

# Bloom & Thorn

*News you can use from the Auburn Rose Society*

## *In This Issue*

### A message from our President

#### Join us!

#### Next Meeting:

**June 8, 1:30-3:30 pm**

#### At the Harris Center

425 Perry St.

Auburn, AL 36830



### Membership :

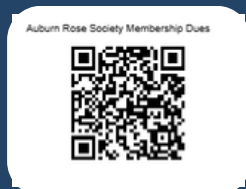
2025 annual membership dues are *only* \$25 for individuals for a limited time.

Individual membership dues will go up to \$30 on January 1, 2026.

Families are \$40 for 2025 and 2026

### Click here...

**Visit [AuburnRoseSociety.org](https://AuburnRoseSociety.org)**



## Welcome to the Auburn Rose Society!



June is now here, and we are moving forward with the introduction of our new founding chapter- Auburn Rose Society. As we announce and honor our founding officers-one thing comes to mind—gratitude. What was nothing more than a mere dream for me has now become a reality due to the efforts of the people around me who want to see this succeed. We have a lot to learn about roses, so let's get started.

Rose problems-let's see if I can help:

I am sure some of you have already started seeing Japanese beetles emerge onto some of your petals. Pesky little beetles so you have some options: if you don't have a lot of roses, you can defoliate them and give them a chance to come and go for a month or two. As my mother used to say, "this too shall pass", you can let them go and let the beetle's snack and devour, hmmm- I am not that nice, you can also spray with something like Bioadvanced 3 in 1 or Captain Jacks Neem oil. Sevin- I do not recommend-it completely wipes out all the insects including the beneficials. Not good for your overall garden. You can also add a few drops of Dawn dishwashing liquid to some water and take a chopstick or a twig and drop them into the soapy water. It is your garden, and you do it the way YOU want. I typically deadhead the ugly roses and remove the beetles off my property. Treating for grubs in your lawn in the spring and fall is another good way to cut back on Beetle Mania! Lol. Japanese beetle bags tend to draw in more and more because of the pheromones. I would avoid attracting all the beetles around a 5-mile radius to your house. It will certainly make your life and fighting them more difficult.

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We have had quite a bit of rain too. Roses like dry and hot airy weather-much different from our wet and humid area but we CAN grow them. We will have plenty of warm weather ahead. Sun is the best thing for a rose. You can literally see the difference in the way they look on a sunny day versus a rainy day.

Since we are honoring our officers and new members you can come dressed up! Wear something rose inspired if you so choose. Also, if you want to bring a little something to share for food go ahead. We always welcome snacks! We have invited our mayor as well as the Auburn Beautification Council. I look forward to our very first meeting. Don't forget to invite and bring a friend. Can't wait!

Warmest regards,  
Jami Johnson



## Important Upcoming Dates

### Next Auburn Rose Society meeting:

Sunday, June 8 at 2:00pm  
[Harris Center](#)

### Hello, fellow rose enthusiasts!

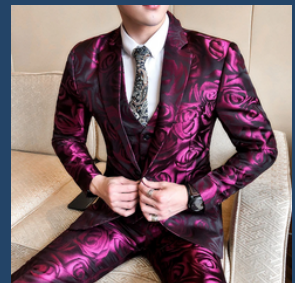
We'd love for you to join us at the Harris Center for our June Auburn Rose Society meeting, where we'll celebrate all things roses.

### Feeling inspired?

Wear your best rose-themed outfit to embrace the beauty of the season! Whether it's floral prints, rose-colored attire, or a garden-inspired accessory, let's fill the room with blooms and charm.



Looking forward to seeing you there!



## Get to know your board...

### *Jami Johnson, President*



#### **Jami Johnson, Broker, Master Gardener, Auburn Rose Society President and Member of American Rose Society since 2023**

Jami has been gardening for quite a short time. She dove head-first into gardening and roses back in 2023 when she had issues growing hydrangeas in her own garden. That is when she was introduced to Dani Carroll who invited her to attend the Lee County Master Gardening class and has been on the fast train to successful gardening ever since. The Lee County Master gardeners introduced her to so many wonderful people who have helped her along the way. She has been working vigorously on growing roses in her own garden, and testing new and different varieties of rose. In 2023, with permission from the board of trustees, she was able to commission the "Love and Forgiveness Garden", as well as the "Children's Garden". She with the help of her husband Wade, were able to complete this project for her local church which the city and local community have been enjoying for the past two years. More than anything she has enjoyed bringing the community together.

