

Queen's Herald



Seattle Sunrise



Crown Princess



Baronne Prevost



Julia Child

UPCOMING EVENTS

April Meeting

Wednesday,
April 15, 7pm

Pt. Defiance/Ruston
Senior Center

Spring Sale

Pt. Defiance/Ruston
Senior Center
April 11

Pt Defiance Flower & Garden Show

June 6 & 7

TRS Rose Show

UPS Rotunda
June 13



President
Justin Williams-Ruth



Tacoma Rose Society

An Affiliate of the American Rose Society

Celebrating 100+ Years of Roses

Recipient of a City of Destiny Award for
Volunteer Work at the Pt. Defiance Rose Garden

**Reminder!!! Our meeting day is now Wednesday!!! at the
Pt. Defiance/Ruston Senior Center
(see last page for driving directions)**

APRIL MEETING - JOHN MOE - FERTILIZER

In our April meeting we will be looking forward to spring! After our chance to chat at 6:30, we will start the meeting at 7PM with a Q&A led by Bruce Lind about what to do in your garden this month. Please bring your questions and ideas to share.

Please wear your favorite TRS T-shirt or logo item to the meeting as we will be taking our annual members' group photo at the start of the meeting.

Our program will be presented by John Moe. He will be talking about fertilizer - what our roses need, what kind to use and when to apply it. By our meeting time we will probably know about the availability of the fertilizer sold by the Puyallup Rose Society.

Zoom invitations for the April meeting

If you would like a Zoom Invitation, please let us know by responding to this email. The success of the Zoom session is entirely dependent on the strength and steadiness of the wi-fi signal at the Pt. Defiance/Ruston Senior Center.

Treats for the April Meeting

If you can, please bring treats for our April Meeting.

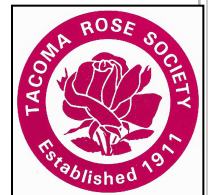
Door Prizes for the April Meeting

Teresa Berg is our door prize chair again this year. Please think about something you could bring for the door prize table at the next meeting.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Justin Williams-Ruth

Spring is here, and the sky is blue-ish. Things have kicked into full gear following our Pruning at the Point Defiance Rose Garden last month – we have seen a number of new faces already becoming more familiar as they have attended our March meeting and helped out with our Pagoda sale, and we are looking forward to seeing



them and You! at our next two events in April. Both of these will be happening at the Point Defiance – Ruston Senior Center.

April 11 will be our own **Spring Rose Sale** to benefit the Tacoma Rose Society's general fund – this helps to keep us running AND to pay for our annual rose show each June. Barbara has given me a preview list of the roses we will have for sale, and there are so many great varieties, and an abundance of plants available. Please be sure to tell your friends and neighbors about this sale. I have made a couple of visits to local nurseries already this season – while they have fantastic offerings, many of the varieties we will be offering have been out of circulation for a while.

The next week, we will be wrapping up the joy of Tax Day with our monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 15. For all of you Consulting Rosarians among the group, **CR credit will be available for John Moe's talk on Fertilizing**. Also, we will be doing a **group photo** that will go into our Rose Show program. Our meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:00pm with announcements and then go into the formal talk. Please feel free to come with any questions you have about Fertilizing your roses, or just about roses in general. I have shown no shame in leaning heavily on the wealth of knowledge that exists in this group, and John and Bruce have never hesitated to give sound advice while they're on the mic.

I've already mentioned our Rose Show a couple of times, but I'd love it if you'd give me just one more paragraph on the subject (can you tell I'm itching to get back into the garden and back into the swing of things). Every year we have an abundance of trophies, and many of those are donated from our wonderful members – some make repeat visits to the trophy tables and we always have a great assortment on the tables. This is a great time to think about what could be donated for the day to help those who win take home a memento of the day. Also, as I mentioned at our March meeting, now is a great time to start planning for the Photography section of the rose show. The beautiful thing about this section is that the roses don't even need to be yours! This makes the Photography part of our show especially welcoming to beginner gardeners or those who maybe aren't currently able to grow their own roses – most of us already carry a camera in our pocket/purse everywhere we go, don't forget to take a couple of extra shots and record the names of the beauties at the time you take the photo. By doing this, all you'll need to do is print out the photos some time between now and June 13, and then show up on the day to celebrate with all of our other exhibitors.

