



# Rose Herald

**'Dainty Bess'** Find out more about her on page 4 of this newsletter!



## President's Message

There's still time to send your Tri-City Rose Society membership dues. It is only \$17/single member and \$22/family for a full year. Contact our Membership Chair, Katie Dickenson (509)521-7551, for information. Also consider the benefits of joining the national [American Rose Society](http://www.americanrosesociety.org) ([click here](#)). The bimonthly magazine is just one of the benefits to help us in our rose-growing hobby.

It is May, and the Pacific Northwest District Show comes to our area this year! This is an awesome responsibility, but with it arrive some of the prettiest roses in the Northwest. I am so proud of JoAnn Brehm, Helen Newman, Jo Angelos, Dorothy Campbell and others who have put so much time into the planning of this event. It will be a great show.

*This month, our meeting will be on the THIRD MONDAY of the month rather than the fourth, since Memorial Day interrupts our normal schedule. This is the reason that your newsletter is arriving a week earlier than normal. Please be sure to mark your calendars for this important schedule change.*

My program talk this month will provide a chance for hands-on instruction to help you get the best shots of your roses. Bring your cameras, and we'll have some stations set up for you. There are a few pointers that I can give you, but the best, of course, is to practice. I'll also give a short video presentation on how to prepare a photo for printing or for contest entry. We'll meet at the Sandberg Event Center in West Richland at 7:00 PM.

We had a great meeting in April; Norma Boswell reviewed the key points for preparing our roses for the upcoming District Rose Show. I hope that you're prepping your growing buds for the big show day. We should be disbudding so that the resulting blooms are the best they can be. Also, at this month's meeting, we'll have vases and other props available for you to pick up so that you can arrive with your entries ready for the show. JoAnn Brehm will have the show schedules ready for you to pick up or print out your own copy from the TCRS website. These will have all the show classes and definitions for planning your entries.

The June meeting will be in the grounds of The Timbers Apartments in Richland. They have an extensive collection of roses; 168 bushes by my last count. These roses are already starting to bloom, and should have an impressive display for our June meeting. The business meeting will start at 7:00 PM but come a bit early to walk around and see the roses. This is a summer's event that you'll not want to miss.

*Harlow Young*

Click on links to view each Society's website.

**Tri-City Rose Society**  
[owt.com/rosesociety](http://owt.com/rosesociety)

**PNW District Rose Society**  
[pnwdistrict.org/](http://pnwdistrict.org/)

**American Rose Society**  
[www.rose.org](http://www.rose.org)

### Next Meeting

May 18, 2015—7:00 PM

Sandberg Event Center  
331 South 41st Avenue  
(Off Van Giesen)  
West Richland, WA

**Guest Speaker**

Harlow Young

*"How to Take a Great Pictures of Your Roses—and other Flowers"*  
*Handouts and vases for the show will be given—questions answered.*

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## TCRS Minutes, March 23, 2015 By Kathy Weber, Secretary

The April 27th meeting of the Tri-City Rose Society was called to order by President Harlow Young at the Sandberg Event Center in West Richland at 7:10 PM. The minutes of the March 23 meeting were approved as printed in the Rose Herald. There were 20 members, guests and visitors in attendance. Treasurer Bob Louie stated our balance stands at \$5,790 which includes \$376 from memberships and \$670 received from rose garden pruning donated by society members during the month.

JoAnn Brehm, PNW District Show Chair, shared rose show information, schedules and classes available for our entries, and a plot plan of our show room at the Richland Community Center. She answered questions regarding the Pacific Northwest District boundaries and entry qualifications for the district rose show which is being held at the same time as our society's rose show "Rivers of Roses." There should be a vast array of roses for the judges to examine and attach ribbons to. We were encouraged to bring our clear (washed) vases and bottles to our next meeting for use at the show.

Harlow introduced Norma Boswell (she did not really need an introduction), who talked to us about preparing our roses for show and how to select them from our gardens. She told us that judges look first for the beauty of a rose. There are certain parameters to look for in a rose that can win a blue ribbon. Among them are form and degree of openness. If disbudding is needed on side growth, it should take place two weeks before the show. As Norma was demonstrating how to show a spray, she was assisted by a lady bug "on leaf" who she carefully set aside. She uses Q-tips to fine clean rose petals, and panty hose to shine and clean the leaves. These are tips from an experienced exhibitor we can all learn from.