She has a fondness for cottage style gardens as well as formal British, French, and European inspired gardens. She has connected with many gardeners and growers all over the US and across Europe to bring as much information as she can to fellow enthusiasts. While attending the American Rose Society convention, she was able to connect with so many people and experience the fun and excitement the ARS can bring to the public. Her main goal is to educate more people in Lee County about growing roses and combating common garden issues. She wants to bring more varieties of roses to Lee County. She would love to develop a community formal garden for the public to enjoy. She loves people and gardening in general. She especially loves to give flowers to neighbors and friends. Jami has been an active real estate agent in Auburn/Lee County for 10 years; she attained her broker license in 2024. She enjoys traveling and seeing other gardens across the world as well as playing the piano and cello for her church.

Jami is happily married to Wade Johnson who helps her in all parts of her gardening. Wade is the director for the Auburn Rose Society. Luci is their daughter and will be attending Auburn University in Fall 2025.



## Get to know your board...

### *Jill Haisten, Vice President*



#### **Jill Haisten, American Rose Society Consulting Rosarian & Auburn Rose Society Vice President**

Jill, a highly respected figure in the world of rose cultivation, has dedicated 45 years to mastering the art and science of growing roses. Based in Montgomery, she is a seasoned rosarian, known for her deep expertise and unwavering passion for these favored blooms.

As a Consulting Rosarian for the American Rose Society (ARS), Jill plays a crucial role in educating, mentoring, and advising fellow rose enthusiasts on proper care, disease prevention, and garden design. Her credentials extend beyond consulting—she is also an ARS-accredited judge, recognized for her keen eye in evaluating rose quality, form, and health at prestigious competitions.

Additionally, she serves as an ARS instructor, sharing her knowledge through workshops, lectures, and training programs that inspire both novice and experienced rosarians alike.



## Get to know your board...

*Lori Arthurs,  
Treasurer*



### **Lori Arthurs, CPA (inactive), Master Gardener & Auburn Rose Society Treasurer**

Lori has loved gardening for most of her life, but her passion truly blossomed after retiring in March 2022. Eager to deepen her knowledge, she enrolled in the Master Gardener course, where she discovered the wonders of soil science, plant care, and found a community of like-minded friends. Inspired by the contagious enthusiasm of fellow Master Gardener Jami Johnson, Lori developed a special interest in roses. Today, she delights in cultivating several varieties and is excited to continue expanding her collection through her involvement with the Auburn Rose Society.

A certified Master Gardener and active member of the gardening community, Lori currently serves as Treasurer of the Auburn Rose Society. She has a particular love for cottage-style gardening and has created a charming woodland native garden that reflects her appreciation for both beauty and biodiversity.

Lori is a proud two-time graduate of Auburn University, where she earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in accountancy with honors. She enjoyed a distinguished career as the Chief Financial Officer of the Auburn Athletics Department, bringing over 20 years of corporate and nonprofit accounting experience to her leadership role in the society.

When she's not tending to her garden, Lori cherishes time with her grandchildren and finds joy in sharing her love of nature with the next generation.

Get to know your board...

*Susanne Heartsill,  
Secretary*



**Susanne Heartsill, DVM, DABVP (Canine & Feline Practice), Master Gardener & Auburn Rose Society Secretary**

A devoted advocate for horticulture, pollinators, and native plants, Susanne Heartsill is an Alabama Master Gardener and a passionate rose enthusiast embracing her newest botanical endeavor—growing and appreciating roses. With a deep appreciation for the beauty and resilience of plants, she is excited to explore the intricacies of rose cultivation and contribute to Auburn’s thriving gardening community.

Beyond her love for the garden, Susanne is a veterinarian, educator, and leader in animal health, serving as the Chief Medical Officer for companion animals at Ceva Animal Health. With years of experience in veterinary practice, education, and technical marketing, she remains dedicated to improving pet health while finding joy in the natural world.