We have so many great opportunities to get together in the coming months, and I'm so looking forward to reconnecting with so many of you and getting to know many more great folks to come!

SPRING ROSE SALE
APRIL 11, 9AM - 2PM
PT. DEFIANCE RUSTON SENIOR CENTER
Ava Brock, ARS Master Rosarian

Check your calendar twice! April 11th is our big Rose sale from 9-2 at the Point Defiance-Ruston Senior Center at 4716 N Baltimore). All proceeds go to the expenses associated with our annual rose show!

The roses look great and we have a lot of roses for sale - varieties of every size and color! **Roses are priced at \$20** and there will be some perennials from a few Master gardeners as well. **A list of sale roses is attached to this email.**

Pick out some roses and new plants for your collection, come to the sale early and stay to help with the lifting and loading of plants into customers' vehicles.

We can use as many hands to help as possible so come early to set up, bag roses, entice buyers with poetic descriptions, load roses into cars, and/or stay late to clean up! In the meantime we will have lots of fun just being together. Volunteer to be an active member of Team TRS!

We ask that you **be mindful to not park in the parking lot south of the center**. The building is busy that day with a tax preparation event so we are only

**Some roses, most
donated by Raft Island
Roses, for our Spring
Sale.**



Beautiful Day
Hybrid tea, apricot bl



Burst of Joy
Floribunda, orange
blend



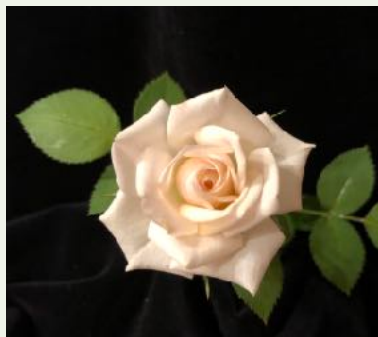
Chicago Peace
Hybrid tea, pink blend



Diamond Eyes
Miniature, mauve



Gentle Hermione
Austin, light pink



Innocence
Miniature, white
Photo: Barbara Lind



Lagerfeld
Grandiflora, mauve



Liv Tyler
Hybrid tea, med pink

using the center itself for bathroom breaks. The sale will be set up in the parking lot north of the center so **please look for street parking for your vehicles.** I have an order in for good weather so I hope the message was received! **Bring your chair, sun hat, sun screen, water, and we will see you there!**

**Ask the Consulting Rosarian
John Moe, ARS Master Rosarian**

Q – At the Pagoda sale a lady asked me about an old rose that she had that needed some serious pruning down at the crown. She said that even though it looked good last season there were a lot of very large gnarly dead clumps of wood on the bud union, but it looked like there was a new basal that was starting to emerge as well. She asked if she could take some loppers and remove those big pieces now or should she just leave them alone?

A – Absolutely you should work with it, and being it is quite old as you said, I would probably use a saw with a narrow blade as it can be easier to be careful when you are working in close quarters. Take a good look at it from all sides and take your time as you really don't want to break off that tender new basal. I have used a saw on an old one in my garden and did, after some careful cuts, see some good live wood. So get that old dead wood out and you should see that new basal cane and hopefully some more starting to grow.



Q – I picked up some alfalfa recently along with a couple of roses, but I would like to save time and effort by spreading it along with the fertilizer when I get that. Can I save time and do both at once? Is there a reason for this? When can I start? How about my new roses?

A – You can put your alfalfa down now as natural (organic) fertilizers e.g., alfalfa tends to be in a slow release form requiring biological action from microbes in the soil to release the nutrients. As for the fertilizer, the soil needs to warm to about 50 degrees down in the root zone for the microbes to become active and release the nutrients into the soil in a form that the plant can absorb and use. I had 29 degrees and frost as I write this so I know soil is still cold, but by the end of April, it will have warmed enuf for the first application of fertilizer. This is one of the reasons the fertilizer ordering is delayed so if we don't have it we don't get the urge to put it down too soon! Fertilizing with chemical fertilizer when the soil is cold is just wasting it! If you fertilize every six weeks as we have often discussed, do it again mid-June and by the middle of August. Then that's enuf for the season! If you picked up some new roses along with your alfalfa – they do need to get their roots established after you plant them, so wait until the first bloom cycle. Then it is OK to fertilize for the first time. Come to the meeting as both Bruce and I will be discussing fertilizer at some length!

