



# ROSE HERALD

## Wyckoff Shares World Roses

*Colorful Program at Sandberg Center on March 25, 7:30 p.m.*



As President of the ARS, Jeff Wyckoff and his wife Kathy had the opportunity of visiting some of the most famous rose gardens in the world. Among his favorites were several he visited in China as a guest of the Chinese National Rose Society. Jeff's program will include

garden photos as well as a bit of horticultural lore and history.

We encourage each person to bring a friend who is interested in roses. Show them our friendly group in action. Introduce them to other members. Find out what they'd like to learn. Invite them to join!

[www.owt.com/rosesociety](http://www.owt.com/rosesociety)

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*Opposite photo shows Jeff & Kathy Wyckoff with grandkids; 'Sally Holmes' below is by Harlow Young – both shared with permission.*



### CO-PRESIDENTS DON & JOANN SAYLER ENJOY FRUITS OF THEIR LABOR IN ARIZONA PARK

A "springy" hello to everyone! The sweet smell of orange blossoms here in Arizona tells us the warmer weather is coming, and we'll soon be on our way home.

Most of the roses here in the park are in-between their blooming cycle and new growth is abundant. It's interesting to us that our volunteer Coordinator has turned around the natural AZ cycle of growing roses; that is, the



normal time of cutting them back in AZ is in January. But she, with Mexican help, does the heavy pruning in September, so the roses are in full bloom by the time most people arrive in November. Since we planted the six new bushes, the garden is now finally full and numbers around 220. It just gets nicer and nicer, and we enjoy the compliments.

*Continued on Page 2*

**MEETING TIME, PLACE,  
AND DRIVING DIRECTIONS**

March 25, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

**Sandberg Event Center, 331 S. 41st St., West Richland.** At the intersection of Richland Bypass Highway and Van Giesen, go west on Van Giesen to West Richland. Just past Road 38, the Public Library and City Hall, there's a sign on your left for the Sandberg Event Center. Park in either of two convenient lots.

**CO-PRES' MESSAGE, Cont.**

One of our talented guys made a great sign 5" tall for the Rose Garden and did a nice job. This month the park puts on a banquet with entertainment to thank all volunteers, who number around 1200, according to the manager. Our Garden Club gets a special dinner besides from the management.

We enjoyed a week's visit from our Kennewick daughter and husband. We spent two days in Tucson to see Kitt Peak with 13 domed observatories, each run by a different American college. We also went down into a missile silo with the missile still in it. Took in the airplane graveyard, old St. Xavier Mission and the Biosphere.

We're concerned about keeping up the Lawrence Scott Honor Garden now that Tom is stepping down. He could tell us what to do, but we'll need a new coordinator soon so he doesn't

have to worry about it. We'll do our best, Tom, but you've been terrific! – *Don & Joann Saylor*

**TCRS MINUTES,  
February 25, 2013**

The meeting was called to order by Co-Vice President Harlow Young at 7:35 p.m. in the Sandberg Event Center in West Richland. There were 22 people in attendance. Membership stands at 47.

The minutes of the January 28, 2013, TCRS meeting were approved as printed in the *Rose Herald*. Under old business Linda Kerkof reported there is a possibility of obtaining a 5'x10' storage facility in Pasco for our property at a cheaper rate, saving the society \$400 a year. A motion to pursue this was made and approved. Linda will get our name on the waiting list to sign up. Richard Kerkof proposed that we look over our existing inventory in the storage facility and purge items no longer needed. The motion to do so was made and passed, and schedules need to be worked out. The theme this year for the garden show is "Myths, Magic and Make Believe." Linda has chosen "Hocus Pocus Focus on Roses" for her Educational Display. Each of our guest speakers will be given a complimentary membership to our rose society.

Linda reported on the success of the TCRS contribution to the

Home and Garden Show held at the TRAC last weekend. There were approximately 50-60 people who attended three seminars presented by our society. Linda reported that the Blue Mountain Garden Show educational display "Hocus Pocus Focus on Roses" took a first place Award of Excellence. The display will be used at the rose show to educate once again.

Jim Campbell addressed the idea of having a Best of Show added to the rose show awards already given each year. Discussion followed on whether design could be fairly judged against horticulture. A motion was made to include all of the highest awards, challenges and other classes of roses for the coming show on a trial basis. It was seconded and passed.

Tom Miles reported on the results of soil testing at the Lawrence Scott Park Rose Garden. This analysis has been given free of charge for the past 10 years by the NW Agriculture Consultants group and has been very much appreciated. The soil at the garden had some highs and lows but in general was at desirable and beneficial levels. The spring rose pruning at the park will take place March 23. All are invited.

