

The Rose Petal Newsletter

January 2025

A publication of the Greater Palm Beach Rose Society



2025 Deep South Mid-Winter Meeting

**February 28 through March
2, 2025**

**Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel &
Conference Center, Gainesville, FL**

**Want some winter excitement? Then
come to Gainesville this Mid-Winter for
a fun, tropical-themed educational
conference all about roses! Hosted by
the Greater Palm Beach Rose Society!
See the following pages for the 'click-to-
print' forms use the link below:**

**Click here for the Event
Schedule, Registration
materials/Eventbrite link
and to Hotel links**



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

2025 Deep South District Mid-Winter Meeting

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

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

DSD Mid-Winter 2025

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



Hotel Reservations

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

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

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

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

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

DSD Mid-Winter 2025



Online Registration

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

Funded in part by Visit Gainesville, Alachua County.



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



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

2025 Deep South District Mid-Winter Meeting

February 28 through March 2, 2025

Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel in Gainesville, Florida

Event Schedule

Friday, February 28

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

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

Saturday, March 1 - Daytime

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

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

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

Funded in part by Visit Gainesville, Alachua County



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

2025 Deep South District Mid-Winter Meeting

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Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel in Gainesville, Florida

Event Schedule

Saturday, March 1 - Evening

5:00 - 6:30 pm	Long Break - Prepare for Banquet. <i>Tropical Banquet Attire suggested - your choice of tropical-themed, business casual to semi-formal attire. Get creative! There are chances to win super prizes for Best Key West, Jimmy Buffet or Parrothead Attire or Costume.</i>	
5:30 pm	Cash Bar Begins	Pre-Function Hallway
6:30 pm	Roses in Paradise Banquet Anita Smith Award Bronze Medal Award Recipients Fun time - Tropical Paradise Awards: <i>Conch Republic Award for Best Key West Attire</i> <i>Margaritaville Award for Best Jimmy Buffett Attire</i> <i>Parrothead Award for Best Tropical Paradise Attire</i>	Springhill Ballroom West <i>Cash Bar Available</i> <i>See your Event Guide for Award Details</i>
9:00 - 11:00 pm	Hospitality Time: Parrothead Snacks, Grog (Beverages), and Key West Games - Rose Pong!	Continental Mezzanine (and Room 135)

Sunday, March 2

Hotel check-out time is 11:00 am

6:00 - 8:00 am	Gather at Breakfast	Continental Mezzanine
8:00 - 12:00 pm (followed by the test)	Consulting Rosarian (CR) School with instructors Janet Newburgh, Jill Haisten, Art Wade & Glenn Schulman Note: CR School is for new or recertifying CRs, however anyone can attend who wishes to learn more about growing roses. The ARS Consulting Rosarian Handbook is available online at: rose.org/consulting-rosarians/	Sante Fe

There are many fantastic historical exhibits and educational opportunities in the Gainesville area.
Please see your Swag Bag for a list of the 15 Best Things to See and Do in Gainesville today!



Thank you for joining us!
May you have safe travels to your next destination.





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

2025 Deep South District Mid-Winter Meeting

Friday, February 28 through Sunday, March 2, 2025

Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel

4200 NW 97th Blvd., Gainesville, FL 32606

DSD Mid-Winter 2025

EVENT REGISTRATION INFORMATION (or scan QR Code at right)

Name 1: _____

Name 2: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Local Rose Society: _____



Online Registration

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

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

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

Questions: foxviewroses@gmail.com; Cell: 651-988-5244

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

No refunds after 2/8/2025.

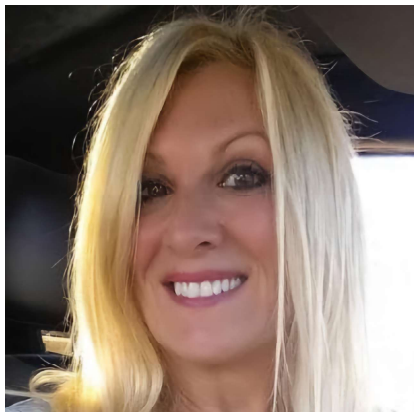
HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Please make hotel reservations directly with Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel, 4200 NW 97th Blvd., Gainesville, FL 32606. Scan QR code at right, click the Reservation Link:

[DSD Mid-Winter 2025 - Hotel Rooms](#) or Phone: 352-331-3336. Group Name: Deep South District, ARS. Room cost per night: Double Room or King Suite: \$129 plus tax. Single or double occupancy. To obtain this special rate, rooms must be booked by February 7, 2025. Rates after this date are subject to availability. Parking is free.

DSD Mid-Winter 2025



Hotel Reservations



Message from Our President

Welcome to 2025! I am very excited for our upcoming season! This year will bring some fabulous new friends to our rose society. In fact, we have already had a few people join in December for 2025. So cheers to new friends!