Q – I have heard you say “.....when in doubt, cut it out” before and I did say “oops” a few times when pruning the other day. You know the times when you don't check the backside of a cane and take out two canes, one of which was nice. Now the bush has only two canes neither of which is a nice big one. Will it grow a new cane? Did I really damage it?

A - I have said “oops” more times than I want to count over the years, but the rose bush always came out OK anyway. And yes, your bush will grow a new cane and no, you did not do much damage to it. Oftentimes when we take a cane out all the way down, it stimulates the bush to grow a replacement.

POINT DEFIANCE ROSE GARDEN NEWS

Keith Ripley, ARS Master Rosarian

This year's Annual Point Defiance Rose Garden Pruning Party occurred on March 7, 2026 on a very sunny ---HAPPY day. Thank you, Teresa Berg, for doing such a

great job in my absence. Thirty-seven volunteers – 30 TRS Members and 7 Community Members - showed up and were eager and equipped to prune the roses. The pruning volunteers put in a total of 116 hours!

Our Annual Garden Sale, which benefits the Point Defiance Park was Saturday March 21, 2026 at the PAGODA. However, before we could get close to that happening there were several main events that had to be completed.

First, in 2025, Raft Island Roses of Gig Harbor donated several hundred roses to TRS to use for our projects as we saw fit. Many of these bushes were sold at our 2025 Fall Auction and some were transported by Barbara & Bruce Lind to a holding area at Point Defiance Park for 2026 events.

Second, Steve Mitchell refreshed our TRS website to help advertise the Rose Sale. Debbie Jackson was working on getting out more information to potential buyers through her Facebook account and Justin Williams-Ruth was working with his Instagram accounts to disseminate information about the rose sale. Lori Bier did a great job of publicizing the sale on the TRS Facebook site.

Third, Barbara and Bruce Lind put in at least 30 hours making lists and pictures of the roses and all the signs that we needed. They also put together a lunch to help celebrate the retirement of our beloved Steve Herbig who is retiring from his many years working for the Tacoma Park's District at the end of this month.

We put in a total of 14.5 hours on the set-up day of Friday the 20th and by 2:00 P.M. on Saturday the 21st we had sold almost all 75 roses on our inventory sheets and our members put in another 71.0 hours - for a grand total of 85.5 volunteer hours for the two days. If you volunteered at the Garden Sale - Thank You! If not, you missed a good time with fellow TRS members. Save the date for the 2027 Garden Sale (usually the third week in March).

Next month we will be learning about the opportunities to work in our booth and be Ambassadors for the Rose Garden at the upcoming Point Defiance Flower and Garden Festival.

SOMETHING ABOUT CLIFF

As most of you know, we lost my Cliff on February 19 after a short illness. The family wants to thank you all for your cards and words of sympathy and to those who were able to attend his memorial, our deepest appreciation.

Besides serving as President of the Tacoma Rose Society, he joined with me in 1967. By then, he had already built our first rose beds, raised affairs built with smelter rocks, of all things. That was a landscaping 'thing' in the 60s. Heavy rocks. Then, he had good soil brought in and planted our first rose garden of 20-30 bushes. In those days we had fewer sources of rose bushes, but our favorite was mail order from Edmunds roses in Oregon. Locally, Poole's Nursery on 6th Avenue and Furney's Nursery near Federal Way were other favorites. None of the Big Box stores were around then. We learned more about planting and pruning roses at the rose society meetings. I know he took notes. Those were the important things to him. Not the names of the roses or the types they were, just the color and fragrance that appealed to him.

I'm not sure just when he invented the "CUP ON A STICK", but it was a long time ago. It was such a simple and inexpensive invention, yet such a useful way to fertilize the roses without back breaking work. He made dozens of them and gave them freely away to budding rosarians. Once he made one out of an old wooden cane and gifted it to John Moe. We received a sympathy card recently from Rosemary Doupe' and she has been delighted to have one of Cliff's cups on a stick to fertilize her roses. That would have



Pretty Lady
Floribunda, light pink



Scott
Cl. Miniature, med red



Tangerine Skies
Climber, orange blend



Cliff Martin



True Inspiration
Hybrid tea, pink blend



True Passion
Hybrid tea, orange red



Tupelo Honey
Floribunda, med yellow



Wedding Bells
Hybrid tea, pink blend



touched Cliff's heart.

