

*Petals  
To Pages*



**Wilmington Rose Society  
Newsletter**

**December 2025**





**WCFRS  
PRESIDENT'S  
MESSAGE**

Welcome to December! I hope your Thanksgiving was wonderful! I know you are enjoying our cooler weather and getting used to not being in your garden quite as much. Please remember to cut back your roses in December to chest height to allow them to weather the winter winds. Also remember to keep spraying your roses until we have had at least a couple of hard freezes to avoid blackspot.

We had a fantastic auction in November! WCFRS made \$1036.00 on the 2025 annual auction. A great big thank you goes to Patt Noday who was our wonderful auctioneer! As always he did a great job and we all had a good time. Thanks to Bob Knerr who donated many of his beautiful roses. Thanks to everyone who donated items and everyone who bid!

We had a surprise birthday party and cake for Bob Knerr at our November meeting. Bob reached a milestone birthday this year. Bob Knerr is invaluable to WCFRS! His knowledge, expertise and gentle kindness is part of what makes WCFRS so special! We are so blessed to have him as part of WCFRS! I personally want to say thank you to Bob for all he has done for WCFRS and for me. Please take time to say a special thank you to Bob.

On December 13 we will have our annual WCFRS Christmas Brunch. Please bring a sweet or savory dish to share. If you can not bring a dish, please come and enjoy the fellowship. We will have our annual gift exchange. If you wish to participate in the gift exchange please bring a wrapped gift that costs approximately \$20.00 and we will have our always spirited gift exchange.

We will have the WCFRS annual elections for the 2026 WCFRS Board at the December meeting. Please let me know if you would like to serve on your board. Also, please let me know if you are interested in helping with any activities of WCFRS.

Our meeting on January 10, 2026 will be Jim Young coming to speak to us and delivering the products we order from him. You need to turn in your order form for products and your payment (check made out to WCFRS or cash) to Debbie Caulder, Treasurer by December 13, 2025. The total order for WCFRS must be at least \$2000.00 for Jim to drive to Wilmington. The items he has are high quality and he sells them for great prices. His Purely Organic product that he has made is definitely the best organic product you can put on your roses (and other plants) and definitely less expensive than comparable products. Please ask me or any member of WCFRS that order Jim's products if you have any questions about the products. There will be order forms at the December meeting. There is also an order form at the end of the November WCFRS newsletter on the WCFRS website. All WCFRS members also received a separate email with the form attached. Don't miss out on your opportunity to order products and save money and support WCFRS as we use this as one of our fund raisers.

Your annual dues are due by the January 2026 meeting. Your dues of \$25.00 may be paid with cash or check payable to WCFRS at the meeting in December or January. Please fill out an updated membership form. You may also go to our website and complete the membership form and pay your renewed membership online; the online fee is \$26.00 to cover the cost; you may pay with PayPal, Venmo or credit/ debit card. We need to complete this process by January 10, 2026. Thank you for remembering to do this!

The WCFRS website is up to date with the dates and topics of all of our 2026 meetings. Please continue to refer others to our website for information about roses!

Witherspoon Roses will come and speak at our meeting on February 14, 2026. This is always an informative meeting. Please bring others with you to the meeting so they can learn.

On March 14th, 2026 we will have a panel discussion to discuss all your questions regarding roses. This is a great time to learn about growing roses from others in WCFRS that have wonderful knowledge and experience.

Please consider being on our 2026 WCFRS Annual Rose Garden Tour. Please also consider being on the Rose Tour Committee. Please see Mary Barwick, Vice President and Rose Tour Chair if you are interested.

We will have the cards at the December meeting that you can use to go out and ask others/ businesses to consider supporting the 2026 WCFRS Annual Rose Garden Tour. These are a great tool to have with you when you talk with others about supporting WCFRS.

We will discuss at our December meeting our donation we do to SeaGate Baptist Church twice a year as a way to thank the church for allowing us to meet in such a lovely space at no charge. It is wonderful to have this space in such a great location and we are thankful to the church and Rev. Steve Smith for their support and help!

