

# THE ROSE RUNNER

## TRI-VALLEY ROSE SOCIETY'S NEWLETTER

### Spring 2011

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Hello and Happy Spring all,

According to the Old Farmers Almanac for 2011, based on the Moon's sign, the best time to prune to encourage growth is March 6,7,16,17, and April 3,4,12, and 13. ( I already missed Feb.)! It will also tell you the best days to castrate animals, quit smoking, and make sauerkraut. Well, here we are with Spring in full swing, natures rest over, and garden duties full on. I seem to get surprised every year how quickly my frozen yard turns into garden seminars and planting time. I am so enthusiastic about the year to come - we have some fun activities planned. Larry saw his goal of increasing membership succeed and our group seems charged with energy, with the addition of our newest, very welcome members. We have received a donation of roses from Christianson's Nursery which will be a great fund raiser for TVRS.

The ARS is committed to assisting local rose societies, so I hope you will all read your copies

of American Rose magazine as it is chock full of good and interesting information. I plan on hybridizing and photographing roses this year. I don't see why some of OUR members couldn't win the ARS photo contests!!

On a couple of rose culture notes, if you are worried about gall on new bare root plants, dip them in a bleach solution to head off galls.

Make a dip solution of one cup of bleach to five gallons of water in a tall canister or trash can.

Dip the Rose, roots, and canes for a half-minute or so and then plant as usual. The best overnight soaking solution for bare root plants is fish emulsion (or manure tea) and water with about one cup of emulsion to five gallons of water.

On Saturday, February 26th at Smokey Point Plant Farm (11AM) , Chris Prewitt from Weeks Roses will talk about care of roses. Also Larry has arranged for consulting rosarians from TVRS to give a talk about rose care at Summersun Nursery in in Mount Vernon on Saturday, March 26th at 11:00 am. About rose care

So make sure your tetanus shot is up to date  
and put on those goat skin gloves!

See you in the garden!

Robyn

## 2011 NEW OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: ROBYN SWESEY

1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT: CATHY GITCHEL

2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT: LEONARD HELLER

TREASURER: DWAYNE BERG

SECRETARY: DWAYNE BERG

/LORRAINE KARMANN

## Join the ARS for just \$5

Four-Month Trial Membership Now  
Available!

You'll receive:

- Free advice from Consulting Rosarians
- Free or reduced garden admissions
- Free online access to four quarterly bulletins
- 2 issues of American Rose Magazine
- Discounts of up to 30% at merchant partners

Go to [www.ars.org](http://www.ars.org) for more information

## NORTHWEST FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW IN SEATTLE

February 23 – 27, 2011

Washington State Convention Center

[www.gardenshow.com](http://www.gardenshow.com)

Of Special Note – As I was checking out the brochure for the show this year, I noticed that Jeff Wyckoff will be lecturing on Friday February 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. on GROWING ROSES ORGANICALLY .

In addition, Christianson's Nursery has a garden this year entitled "Time well spent". I can't wait to see it!

## ROSE FERTILIZER & ALFALFA MEAL

At the next Tri-Valley Rose Society meeting on Tuesday, March 8, orders will be taken for Puyallup Rose Fertilizer (a 15-15-10 fertilizer that contains all the micro-nutrients that roses need)

and for alfalfa meal. The cost this year will be \$21 for a 50 lb bag of fertilizer and \$12 for a 50 lb bag of alfalfa meal. The fertilizer and alfalfa meal will be distributed/picked up by members at the April 12 meeting. The savings are substantial – – – so it pays to be a Tri-Valley R.S. member!!!

TACOMA ROSE SOCIETY TO HOST  
PNW DISTRICT 2011  
CONVENTION/ROSE SHOW

By Jo Martin/ General Chair

The Tacoma rose society is excited to be hosting the 2011 PNW District Rose Show and convention on Saturday, June 25 and Sunday, June 26, 2011, with the theme “Our Centennial Celebration”. Tacoma rose Society is proud to be the oldest rose society in Washington state and this will be the society’s hundredth rose show, (1911–2011).

The beautiful Tacoma Yacht club, 5401 N. Waterfront Drive, Tacoma, WA will be the venue for the district show. The spacious setting offers view of Puget Sound and Mt Rainier and promises to showcase your winning roses, so mark your calendars today.

Two additional features on Saturday will be invitational rose designs by members of the New Century Designers Guild of Tacoma and the inclusion of a national competition in arrangements for the ARS Mildred Bryant Travelling Trophy, a first for the PNW District.

Departing from former two-day district conventions, no CR, Horticulture or Arrangements audits will be held. However, Tacoma Rose Society invites everyone to join us Sunday for a second day of celebration at Jackson hall, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., 314 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Tacoma, AW. Tentative plans to include a historical review of the past one hundred years, with noted speakers on roses and rose culture, educational displays and guided rose garden tours in the afternoon.