I would like to congratulate our new officers and board members and thank Maria Wolfe for her time as our 2024 President. We all truly appreciate you Maria and look forward to your presence on our Board! I cannot express enough the appreciate we all have for our volunteers who help check people in at events, bring snacks, donate raffles, etc. The task is much easier if the burden is shared with friends. Thank you all!

We have some great programs set for the rest of this 2024/2025 season and Victor has started working on our Fall 2025/Winter & Spring 2026 Season. We are trying to structure our seminars and lectures to coincide with the season. So for January, Master Rosarian Mike Becker and Consulting Rosarian and Rose Show Judge, Bill Langford will be presenting a hands-on demonstration of rose pruning. Bear in mind, that in mid to late February, you should prune your roses for the upcoming Spring. In February I will be presenting South Florida fertilization to prepare you for fertilizing after your pruning. I will also discuss the fertilization methods of rosarians from India, which is extremely interesting.

Also, in February, our society is hosting the Deep South Mid-Winter Conference, Roses in Paradise, at the Best Western in Gainesville, FL. This event is not to be missed! Friday, I will be doing a hands-on Propagation Seminar and it will be followed by a floral design experience. Saturday, all day, will be conferences and raffle prizes. (And if you have any raffle prizes you would like to donate, please contact Chair, Kim Wendt!)

I'm especially excited to take the cell phone rose photography class given by Denise Domlesky, who is a photo editor for People Magazine. Saturday night we have a fun Key West styled dinner. For those interested in becoming a Consulting Rosarian, Sunday will be classes for Consulting Rosarians and then a Consulting Rosarian test. Please sign up for that ahead of time! At this incredible weekend event, you will be able to buy roses from several rose vendors, as well as fertilizers and amendments, etc. This event really is a lot of fun and there will be so many experienced Rosarians who will be attending and sharing their expertise. The hotel is giving us a great discount for rooms. Please sign up ahead of time. The link is in our newsletter.

In March, our new member and floral designer, Mariana Symecko, will do a hands-on demonstration of floral arranging so that in April, when your roses are in full bloom and doing spectacularly, you will be able to bring beautiful arrangements into your home! Thank you and welcome Mariana!!!

We will be skipping our April presentation this year! Why? Because once again we will be holding the Rambling Rose Garden tour in the Wellington area where you can tour several gardens with rare roses, old garden roses, David Austin's, etc. and beautiful companion plantings and designs. Our Rosarians and will be available to answer any questions you may have about your own roses and gardens. In addition, you will be able to buy roses grafted onto Fortuniana rootstock from Cool Roses. And, as a member of our local society, you will get a discount. Thank you to our members Geoff and Debbie Coolidge, owners of Cool Roses in Palm Beach County. We will also provide light snacks for our members as this event. Event sign up will be in February.

In May, Cut Flowers will be presented by Lyndsey Boekenkamp. This will be a zoom only meeting so no need to go to Mounts for this one! In June, we have our Summer Barbecue. This year, Laura and Victor are working on something special for this event. Stay tuned!

I would really love to hear any feedback and suggestions you may have for our society. It's very important to me that we keep it interesting, fun and informative. What would you like to learn next? Feel free to call or email me at 631-988-5244; foxviewroses@gmail.com.

My sincerest, wholehearted wishes that 2025 will be a GREAT year for your roses and that you and your family have a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

Fondly,
Denise Abruzzese, President

January in the Rose Garden

[More Tips
Here](#)

by Denise Abruzzese, Consulting Rosarian

A clean garden is a healthy garden! Time to look at your garden's health. What can we do? Here are some helpful tips:

1. Remove all dead, dying and diseased canes but don't heavy prune yet as we do not want to stimulate new growth in case of a freeze.
2. Remove all weeds.
3. Clean up the ground around your roses including fallen leaves, branches, etc.
4. Mulch your gardens well to keep weeds at bay. You can lay cardboard on the ground before mulching. It will break down into organic matter.
5. Don't forget to water. We are in dry season but even dormant or semi-dormant roses still need water. If we are scheduled to get cold weather, which may include a frost, water well the day before to keep the rose roots from freezing.
6. If the temperatures are cool, you can spray neem oil to kill off any aphids or other insects and keep the blackspot at bay.
7. Pick any rosehips you find and prepare them to go into the refrigerator so you can create some new roses!

In January, your roses may continue to bloom here in Zone 11A. Just enjoy them!



**by Bill Langford, Consulting
Rosarian**

Pruning Your Roses

In South Florida, late January to early February is the best time to prune. The simple guidelines listed below will help you to get started in the right direction.

