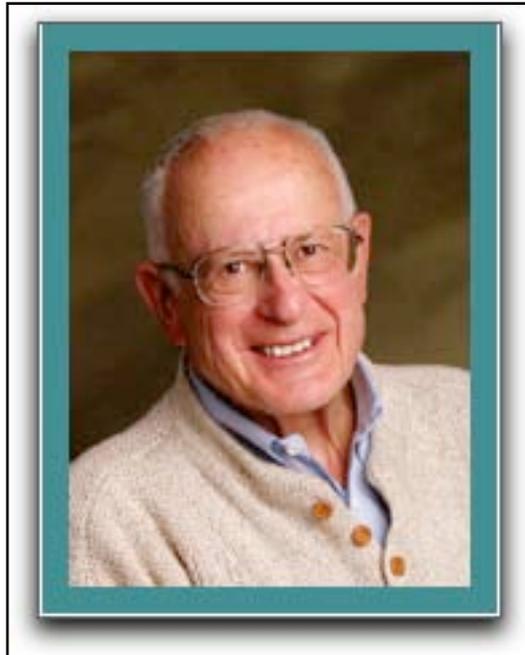




ROSE HERALD

Rose Bed Bugs

Hear Dr. Rod Coler speak at our March 23, 2009 meeting



Dr. Rod Coler will conduct an audio-visual walk through our gardens, visiting the insects that “visit” us, bidden and unbidden.

Dr. Coler is a long-time resident of the Tri-Cities, a retired medical doctor and an amateur entomologist. He has collected

insects all over the world in travels with his family and friends. He will talk to us about the beneficial and “not-so beneficial” insects found in our Tri-City gardens. Come and enjoy an interesting time learning about our resident insects. Bring a friend.

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One beneficial insect on Dr. Rod Coler’s garden list is sure to be a

Praying Mantis.

Adult mantids are usually green or brown, and about the length of your little finger.



PRESIDENT RICHARD KERKOF

March is here—spring is on its way! I hope you all still had some winter protection for your roses. As plants break their dormancy there is greater risk of damage from sub-freezing night temperatures. This is particularly true if the soil around the roots has become too dry.

Thanks go out to Helen Newman for a great presentation Friday, Feb. 20 at the Home and Garden Show at TRAC. Also thanks to



SHARING NEWS AND VIEWS

Norma Boswell, Harlow Young, Tom Miles and Toni Silva, who helped at the Rose Society table through the rest of the weekend.

On a sad note that Saturday, we lost Leona Mattison, age 95, an active TCRS member since 1952. Norma Boswell and Jim Campbell spoke at her memorial service. Leona was an inspiration to all, and her example showed any one of us can

Continued on Page 5



MEETING TIME

Monday, March 23, 7:30 p.m.

HOW TO GET THERE

On Interstate 182, take Queensgate Exit 3B. Drive past Wal-Mart on Queensgate. Just past the first traffic light on Duportail, turn right toward the one-story Richland City Shop Complex, 2700 Duportail. (somewhat hidden behind a new fast food place).

Minutes, Feb. 23, 2009

by Cyndy Sharer, Secretary

Past President Harlow Young called the February meeting of the Tri-City Rose Society to order at 7:35 p.m.

Harlow announced that for those of us who hadn't heard, Leona Mattison, a Tri-City Rose Society member since 1952, passed away Saturday morning, February 21. Her memorial service will be held on Friday, February 27, 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Kennewick. Leona was our *Rose Herald* Editor for 20 years before Norma Boswell took the helm. Leona remained active in newsletter production, collating and folding until recently. In last month's *Rose Herald* you may have read her Valentine story.

Our first order of business centered on our upcoming pruning demonstration at the Vina Hudson/ Leona Mattison Honor Garden in Lawrence Scott Park. Tom Miles informed us that Rick Omeara of Work Source is willing to bring a group to help us prune the garden on March 21. He plans for us to all meet that morning if the weather isn't

terribly windy or rainy, making pruning dangerous.

Our speaker for the evening, Arlan Gaden, was introduced by Jim Campbell. Arlan worked tirelessly with Jane Melville to make the AARS Rose Test Garden and Demonstration Garden near the Kennewick public library a success.