Contact Margaret Leisner, registrar, for an emailed registration form at: [meleisner@comcast.net](mailto:meleisner@comcast.net)

MARCH DUTIES by Bill Wilson  
Master Rosarian

March is one of the busiest months for the three “P’s”: purchasing, planting, and pruning of the Roses. When you buy your rose bush be sure to get #1

bushes. A #1 plant will have at least 3 canes that are the size of a pencil and have a good root structure.

Bare root roses are sold in some of the nurseries and from the mail order catalogs. I like these the best because you can see what you are buying. They will have longer roots than any other plants.

Potted bushes are also a good way to buy as they are trimmed and potted with good soil and compost. They will not be dried out like the following ways of packaging. Roses that are wrapped in plastic cylinders and packed in shavings and sawdust. These tend to dry out and roots get broken. If you notice any of the canes budding or leafing out "do not buy". If you do be sure to soak in a 5 gal pail of water for at least a day. Roses that are sold in the cardboard boxes have hardly any roots. The instructions say to plant box with plant in it. Your roses will do much better I taken out of the box and planted in the soil.

When planting your rosebush, dig a hole 18" wide and 12" deep. Put soil from hole in wheel barrow and mix with some organics, such as alfalfa meal, blood meal, fishmeal or cottonseed

meal. Fill hole with water to see how the drainage is. After water has receded put one or two handfuls of bone meal and or super phosphate ( 0-45-0) in the bottom of the hole and work it into the soil. Next make a cone with the soil from the wheelbarrow. You then set the rose bush on top of the cone, make sure the bottom of the crown is even with the top of the hole. Trim the roots so they don't touch the side of the hole. You then fill the hole  $\frac{3}{4}$  full with the soil mixture and water again to settle the soil. Fill hole with the remaining soil mixture and water again to settle the soil. This will stabilize your bush. Your last thing to do is to cover the crown and canes with mulch about 4" to 6" up. This will keep the bush from drying out and protect the bush until the feeder roots are able to support the bush. You may uncover the mulch in about a month after planting. You can do this by using a spray of water from the hose. Pruning helps the rose bush grow and be a healthy bush. Cut out any spindly canes. Keep the center of the bush open to allow air circulation. This will also help in keeping the bushes from developing mildew and black spot. It will not eradicate the fungi but will help keep it under control. Cut the canes

back to good wood. By that I mean when the center of the cane is like the white of an apple. If the center of cane is a very light tan, cut down further. I have had to cut down to the crown and have had beautiful and healthy bushes. Cut at a 45 degree angle to an outside bud eye. This will help open the center of the bush and allow the water to run off.

Yes March is a very busy month.

Bill Wilson  
Master Rosarian

## A SPECIAL THANKS –

The Tri-Valley Rose Society would like to thank Christianson's Nursery for their generous donation of over 250 rose bushes to our society. One cold morning in December, volunteers of the TVRS met at Christianson's Nursery to load the roses on pickup trucks and bring them to our new president's house where we unloaded the bunch and put them all to bed for the winter. The roses will be potted and sold later this month. Our special thanks go to John Christianson and his staff for all of

their help and generosity and let's not forget all of the TVRS members and volunteers who helped move those roses!

## SPRING POTTING PARTY!

Speaking of the donated Christianson roses, on March 5, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. the Tri-Valley Rose Society will be meeting at Robin Swesey's house to dig up the donated roses and plant them in pots. Accordingly, we need volunteers and pots! Contact Robyn Swesey at 360

435-4729 \* 425 210-2008 or [RobynSwesey@hotmail.com](mailto:RobynSwesey@hotmail.com) to RSVP and for directions. Ultimately, the roses will be potted and sold for \$5 a bush.

## LIST OF SPEAKERS

Our new 2<sup>nd</sup> VP is really stepping up to the job – Here is his list of upcoming

speakers for the first six months of 2011:

February 8 – John Christenson on new roses;

March 8 – Anne Belovich on American Roses

April 12 – no speaker

May 10 – Denise Lesniak – Skagit County Master Composter

June 14 – Mike Peterson will be speaking about soil chemistry, amending and testing. Members should bring soil samples for testing.

## ROSE CARE AND CULTURE

By John Christianson

Roses prefer full sun (6 hours or more) and well drained soil. Dig a planting hole 18" deep and 24" in diameter. Mix 50% of your native soil with composted organic matter such as composted manure. Add bone meal to encourage root growth. Christianson's roses are growing in plantable fiber pots. If the roses are in active leaf growth, slit the pot vertically from just below the top to the bottom. Set pots in the prepared planting hole so the soil level in the pot

is the same as the surrounding soil.