1. Remove all dead canes. If a cane has dieback, cut below where the dieback starts.

2. If two canes are rubbing against each other remove at least one of them, leaving the healthier one.
3. Remove any diseased canes that remain.
4. If pruning a hybrid tea or floribunda reduce the height by 1/3 to 1/2. Remove small, spindly growth completely. The rule of thumb is to leave canes that are as large or larger in width (diameter) than a pencil.
5. Shrubs and old garden roses are normally pruned less than HT's. Remove about 1/4 of the height and width of the bush. These types of roses vary greatly in their growing habits, so depending on the variety you may need to prune more if it has gotten very large.
6. Cuts should be made 1/4" above a bud eye. (See photo). Normally you cut above an outward facing bud eye, but there are some exceptions. (**Check out the article by Satish Prabhu [Click Here](#) or see the link below**). A bud eye occurs wherever there is a leaf cluster, but you will also see additional bud eyes on the canes where there are no leaves.
7. Remove all diseased leaves that remain after you have completed the pruning. You have the option of removing all the leaves. I do this if I want to spray with a dormant spray after pruning. The dormant spray suppresses bugs and disease that remain after pruning. I sometimes find scale on my bushes and try to remove those canes, but any scale remaining can be killed with the dormant spray, which is an oil that smothers. Oils can burn leaves and that is why I remove all leaves before applying it.
8. Clean up any leaves or canes that have fallen to the ground around the bushes.
9. It is a good practice to seal the cuts with Elmer's white glue. If you have pruned a bush that still has a lot of canes remaining, focus on sealing the larger main canes, if you don't have time to seal them all.

Note that these instructions are for mature roses, at least a year old. Do not do hard pruning on young bushes. Deadhead and remove diseased or dead canes only.

While it may seem like you are hurting your roses to do this much cutting, it is actually beneficial for them. When you prune, the canes sprout out not only at the bud eye below the cut but often at other bud eyes further down the cane. You can see actual demonstrations of pruning at the GPBRS January 27 meeting. Make plans to be there. If you cannot be there in person, you can join by Zoom.

[Click here for the Pruning Article by Satish Prabhu](#)

Diary of a New Rose Grower...

1/01/2025

Dear Diary,

Winter has been very good to my roses so far, they've never looked better! I catch neighbors doing double takes to check out my Vanessa Bell and Moonlight in Paris bushes as they pass by on the sidewalk. Finally I have the rose garden of my dreams: beautiful hues of yellow, pink, red, white and apricot dot my backyard and

the scent is so lovely. Diary, can you believe I'm supposed to cut off all my blooms soon?! It's called "pruning" and when done correctly I'm told it will be very good for the roses. Meanwhile, I'll be presiding over a garden of sticks instead of flowers! This whole rose gardening business is full of surprises. We'll be having a presentation on pruning at an upcoming meeting- stay tuned dear diary.

Keeping it rosy (while I can!),

Laura

Save the Date: Rambling Rose Tour April 5

Our Rambling Rose Garden Tour is coming Saturday, April 5, 2025. Save the date and get ready to enjoy conversation, refreshments, roses and gardens.



From the VP of Membership...

Happy New Year to all of our members both new and returning. Thank you for your membership and your support of the Greater Palm Beach Rose Society! I'm Laura, mom to a three year old son, wife, rosarian and your new Vice President of Membership.

If you're reading this, you probably already love roses and know how wonderful growing roses can be. Equally wonderful is being part of a community of fellow rose lovers committed to helping you succeed in your rose growing efforts! My hope is that you will take advantage of the many amazing resources the Greater Palm Beach Rose Society offers you as a member.

Whether you're a newbie looking for basic rose care information or a long-time rosarian seeking tips to improve your already established rose garden, our monthly meetings feature many topics that will appeal to a wide range of rose interests- there is something for everyone! We are also cultivating our love of roses beyond the garden.

I'm especially excited about future events that will allow us to explore the role of roses in art, history and culture and give us the opportunity to showcase the marvelous world of rose growing to others.

Be sure to monitor your email and our social media pages for information and updates on meetings/events.

While our meetings are always available to attend via Zoom, I encourage you to attend meetings (and events) in person when you can. Rose growing is so much more fun with “rose buddies” to share it with.

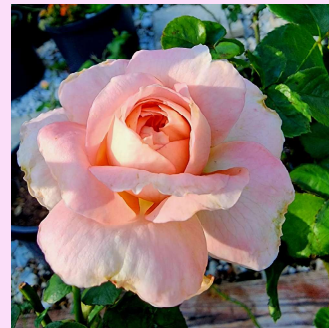
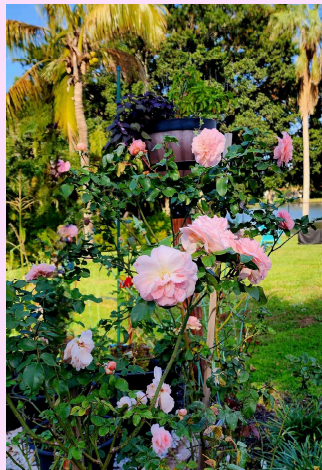
As members of the Greater Palm Beach Rose Society we have lots to look forward to this year, you could say 2025 is sure looking “rosy!”