Susanne’s gardening journey is an ever-evolving work in progress at her hobby farm in Beauregard, where she enjoys cultivating a diverse landscape of flora, fostering a habitat for pollinators and other critters, and deepening her connection to the land. She looks forward to growing alongside fellow rose lovers, exchanging insights, and celebrating the beauty of roses with the Auburn Rose Society.

As for how she became the Auburn Rose Society Secretary—well, some things just have a way of coming together when passionate people unite. Surrounded by a group of fellow Master Gardeners and dedicated rose lovers who share a vision for building something special in Auburn, Susanne gladly stepped in to support her friends and help nurture this growing community. With a shared commitment to learning, growing, and celebrating the beauty of roses, the Auburn Rose Society is blooming into something truly remarkable—thanks to the enthusiasm, knowledge, and camaraderie of its members.

# Undemanding Roses

By Darrell g.h. Schramm  
Chairman, American Rose Society  
Preservation Committee Delegate NCNH Silver  
Medal Award

***“Roses are just TOO much  
trouble to grow!”***

That is a comment I have heard time and again. On hearing it, I realize the speaker has very little knowledge of roses or may be aware of only two or three classes of garden roses: Hybrid Teas, Floribundas, and the class vaguely designated as Shrubs, the three kinds most available to the public in Big Box stores and most generic nurseries.

Yes, Hybrid Teas and Floribundas as a whole require water, water, water and frequent fertilizer and annual pruning and special care when prone to disease and pests, as many of them are. Shrub roses, which have varied parentage, unlike the twenty or so other major classes of cultivated roses—like those of David Austin’s English group—vary their requirements. Yes, they can be labor-intensive. In fact, I know several rose growers who plant and fuss with Hybrid Teas and Floribundas primarily to exhibit them at shows and then, eight or ten years later, remove them because their productivity declines and so replace them with newer roses.

Such diminishing returns is not the case with most Old Garden Roses (AKA Heritage, Historic, or Vintage roses). Furthermore, they require considerably less work; some of them even resent being pruned or sprayed. But before we consider a few of them, understand that after these plants have been established (usually a year or two after planting), the Tea roses, the Chinas, and the Noisettes are drought tolerant. That does not mean never to water them. An occasional deep soaking goes a long way. Mulch three or four inches deep around the base retains moisture. Constant winds will dry out any woody plant, so do irrigate them if the winds have been unrelenting for days.

A note of reference:

**Thank you to our  
Friends at the North Bay  
Rose Society for  
contributing this  
content from  
Darrell g.h. Schramm.  
Our team is very  
grateful for the  
excellent content.**



**ARCHDUKE  
CHARLES CHINA  
ROSE, GROWN IN  
VALLEJO, CA**





## Undemanding Roses

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Medal Award

*"Tea roses such as 'Duchesse de Brabant,' 'La Sylphide,' 'Le Pactole,' and others have been discovered growing quite "alone and palely loitering" but alive in such locations."*

And as a whole, those old roses—and here I include the Portland class—do not require fertilizer, although the plants would be grateful if provided. As for diseases and pests, though some Heritage roses may host them, rarely are they damaged, especially if the garden is healthy with bees, birds, butterflies, praying mantises, and dragonflies.

Once the blooms are spent, you may deadhead them or not. Doing so does encourage them to bloom more, but not deadheading will still provide flowers. As for pruning, Teas, Chinas, Noisettes, and Portlands do not require it. Except to shape the bush if it looks ungainly or to remove dead or damaged twigs and branches, you do not need to prune. Tea roses, Chinas, Noisettes, and Portlands repeat their bloom.

Consider the Tea roses (NOT Hybrid Teas). Again and again, this class of roses has been found in Gold Rush towns, ghost towns, abandoned farms and lots, and pioneer cemeteries, still growing and blooming ninety, a hundred years or more later, with only Mother Nature to care for them despite heat waves, drought, and high winds, and in certain locations, winter snow. Tea roses such as 'Duchesse de Brabant,' 'La Sylphide,' 'Le Pactole,' and others have been discovered growing quite "alone and palely loitering" but alive in such locations. 'Bon Silene,' 'Devoniensis,' and 'Safrano' were also popular with California pioneers.



