container among other roses along the driveway. Ringo was the All America Rose Selection "no-spray" division winner in 2023 making it even more desirable to this no-spray rose fancier!

Tenarky Winter Workshop

The annual Tenarky District Winter Workshop will be held at the Holiday Inn University Plaza in Bowling Green, KY on February 27-28, 2026. Sonja Lallemand, editor of Illinois-Indiana District newsletter, will speak on Old Garden Roses. Joe and Carrie Berg will present a program called "He says, she says". Natalie Carmolli from Proven Winners will also be speaking. There will be a rose photo contest and vendors at the workshop.

For more information and registration forms, visit the Tenarky District website at tenarky.org. Hotel reservations should be made directly with the hotel at (270) 745-0088. When making hotel reservations, be sure and mention that you are attending the Tenarky Workshop.

This event is a great opportunity to meet and get to know other rosarians from throughout our district, as well as get a lot of valuable information about growing roses..

Annual Fertilizer Sale

As many of you are aware, Beaty Fertilizer was purchased last year by TurfCare Supply, LLC. For many years, Beaty Fertilizer offered our members the opportunity to purchase some of our gardening supplies at a reduced price. Turfcare has agreed to continue providing that opportunity for our members. You should have already received an email with the order form. If not, please contact Jeff Garrett at rjrjeff@aol.com

Please be aware that you must prepay for your order when you place it with us. We will be collecting orders at the February meeting, or you can simply return it to Jeff Garrett at the address on the form. All checks should be made out to the Tri-State Rose Society. While we do not yet have an exact date, the orders will be delivered on a Saturday probably sometime in April in the Trinity Lutheran church parking lot.

Rose Pruning Made Easy

by Cindy Dale

Pruning seems to give gardeners more problems than any other rose-growing task. When to prune, how much to take off, where to make the cut; all of these questions and more swim around in the gardener's head as they face their overgrown rose bushes, pruners in hand.

What is the Purpose of Pruning?

The purposes of pruning rose bushes are: to remove dead, spindly, or weak growth which concentrates the plant's energy and promotes bigger blooms, to shape the bush into a more attractive form, and open up the center of the bush to allow light to penetrate into the center and air to circulate. This, in turn, decreases the incidence of fungal diseases such as blackspot and powder mildew.

When Do We Prune and What Equipment is Used?

Roses in Georgia should be pruned in late February to early March right before they break dormancy (*Editor's Note: In the Chattanooga area we recommend pruning in mid to late March*). Once-blooming old garden roses should be lightly pruned after the spring bloom. The cut should be made with a high-quality and very sharp pair of pruning shears such as Fiskars, Corona or, my personal favorite, Felco, which is made in Switzerland, has replaceable blades,

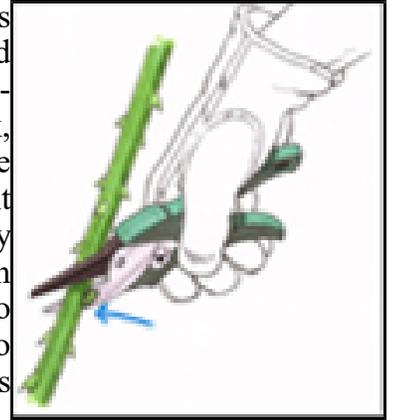


Felco No. 2 Pruners

and comes in right and left handed models. Top quality pruners will cost more up front but will reward you with ease of use and long life. Loppers are used to cut thick canes and a pruning saw may be necessary to cut the thickest

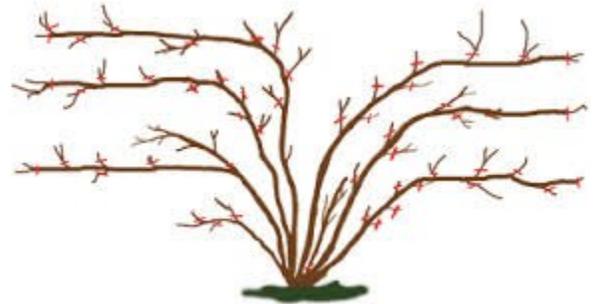


woody canes flush with the bud union. Elbow-length, thick, leather gloves are a must to prevent getting stuck by thorns which reminds me to remind you to keep your tetanus shot up to date.