Jolene Angelos spoke about the opportunity of placing an ad in the rose show schedule.

*Continued on Page 3*



**TCRS Minutes, Continued**

The advertising rate would be \$50 for a half page black and white. The door prize drawing, a spring primrose basket, went to Jolene.

Harlow turned the evening over to Jim Campbell, who presented a program about the tale of two gardens visited in their recent road trip. The Brookgreen Gardens in South Carolina was full of wonder, statuary and native plantings. The ARS garden in Shreveport, LA was a look into a garden that should have been a wonder, but has come into some hard times and needs TLC and perhaps a future vision. –

**Kathy Weber, Secretary**

**Membership Reminder**

In case you lost your renewal letter, or if you're a newcomer wanting to join our rose family, here is a form you can cut out, or copy.

**Membership Form**

Please circle correct choice:

- Single Membership      \$17
- Family Membership      \$22

Are you a current American Rose Society member?

Yes    No

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address**

*This is very important. We use this information to send you your monthly newsletter, and we do not share it with others.*

**Program Idea(s)/Request(s)**

Send this Membership Form along with your dues to Rich and Linda Kerkof, Membership Co-Chairs, at 5306 Cleveland Lane, Pasco, WA 99301-8434. Make your check out to the Tri-City Rose Society. For questions about membership, you can call 851-2110 (Linda's cell) or 547-1860 (the Kerkofs' home phone).



**Hocus Pocus Focus on Roses**

“Hocus Pocus Focus on Roses” was the theme of this year's Educational Rose Display that Linda and Rich Kerkof created for the Home and Garden Show at TRAC. It was quite a process to create this display but well worth it. The display took first place and an Award of Excellence, which makes it eligible for a state award from the Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs. After members of the society saw the display, they asked

if we would be showing it again at the Shilo Inn – Yes!

Our show this year is going to be called the "Magical World of Roses " and will incorporate the names of roses displayed on the background board as the themes for this year's arrangements. We would like to thank those who gave talks at the Home and Garden Show this year and encouraged the community to learn more about roses and to join our membership. Thank you, Jim Campbell, who spoke on Landscaping With Roses, and thanks to Harlow Young, Richard Kerkof and Tom Miles who spoke on General Rose Care. Through these talks we reached between 50-60 members of the community. Way to go!

**Membership Report**

As of February 28 our Tri-City Rose Society Membership stands at 49 memberships, including 27 single memberships and 22 family memberships. If you know a past member and have not seen them at a meeting yet this year, you might invite them to come to a meeting and also to renew their membership. All memberships need to be in by April first in order to continue receiving the *Rose Herald*. There's a membership form and instructions on this page.

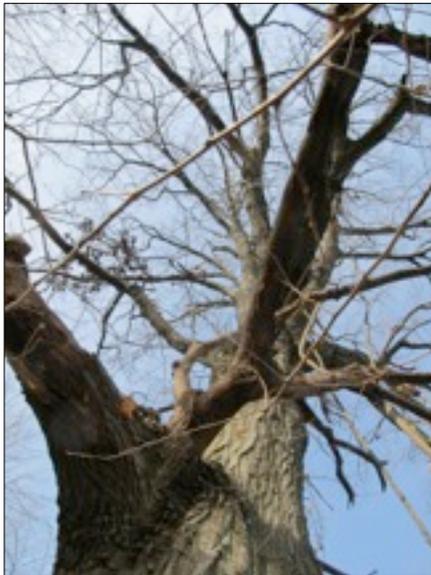
A sad note to our membership this year is the recent death of a new member, Gordon Andersen. Gordon was a member years ago and rejoined this year. When he was a previous active member, he had many award winning roses in the local rose show. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Gordon's family.

On a happy note we have two new memberships, John Thom and John and Louise Wilson who joined after the talk by Jim Campbell at TRAC. Welcome to our Rose Family. – **Linda & Rich Kerkof**



**Rose Whisperer:  
The Indianapolis Rose**

There I was...in Indianapolis, Indiana, on business, caught in a bramble. It happened like this. One late November afternoon, after a full day of meetings and training sessions, I decided to walk about the neighborhood near the hotel. As I explored, I discovered an undeveloped area of thick undergrowth that had some interesting large trees. In



a few minutes I found myself snagged in the thick undergrowth under one of trees that I was photographing. Turning to see what had grabbed me, I detected a rose, probably native to that area. There were no blooms or hips or on the thin, spindly, small-leafed, prickly canes.