Membership Dues are Due!

Now is the time for a gentle reminder. Our dues help keep our beautiful organization going. **Annual dues are to be paid by March 1st each year.** The Greater Palm Beach Rose Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose purpose is to educate rose enthusiasts and promote rose growing in Broward, Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie counties. Our Society is very active with garden walks, shows, workshops and other events.

Join or Renew [HERE](#)
GPBRS Membership

Spotlight on: Savanna Sunbelt



Savannah Sunbelt Rose, Hybrid Tea

Registered Name: KORvioros. Height: 4' - 5' Width: 3' to 4' on Fortuniana.

Savannah is a hybrid tea with very full (160 petals) blooms that average over 4 inches wide. It has a button-eye bloom form with pointed, ovoid buds. She has a very beautiful, strong

fragrance which wafts to you as you pass by. It is bushy and upright with semi-glossy leathery foliage.

My two Savannahs (because one is just not enough) are in full sun and grafted onto Fortuniana rootstock. And boy is she a show stopper! On Fortuniana, Savannah is healthy and always blooming. She blooms in the very hot, unbearable sun of summer; she blooms in the cool weather of our winter.

Savannah is true to the Kordes legacy and has very little disease or insect problems; and almost no blackspot in my no spray garden. In my opinion, she should be an Earthkind rose as she needs so little care. She can get quite tall on Fortuniana, so I do prune her down occasionally throughout the year as groups of blooms are spent. I very often forget to water her as well.

My two cents, for what it's worth, if you can find Savannah on Fortuniana, grab her! You will not be disappointed in her performance. I ordered my two online at Nelson's Southern Roses (<https://nelsonssouthernroses.com/>).

By Denise Abruzzese, Consulting Rosarian. Photos: Savanna Sunbelt Rose by Denise Abruzzese taken January 3, 2025.

Tropical Rose Society

Our Next Meeting: **New Roses Commercially Available for 2025!**

Tuesday, January 14, 2025 - 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Fairchild Tropical Garden - Corbin Classroom B
TRS Members can also join via Zoom.

10901 Old Cutler Rd
Coral Gables FL 33156
Use South "Staff Only" Parking Lot

Need more info? Email Norene Monahan [here](mailto:norene@tropicalrosesociety.com)

2025 GPBRS Board

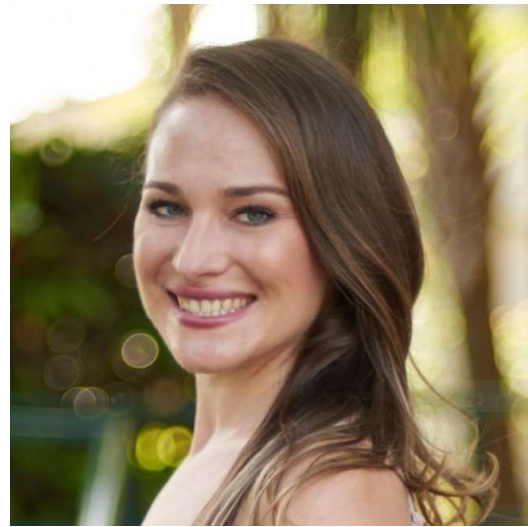


Photo Left: Victor Lazzari. Photo Right: Laura Zaragoza

President: Denise Abruzzese - president@gpbrs.org

1st Vice President: Programs: Victor Lazzari - programming@gpbrs.org

2nd Vice President: Membership: Laura Zaragoza - membership@gpbrs.org

Secretary: Kim Wendt - secretary@gpbrs.org

Treasurer: Denise Abruzzese - treasurer@gpbrs.org

Directors: Mike Becker, David Byron, Jutta Ferrer and Maria Wolfe

Newsletter: Denise Abruzzese & Kim Wendt - newsletter@gpbrs.org

Facebook: Denise Abruzzese - [Facebook Link](#)

Website, Reddit, Instagram: Kim Wendt - info@gpbrs.org

Video/Youtube: Barrie Byron - video@gpbrs.org

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The Greater Palm Beach Rose Society

Mounts Botanical Garden
531 N. Military Trail
West Palm Beach, FL 33415

Promoting Rose Growing in South Florida for Over 50 Years

You received this email because you are a GPBRS member or have requested news from us.

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