

MARCH, 2011

QUEEN'S HERALD

UPCOMING EVENTS:

MARCH MEETING
THURSDAY,
MARCH 17
LIFE MANOR
7PM

GARDEN SALE AT
PT. DEFIANCE
PAGODA
MARCH 26

TRS BOARD
MEETING:
MONDAY MARCH 28
AT 7PM AT JO &
CLIFF MARTIN'S
HOME

APRIL MEETING
THURSDAY, APR 21
DR. GARY RITCHIE
"WHAT'S INSIDE A
ROSE CANE?"

MAY MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 19
BRUCE BLECKERT
PHOTO CONTEST
BRUCE LIND
ROSE HISTORY OF
PT DEFIANCE PARK

TRS ROSE SHOW
DISTRICT ROSE
SHOW AND
CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION
JUNE 25 & 26
TACOMA YACHT
CLUB & JACKSON
HALL

ANNUAL TRS
PICNIC - LODGE AT
PT. DEFIANCE
AUGUST 14

TREATS FOR
MARCH
DON CAMPBELL
JOANNE HARRIS
BOB WALDO

NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE FOR
APRIL
MARCH 28

THE TACOMA ROSE SOCIETY
AN AFFILIATE OF THE AMERICAN
ROSE SOCIETY
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF ROSES
WWW.TACOMAROSSESOCIETY.ORG



MARCH MEETING – MARCH 17
Frank Gatto
"New Rose Introductions & Palatine Roses"

You don't want to miss this program. Frank Gatto of Raft Island Roses, TRS member and super supporter of our society will be talking about new rose introductions. He will be showing us pictures to help us choose just the right roses for our garden. He has a great selection of Palatine roses that are grown on hardy multiflora rootstock. With all the winter damage we are seeing, that seems like a distinct advantage.

We will be starting early again – at 7pm so we can have two "clinics" before Frank's talk at 7:30pm. In the front of the room we will have Bruce Lind talking about pruning roses and how to deal with winter damage. Towards the back Jo Martin will continue her clinic on Rose Arranging. See the Designing Woman column on page 2 for a reminder of the class assignment. And while all that is happening, Jim Leisner and Cliff Martin will be sharpening pruners for a donation to the society. Don't forget to label your pruners so there will be no problem getting them back. Dave Shephard, who volunteered to help last month, was very sick. We hope he is feeling better and is able to join us this month.

All this activity happening at the same time makes for a wild meeting. Come and share the fun!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE **by Cliff Martin**

Are we having fun? Yes we are! If you were at our 'pre-game' show last meeting at 7 p.m., you would have observed our dueling instructors, Jo and Bruce, with their respective clinics (arrangements and rose culture), and Jim and me busy with our sharpening clinic. Several other small groups were busy socializing. All of this took place in one room, and we were all having fun! This was followed by Jeff Wyckoff's wonderful program on growing roses organically. Thanks again, Jeff! We are so lucky to have you.

On a more personal note, I have just finished rebuilding the front rose beds, including putting up a new deer net. I replaced all of the old wooden frames of our rose beds with concrete blocks two blocks high. Then I rebuilt the deer fence, moving it farther out to give the roses more space.

We also replaced over 30 roses, which had been frozen out during the hard November freeze. Strangers often stop to check our progress ~ so, why haven't you been by? Our latch string is always out. Let's hope all the snow business is over!

**See you on Saturday, March 5 for the pruning at
Point Defiance Rose Garden, 9 till noon.**

*Keep your stick on the ice.
Cliff*



ARRANGING CLINICS – Traditional Line by Designing Woman



LINE DESIGN
Using New Zealand flax and 3 'Signature' roses.

Last month we tried something new in the arrangement department. Before the Tacoma Rose Society meeting, we held a 30-minute arranging clinic on traditional line arrangements. Plans are for four more clinics: March (traditional line mass), April (traditional mass), May (miniature arrangements) and June (functional trays). Most all of this study is to get members ready for "Our Centennial Celebration" rose show at the Tacoma Yacht Club, June 25, 2011.

Line expresses the directional movement that leads the eye through a design. Line is closely related to and is a part of form in an arrangement. It is one dimensional, but establishes the structural framework of the design. It has length but little width or depth. Line is an important element of design.