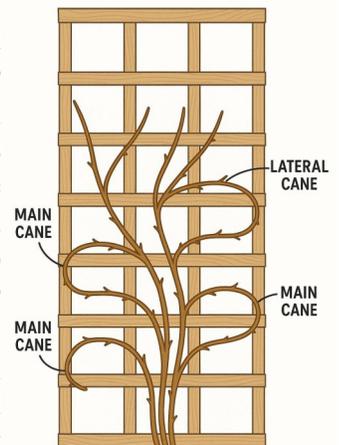
How is Rose Pruning Done?

The first procedure is to remove all dead wood. Then, starting with the long canes on the outer edges, work your way around the bush, making your cuts about 1/4" above an outward facing bud eye (see diagram at right)



Where to prune a climbing rose

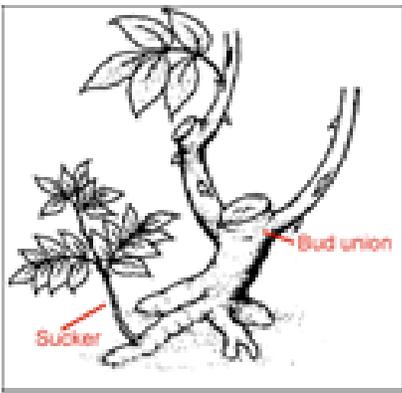
to direct new growth away from the center of the bush. Reduce hybrid teas, grandifloras, floribundas and minis by 1/2 to 2/3 of their original height. Shrub roses need much lighter pruning with removal of perhaps only 1/3 of the bush's height and a general shaping up of the plant. For climbing roses, leave the main canes intact and tied to the support structure. Cut the



lateral or side growth coming off the main canes back to about 2 inches in length.

Weak, spindly growth that is smaller than the size of a pencil on the main canes of all varieties except minis should be removed as well as canes crossing the center, to open up the middle. The finished bush should be about 2-3 feet tall (3-4 feet tall for shrub roses), have 3-6 strong canes, and resemble a big vase with canes arching upwards on all sides and an open center.

Some rosarians recommend that pruning cuts be sealed with a thin layer of school glue to prevent cane borers from entering, but I have never had much of a problem with these insects and have not sealed my canes in recent years. All leaves still left on the plant from the previous season should be removed since they may harbor diseases that lasted through the winter. All debris around the bush should be removed for the same reason.



What Else Needs to be Done?

Remove any suckers. Suckers are canes growing from below the bud union which is the large, knobby area that the main canes arise from on a grafted plant. This is where your rose variety was budded onto a hardy rootstock and the suckers represent unwanted rootstock growth that probably will not bloom, and if it does, will bear no resemblance to the blooms that you bought the bush for. Unchecked suckers will eventually take over the bush, weakening it and suppressing the variety budded onto it. They must be removed cleanly and flush with the shank, or main



Sucker growing beneath the bud union.

cane, below the bud union to prevent re-growth. This doesn't apply to own root (non-grafted) bushes.

The last step is to scrub the woody epidermis of the bud union with a wire brush to remove any dead tissue and allow the new, basal growth to emerge from the bud union, forming new canes which are the lifeblood of your rose bush.

What Have I Done??

Don't be shocked by the smallness of your newly pruned bush. It's normal and badly needed for all the reasons mentioned above. When I think back to the first year I pruned, I was sure I had killed the bushes, but 8 weeks later they were tall, blooming, and healthy just as they were meant to be. Remember, "You have to be cruel to be kind." Moderate to heavy pruning may seem cruel at first but you're really being much kinder to the bush in the long run.



This article originally appeared in February 2025 issue of "The South Metro Rose Gardener," newsletter of the South Metro Rose Society, Cindy Dale, editor.

Pictured Below
Hybrid tea, Pristine, in the author's garden.
Before and after pruning.



FROM THE POTTING SHED....