Thank you as always to our WCFRS Board members - Mary Barwick, Debbie Caulder, Carol Rodriguez, Justine Pflaum, Samantha Nguyen for all of their hard work for WCFRS! Thank you to Norma McGee for always doing a great job on the WCFRS newsletter!

I look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Brunch! Please come and enjoy wonderful fellowship with other gardeners. I thank you for your time and participation with WCFRS! Please let me know if you have any questions, feedback or suggestions.

Don't forget to smell the roses!

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



## **December in the Garden**

**By: Bob Knerr**

Well, most of the work is done for the year.

1. Cut back tall canes to chest height so the winter winds will not blow them back and forth and loosen their roots.
2. Keep up your spray schedule however until one or two heavy freezes. Blackspot can still occur.
3. Check the pH of your beds (a full soil analysis is a good idea at this time). If the pH is low, this is a good time to add lime as this takes several months to work. Then you will be in good shape when you start gardening again in the spring.
4. Evaluate your roses. Who did well and who did poorly. Could you replace the poor ones in the spring?? If so, look at the 2025/2026 catalogs and place your orders early so you can get what you want if they are not sold out.

Cut and enjoy your roses and share them with neighbors.

Good gardening !

Bob



## Upcoming Meeting Dates

**December 13, 2025**

**9:30-10:00 Social Time**

**10:00 Annual Christmas Brunch**

**January 10, 2026**

**February 14, 2026**

**March 14, 2026**

## **Wilmington Cape Fear Rose Society**

### **Membership**

Our membership application is on the web site. ([wcfrs.org](http://wcfrs.org))

Send check to: Debbie Caulder, Treasurer, 6206 Mallard Drive, Wi, NC 28403

Or pay online.

### **Board Members 2025**

President, Denise Miller, 1148 Edgewater Club Dr., Wilmington, 28411 910-540 - 6857

Vice President, Mary Barwick, 5451 Eastwind Road, Wilmington, NC 28409

Treasurer, Debbie Caulder, 6206 Mallard Drive, Wilmington, NC 28403

Secretary, Carol Rodriguez, 601 Hollingsworth Drive, Wilmington, NC 28412

Justine Pflaum 1272 Lillibridge Dr. Leland, NC 28451

Samantha Nguyen 4280 Appleton Way, Wilmington, NC 28412

### **Rose Nurseries for New Roses**

1. Edmunds Roses, Wisconsin, [www.edmundsroses.com](http://www.edmundsroses.com) 888-481-7673
2. Heirloom Roses, Oregon, [www.heirloomroses.com](http://www.heirloomroses.com) 503-538-1576
3. John's Miniature Roses, Oregon, [www.johnsminiatureroses.com](http://www.johnsminiatureroses.com) 503-538-1576
4. K&M Nursery, Mississippi, [www.kandmroses.com](http://www.kandmroses.com) 601-648-2908
5. Palatine Roses, Ontario, Canada, [www.palatineroses.com](http://www.palatineroses.com) 905-468-8627 (bare root)
6. Roses Unlimited, South Carolina, [rosesunlimitedsc.com](http://rosesunlimitedsc.com) 864 682 7673
7. Wisconsin Roses, Wisconsin, [www.wiroses.com](http://www.wiroses.com) 262-358-1298 MAIDENS
8. Witherspoon Rose Culture, North Carolina, [www.witherspoonrose.com](http://www.witherspoonrose.com) 919-489-4446  
(bare root and potted)

**\*Note: You can access the rose vendors listed above by clicking on the website given.**

## Bob's Birthday Celebration

"We had a surprise birthday party and cake for Bob Knerr at our November meeting. Bob reached a milestone birthday this year. Bob Knerr is invaluable to WCFRS! His knowledge, expertise and gentle kindness is part of what makes WCFRS so special! We are so blessed to have him as part of WCFRS! I personally want to say thank you to Bob for all he has done for WCFRS and for me. Please take time to say a special thank you to Bob." *(From President's message)*

