



"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 <i>(and Room 135)</i>

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 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



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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 <i>(followed by the test)</i>	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.