During the line arrangement clinic, different types of containers were examined as well as different types of mechanics that work well. Line arrangements (designs) feature a well-defined line with only a few roses (3-5) some of which can be buds. The more open rose is placed near the lip of the container and the tightest bud is placed higher up. It is important to remember that foliage, either of the roses or other foliage, can interrupt the flow of line direction by being too wide or full. Ultimately, what started out to be a line design morphs into a line-mass arrangement.

Students were asked to look for interesting lines in nature: bare branches, roots, weathered wood, long branches of shrubs like camellia, forsythia, barberry, quince, pussy willow, scotch broom, or other plants that present a linear quality. Lines can have many directions: torch or straight up (proud) or diagonal; curved, (lazy, peaceful), zigzag (busy). Lines may be thick or thin, strong or weak or often delicate. The type of container will determine which type of line works best in your line designs. One hint: the thinner the line, the longer it will have to be to compensate. It might not be the best line for your design. Experimenting with different lines will make this clearer.

Students are asked to bring a line design to the March 17 meeting. Our next lesson will be Traditional Line-Mass at 7 p.m. sharp.

Happy "line material hunting"!

Ta Ta DW

ADVICE FROM THE PLANT DOCTOR: "BE PATIENT!" by Bruce Lind



LINE DESIGN
Using Crocosmia foliage and 5 'Sunset Celebration' roses

Those who have been around roses and gardening for a while will be familiar with Dr. Cynthia Westcott's name and her officially unofficial title "The Plant Doctor." For the rest, let me tell you just a little bit about her. Cynthia Westcott received her Ph.D. from Cornell University in 1932. Her dissertation dealt with the fungal disease "brand canker" in roses. Jobs in plant pathology were not plentiful at the time, and the situation was even more difficult for women. At the suggestion of a mentor she decided to pursue a career in practical plant doctoring. She practiced her profession in much the same way as an MD of that time. Dr. Westcott made "house calls" to first diagnose problems in plants in general, and roses in particular. She then provided the treatments necessary to cure her "patients." At first Dr. Westcott's practice was primarily in the New York and New Jersey area. This meant that most of her house calls took place during the spring, summer, and fall seasons. Dr. Westcott used the winter months to do significant amounts of writing. She authored many articles in the professional journals and in the popular press. Dr. Westcott also wrote many books directed to home gardeners and rose lovers. A selection of her titles are "The Plant Doctor", "Anyone Can Grow Roses", "Are You Your Garden's Worst Enemy?", "Garden Enemies", "The Gardener's Bug Book", and the "Plant Disease Handbook". Some of these books are a bit on the technical side, while "Anyone Can Grow Roses" is both practical and inspirational. I hope you are convinced that Dr. Cynthia Westcott is a source we should pay attention to. Cynthia Westcott passed away in 1983 at the age of 85. Several of her books are still being regularly revised and reissued.

I confess that I cannot move a book without looking inside. Just a few days ago I was

boxing up some of my old rose annuals when '1980' just begged to be opened. I wanted to finish the packing, but it seemed that a peek inside could do no harm. The author of the first real article was Dr. Cynthia Westcott, and her title was "Roses in Retrospect". It seemed that the packing could wait while I browsed through just the one short article. In 1933 Cynthia Westcott bought a property in New Jersey where she could live and garden, and where she could also do research on the treatment of rose diseases. Among other things, Dr. Westcott studied the effect of pesticides on roses, from the points of both effectiveness and possible damage. As a plant scientist Dr. Westcott was a keen observer of plants and their environment. As the Plant Doctor, she practiced 'first do no harm' in her work.

By now I am sure you are convinced that I have surely lost my way – again. Have no fear; I am about to get to the point! It is true that under a title as broad as "Roses in Retrospect" Dr. Westcott had advice for rose growers on a variety of topics. My particular interest this month deals with what advice she has for us when our roses may have been seriously damaged by the cold. Dr. Westcott illustrates her advice to us in this situation with a story about an experience she had in Ohio one spring. During the previous fall, the "Ohio roses had a very sudden freeze before they had hardened off for winter and most were killed to the ground by spring. Some rose lovers replaced their roses immediately. Others decided to wait and see. When I [Dr. Westcott] came to lecture in the late spring, the "wait and see" roses were bursting into bloom." If this scenario sounds as familiar to you as it does to me, the story told by Dr. Westcott can be used to justify some feelings of cautious optimism and hope. First, exercise a little patience and then, just in case, take good notes at the March TRS meeting when Frank Gatto tells us about the new roses available for 2011.