Once I loosened myself from its grip, my thoughts immediately shifted into roseology. Fellow rosarians can understand the series of questions that passed

through my mind: “What color are the blooms?” “How might it look in my garden?” “If it’s a species rose, does it send out suckers?” “If so, can I control them in my garden space?”

My thoughts soon jumped to the next level of questioning: “Can I really get a piece of this rose home?” “How do I get a cutting, since I have no clippers with me?” “Isn’t this a stupid idea?” “If I get part of a cane back to the hotel room, how do I get it home without it dying?” “If it survives the trip home, will it survive my attempts to get pieces rooted?” “How can I root them, since all my portable rooting cones outside in the garden are full?” “They’re so skinny. Will these canes root successfully?” “Isn’t it too late in the season to try to root them? It’s mid-November.”

Rosarians sometimes do funny, illogical things. That explains why, after processing all the questions, I decided to try to get enough of a cane home to attempt rooting it. So, without any tools, and no gloves, I firmly grabbed one of the slender canes (realizing that I might get stabbed by prickles...which happened) and gave it a quick YANK. It worked. I ended up with a piece of cane about three feet long. Oh boy, now what?

Back in the hotel room I put it in a cup filled with water and pondered how I’d get it to

survive two more days in the room and then home. Regardless, I had to cut it into smaller pieces to have any chance of getting it home. Fingernail clippers worked perfectly on the skinny cane. I ended up with five shorter pieces, each with a few small leaves. Surely, I surmised, one of these should take root.

The short version of a longer saga is that they survived the airplane trip home wrapped in wet paper towels, inside a plastic garbage bag in my checked bag. Once home, I had to suffer the smirky “What are these?” from my wife when I first opened the bag to see how my treasures took the ride. She’s learned to endure a lot of my off-the-wall rose adventures, but she can’t resist, mostly in jest, giving me a bad time about them. I’ve learned to expect it.

These five short, skinny pieces were dipped in rooting hormone powder and planted in two six inch pots under a makeshift greenhouse in my shop – two stems in one pot and three in another. Under them was a seed-warming pad to try to optimize the environment for rooting, with a fluorescent bulb shining on them 24 hours a day. Now, all I could do is keep them moist...and wait.

I visited them every few days.

*Continued on Page 5*



Leaves dropped from some of the canes and they started to darken, like death. They didn't survive. A couple, however, responded. Not all their leaves dropped, and they developed what looked like new buds starting to swell.

Success! Two of the five cuttings (one from each pot, two months after my adventure) have



substantial new growth. The one above is about 20 inches tall. I must help them survive until spring and see if they will successfully transfer to the garden. I am really eager to see them bloom. Maybe in a future article, we'll all enjoy their blooms. – *The Rose Whisperer, aka Harlow Young*

**PNW District Rose Show Combines with Seattle's in their 100th Year** – We are invited to help celebrate.

Saturday, June 22, 2013, is the date of Seattle Rose Society's 100th Anniversary, and they are hosting the Pacific Northwest District's Rose Show as well as their own. More information will be given later, or call John Sincock at 425-895-8352 – or visit [www.seattlerosesociety.com](http://www.seattlerosesociety.com).

### The Rose Garden in March

Tiny weeds are blooming along my driveway where it abuts the asphalt of my cul-de-sac. Among those weeds are swarms of scurrying thrips (grandparents of the invaders that will suck color out of rose petals two months later and leave ugly tan spots). Rose stems and canes sport many red buds, some beginning to leaf out, so I expect aphids to arrive soon. Soil is unfrozen and dry, calling for **hand watering**. It's almost time to turn on automatic sprinklers. Occasional light showers have blessed us with traces of moisture, but wind took back the gift before it could sink to the roots.

Test cuts on rose canes have shown **almost no winter kill**. Barring an unforeseen cold snap, rose lovers can take their choice of high, medium or low pruning. Light pruning resembles a conservative hair trim without thinning. It pays no attention to cane diameter and gives us a tall bush full of small blooms early in

the season. Low pruning, on the other hand, thins out weak, dead and crossing branches and canes. The result is a short bush that blooms later in the season, giving a few large flowers on strong stems. Rose show exhibitors looking for the perfect rose favor low pruning. Medium pruning shapes a bush that is somewhere between the other two. Come to the TCRS Pruning Demonstration March 23 in Lawrence Scott Park Honor Garden and check the rose heights, pruning techniques and reasoning of our Consulting Rosarians. Bring a sturdy pair of gloves and your favorite pruners and practice cutting in our beautiful public garden from 9 a.m. until noon.