Back fill the prepared soil around the pot and tamp down. Cut off the top of the pot that is sticking above ground. Water in well, soaking the entire planting hole. Deep water once a week during the active growing season.

We recommend fertilizing in April, June and August with a granular fertilizer (rose food). You may use a liquid food (Miracle-Gro) more frequently or a slow release (osmocote) or organic food (Whitney Farms) less often.

Regular watering throughout the summer months increases plant vigor and reduces disease problems. Rose diseases may be controlled by close monitoring and good sanitation. Pick off sick leaves and rake fallen leaves when they occur. Hard prune severely diseased plants and spray with a fungicide (Funginex) or organically with sulfur or neem oil to prevent reinfection. Varieties that are intolerably diseased may be sprayed on a 14-21 day cycle from May through September with a fungicide. Insect pests that appear, most often aphids, may often be controlled organically with predators, a soapy solution (Safers), an oil spray (Neem oil) or a strong blast from your hose.

Lightly prune tall roses in November to prevent snow or wind breakage, with the primary pruning done in March. Most modern roses may be severely pruned, to a height of 6" to 18". This encourages new growth and more flowers. Old roses, English roses and climbing roses prefer a more minimalist pruning, removing just the least productive old wood and damaged or diseased wood. In late October or early November, apply an organic mulch (manure or bark) 8" - 12" up the canes. This protects against winter injury. Spread the mulch out away from the rose canes in march when you prune.

ENJOY YOUR ROSES!

Here are some of the fun classes and event happening around the area:

### At Sunnyside Nursery:

Organic Landscaping: from the ground up

2/26 10:00 a.m.

All about Roses

3/5 10:00 a.m.

### Living Wreaths

March 12 10:00 a.m.

### SUNNYSIDE SPRING CELEBRATION

3/26 10:00 a.m.

### Principles of landscape design

4/2 10:00 a.m.

### Spring Floral Baskets

4/16 10:00 a.m.

### Planting your own Patio Containers

4/30 10:00 a.m.

### Hands-on Hanging Baskets

5/14 10:00 a.m.

### Attracting hummingbirds &

### Butterflies

8/13 10:00 a.m.

### At Christianson's Nursery

2/14-28

Roses – their biggest sale of the year includes the new 2011 All-America Rose selection, antique, English, climbing and drought tolerant rugosa roses – 20% off!

6/18

9:00 a.m. – 6:00 pm.

Eighth Annual Rose Festival – keynote speaker: Ciscoe Morris Floral Show, Rose Workshops, and rose ice Cream Social

Photographing Spring Gardens –

2/26 11:00 a.m

A Fascination for Hellebores – Wonders of the Winter Garden  
3/5 1:00 p.m.

Think Veggies!

3/12 11:00 a.m.

Success with Rhododendrons

3/19 11:00 a.m.

Dahlias Made Easy

3/26 11:00 a.m.

Spring Walk

3/26 1:00 p.m.

## UPCOMING ROSE SHOWS:

Portland Rose Society: 6/9-10

Seattle Rose Society 6/18-20

Olympia Rose Society 7/2

## Meet our members:

In each newsletter, we try to introduce you to another one of our members, or to be more specific to help you get to know them and their garden a little bit better. This month we are fortunate enough to get to know Meg Jacobsen:

One late summer day in 1996, I walked into a nursery in Northern California and fell in love with Just Joey. There she was all apricot opulence, covered with enormous blooms and sending out a fragrance that made me lightheaded. That moment marks the beginning of my ambition to become a competent gardener.

I had dabbled with gardening since childhood, but I was really an ignoramus with a short attention span. I'd plant things in the wrong places and then forget about them until they were on death's doorstep. Occasionally, something would survive, largely thanks to California's forgiving climate or a touch of good luck, but I really didn't have a clue.

My mother was an accomplished and devoted gardener from whom I learned almost nothing. My interests were elsewhere, and although I did my share of garden labor and loved just being in our garden, I really didn't catch the bug until that day when I met Joey.

We lived in Mill Valley at that time, just across the Golden Gate Bridge from San Francisco. The climate is really my idea of perfection for gardening: summers rarely topping 85 degrees, nice fall colors, winters cool enough to know it actually is winter, and spring arrives around mid-February. That last part is what I really miss. Roses were pretty happy there, even mine that had to live in containers on an almost-enclosed deck to keep them from becoming deer candy. Along with Just Joey I grew First Prize, Trumpeter, Opening Night, Bewitched, Iceberg, Sheila's Perfume, Tiffany, Tropicana, Sombreuil, Mister Lincoln, Peace, Scentimental, and Double Delight.