In part of her conclusion Dr. Westcott (at age 82) states, "The more I worked with roses, the more I wanted others to enjoy them. It is because of this love of roses that I have continued to proselytize all these years." We can be thankful that Cynthia Westcott was bitten by the rose bug. Now that we all are acquainted with Dr. Westcott I may share some more of her words of wisdom in future issues of the Queen's Herald.

POINT DEFIANCE ROSE GARDEN NEWS

by Margaret Leisner

In spite of some late winter snow and frigid temperatures, spring will be arriving soon, which means that it is almost time for the annual **Garden Sale at the Pagoda in Point Defiance Park**. This year it will be on **SATURDAY, MARCH 26th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Gardeners and bargain hunters alike look forward to this event, sponsored by the Tacoma Rose Society, in cooperation with Metro Parks/Tacoma, with all proceeds going to benefit the beautiful Point Defiance Rose Garden.

This sale is a great opportunity to purchase rose bushes, perennials, bulbs and miscellaneous plants at rock bottom prices with no sales tax! There will also be a selection of garden treasures, books and some unique items in need of new homes. It is a one-day sale and the plants will go quickly, so plan to arrive early for the best selections.

Rosarians from the Tacoma Rose Society will be present to assist shoppers with their selections and provide tips on planting and care. Rose bushes and other large purchases will be transported to patrons' vehicles at no charge.

An educational display will be set up featuring free handouts on rose growing to help novice gardeners. Information on joining the Tacoma Rose Society as well as the American Rose Society will be available too.

Volunteers are needed on Friday, March 25th from noon to 2:00 p.m. to help set up the sale. Donations of rose bushes, plants, etc will be accepted at that time. Help is also needed at the actual sale on Saturday, so if you can spare an hour or two then, it would be greatly appreciated.

If you need more information on the above, please contact any of the officers or Board members listed on the last page of this QH. Also, please pass along the word about this once a year sale to friends and family; or even better; bring them with you on **SATURDAY, MARCH 26TH!**

THESE ARE
PICTURES OF
ROSES THAT
WERE PLANTED
IN THE 1913
ROSE GARDEN
AT
PT. DEFIANCE
PARK



'LYON ROSE'
HYBRID TEA
1907
LYON,
FRANCE



'HUGH
DICKSON'
HYBRID
PERPETUAL
1905

PHOTO CONTEST – JUNE 26

As part of our Centennial Celebration, we will be having a photo contest on Sunday June 26. On that Sunday we will have talks and displays at Jackson Hall – the usual site of Tacoma Rose Society Rose Shows. The contest will be open to TRS members only. This is a first for us. Hopefully we will be able to incorporate a photo contest, open to all, into next year's Rose Show. Our photography expert Bruce Bleckert will present some hints and guidelines at our May TRS meeting.

To get us started, here is how it will work. On or before Sunday, June 26, TRS members will be submitting prints of photos that they have taken, 8" X 10" or smaller. These prints will be mounted on mat board that is 8" X 10". These matted prints will be displayed on vertical stands. We will have "People's Choice" voting that day. The photos will be grouped into several categories. Some ideas of categories are pictures of roses, pictures of rose gardens, pictures of rose growing activities, and pictures of TRS events. Get your cameras ready and start thinking about roses. There will be more details in next month's newsletter. But go ahead and take your camera with you when you come to the Garden Sale at Pt. Defiance.

**ASK THE CONSULTING ROSARIAN
Mitchie & John Moe
Master Rosarians**

Q - Every spring when someone talks about pruning, I hear about the need to prune above a the bud at an angle. What is so special about this angle business? Can't I just lop them off?