We're delighted to find a new source of mini and miniflora roses. **For Love Of Roses, LLC**, formed in 2013, offers garden and exhibition varieties from hybridizers Whit Wells, Robbie Tucker, and Richard Anthony. They promise the best quality for a fair price. We can order online from [www.forloveofroses.com](http://www.forloveofroses.com).

Those who want a standard sized rose with **fragrance** might consider 'Falling in Love.' It's light pink with beautiful form. Winning the James Alexander Gamble Fragrance Award for 2012, it joins relatively new 'Angel Face,' 'Mister Lincoln,' 'Sheila's Perfume,' 'Fragrant Plum' and 'Elle.' – *N.B.*

**Composting 101****by Jo Angelos**

*“My first memory of composting was watching my grandparents take their banana peels from the breakfast table out to the garden where they dug a little hole and covered them up.”*

Reading this little tidbit a few months ago was all it took to push me over the edge to research my composting options. I’ve always been an avid “recycler.” If something can be used or re-used, why throw it away? It is so easy to take a few steps to my back yard. However, I was too quick to “trash” compostable items without another thought – after all, I do have easy curbside pickup. I had the opportunity to visit a small dumping area where the realization of the magnitude of “throwing” really hit home. We are told an



individual throws away up to four pounds of compost material a day. Think of how much that could be in a year – think of how fast that multiplies when there are several members in a family! I must admit I was skeptical of the statement until I started putting scraps from the kitchen into a five quart covered ice cream bucket outside the back door – it was full in two days! From coffee grounds (and filters) to paper towels, shredded pieces of paper and orange peels, I was guilty of trashing A LOT which now will become treasure in my garden.

<b>Carbon Materials (Brown)</b>
Alfalfa meal and hay
Cardboard
Cornstalks, corn cobs
Dryer lint
Grape pomace (winery waste)
Dried Grass clippings
Hedge Clippings
Hops (brewery waste)
Leaves
Newspaper
Nut shells
Oak leaves
Oat straw
Sawdust and wood shavings
Paper
Peanut hulls
Pine needles and cones
Tea leaves
Wheat straw
<b>Nitrogen Materials (Green)</b>
Apple pomace (cider press waste)
Banana peels
Clover
Cowpeas
Dog food
Coffee grounds (and filters)
Feathers
Flowers
Fruit peels (not limes)
Green Grass clippings
Hair
Hay
Manure from herbivores (cow, horse, pig, sheep, chicken, rabbit)
Vegetable peels and scraps

The search began to find out how to create the material some referred to as “black gold.” Compost exists when yard and garden debris, kitchen scraps and other organic materials have completely broken down into a rich, dark, crumbly material - which adds nutrients and creates better soil structure in lawns and gardens. All organic material breaks down. (If it was once living, it is considered organic.) Some of the hardest things for me to get used to using are paper towels, Kleenex and shredded paper and cardboard – yes, they were once living, but I have only thought of them as garbage. These items are considered “brown” (providing the carbon) and they create spaces for the oxygen-loving aerobic bacteria in the compost pile. My five quart buckets of kitchen scraps were very compacted and wet. The kitchen scraps provided the “green” (the nitrogen for the compost pile). Two ideal ratios for a compost pile are 30% green and 70% brown or a more equal level of 50% of each. Even though there are several possible ratios, one theme was consistent – all piles are unique. A person can add the necessary green or brown at any point. If you find your pile is too wet, add some brown, carbon material. If it is too dry, add more kitchen scraps or green refuse from your own yard. One writer compared it to a sandwich – everyone puts in different ingredients and all of them taste good.

The chart on the left gives some examples of the items to use for composting. This list is far from complete, but it does give a starting point. The smaller items will break down at a faster rate, so anytime you can cut or shred your items before you place them in your pile, the faster those little guys will turn your trash to treasure. For instance, many people already have a paper shredder in their home. Additional items and answers to your questions can be found by searching [www.compostinstructions.com](http://www.compostinstructions.com). There are also several You-tube videos give specifics on building your own composting piles or making your own containers.

All piles of composting materials will eventually turn (decompose) into the desired lawn and garden additive. The efficiency or speed of this effort requires an awareness of four key elements; **moisture** (damp without being wet, like a squeezed out sponge), **heat**, **oxygen** and **a proper mix of materials** (brown/green combination). If you use just one ingredient, such as dried leaves, the decomposition process will take longer. A mixture creates a smorgasbord for the naturally occurring soil microorganisms which will be transforming garden debris and kitchen scraps in your pile into the valuable compost material. Compost not only adds nutrients to the soil – it also increases the ground’s ability to hold water; it is loose and porous, with plenty of air pockets that harbor soil microbes and soak up water like a sponge, slowly releasing it as plants need it.