Arlan is a long-time WSU Extension Master Gardener who has been doing vermiculture for many years. He has taught many a 4th grader about composting with worms. His 30 minutes speech was very interesting, informative and peppered with anecdotes about vermiculture. There was the time he drove to Bellingham to teach his daughter's class, and all his worms climbed out of the box in his trunk, as worms hate vibrations. Their bristles (setae) warn them of predators. How many of us knew there is a valley in Australia near the recent forest fires that is home to the world's largest earthworm, ten feet long? More of us probably knew our Tri-City soils are nearly devoid of humus and organic matter: something that could be helped by adding worm composting to our gardens. Arlan's talk, along with his box of compost and worms (that had no bad odors), may have swayed some of us to try saving our kitchen fruit and vegetable scraps, keeping our kitchen garbage cans less smelly and tossing out less waste.

The meeting was adjourned by President Richard Kerkof at 8:30 p.m.

From Pacific Northwest District Director, Jack Kiley
(in the next column)



Obviously, this is a terrible time to bring up the subject of money. With the economy the way it is, most of us are too scared to even want to find out whether we have any assets that are worth anything. Yet, in order to get through this year, your Pacific Northwest District has to find a way to raise additional revenue.

Why does the District need money? The District has no direct funding source; local societies within the District pledge amounts each year, usually on the basis of \$1.00 per society member, with some societies pledging more, and some less. At the Fall Conference the District raises funds from its Silent Auction items, selling framed photos, and raffling gift baskets donated by some societies. However, the amount of funds produced by these activities is unpredictable.

At the same time, the District has certain commitments that are critical to its continuing operation. Even with the increasing use of e-mail, the *Northwest Rosarian* costs about \$1200 per year to produce and mail. This year your Board has decided against any increase in Fall Conference fees. Yet, current fee levels for the Conference do not pay for meals, breaks, copying and other necessary expenses.
(more on page 3)



From Jack Kiley, *continued*

The speakers that come from around the country donate their time, but frequently expect at least some of their travel expenses to be reimbursed. And as District Director, and therefore automatically a member of the ARS Board of Directors, I am expected to attend two Board meetings each year.

So our District needs funds, and I'm hoping that you can help. Attending the Fall Conference and supporting its silent auction, raffles and other revenue raising activities is a place to start. I'm also asking you to consider supporting our District by becoming a Patron; donations of any size will matter. If you can help in this way, please send your donation to our Treasurer, John Sitton, at 1120 25th Ave. SW, Albany, OR 97321.

Next month, on a more happy and exciting note, we'll talk about a special workshop we're planning for this summer that I hope will attract your interest and participation.

2009 Rose Show Committee



- Show Chair Harlow Young
- Show Co-Chair Dorothy Campbell
- Advertisements Jolene Angelos

- Awards Janet Bryant
- Chief Clerk John Brehm
- Education/Membership Richard & Linda Kerkof
- Entries Ann Muggli
- Hospitality Norma Boswell
- Judges Chair Jim Campbell
- Luncheon Coordinator JoAnn Brehm
- Placement – Arrangements Dorothy Campbell
- Placement– Horticulture Bob and Bridget Louie
- Properties Mark & Linda Palmer
- Publicity Helen Newman
- Schedule JoAnn Brehm
- Staging Harlow Young, Dorothy Campbell
- Show Sales Cyndy Sharer

Most, if not all, of the committee chairs will be asking others to help. For example, Hospitality provides refreshments for 18 judges and 12 clerks before judging takes place at the Rose Show. Six members have already signed up to bring a modest sized plate of food at 8:30 a.m. May 24. Most active TCRS members will be helping on at least one of the committees listed above. That's how we are able to provide a Rose Show for the public and have fun doing it.

'Gemini' Seeks Our Help

Story as related by Tom Miles

Hi: My name is 'Gemini,' a hybrid tea rose. I have been elected president of the Rose Home Owners Association in the Honor

Roll Garden in Lawrence Scott Park for year 2009. The Board of Directors consists of all varieties of roses from minis to climbers. Our goal is to be excellent flowery plants representing love and devotion. We communicate to humans by whispering and dancing in the wind and furnishing beautiful colors and elegant fragrance among dark green leafed bushes six months during the year. We also emit cooling moisture via our leaf pores for natural air conditioning, consume the dreaded carbon dioxide gas overheating the earth, and convert it to pure oxygen so vital to humans. Our plant operation is very efficient, reliable and frugal in cost.