When we moved to Bainbridge Island in 2001, all my roses went to live with our Mill Valley neighbors (whose garden was more effectively fenced against the deer), and they have thrived, probably very much relieved to have their roots in the ground.

Moving to Bainbridge was great for a "budding" gardener. It's a community that is thoroughly devoted to gardening and had resources available that really helped me get a foundation for gardening in the Northwest. I took several classes at Bainbridge Gardens Nursery from Ann Lovejoy, gardening columnist and author of several great books, who was on staff at the nursery while we

lived there on the island. It was wonderful to go in on the weekend and have Ann available to answer my stupid questions and point me in the right direction.

I replicated most of my rose collection from Mill Valley in our garden on Bainbridge and added a few others including David Austin's Scepter'd Islae, which taught me that myrrh isn't a fragrance I should seek out in future roses (yetch!).

In 2004 I was fortunate to be able to retire early, and when people asked me what I was going to do with my time, I'd say, "I'm going to go dig in the dirt." We moved to five acres in Marysville (no dirt, just rocks), and in 2008 I took the Master Gardener training. I've been enjoying sharing responsibility for the roses at the Jennings' Park Demonstration Garden where I go teach others what I've learned from all of you!

Meg Jacobsen

# 2010 ROSES IN REVIEW SUMMARY

## TOP TEN BIG ROSES – GARDEN RATINGS

VARIETY	TYPE	COLOR	RPTS	RATING
Sniffer	HRg	m	10	9.4
Pink Double Knock Out	S	mp	54	8.4
All the Rage	S	ab	22	8.3
Super Hero	F	mr	17	8.3
Morning Magic	LCI	lp	17	8.3
Carefree Celebration	S	op	19	8.2
Sweet Fragrance	Gr	ab	11	8.2
Winner's Circle	LCI	lp	10	8.2
Carefree Spirit	S	rb	47	8.1
Ole	S	lp	18	8.1

## TOP TEN BIG ROSES – EXHIBITION RATINGS

VARIETY	TYPE	COLOR	RPTS	RATING
Just Peachy	HT	pb	50	8.0
Marlon's Day	HT	w	81	7.9
Desperado	HT	rb	95	7.8
King Kong	HT	ab	76	7.8
The Imposter	S	pb	44	7.8
Stephanie Ann	HT	rb	10	7.8
Wing-Ding	Pol	mr	129	7.7
Big Red	HT	mr	47	7.7
Susan Barry	HT	rb	37	7.7
Lady of Megginch	S	dp	12	7.7

For more info on Roses in Review, see the complete list at [www.ars.org](http://www.ars.org).

TRI-VALLEY ROSE SOCIETY OFFICERS:

Robyn Swesey – President

360-435-4729/425-210-2008

[RobynSwesey@hotmail.com](mailto:RobynSwesey@hotmail.com)

Cathy Gitchel – Vice President

360 435-4104 [roses23409@comcast.net](mailto:roses23409@comcast.net)

Leonard Heller – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

360-629-4692 [lerosier3@verizon.net](mailto:lerosier3@verizon.net)

Dwayne Berg – Secretary/Treasurer

360 659-306 [RossDog1024@hotmail.com](mailto:RossDog1024@hotmail.com)

Lorraine Karrman – secretary

360-403-8148 [duraingo@yahoo.com](mailto:duraingo@yahoo.com)

CONSULTING ROSARIANS:

Judie Phillips

[Judiephil@aol.com](mailto:Judiephil@aol.com)

Larry Sawyer - 360 293-4923

[lhapls@aol.com](mailto:lhapls@aol.com)

Cathy Gitchel – 360-435-4104

[roses23409@comcast.net](mailto:roses23409@comcast.net)

CONSULTING ROSARIANS (CON'T)

Robyn Swesey – 360-435-4729

[RobynSwesey@hotmail.com](mailto:RobynSwesey@hotmail.com)

SEPTEMBER THROUGH JUNE. OUR

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT:

MARYSVILLE TOTEM MIDDLE SCHOOL 1605

7TH ST MARYSVILLE, WA.

MISSION STATEMENT The Tri Valley Rose Society along with our senior partner, The American Rose Society, will work together to promote the rose in our community. We will do so by providing education, community outreach and support to fellow members of the gardening community. We will not only disburse the information we have gained but will strive to expand our own education and grow. Together this partnership will share our passion and devotion to the rose. Come join us for our monthly meetings which our open to the community. Also join us for any of our garden tours, speakers, social events and fellowship with other rose growers!

MEMBERSHIP TO THE TRI-VALLEY ROSE SOCIETY IS OPEN TO ANYONE. WE MEET ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH,