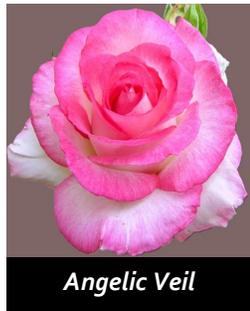
Annual Rose Review

by Jeff Garrett



Before we embark on a new rose year, I always look back and consider how our roses performed in the previous season. I especially like to consider how some of the newer varieties performed. For this article, I will limit my review to standard roses that have been growing in our garden for three years or less. However, please note that not all of these roses are new to the market.

Angelic Veil - is classified as a white hybrid tea. Hybridized by Christian Bedard of Weeks Roses. The white blooms edged with a rich dark pink have 25-35 petals. Our 1st year plant was vigorous and produced lots of beautiful show quality blooms. Its parents are

*Angelic Veil*

Secret and Lynn Anderson. Looks to be a winner!
Cathedral Bells - is an English rose bred by Georges Delbard. The rose-pink blooms have lots of petals and a rich fragrance. While the bush generally grows and blooms well, sometimes the canes have trouble holding up the large blooms.

*Cathedral Bells*

Cloud 10 - is a pure white climber

*Cloud 10*

from Will Radler. While not a new variety, it is new to our garden. The 1st year plant had good disease resistance and threw some nice long canes with clean white blooms. The blooms are similar in form to most of the English roses. This plant should only get better with age.

Color Splash - is a red blend floribunda from Kordes and offered by Star Roses. The creamy white blooms are enhanced by rich red edging. Our 1st year plant performed as expected and we got some colorful blooms that will catch your attention. We like it so far!

*Color Splash*

Gabriel Oak - is a deep pink English rose from David Austin. So far, our plant has been a rather compact grower, however sometimes it takes the David Austin varieties 3

*Gabriel Oak*

years or so to really get established in our garden. The rich dark pink blooms hold their color even in the heat of summer. The blooms are of medium size and are very fragrant.

Garden Flame - is a yellow blend floribunda from Kordes. It is in the

Kordes Sunbelt

series of roses meaning it should do well in warmer climates. The deep yellow blooms are edged with rich orange. They will mature to a deep red. Our 1st year bush was a compact grower, but produced several lovely eye-catching blooms. This variety will add color and interest to any garden. The blooms are a medium size with about 20 petals. Looks to be a good variety for our area.

*Garden Flame*

In Love Again - is a medium red hybrid tea bred by Christian Bedard and available from Weeks Roses. Our 1st year plant was vigorous and produced lots of nice red blooms that also had good size. Not yet sure about the show potential, but certainly looks good in our garden.

Lemontini - is a luminous creamy yellow hybrid tea bred by David Kenny of Ireland. Introduced by Certified Roses, the blooms have a very nice fragrance. We almost discarded it last spring but decided to give it another year and it responded in kind. The plant produced lots of very light yellow blooms with good form and

*In Love Again*

size. Just goes to show that we sometimes need to show some patience.

Loves Me, Loves Me Not - is a deep pink hybrid tea bred by Alain Meilland. The cupped shape blooms are large and have lots of fragrant petals. Our 1st year plant was initially a

*Lemontini*

size. Just goes to show that we sometimes need to show some patience.

Loves Me, Loves Me Not - is a deep pink hybrid tea bred by Alain Meilland. The cupped shape blooms are large and have lots of fragrant petals. Our 1st year plant was initially a

*Loves Me, Loves Me Not*

little slow to grow, but did eventually grow to medium height and produced several blooms. This is a very interesting variety.



Make Me Blush

Make Me Blush - is a yellow blend hybrid tea bred by Tom Carruth. The medium size blooms open to a soft yellow brushed with a light pink. They have a light fruity fragrance. Our 1st year plant was not as vigorous as we like but hopefully it will get better with age.

Maui Sunrise - is a colorful apricot blend hybrid tea bred by Brad Jalbert and introduced by Certified Roses. The ruffled blooms have a very nice citrus fragrance. While the blooms do not have a high center, they do have lots of petals and are very attractive when fully open. The color and bloom size is much better in the cooler temps of spring and summer.