Cliff wasn't, in the pure sense, a gardener, but he kept our garden weed free, our lawn looking good and every day he was out there trimming or weeding, always busy. He didn't care as much for the miniatures, so that became my job. He was good with the climbers, once he knew what they were! I

remember wondering why one of our climbers never seemed to achieve its intended height. After spring pruning, I saw the problem. It had been trimmed down like the hybrid teas. But good help is hard to get, so I couldn't complain, too much. ;-)

Cliff did his share of other activities in the rose society, but he had the heart of a fisherman, golfer, hiker or avid reader. I know he did it all for me and my passion for roses.

Hoping to bring a few CUP ON A STICKS to the April meeting for some lucky gardener.
Jo Martin, Master Rosarian

OUR ROSE SHOW COUNTDOWN - T MINUS 2 **Bruce Lind - ARS Master Rosarian**

The 2026 TRS ROSE SHOW is just a bit more than two months away (June 13, 2026). We hope that every TRS member will find the time to support our show. It will be great to feel that you are playing an important role in one of our rose year's main events and WE NEED YOU! Jo Martin, Keith Ripley and several others have proposed "250 Years of Roses in America" as the theme for this year's show. They are working on titles for the 20 Classes that comprise the Arrangements Division of our rose show. They are all very creative individuals, and I am certain that we will be amazed, challenged, and delighted by their final proposal. All areas of the show schedule; Horticulture, Arrangements and Photography will be in final form by the middle of May.

Here are a few suggestions of things that we can do to make sure we, and our roses, are ready for our show.

- 1) Volunteer to help with the show. We will talk about what needs to be done at the April TRS meeting, so please sign up early as a volunteer.
- 2) We had a great time pruning the Pt. Defiance Rose Garden on March 7 and at the Garden Sale on March 21. Let's replicate that great sense of accomplishment by continuing to volunteer as we get ready for our 2026 Rose Show.
- 3) Read Jo Martin's articles in recent issues of the Queen's Herald, and plan on learning the life-skill of creating Floral Designs to share with others. Re-read previous articles by Jo on a variety of styles of arrangements to see examples of containers that you have (or might find at a thrift store) for a Traditional, Modern, or East Asian Arrangement (all these styles of arrangements will be in our 2026 rose show schedule).
- 4) While you are out searching for rose arrangement containers keep an eye out for something that might make a good trophy (award) and let Ron Bryan know you have something to contribute. If you prefer, a monetary donation is also great.
- 5) Plan to save any "garage sale" items you have and donate them for the July "Bootsale" Fundraiser for our 2026 rose show that is in the planning stage and will be held on July 11 at the Point Defiance/Ruston Senior Center. Ava Brock and Debbie Jackson are organizing this event.

Trophy Donation for TRS Rose Show 2026

The Tacoma Rose Society is proud to send every winner home with a trophy. We are seeking suitable prizes for all horticulture and arrangement categories. What makes a good trophy? An elegant crystal vase. A pretty silver dish. A beautiful book on classic garden roses. Or get creative – a gift basket with a vintage teacup and tea bags, or a terracotta pot stuffed with gloves and seed packets. Anything pretty,



sparkly, elegant, or rose or garden related will make a fine trophy! We just ask that it be in good presentable condition and clean! It is helpful if trophy donations are securely boxed, and a label with the donor's name and address is included. A label with "Donated by Tacoma Rose Society is appropriate if you wish to be an anonymous donor.

Bring your trophy donations to Tacoma Rose Society monthly meetings on April 15, or May 20. Or contact Ron Bryan 206-200-6821 (text messages preferred) to make alternative arrangements. Monetary donations to the trophy fund are also welcome and can be given to TRS Treasurer Barbara Lind.

Thank you for your trophy donations – let's have a great show!

