

Great Roses in the South

(GRITS)

(Door prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of each program.)

Friday, October 8

2:00 - 3:00 Speaker: Connie Vierbecky, David Austin Rose enthusiast
Subject: "Austin Power, Roses of International Intrigue"
Connie Vierbicky of Sarasota, Florida, has been growing English roses for over twenty years. Connie visited England in the 2007 and was privileged to lunch with Mr. Austin. She will show slides from his magnificent collection



3:00 - 4:00 Speaker: Bill Patterson, Co-owner Roses Unlimited
Subject: "Exciting Roses from Around the World"
An own-root nursery of 22 years, Roses Unlimited's list of 1200 roses includes substantial offerings of hybrid teas and floribundas, Noisettes and old teas. In recent years the nursery has expanded its inventory to include creations from hybridizers around the world.

4:00 - 5:00 Speaker: Dr. Robert Burns,
Subject: "Eudora Welty's Roses, A Legacy of Southern Roses"
Dr. Burns currently serves full time on the faculty in the department of English at Georgia State University where his diverse research interests range from Victorian literature and behavioral genetics to literature from all periods describing botany and gardening. He has published many articles on the occurrence of roses.

Saturday, October 9

1:30 - 2:30 Speaker: Dr. Mark Windham
Subject: "Developing Roses Resistant to Foliar Diseases"
Dr. Windham is a professor and distinguished chair of ornamental pathology at the University of Tennessee. He has been actively researching diseases of landscape and nursery crops for more than 25 years. One of his recent projects involves cooperating with the American Rose Society, Jackson & Perkins, Star Roses, Weeks Roses and Kordes Roses on developing roses resistant to foliar diseases.

2:30 - 3:30 Speaker: Tom Carruth, Principal Hybridizer, Weeks Roses
"Outstanding Roses Hybridized by Tom Carruth"
Mr. Carruth's passion for plants grew into a profession after he received a bachelor's degree in horticulture and a master's degree in plant breeding from Texas A&M University. He wears many hats at Weeks in addition to his ties as hybridizer/horticulturist.

3:30 - 4:30 American Rose Society Member Panel
"How to Grow Your Society Membership"