A – If you remember last spring when your roses started to leaf out, they started at the top. John Harmeling writes an excellent description of this in his column in the Rose Petals, the newsletter of the Seattle Rose Society. A rose bush is apical dominant - that is a concentration of growth at the tip of a plant shoot, which temporarily slows the development of the lower bud growth. Pruning down at an angle (about 45°) a bit over ¼ inch above a bud will leave that side of the cane a tad higher than the other side. The water and nutrients being drawn up the cane will all translocate to the emerging bud on the high side of the cane. Once this top bud is "fed" the nutrients will be attracted to the next lower bud and so on. Save the "lopping" and do that when you get your roses ready for winter.

Q – What is the best way to prune a climber to give me better flower production?

A – This was always one of the most asked questions when we staffed an information booth at a show, fair, etc. The whole idea of climbers is that we want them to cover a certain area. That's why we plant them where we do: along a rail fence, next to an arbor or a trellis. If we cut them back to two feet tall each spring, they would never grow the long canes that earn them the name "climber." In their first few years, you only need to prune to remove dead or diseased wood. During this time, train them to espalier or grow horizontally on your fence or arbor. Now remember the apical dominance bit we mentioned above – naturally the cane will produce new flowering shoots growing vertically at each bud eye along this horizontal cane. Prune these new vertical shoots (laterals) as we wrote about above leaving a couple of bud eyes. Training and pruning in this manner will give you a climber that will not only be beautiful, but flower from bottom to top, and not only at the top.

Q - I keep hearing every spring that I should check my last tetanus shot. I thought that this only applied when I stepped on a rusty nail. What gives? Is this that important?

A - All gardeners should be aware of some basic facts about tetanus - and make certain their tetanus immunizations are current. The natural habitat of the bacterium responsible for infection (*Clostridium tetani* - a cousin of the botulism organism) is the **soil**. However, it and/or the spores it produces are widely distributed, both in soil and elsewhere. When growing, it produces a toxin 50 times as poisonous as cobra venom. It is this toxin that is responsible for the disease. A wound no larger or more painful than



'BESSIE BROWN'
HYBRID TEA
1899



'DEAN HOLE'
HYBRID TEA
1904



'FRANZ DEEGAN'
HYBRID TEA
1901

a pin prick (thorn prick?) can harbor enough bacteria to produce sufficient toxin to kill an unvaccinated human. Tetanus immunization should be viewed as a necessity for anyone who may have skin breaks and frequent contact with soil - such as gardeners, children, etc. Animal feces, including that from horses, frequently harbor the microbe (remember manure). As the soil warms up, the microbes become more active.

When tetanus infection does occur, it is highly lethal . . . an amount of purified tetanus toxin weighing no more than the ink in the period at the end of this sentence would be enough to kill 30 grown men. And yet, though these bacteria produce one of the most deadly poisons known to man, a tetanus immunization injection given every 10 years will prevent its lethal effects. **BOTTOM LINE - GET THE INITIAL TETANUS IMMUNIZATION - GET A BOOSTER SHOT EVERY 10 YEARS** (Some doctors suggest that people who are very active in the garden should have boosters sooner, say every five years.)

CENTENNIAL ROSE SHOW COUNTDOWN – T MINUS 4 by Bruce Lind

This is the year of the big Tacoma Rose Society Centennial Rose Show. The theme for our 2011 TRS Rose Show is "Our Centennial Celebration. The big weekend is June 25 and 26, 2011. Thanks to Anne Theivagt, our Centennial Rose Show will be held on June 25 at the Tacoma Yacht Club. On Sunday, June 26 we will have additional events that take place in a variety of locations. TRS will be hosting a celebration for the Community (that includes us too!) at Jackson Hall on the Multi-care campus. Stay tuned for more details from our Centennial Celebration Chair Jo Martin. Anne Theivagt and I are Rose Show Co-chairs, and we hope everyone will commit to helping with the 2011 show in one-way or another (ideally in several ways). Volunteering to help with our show is the first step. Be a part of the "many hands" group that will make it "light work" for all. An important next step is following through on a promise to yourself to share your beautiful roses with all who attend our rose show. We will continue to have a "Small Garden" division and also a "Novice" division in the show. These are places for people who have yet to go head-over-heels into growing lots of roses. We can get big pleasure from a small garden (which might even be a few roses growing in pots on a patio). If we all follow the steps in our "Countdown Articles" our roses will be ready for the show on June 25. A third step you can make is to respond to the request of our Awards Committee and make a donation to our "trophy fund" or donate a prize to be awarded at the show. If you wish to donate, please let Ellen Wold, our 2011 Trophy Chair, know ASAP (see the last page for contact information).

