

## June 2024 WCFRS President's Message

Welcome to June! I know you are seeing your second bloom and enjoying the now constant bloom of your roses. Please remember to keep fertilizing, spraying and watering so you will continue to have wonderful blossoms. Don't forget that roses get very thirsty in the hot and dry weather. Remember to mulch your roses and keep the weeds out of your roses.

The 2024 WCFRS Rose Tour was a wonderful success! I had more than 200 people tour my garden that day. I heard wonderful comments from those in the garden about all of the gardens on the tour.

Thank you to the garden owners on the tour for getting their gardens ready, for opening up their gardens to those who went on the tour and for answering questions and teaching others about growing roses. One of the main objectives of WCFRS is to educate others about how to grow roses and the tour is one of the main ways we do this.

Thank you to David Lawrence and Barbara Hajek, Debbie and Mike Caulder, Marcia Doering, Vonnie Fry, Justine and Tim Pflaum, Bob Knerr, Charles and Deborah Cooke, our garden owners on the tour. Thank you to Mary Barwick, Chair, Carol Rodriguez, Arlene Barker and Vonnie Fry who were on the Rose Tour Committee and did a great job planning and getting ready for the tour.

Please remember it is never too early to sign up to be on the tour for next year. We are always looking for members to be on the Rose Tour Committee. Please let me know if you have interest in either.

Please remember our WCFRS annual members-only "picnic" on June 8th at the Arboretum with barbeque, fried chicken, sides and desserts. We will meet at a different time - 10:15 am to socialize, then our business meeting at 10:45 am and then plan to eat at 11:00 am. Casey's always does a great job and it will be delicious!

**We will have our month off in July - there will be no meeting or newsletter.** We will return on August 10 to hear Bob Knerr speak about how to get ready for the October rose exhibition. We will also answer any questions you have about growing roses.

**Please do not forget that starting in August we will meet at Sea Gate Baptist Church Fellowship Hall at 6115 Oleander Drive.** This is only 0.2 miles from the Arboretum.

The easiest way to get there is to turn onto Bagley Avenue from Oleander Drive (you will turn left onto Bagley Avenue off of Oleander if you are coming from downtown direction; you will turn right onto Bagley Avenue if you are coming from Wrightsville Beach direction). Then turn into the first church parking lot on Bagley Avenue; that will be the parking lot closest to the Fellowship Hall. There are 2 buildings on the church campus and the Fellowship Hall building is the building that is smaller (the larger building has the sanctuary in it). You will enter the Fellowship Hall from a side door; there will be a Board member there to greet you.

All of our meetings for the rest of 2024 starting in August will be at Sea Gate Baptist Church and will be our regular schedule of 9:30 - 10:00 social time, 10:00 business meeting and then planned topic. You may have heard that the renovation at the Arboretum has been delayed and this is true but the Arboretum is only taking requests for use of space one month at a time and we can not plan for our organization like this. We do not have a date for return to the Arboretum at this time. I know you will like the space at Sea Gate Baptist Church and we really appreciate the church allowing us to meet there.

On September 14, 2024, we will have Larry Epps, Floral Designer speak on how to arrange roses. This talk is sponsored by Sweet Nectar's Florist. When we get closer to the time, I will provide you with a list of things to bring with you.

Please remember to consider getting your garden certified as a Certified Wildlife Habitat through the National Wildlife Federation. Congratulations to Arlene Barker who just got her certification. I would like to have as many of our members' gardens certified.

We will discuss our WCFRS scholarship for Cape Fear Community College's Horticultural Science program at our business meeting in June.

If you have a chance to see the May/June issue of the Wilmington Magazine please look at it. There is an article in the magazine about WCFRS entitled "Everything's Coming Up Roses." You can access the article online at [Wilmington Magazine May-June'24 Everything's Coming Up Roses!](#) The actual article in the magazine is much better with twice the number of pictures. I will bring a copy of the magazine to the June meeting.

We are working on the 2025 schedule for WCFRS. Please let me know if you have any topics or speakers you would like to have at a meeting.

Please continue to use our WCFRS website and refer others to it for information about WCFRS and growing roses. Please remember that you can access the newsletters including my President's message on the website if you need to look back at any information.

Thank you to the WCFRS Board Members (Mary Barwick, Debbie Caulder, Carol Rodriguez, Vonnie Fry, Justine Pflaum, Samantha Nguyen) for all they do to keep WCFRS running smoothly. Thank you to Norma McGee for her wonderful work on our WCFRS newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you at the picnic!

Please let me know if you have any questions, feedback or suggestions. Thank you for being a member of WCFRS!

Don't forget to smell the roses!

Denise H. Miller  
(910) 540-6857  
[denise\\_28411@yahoo.com](mailto:denise_28411@yahoo.com)