Our next meeting will be May 18 at the Sandberg Event Center, which is a week earlier due to the Memorial Day Weekend. Harlow will give us pointers on rose photography. He is asking us to bring our cameras to this meeting.



## Next Meeting May 18, 2015 Program by Harlow Young "How To Take Great Photos Of Your Roses...and other Flowers"

I have been taking photos of "everything" for many years. In the mid 70's through the 80's, I hung up my cameras to concentrate on my career. Once I approached retirement, my interest in roses and photography collided. It was a BIG CRASH! I found that I really enjoyed the challenge of capturing a rose bloom at its maximum level of beauty. Often, it became a real challenge. Rich Baer, one of the premier rose photographers of our era, has commented that he often visits his rose garden several times a day looking for the perfect moment when a rose is ready to be photographed. I am guilty of that as well, more and more now that I am retired.

I want to pass on some of the tips that I've learned. Some are quite intuitive; others are perhaps unique to my style, and you might like to use them. These are not difficult, but may need to be practiced so you can enjoy the art of rose photography. It is an art, with a bit of science mixed in. Some might inversely argue that it is more science than art.

In the past 4 years, I've taken the challenge to enter some photos in the Pacific Northwest District ARS Photo Contest. The first year the photo I entered from Don and Linda Mercer's rose garden won Best-of-Show honors. That experience motivated me, and I have continued entering in the PNWD and National ARS photo contests. In 2014 I entered the National ARS photo contest in the Novice Division, and was awarded the top honors for that division. As a "regular" contestant in the 2015 national contest, my photo of a spray of 'Dainty Bess' won Best-of-Show honors (see page 4).

The purpose of this month's program is not to get everyone to a competitive level, unless that is your ambition. My intent is to give some pointers so that you can enjoy the photos you take, and to perhaps further enhance them to display for maximum pleasure and memory. Perhaps, one or more of the photos you take can be entered in the Pacific Northwest District ARS Photo Contest, or even the National ARS Contest. Entry to both contests is easy, painless and, regardless of your success, rewarding.

**Bring your cameras to this month's meeting.** This will be a fun experience for everyone. We'll have props and roses to photograph, plenty for you to practice with.

**JoAnn Brehm, PNW District Rose Show Chair**

JoAnn Brehm is our highly-experienced organizer of the 2015 Pacific Northwest District Rose Show – same time and place as the Tri-City Rose Society's Spring Rose Show – Saturday, May 30, at Richland's Community Center.

JoAnn joined the American Rose Society in the 1980's. The Brehms (JoAnn, John and their daughter Anna) form one of the Pacific Northwest District's respected dynasties. JoAnn's mother, Ruth Mickelson, received the District's Silver Honor Medal in 1999 and passed her love of roses on to her daughter. JoAnn and John continue the tradition by inspiring Anna, who has shouldered several responsibilities for the District Show.

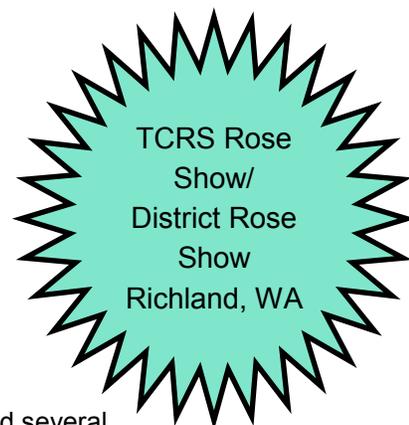
President of TCRS three times, JoAnn has mastered the art of creating our annual Rose Show Schedule. Many years ago she qualified as Rose Horticulture Judge, then Rose Arrangements Judge, and in 2011 she was elevated from Consulting Rosarian to Master Rosarian. In 2013, she and Linda Kerkof were appointed Co-Chairs of Rose Arrangements for the Pacific Northwest District. When Linda died suddenly in 2014, JoAnn continued as Chair.

JoAnn has attended four World Federation Conferences/Shows and judged at two of them.