However, we are dependent on weather conditions and the sponsorship and volunteer effort from the Tri-City Rose Society membership. **We 294 roses ask that you members please come and prune on Saturday, March 21, from 9 a.m. to 12 a.m.+.**

Mother Nature controls the weather. In case of downpour rain and very high winds involving dangerous working conditions, play party effort will be delayed until Saturday, March 28. City trucks are scheduled to be in place to load prunings. Thirty to forty citizens usually come to gain rose pruning instruction and practice. A group from the Work Force Center intends to come and help. All will need your technical guidance to prune us properly. Last winter was cold. We are damaged and blue, but our roots are full of energy; and if necessary, prune to ground level. We are confident with your volunteer effort, we will have beautiful blooms on Memorial Day weekend in late May.



MARCH IN THE GARDEN

by Norma Boswell, Consulting Rosarian

Rose genes give certain bushes the ability to withstand tough winters. Roses with hardy genes offer a welcome surprise when you prune this spring. You will even see red buds at the nodes of many brown branches. (Nodes are the slight creases or protrusions where leaves attach, or used to attach.)

Hardy roses offer the option to save some brown branches and canes. These unusual-looking parts still contain dissolved sugars and salts, colloids, suspended starch granules, and molecules of protein.

On the other hand, we would be foolish to save scorched black branches that look like they've been through fire. Black branches with no red leaf buds are the casualties of winter and will have to be pruned hard, often all the way to the ground.

I observe horribly black winter-killed branches on the hybrid tea rose variety named 'St. Patrick.' But next to the "victim" is the rose shrub variety 'Heidelberg,' which sports brown branches with bright red nodes.

Here's a choice. Do I keep every slender, living branch of this hardy shrub and enjoy lots of small, early-blooming roses? Or do I prune to keep big, generous 'Heidelberg' in bounds and lose some of its blossoms?

My space for growing roses is small. It makes sense to sacrifice *some* brown branches with bright red nodes. There will be more than enough to provide wonderful bloom color. If left unpruned, 'Heidelberg' will drape itself over nearby bushes. Its vigor guarantees

that it will not be hurt by what I do to it. In fact, I'll need to prune it all summer.

How will I prune 'St. Patrick'? Sorry to say, this rose will have nothing but a few inches of canes left. Its canes "grew up" in late fall and gave me giant yellow blooms before frost came. Late-fall canes are more vulnerable in winter than older ones that have survived a winter or two. Some bushes grow their best canes late in the season—even though we haven't fed them at the wrong time. (We know late feeding stimulates new green growth that doesn't have a chance of "hardening off" before frost. It's no consolation, but those black canes were not our fault. Late-fall cane growth is in some bushes' genes.).Rosarians hope damaged bushes are vigorous enough to send up plenty of replacement canes after pruning. I'm not sure about the vigor of 'St. Patrick,' but I'm willing to prune low and take my chances.

Read the Rose Canes

Reading rose canes is an art that becomes second nature the more you practice pruning.

Obviously, black canes must be pruned off. Brown and even green branches need to be inspected as you cut, especially when you see promising red buds at the nodes.

Check the inside of the cane after you make a test cut. If the cane is brown or tan inside, prune lower. Look for a cane that is creamy white, the color of a freshly cut apple.

When you're new at pruning, start near the top and work down. It's less intimidating. Let fearless Old Hands start at the bottom.

Tri-City Rose Society

Check page 8 for 2009 events during the first half of our rose year.

Check page 1 for details on this month's program, and **page 2** for directions to our meeting place.

We welcome suggestions for speakers and programs. Contact Jim Campbell, 967-2606, scotch1943@verizon.net, or Harlow Young at 735-3481, e-mail harlow.young@conagrafoods.com.

TCRS meets 10 times a year on the 4th Monday of the month. We meet at Richland City Shop Complex, but visit public or individual gardens during the summer. In October we close our rose year with a wonderful fall banquet.

We are a nonprofit educational society affiliated with the American Rose Society. Visitors are always welcome!

Production Staff

NORMA BOSWELL



Rose Herald Editor and Publisher for 23 years, Norma is also a Consulting Rosarian and an

ARS Horticulture and Arrangements Judge.

JO ANGELOS



Jo writes inspired words for the newsletter and she prepares our labels. TCRS is very lucky to

have Jo as a volunteer!

NANCY FOSTER-MILLS



Nancy set up our online presence several years ago, and some of us are just now

beginning to realize how much she has contributed. We're looking good on the internet.



**TOM MILES DISCUSSED
HONOR GARDEN CHANGES
WITH LEONA MATTISON**

This photo was taken by Dorothy Campbell in 2007 at our Spring Rose Show. It shows our dear departed Leona with one of the most pleased expressions we have ever had the privilege to see. Tom tells the story behind this picture.