LA SYLPHIDE TEA ROSE



## Undemanding Roses

By Darrell g.h. Schramm  
Chairman, American Rose Society  
Preservation Committee Delegate NCNH Silver  
Medal Award

*"A few years ago, I planted 'Lamarque,' its huge white blossoms tinted lemon, and soon was training a quickly growing cane over an arch that has taken it into my fig tree."*

The same is true of Noisettes, whose spicy flowers (often of a clove scent) crowd in thick clusters, mostly of pink, pale yellow, or white. Once, biking with a group on Skagg's Island off Highway 37 in northern California, several of us spotted a huge rose bush some distance off the road, again "alone and palely loitering." Apparently, a house had once stood nearby. Yet this neglected rose, its cluster washed in palest pink, had withstood "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune." Making my way on foot toward it, I recognized this scented rose—because I grow it: 'Blush Noisette.'



SKAGG'S ISLAND NOISETTE

Another time, in an empty, secluded lot near me, I came across the enormous 'Fortune's Double Yellow,' covering what seemed to be an old apple tree. I grow a Noisette discovered years ago tentatively called "Roseville Noisette" for the town where it was found; it seems to be the same as "Placerville Noisette," discovered in 1985. Its height is a mere three feet and not that wide, dense with white flowers that form their own bouquet. A few years ago, I planted 'Lamarque,' its huge white blossoms tinted lemon, and soon was training a quickly growing cane over an arch that has taken it into my fig tree.



## Undemanding Roses

By Darrell g.h. Schramm  
Chairman, American Rose Society  
Preservation Committee Delegate NCNH Silver  
Medal Award

*"I also grow 'Eugene Beauharnais,' one of the few Chinas with a strong, delicious scent but a low grower, though profuse with purplish-red roses—good in a pot."*

Like the Teas and Noisettes, most Chinas are drought tolerant. 'Old Blush' is the most venerable, introduced to England from China in 1793, the first rose used to create repeat-flowering roses in the Western Hemisphere. As its name suggests, it's pink. It blooms nearly non-stop throughout the year.

I also grow 'Eugene Beauharnais,' one of the few Chinas with a strong, delicious scent but a low grower, though profuse with purplish-red roses—good in a pot. 'Fabvier' is also small and red but with a white center, growing eagerly from spring until Christmas or later. Shrugging off rain, it's my Christmas rose.

'Comtesse du Cayla' is fickle, showing off loose flowers pink with apricot or sometimes coppery red-orange, but lovely in whatever color.



EUGENE BEAUHARNAIS CHINA ROSE





## Undemanding Roses

By Darrell g.h. Schramm  
Chairman, American Rose Society  
Preservation Committee Delegate NCNH Silver  
Medal Award

*"Help-MeFind/Roses online offers more sources for roses such as these, which are very little trouble or work."*

I end with my favorite of recurrently blooming historic roses, the Portlands (also called Damask Perpetuals).

'Jacques Cartier,' strongly perfumed, shows off its many-layered, luscious pink petals, nestling the exquisite flower in elongated healthy foliage. Often, the petals exhibit scalloped edges. It tolerates heat with aplomb.

'Comte de Chambord' sends forth roses of a similar pink with petals rather embricated. They, too, emit a pleasant perfume. The leaves, however, are smaller, of a light, almost yellow-green. Partial shade suits it well, as does full sun.

A rose from 1849, 'Duchesse de Rohan' is somewhat less generous with its recurrent flowering, yet it is, in my view, the most beautiful of the Portlands. Its strongly scented flower displays deep pink petals, often paler at the outer rim. It rests among luxuriant, large leaves, attractively textured, like embossed leather.

In fact, I view its foliage as the most beautiful of all roses. Other beauties are 'Indigo,' 'Rose de Rescht,' and 'Yolande d'Aragon.' Because most general nurseries do not carry these classes of roses, the public is by and large unaware of them. Many of them can be bought from specialized rose nurseries.

Help-MeFind/Roses online offers more sources for roses such as these, which are very little trouble or work.

### COMTE DE CHAMBORD ROSE



### ROSE DE RESCHT PORTLAND OR DAMASK PERPETUAL ROSE GROWN IN VALLEJO, CA