Maui Sunrise

Maurice Utrillo - is red blend



Maurice Utrillo

hybrid tea bred by Georges Delbard and offered by Certified Roses. We have grown this variety for 3 years and it continues to have showy red and white striped blooms with a hint of yellow in the center, however the plant is just not as vigorous as we would like. Not sure we will

continue to grow this rose.

McFarland - is a medium pink hybrid tea being offered by Star Roses. The large blooms are medium pink with a light reverse. While the variety appears to be pretty disease resistant, the blooms are nothing special.



McFarland

Moonlight Romantica - is a light yellow hybrid tea bred by Alain Meilland and introduced by Star Roses. The plant produces lots of large blooms that have lots of petals and are fragrant. The bloom form is not suited for exhibition. The bush does produce nice long stems for cutting.



Moonlight Romantica

Morning Glow - is a yellow blend floribunda by Christian Bedard of Weeks Roses. The buttery yellow

blooms have shades of light pink. We are growing this plant in our "no-spray" area and so far it has shown good disease resistance. However, we just don't think the blooms are very pretty.

Picture Perfect - is a pink blend hybrid tea bred by Christian Bedard of Weeks Roses. The hot pink blooms have a nice creamy white reverse. The blooms are attractive, but the form is too flat for exhibition. Nice garden variety.



Picture Perfect

Reminiscent Pink - is a medium pink shrub bred by Biljana Tanjga of Serbia and introduced by Proven Winners. The plant is extremely vigorous and is an aggressive grower. It produces lots of large light pink blooms that are moderately fragrant. The bush has shown pretty good disease resistance.



Morning Glow



Reminiscent Pink

Rocket - is a medium red hybrid tea bred by Steven Roussel and available from Wisconsin Roses. Our 2nd year plant produced some pretty decent rich red blooms with good size. However the bush has not been very vigorous and is a bit of a stingy bloomer.



Rocket

Runway Star - is a light pink hybrid tea bred by Steve Singer of Wisconsin Roses. After 2 years, we are still not sure about this variety. It does produce some nice light pink blooms with good form, but it really needs to be more robust and bloom more.



Runway Star

Sunset Horizon - is a yellow blend shrub bred by Alain Meilland. This award winning variety produces single blooms with 14 to 16 petals which are extremely colorful. The medium height plant produces a lot of eye-catching blooms. Good garden variety that will catch your eye.



Sunset Horizon

True Bliss - is a pink and white blend hybrid tea from Ping Lim. Our 2nd year plant showed a lot

more vigor and produced some pretty nice blooms with decent fragrance. Don't think it will be a show rose, but does have good disease resistance. Should be a good garden variety.

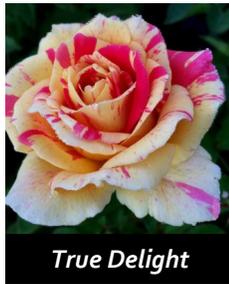
True Darling - is a medium yellow



floribunda bred by Ping Lim. Our 2nd year plant generally lacks vigor and is short, even for a floribunda. But, we have seen some pretty nice medium yellow blooms with light fragrance.

True Delight - is a large flowered yellow blend climber hybridized by Ping Lim.

We bought our plant from a big box store and it was a fairly weak bush. However, we took good care of it and by fall we were seeing long stems and with showy blooms. We are anxious to see how this bush develops as the blooms have very interesting yellow and pink coloration.



True Endearment - is a medium red floribunda from



Ping Lim. Our 2nd year plant has good vigor. The red blooms lack show form, but are still colorful. We have this plant growing in "no-spray" area and it appears to have good resistance to black spot.

True Gratitude - is a large-

flowered deep pink climber bred by Ping Lim. The fuchsia colored blooms have a nice spicy fragrance. Our 2nd year plant grew well but continues to be a bit stingy with blooms.



True Inspiration - is a deep pink



medium pink hybrid tea from Ping Lim. We planted our potted bush in the garden and it started growing well and producing lots of colorful blooms on a disease resistant

plant. However, it did not survive last winter.