To be sure our roses are ready to grow well and to produce quality blooms for the rose show (and for garden beauty all summer!), we need to continue with our extra-special care. Finish up with your garden cleanup and pruning. Once that pruning is done, try a relatively mild fungicide with chlorothalonil as the active ingredient. This can help you get the upper hand in fungus disease control. If you found any really seriously damaged roses during your cleanup get out now and buy replacement(s). If you have questions about how to tell whether the cause is lost, please bring them to our March clinic.

If you decide to replace some roses, or to add to your rose garden, be sure to plant the new bushes in the proper sized hole and away they will grow. Come to the early clinic at the March TRS meeting where we will discuss March and early April garden chores. We can have a spirited discussion on planting, spraying, and dealing with winter-damaged plants. I look forward to seeing many of you at 7:00 PM on March 17th. Be sure to wear some green!

Now it is time for a little TRS history. The American Rose Society started its publication of an unbroken series of "Rose Annuals" in 1916. Prior to that the ARS published a Bulletin. I will share some information from those early sources in later columns. This month I want to share some nuggets I found (using Google of course) on "the Web." In the November 1914 issue of "The Garden Magazine" we find a report on rose show activities in 1914 in Tacoma. The main show was (again) held at the State



'LADY
ASHTOWN'
HYBRID TEA
1904



'MARECHAL
NIEL'
NOISETTE
1864



**'MRS. JOHN LAING'
HYBRID PERPETUAL
1867**



**'PRINCE CAMILLE DE ROHAN'
HYBRID PERPETUAL
1861**

Armory building in June. The report states that “nearly 400 varieties for roses were exhibited and more than 40,000 roses were used to decorate the armory. Among the 40 cups awarded was one from Hugh Dickson, the Irish rose grower. The Hugh Dickson (a medium red Hybrid Perpetual) was [in 1914] the Tacoma official rose, and the cup was offered for the best six. The Dickson cup was won, for the second time, by Mrs. Talmadge Hamilton.” If she won again in 1915 (or later) she then got to keep the cup – more research to do. Years ago I was contacted by the Talmadge Hamilton, Jr. family. They donated some pictures and ribbons from early roses show to the TRS archives.

The article also credits persuasively successful efforts by TRS members in getting the “Park Board” to create the current rose garden in Pt. Defiance Park (the revamped garden had its first bloom in 1913).

DISTRICT DOINGS - MARCH 2011

Putting on a rose workshop may not sound like much of an effort by some of our members here in the Northwest, but there are times when it constitutes one of those unique “outside-the-box” experiences. Such was the case on a recent Saturday, when a team of our rosarians traveled to The Dalles, Oregon, to put on a daylong workshop covering all elements of successful rose growing.

The impetus for this outreach program came initially from a cherry orchardist in that area, who happened to be an ARS member, and wanted someone to come to The Dalles and Hood River areas of central Oregon (on the Columbia River), for the purpose of educating the local master gardeners, and anyone else, regarding how to grow roses successfully. After recruiting the local agricultural agent from Oregon State University, and securing donations and support from local merchants – and putting together an excellent promotion flyer - the result was that over 80 attendees came to the Senior Center in The Dalles to attend our six-hour program.

While Beage and I were of some help in organizing this outreach effort, it was the combined talents of Bruce and Barbara Lind, Mitchie and John Moe, and Rich and Charold Baer that presented sessions on selection and pruning, soil preparation, planting and fertilization, integrated pest management, propagation, and photographing roses.

Frankly, we were blown away with the number and interest of the attendees, all of whom paid a significant fee to attend the workshop, and who had a keen interest in learning how to grow roses in that area and climate. Admittedly, there was trepidation on the part of some of us as to how master gardeners would react to parts of our Integrated Pest Management presentation. However, the fact was that spraying, as one example, seemed to be part of what at least some of them considered to be essential in successfully growing other flowers and fruits in that area.