STEVE HERBIG has retired. March 31 was the final day of a career of over 38 years. Steve was a great friend and partner for the Tacoma Rose Society. He shared his love of plants, his knowledge of the Pt. Defiance Rose Garden, and his vision for what the gardens can mean for those who visit. Of course there is the spectacular beauty of the gardens, but of at least equal importance are the health benefits of time spent in the gardens - the exercise we get by walking in the garden improves our physical health, and of at least equal importance is the impact on our mental health of being in a beautiful, restful place where we can hear the sounds of nature and have time to unwind from an increasingly noisy world. Thank you Steve for making us aware of the **super power of gardens**.



"Happy Retirement" to Steve at the Garden Sale.



**Point Defiance Flower & Garden Festival 2026
June 6th (Saturday) and 7th (Sunday)
Teresa Berg**

The Point Defiance Flower & Garden Festival is coming up fast and there are several opportunities for your involvement. Get out your calendars and save the dates. Please consider this opportunity to help show off the Rose Garden. Here's how you can help:

Pt. Defiance Rose Garden:

There has been a change this year - **No Tours**. The garden will be open to the public and free.

This year Rose Society members will be Rose Ambassadors in the garden. We hope to have two members in the garden to talk about the roses, the care of roses, and the Rose Society. As an ambassador, you will interact with the public and answer their many questions. No pressure. Just a relaxed and fun sharing of rose information. You can walk around the garden and chat with visitors or be available in the Rose Garden pagoda.



**Buttercream Drift
Groundcover, It**



**Eden
Climber, pink blend**



**Figi
Hybrid tea, deep pink**



**Iceberg
Floribunda, white**



**Julia Child
Floribunda, med
yellow**



**Ketchup and Mustard
Floribunda, red blend**

We hope to have two shifts with two persons each day of the show.

Saturday (June 6th) 11:00 - 2:30 and 2:30 - 6:00

Sunday (June 7th) 11:00 - 2:00 and 2:00 - 5:00

Grab your favorite Rose Society partner and sign up for a time at our next meeting.

Tacoma Rose Society Booth:

We will again have a booth throughout both days of the festival. We will also need to staff the booth with two persons per shift.

Saturday (June 6th) 11:00 - 2:30 and 2:30 - 6:00

Sunday (June 7th) 11:00 - 2:00 and 2:00 - 5:00

If you love to talk about roses, please consider helping to serve in the booth. There will be handouts for the public. This is a wonderful opportunity to share your love of roses and your gardening tips. Sign up at our next meeting.

The Flower & Garden Festival continues to be a positive event that showcases the results of our many volunteer hours and love of the Pt. Defiance Rose Garden. Please consider sharing your knowledge of roses and your enthusiasm for the tradition of the Tacoma Rose Society.

Ed. Note: We need you! Please respond to Teresa's request for help and support at the Pt. Defiance Flower & Garden Festival. Join in by volunteering to work a shift in the booth, act as a Garden Ambassador, or to informally help promote roses and our TRS Rose Show on the next weekend - Saturday June 13th! **LETS GO!**

2026 Garden Sale at the Pagoda



TACOMA ROSE SOCIETY - YEAR 2026 DUES

\$20 per member/family/calendar year

Make checks payable to the **Tacoma Rose Society**

Please send to Barbara Lind, 2132 Bridgeport Way, University Place, WA 98466

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email address _____

I prefer my newsletter by e-mail (in color!) _____ hard copy _____

Membership in the Tacoma Rose Society is open to all. TRS is a non-profit educational organization affiliated with the American Rose Society.

Meetings: the third Wednesday of the months of Feb – June and Sept. – Nov. Annual banquet is in January with a picnic in July/August.

Dues: \$20 per household per calendar year. Check payable to the Tacoma Rose Society.

Website:

www.tacomarosesociety.org

Website Manager: Steve Mitchell
253-459-4116

Social Media

Justin Williams-Ruth
Anna Marie Tallariti
Lori Bier

Meetings are held at

Pt. Defiance/Ruston Senior Center
4716 N. Baltimore Street
Tacoma, WA
Parking on both sides of the building

Driving Directions

From Northbound or Southbound I-5 take the Highway 16W Exit (132). Continue Westbound to Pearl St./Hwy 163 Exit and travel Northbound (right) on Pearl St (like you were headed to Pt. Defiance Park). Turn right onto N 46 St. and then left on N. Baltimore. The Ruston Senior Center is three blocks (N) on your left side.

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Ava Brock & Bruce Lind

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