How does a person get started? I remembered our rose society member Tom Morris speaking about the composting he and his wife Cindy used in their yard. I emailed an array of questions to them, and Tom quickly gave me answers and addressed many of my concerns. Do you use a bin or do you compost on the ground? “I just removed my large compost pit and placed it all in an old sand box that will be roses someday...one still needs to turn it by hand...which is not easy to do...WATER it...our climate is too dry and this open pit needs water to work. It is VERY slow to break down. When I asked what items he uses for compost he shared. “I am largely trying to compost grass clippings from my lawn. I layer in soil which helps it break down, also egg shells, veggie trimmings, tea bags, etc. Pine needles are not good since they do not break down easily. Pits from peach scraps do not break down.” He admits his big pit will take a long time to compost but then adds, “It is better than throwing the grass in the dump. I try to mulch some of the grass back into the lawn when I mow as well.”

When asked if he composts throughout the year he told me, “Warm weather helps composting. I still may mix in some scraps with the compost in the winter...although they will likely not break down much until it warms up. If we had more rain, the compost would likely break down quicker. In our area WATER is the main lacking ingredient.” Continuing with my questions, I asked, “Can lawn trimmings after weed and feed applications be used in your compost pile?” “Best not to use grass if weed and feed has been treated on the lawn. Any time I fertilize the lawn I try to mulch it back into the lawn. But I do not use a weed and feed.” Tom provided the picture for us to the right. “The front is the round type compost bin. In the background is a very old pit that will soon be torn down but should have some nice soil. Some of my roses are grown in raised beds, and my pit compost is the soil medium used to build the bed.” Whether you have an area of your back yard to devote to this project or want to purchase a bin or container - you determine your size and capacity.



With a compost pile, will my yard have a nasty smell? Will I have more flies and fruit flies to contend with?

If our piles are too wet, the anaerobic microbes become established and cause the horrible “stench.” We want a combination of anaerobic and aerobic microbes and the right conditions for each doing their work. If fruit and vegetable scraps are gathered into a bucket before being emptied into the bin, cover the bucket. Flies can't get into an airtight container, so there won't be a group of flies and eggs going into the compost bin with the scraps. It is also a good idea to empty the scraps daily.

Fruit flies are typically a sign that there is not enough brown material in the bin. Add leaves, twigs, grass and newspaper to the bin, keeping this layer on top to deter the flies and conceal food scraps. Exposed food scraps will attract flies. Flies are attracted to vegetable and fruit peels, so these scraps need to be buried in the bin. Wrap the food with a couple layers of newspaper prior to placing in them in the bin. Cover with a layer of grass or newspaper that is lightly moistened. This will keep the flies from having easy access to the food.

How do we tell when the compost pile is ready? There will be nothing recognizable – you can't pick out the banana peel, orange peel or leaves which were added to create an effective carbon-nitrogen ratio. Composting is foolproof. The decomposition will occur – regardless of what you do or how you do it – you determine the quality and quantity of your cache. It is my hope you will now begin to think about the value of each item you throw away. You are challenged to realize the worth of a compostable food scrap, a handful of dryer lint or an old newspaper, and ask yourself...is this really trash – or could it become a treasure?



Through our conversations about this writing, my husband made me my own composting bin. It is a 36” polyethylene culvert, left over from a building project on our home. Holes were drilled along the sides every 8 inches and it was mounted on a base with two sets of wheels in the end grooves, to aid in the turning process when adding new ingredients and water. The black material should aid in the “heating” process. Maybe his grandkids won't remember what he did with his banana peels, but they will certainly remember what he built for Grammie's banana peels!





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## Mark Your Calendar

### March 23, 2013

Pruning Demonstration at Lawrence  
Scott Park Honor Garden, 9-12 a.m.  
Heavy rain (we hope not!) will cause  
postponement until March 30.

### March 25, 2013

Jeff Wyckoff, "Rose Gardens in China"

### April 22, 2013

Delores Beyersdorf and Kevin Hastie,  
"Organic Roses"

### May 27, 2013

Helen Newman, "How To Prepare for the  
Rose Show"

### June 2, 2013

Tri-City Rose Show, Shilo Inn, Richland

**June 22, 2013** – Seattle Rose Society  
Show and PNW District Convention

## TRI-CITY ROSE SOCIETY

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