While the District was adequately compensated for putting this program together, there is a much more important consideration that came out of this effort. It is routine for us to put on workshops for other rosarians and local societies; we do this every year. Additionally, some of us have made presentations to master gardener organizations in brief sessions on very specific topics. But to put together a team of presenters at the **request** of members of a local garden community that are not typically rose devotees, for a day-long presentation at a site far from any of our local societies, is, I believe, truly unique. And what makes it particularly intriguing is the hope that what was done can be a template for similar efforts in the future.

In that regard, therefore, if you have contacts with master gardeners, or any other organization that might have an interest in hosting a similar workshop, I would like to know about it (email: jack.kiley@comcast.net). The undeniable fact is that we would very much like to take this show on the road.

**Jack Kiley, District Director
PNW District, ARS**

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY!

On March 14, 1911, the organizational meeting for the Tacoma Rose Society was held. More than 200 people attended this meeting!

PUYALLUP BUS TRIP – JUNE 11

The Puyallup Rose Society is planning a bus trip. It will be on Saturday, June 11. They are planning on going to either Portland, OR with visits to Peninsula Park Rose Garden and Washington Park Rose Garden or to Heirloom Roses in St. Paul, OR. They are taking sign-ups for both. The location that gets the most “sign-ups” will be the one! You can sign up for both locations if you want to just go on a trip and either location is OK. The cost for Portland is \$24 and for Heirloom is \$28. TRS members who are interested in going can call Bill Wilson at 253-840-3169.

FERTILIZER AND ALFALFA MEAL

Puyallup Rose Fertilizer and Alfalfa Meal will be available at our April meeting. There will be a sign-up list at the February and March meetings. You can also place your order by contacting the treasurer (contact information on the last page). The fertilizer is \$21 per 50 pound bag and the alfalfa meal is \$12 per 50 pound bag. Please be sure to make arrangements to pick up your order at the April meeting.

DUES ARE DUE

Please remember that dues for 2011 are due! They are \$15 per household per calendar year. What a great bargain! You can bring your dues to the next meeting or send them to the treasurer (address on last page). You can tell if you are “paid up” by the mailing label on the hard copy of the newsletter or by the message that you get with the email version of the newsletter.

IS YOUR PHONE NUMBER CURRENT?

When calling to remind people of our January banquet, the calling committee found that some numbers had been disconnected. The current trend is to use cell phones instead of “land lines”. If you have made this change, please let us know by contacting the treasurer (contact information on the last page) so we can keep you “in the loop”.



‘SOUVENIR DE PIERRE NOTTING’ TEA 1902

TACOMA ROSE SOCIETY – YEAR 2011 DUES

\$15 per member/family/calendar year
Please send to Barbara Lind, 2132 Bridgeport Way, Tacoma, WA 98466

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TACOMA WA 98466

EDITORS:

Bruce & Barbara Lind

E-Mail:

barbaralind@mac.com

Membership in the Tacoma Rose Society is open to all. The TRS is a non-profit educational organization affiliated with the American Rose Society. Meetings are on the third Thursday of the months of Feb – June and Sept. – Nov. Annual banquet is in January with a picnic in August.

Dues are \$15 per household per calendar year. Make check payable to the Tacoma Rose Society and send it to the treasurer.

Website:

www.tacomarosociety.org

Webmaster: Gracie Baker

253-851-5154

Meetings are held at the Life Manor Activity Center, 1601 S. Union.

To get there from S. Union turn onto S. 15th St and go one block east. Turn right onto Puget Sound and go one block. Make a left turn at the sign for Life Manor Assisted Living. At the end of the building, turn right, go up the hill and turn left to find visitors' parking. The meeting is in the brick building that faces the parking lot. Open the glass door on the right. Overflow parking is NW of the building.

TRS Officers

President

Cliff Martin 253-752-5857
tearoselady@harbornet.com

Centennial Celebration Chair

Jo Martin 253-752-5857
tearoselady@harbornet.com

VP & Rose Show Co -Chairs

Bruce Lind 253-565-0246
lindbruce@mac.com
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annelth@aol.com

2nd VP & Program Chair

Bruce Bleckert 253-759-1619

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