“As we looked at a photograph of the old wooden gazebo she promoted and sponsored [Leona paid for materials used for construction], she reminisced about how it was built by local volunteer workshop and boy scout groups. I provided her a summary that flooring and related wooden support had rotted in the old gazebo, and the city safety inspector condemned usage until it was repaired or destroyed. More detailed inspection indicated repair was not an economical option, and it would be destroyed.

“I suggested that a better option would be to save the top of the old gazebo and mount it on metal posts similar to other picnic tables in the park. This option would provide an eating area near the garden, retain the volunteer spirit provided by Leona Mattison, and support the campaign of then mayor Jim Beaver to get other groups to sponsor privately funded park improvements throughout the City. The City bought the new option hook, line and sinker.

“The conversation continued with a picture of the new gazebo with the old roof repaired and referred to as a Leona spiritual cover. I related observing a father or grandpa confined to a wheel chair having lunch with active children. All were enjoying her spiritual shading from the hot sun. She was pleased and commented on the improvements without steps for people with limitations.

“We then looked at a picture of the old gazebo area that had been converted to a bed of five continuous blooming new shrub roses and two miniature roses that added color facing the walking path. She loved the beauty of the new bed with the hardy roses needing only minimum maintenance.

“Last we looked at pictures of the two beds of David Austin roses she also promoted and sponsored with the help of another rose society associate around the year 1990. She was delighted the roses were so healthy, large, and covered with flowers.

“Since Leona was in a great happy mood, I decided to give her a challenge. I stated I had heard by the grapevine that she was very assertive in making decisions and getting her projects completed when coordinating with other rose society members. You know, kind of like a heifer in a china shop. Without batting an eyelid, she replied, ‘Tom, you must be persistent to eliminate road blocks to complete projects in a timely manner.’ We both chuckled and laughed. That is when Dorothy must have pressed the shutter button on the camera.

“Leona was one of a kind, and I will always be reminded of the Leona spiritual cover while eating my lunch under the gazebo at the garden.”
—Tom Miles

Prospective CR? Give Your Name to JoAnn Brehm by March Meeting

The Consulting Rosarian School and Audit is now scheduled for Saturday afternoon, May 23, so CR's from Montana and elsewhere can participate. You will still have time to get your roses ready that evening for the show on Sunday.

We would like to have another person or two sign up for the School (main requirement is 36 consecutive months as an ARS member). We need to know the names for the School by the March meeting so the application can be sent to the ARS in time.

Contact JoAnn Brehm at 627-0577 or brehmj@3-cities.com. I will also have a sign up sheet at the March meeting.

President Kerkof's Message
Continued from Page 1

step up to fill a need and improve our community. For the third year now, our TCRS has donated rose pruning to the fund raising auction for the Neurological Center. If you would like to help with this pruning, please get in touch with Harlow Young or me. Speaking of rose pruning, set aside Saturday, March 21, and come out to our rose garden at Lawrence Scott Park and help get things ready for this year. Don't forget our meeting, March 23, when Dr. Rod Coler will talk about Rose Bed Bugs.



3 “B’s” of Beekeeping 101

Beneficial
Bold

Beautiful by Jo Angelos



Even though our morning temps are still starting out in the teens; we can say it is officially Spring on Mar 20 and I am depending on it! What better way to start this new season than with Tom Miles at the Lawrence Scott Park Memorial Rose Garden. While he can't guarantee perfect weather, the warmth of his smile and handshake will make it seem sunny. Rumor has it Harlow is providing breakfast for everyone but again, maybe just “rumor.” (While looking up that word I found, “unverified report or idle speculation,” I'll let you decide.) Hope to see you there.

As we search for the signs of Spring, it seems fitting to fall back on one of the most familiar topics: The Birds and Bees. I'm not trying to play favorites but I've always wanted to research the honey bee and I've found many similarities between this busy, industrious insect and rose lovers. As I began my research on the honey bee article, I must admit it was with selfish motivation. For many years I've wanted to have my own hive. My second child was so deathly afraid of bees and anything resembling one; the mental picture of him standing on the street corner with his small bag of belongings caused me to delay my interest until he was on his own. Family members have warned, “You know Jason will never come and see you again.” Maybe this process will work him through his phobia, especially once he tastes the honey.