True Passion - is an orange-red hybrid tea from Ping Lim. This is a vigorous variety that grows

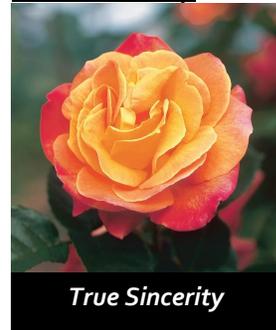


well and produces lots of rich deep orange blooms. Bush has good disease resistance and is a very nice garden variety. This is the best performing Ping Lim rose growing in our garden.

True Serenity - is a deep pink hybrid tea from Ping Lim. If you like fragrant and disease resistant roses, you need to seriously consider getting this variety, as the beautiful rich pink blooms are large and very fragrant. This is a very nice garden rose.



True Sincerity - is a yellow blend



floribunda hybridized by Ping Lim. The colorful blooms have a nice yellow color that is highlighted by pink edging. This variety has much better color in the spring and fall.

True Spirit - is a dark red shrub bred by Ping

Lim. We have this variety growing in our "no-spray" area and it generally has good disease resistance. However, so far the dark red blooms are a little small.



White Princess - is a white hybrid tea bred by Donald Johnson and available from Wisconsin



Roses. This clean white variety continues to perform well in our garden. The blooms generally have good size and great form. Hard to find good white roses, and this appears to be a very nice white variety.

For Additional Tips and Information Visit

Tri-State Rose Society of Chattanooga - chattanoogaarose.org

Tenarky District - tenarky.org

American Rose Society - rose.org

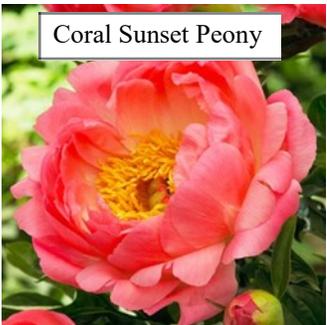
Tri-State Rose Society Spotlight on . . .

DEER-RESISTANT COMPANION PLANTS FOR ROSES

Spring



Coral Sunset Peony



Lamb's Ear

Every living thing benefits from the presence of a good companion, a fellow traveler who can occupy a supportive place, side by side on a journey through the seasons of life. This is as true for roses as it is for human beings.

In the rose garden, countless perennials and annuals can be used to outline borders, complement the color palate, deter animals who might be attracted to and tempted to nibble roses, and add visual interest and beauty during times when roses are not in a full flush of blooms. It becomes more challenging - but not impossible - to find companion plants that are unattractive to deer.

A selection of spectacularly beautiful, delicate, fragrant plants in a rainbow of colors, hardy in growing zones found across the mid-south, that can complement and enhance our rose beds through the seasons are included here. All are deer-resistant. All overlap seasons, allowing for seamless transition from one plant variety to the next and variations in color and form.

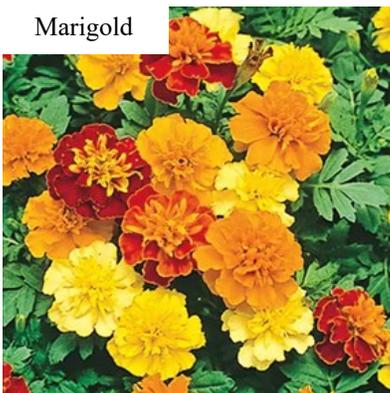
Beginning in **early spring**, perennials such as peonies and lamb's ear grow rapidly, filling in borders around roses that have not yet budded, adding vibrant color and texture in the weeks before the first rose opens. Red, pink, and white peony varieties play off the vibrant yellow of fading daffodils, violas and pansies, and replace nodding winter snowdrops and bright red winterberries as they fall.

Summer and fall bring endless options for contrasting and complementary companion plantings that highlight the natural beauty of the rose. Choosing low-growing varieties (18 - 24 inches tall at maturity) serves to call attention to the rose garden without overpowering the main blooming show. At the same time, companion plants in the 24-inch-tall range are sufficient in height to add a notable splash of color during periods when roses are between bloom cycles. Summer companion plantings like marigolds can also help fend off insect pests, while alliums - members of the onion and garlic families - may deter deer, rabbits and other munching pests such as voles. Asters, Crane's Bill and Calibrachoa are unattractive to all pests.