*Thank you for your years of dedication and service, JoAnn! (and John and Anna!)*

**COUNTDOWN to PNW District & TCRS Rose Show**

- **Bring polished trophies to meeting on May 18** (you know who you are).
- **Bring prizes to meeting** (you know who you are).
- **Pick up vases and entry tags before meeting**, at 6:30 PM.
- **Bring back any clear, washed vases from last year** – (this is a bigger show than normal, so we need all we can get).
- **Rose Show Schedules will be available at meeting.**
- **Silent Auction at the Rose Show** (Heritage Nursery has graciously donated several items): We would like to have additional auction items to sell to help cover extra expenses of the show.
  - o This is your chance to make a fun basket of local wines and products people outside the area will love! Let's be creative and have fun! You can also bring new or gently used items such as rose & garden books, vases, arrangement containers, rose related items.
  - o We will have a form to complete and a 'Reserve Bid' amount. "Reserve" an item by paying a stated price. You bid it, you own it, you take it home with you on the spot!
- **Committee Signup Sheets—We need YOUR help! Please come to the meeting on the 18th and tell us how you would like to be a part of the show!** (Bring your friends—helpers do not have to be TCRS members! This is a public event—we encourage everyone to participate and smell the roses!)
- **Horticulture Judging & Consulting Rosarian Audit Friday Evening (May 29th)**
  - o Bruce Lind – Horticulture Judging
  - o John Moe – Chemical Safety
  - o Shilo Inn, Yakima Room at 5:30 PM (Dinner can be ordered & eaten during meeting).
  - o **You don't have to be a TCRS member, a judge or a Consulting Rosarian to attend; these are excellent programs.**





**National ARS Winner**

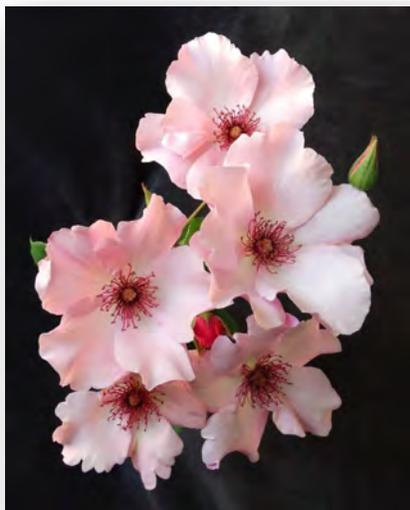
**Class 4:** One Spray

**1st Place AND**

**BEST OF SHOW**

'Dainty Bess' (right)

**2nd Place** 'School Spirit' (below)



**The Tri-City Rose Society has someone to brag about...**

Harlow Young's rose photographs have graced covers of the *American Rose* national publication several times in the past few years, but May/June is especially epic with his photo of 'Dainty Bess' which won the top honor for "Best of Show." We congratulate you, Harlow, and thank you for putting our society and the Pacific Northwest District on the map and throughout the pages of the *American Rose*!

Come to the TCRS meeting on May 18th to learn the secrets of his success (bring your camera with you)!

**Class 9:** Rose Potpourri (a horticulture specimen that does not fit the criteria for other classes) **2nd Place** Dragonfly on bud of 'Pristine' (below)



**Class 12:** Macro: Close-up of any part of the rose or rose plant  
**1st Place** "Nippy Hips" (above)



**Harlow shares some valuable information...**

Those of you interested in submitting photos to the national ARS contest, the rules and entry forms are available on the ARS web site at this address: <http://www.rose.org/members-only-2/contests/>. I realize that this is a "members only" part of the ARS web site. Part of the reason for placing the contest rules there is that entrants must be ARS members at the time photos are submitted. If it is your desire to compete in this contest and are not yet a member of the ARS, any on the board of the Tri-City Rose Society can assist you in joining the ARS (see page 8 for contact info).

If you're interested in entering photos in the PNW District ARS photo contest, I can get the rules and entry forms to you. I am the chairman for this contest, so I'd be happy to get you started. In fact, we really like to have a large group of new entrants each year. You must be a member of a local rose society like ours to enter your photos in the District contest.

**Class 2:** One bloom, fully open, no side buds.

**3rd Place**  
'Ambossfunken' (left)

**Class 3:** One bloom, non-exhibition form (or what is sometimes called "decorative form"), no side buds.

**1st Place** 'Vavoom' (right)



## May Rose Garden

By Norma Boswell, Master Rosarian



May 5 is the average last frost day in the Mid-Columbia, zone 7a. After this calendar date, nights usually remain above freezing. Roses “read” weather signs just as you and I check our calendars.

Early bloomers are in full bloom. There’s a private rose show going on in the garden. (Reminder: disbud roses now for the District/local show May 30.)