Out of the dead of winter we see both the honey bee and the gardener emerging from the last few months of semi-hibernation, thinking about the work at hand. Because this small winged creature takes its place as the most researched insect, volumes have been written, concluded, surmised and debated. Here in the Tri-Cities we realize their value in food supply and all the industries beyond. They possess every aspect we can explore in the **beneficial** category. They are valuable, productive, profitable, health-giving and the list goes on. On www.mongabay.com, I found, “Pollination services provided by insects are worth \$216 billion a year reports a new study published in *Ecological Economics*.” As Tri-Citians, we know the value of this process as we work toward the final products providing the value, profit and health benefits. As rose lovers, we enjoy the productive blooms that create the valuable “hips” we've explored in previous issues.

Continuing with the health values, I searched www.honey-health.com. “Pure ripe honey is sugar with the most difficult and most important part of digestion we find already accomplished by the bees. Moreover, it is a safe and very gentle laxative. And probably, before each comb-cell is sealed up, the bee injects a drop of acid from her sting. Anyway, honey has a distinct antiseptic property. That is why it is so good for sore throats or chafed skins.” I could understand why other insects might see bees as the ultimate “over-achiever;” they do it all! Could we compare rose growers to the “worker bee”? As we clean and create the best environment for our roses, hoping for sterile, fertile conditions for ultimate production and in the end wanting desperately to service the “queen;” our work certainly cannot compare to the profits in the honey market but if wealth could be measured in beauty and healthy satisfaction, we could sit in royal places.

This is definitely where the **bold** steps in; we have creative, valiant and adventuresome, all in one little packet. These little guys fight to the death when an intruder gets beyond the opening. They are protective, determined and dedicated to the queen and hive. They travel miles for the sweetest nectar and return home to share the news with the others. This news is communicated in the form of a dance. There are several sites to watch this dance when you Google “Dance of the bees.” While most rose growers don't do a lot of dancing (well, maybe some do – I just couldn't find it on Google); we do share the findings of the valuable soil additives or best organic mulches and can't wait for others to smell the heavenly aroma from the latest and greatest rose.

While researching I have come to realize, as with growing roses, the more you know – the more you realize you don't know. A hive, a few bees, a nice spot for them, good for my flowers and garden ping, bang, boom...everything is good. After a little digging, I was intrigued. After more digging, I was totally overwhelmed. On the Inlandbeemail.com site for the Spokane area I came across some names in the Tri-Cities for swarm removal. After an inquiring email, they informed me of the Mid Columbia Bee Association (MCBA) meeting taking place on March 11. The group is in the initial stages and provides a place for beekeepers of all extremes to share, learn and enjoy “bee” talk. The President is David White email address: davidabeemaster@yahoo.com. The secretary is Chris Kilmer, Budvar@charter.net. Both were a tremendous help and would answer any questions you have. There is a Master Bee program set up for the 4 Saturdays in April – everyone is invited. Some helpful sites I was directed to include www.beesource.com with articles, viewpoints, hive building plans and exchange forums.

www.dadant.com supports a family owned business that has served the Beekeeping industry for 146 years. On a link to the American Bee Journal I found their writings started in 1861 and have continued except for a brief time during the Civil War. The link for “The Classroom” is amazing and provides questions and answers for everyone. Check them out, you will not be disappointed.

As we conclude with the **beautiful**, I must direct you to the beehive information on Wikipedia. The hives are extensive, colorful and incredible. The Langstroth hive is one of the most common and readily used hives; it has been in existence since 1851. A hive consists of a cover, honey supers, brood chambers and bottom board; it contains all the necessary bees working together as a played out symphony. Every bee does its part, at the time it needs done until its completion. Some words defining beauty include splendid, worthy, admirable and these little insects support all of them. We have come upon one of the smallest parts of creation, yet one of its most noble and honorable contributors and isn't that the legacy a rose lover would select?



CROWN GALL & PRUNING – THOUGHTS BY RICH BAER (from the March 2009 Tacoma Rose Society's Queen's Herald)

Crucial to the understanding of crown gall is that *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* itself is not the infectious agent. Its role is that of the engineer of the process. The disease is transmitted by a piece of DNA that moves from the bacterium to the plant cell.

Here is what we know of the infection process and how it affects our pruning techniques: the infection can occur only when a plant cell is wounded.