The only caution is to plant companions 18-24 inches away from rose canes, so that there is no competition for water and nutrients.

Summer & Fall

Marigold



Wild Geranium / Crane's Bill

Calibrachoa/Million Bells





Blue (Azure) Allium

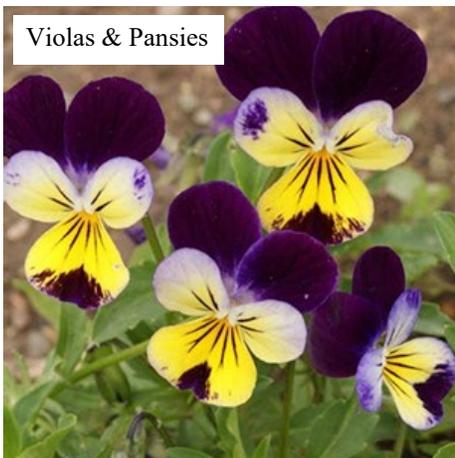


"Bandana Cherry Sunrise" Allium



Aster

Fall & Winter



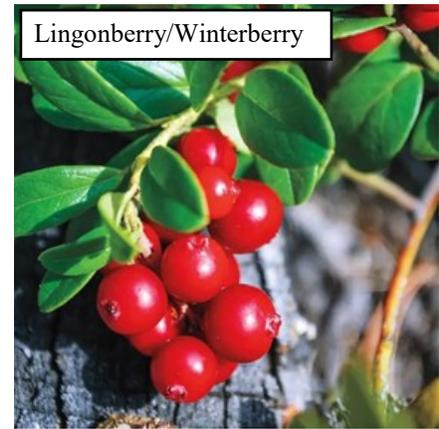
Violas & Pansies



Snowdrops



Daffodils & Narcissus



Lingonberry/Winterberry



Spotlight is a column written by **Susan Speraw**, intended to provide knowledge and inspiration concerning roses that have demonstrated ability to thrive in the climate unique to East Tennessee and North Georgia, specifically in USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 5 – 8. Comments concerning disease resistance, and/or special challenges such as attractiveness to deer or rabbits are grounded in the author's experience growing these varieties on Signal Mountain, TN.

2026 Officers

President - Sandee Jenkins
 Vice President - Jon Whitehead
 Secretary - Ann Bartlett
 Treasurer - Jeff Garrett
 Immediate Past President - Jane Hill
 Board Member - Jackie McGintis
 Board Member - Cindy Garrett

The Tri-State Rose Society of Chattanooga is a non-profit organization, affiliated with the American Rose Society. Annual dues are \$8 for an individual or \$12 for a couple.

Basal Breaks is the official newsletter of the Tri-State Rose Society of Chattanooga, and is published quarterly. While the information and advice contained herein is believed to be accurate and true, neither the authors nor the editors can accept any legal responsibility for any errors or omissions that may have been made. The Tri-State Rose Society of Chattanooga makes no warranty, express or implied, with respect to the material contained herein.

Jeff and Cindy Garrett, Editors

CONSULTING ROSARIANS

The following folks are happy to answer any questions you may have concerning growing better roses.

Soddy Daisy Area	Sue Dempsey 332-4030 Jeff & Cindy Garrett 332-6979
Big Ridge Area	Jim Bennett 842-2478
Middle Valley Area	Dr. Casandra Cansler 847-0585 Roland Butler 468-0614
Jasper Area	June Kempson (423) 667-4646
Signal Mtn Area	Susan Speraw (865) 661-2789
North Georgia Area	Tina Jennings (706) 638-2339 Jackie McGintis (423) 309-0848
Tyner Area	Kathy Youngblood (423) 605-3718

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*Jeff and Cindy Garrett
 2049 Linwood Circle
 Soddy Daisy, TN 37379*



Reminder!
 Our next meeting is Sunday afternoon,
 February 15 at Trinity Lutheran Church.