1. The wound must present itself in such a way that it allows contact with the bacterium.
2. The bacterium *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*, (*A.t.*) is present in all soils, with higher populations at or near the crowns of green plants.
3. The infectious process must be completed in 48 hours or less, with the ideal time for infection in the first 2-4 hours. The plant will normally "heal over" in that span.
4. Any disruption of the sequence will reject the infection.
5. The bacterium is motile and involves positive chemotaxis (chemical attraction to the plant and any injury site in particular).
6. Once the plant is infected, the infection is a cellular component of the plant.
7. Crown gall disease does not seriously damage older plants under normal conditions.

Keeping this in mind, we keep our pruning tools clean, sharp and disinfected. The wounded plant cell is a "given" for any type of pruning. Pruning higher up and away from the ground tends to isolate the injury from the bacterium. Sharp tools minimize the number of cells that will suffer damage and thus "heal" faster. Disinfecting the tools reduces the possibility of contact by an already infected plant. It is also important to place pruning tools on the soil where the chemical attraction would be at a high level. (The bacteria will be attracted to the plant materials on the shears and move toward it). If you cut canes down near the ground, try to keep pruner blades and saws from pushing into the soil. A saw blade pushed into the soil can bring the bacterium back up and into the plant as you move the saw upward. Normally root infections occur near the crown, so any subsoil operation near the crown should be done carefully, if at all. Most cultivation is usually away from the crown anyway. Remember that when working near the crown, "you are right in the heart of enemy territory" and should proceed accordingly. Low cuts can be protected with a non-soluble sealant that is not petroleum based. Elmer's wood glue seems to work well. This coating provides some "contact prevention" with microbes in general.

A few other points to consider: You hear recommendations to "remove infected soil". The soil is not infected. The plant is. The bacterium is present in all soils capable of supporting a microbial population. There are other, unrelated benefits to new or reconditioned soil, but they will not stop crown gall.

You hear recommendations to remove the infected area with a knife and swab the site with chlorine bleach. The fact is, the cells you are removing are plant cells. The bacterium is not there! The genetic make-up of the plant has changed. The positive results some people have found with bleach is the temporary reduction in mutated plant cells. The bleach may perform some degree of protection from outside bacterial infection, but at the wound site, there is nothing to disinfect except maybe germs from the knife.

Once a plant has completed the infectious process with *At.* and displays the condition we label as Crown Gall disease, it will always be in that condition. Some of the strategies that I use in my garden include the following. If I see a crown gall on a rose bush, I mentally mark it and wait to prune it near the end of the pruning. In our garden there are probably 15 or so bushes that currently have crown gall. I have a saw that has been marked just for using on crown gall infected plants because I do not believe that simply using a disinfectant will kill the *At.* in just a few minutes. I do not have any special pruners, but I could. I just use my regular pruners on the infected bushes and then I flame sterilize the blades with a torch, which in my mind kills the bad bugs, and it is all about keeping your peace of mind. I have not spread it through the garden to any extent using this method. I have dug up declining bushes and have found them very well engulfed with crown gall below the soil. On the other hand some of my very best blooming bushes have had crown gall for a long time. As long as the bush looks good, I see no reason to remove it. If you read the above you can see that it is not an infected bush that spreads the disease. However, if you do not use a little care you can spread crown gall to your plants. I know that I have been known to stick tools into the soil and I have been known to have crown gall in places that are not close to the soil like the picture of the crown galls growing eighteen inches up off the ground. These are easy to cure however, just cut off the stems a couple of inches below the gall and that will probably be the end of it.

Thank You, Rich



Call TCRS Officers & Consulting Rosarians (CR) for Help



* President Richard Kerkof, 5306 Cleveland Lane, Pasco, WA 99301-8434; (509) 547-1860 greenthumbsrjm@hotmail.com CR

* Co-Vice-President Jim Campbell, 1307 Maple Lane, West Richland, WA 99353-9332 (509) 967-2606 scotch1943@verizon.net CR (NOTE: Dorothy Campbell is also a CR.)

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* Co-Membership Chair Linda Kerkof (Linda will serve when Anne is out of town. Use data given for President Richard Kerkof.)

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Mark Your Calendar

March 21, 2009 (9 a.m.–noon)

Pruning Demonstration, Honor Garden

March 23, 2009

Dr. Rod Coler, Rose Bed Bugs

April 27, 2009

Dr. Alan Wicks, How to Control Nutrient Deficiencies and Diseases

May 18, 2009

Meeting to prepare for the Rose Show.

May 24, 2009

Rose Show at the Shilo Inn, Richland

To Be Announced

Mini-Rose Sale

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