South-facing roses planted near warm asphalt (and between light-reflective siding and concrete sidewalk) became my first poppers. Warm, sunny days pulled me into the garden to refresh my soul.

According to custom, we prune in mid-March and plant new roses in April. Did you know that touch-up pruning goes on throughout the growing season? Get ready by putting on goatskin gloves. Wear a sun hat...clothe yourself to protect skin on arms, legs and feet. Carry a pruning tool and a bucket.

Re-pruning might bring a few surprises. I had left certain old-timers taller than usual because the pith looked healthy – creamy or greenish-white centers inside the lofty branches I tested in March. During follow-up pruning, I noticed quite a few unproductive leafy bunches. Before cutting them off, I spread open the greenery and looked for buds. Unfortunately, there were no buds – just tangles of leaves, often with debris collected near the bottom. Sometimes a rather long branch had nothing but bunches, one after another, like a series of fists. Branches like that were removed as low as the graft (where the desired variety was budded onto rootstock) and tossed into the trash bucket. A second surprise was the color of the pith at my lowest cut. It wasn't just tan, but often brown. There had been enough starch in the upper branch to make leaves, but "winter kill" had destroyed the channels to and from the roots.

Speaking of roots, I found complete root death on two miniature roses that had leaves but no buds. The centers of each root were completely brown. Farewell, little friends! I will remember you, but the ground you left vacant will be enhanced by others that I hope are more winter-hardy.

Water when the top two inches of soil become dry. Water deeply—water less often. Make the roots dive for moisture; they'll do better with a deep anchor both summer and winter. Water should penetrate at least 12 inches. Check beyond the drip line with a shovel.

Fertilize after roses bloom. In my 2015 garden, that should be during the second week of May, except new bushes and late-bloomers.



University of Nebraska  
Department of Entomology

Refresh the mulch level 2-3 inches above soil level. I prefer beauty bark with no artificial color added. We have more than enough chemicals endangering soil microorganisms, killing beneficial insects, contaminating the water table and jeopardizing our rivers. When you have a choice, choose the natural alternative.

Green Lacewing Larva by Jim Kalisch  
Chrysopa sp  
Department of Entomology,  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
(Permission to copy is granted.)

## A Fabulous Sport

By The Rose Whisperer, AKA Harlow Young

There is a rose bush in the back yard of a home which I frequently pass that I have “watched” for at least three years. It is a bush of ‘Austrian Copper’ or ‘Rosa foetida bicolor.’ In this article I’ll refer to it by its common name, ‘Austrian Copper,’ although its official ARS exhibition name is ‘Rosa foetida bicolor.’ This spring, I stopped at the home and obtained permission to take photos of it. I don’t know if he noticed the big smile on my face, or if he was simply being a kind neighbor, but the owner also gave me permission to take cuttings if I wanted. Well, of course! I took some home and used them to get some nice close-up photos. His family likes ‘Austrian Copper’ because they live in the Kamiakin School District, and their daughter either attends or recently graduated from KHS. This rose matches their school colors, red and yellow.



This spring ‘Austrian Copper’ was so full of blooms it looked as I drove past to be on fire. Here’s a photo of it. The bush is about 15 feet wide and at least 10 feet tall. Most of my references suggested this specimen is much larger than average (eight feet wide and six feet tall) for its variety. However, the description in HelpMeFind.com says it can grow up to twenty feet wide. That’s more like the bush I photographed.

Some of you received this same photo by email from me a month or so ago. At the time I wrote that this was a combination of ‘Austrian Copper’ and ‘Harison’s Yellow.’ I must correct my error. This is NOT a combination of those two rose varieties, but only ‘Austrian Copper.’ For various reasons beyond the scope of this article, ‘Harison’s Yellow’ has many different characteristics from the yellow blooms of this bush, though it is believed to be distantly related by hybridization.

‘Austrian Copper’ has a very interesting history. It is a sport (a deviation from type...such as bud or bloom...from its parent plant) of ‘Rosa foetida,’ a very brilliant yellow single rose, a species rose that originated in western or central Asia. Though this rose probably originated in very arid climates, Graham Thomas notes that it performs best in more moderate and humid climates.

This rose was known to exist in the 16th century, most references giving a date of discovery about 1590. However, one resource [The Quest for the Rose by Roger Phillips and Martyn Ryt](#) indicates that it may have been grown in Arab countries since the twelfth century. This variety is obviously a survivor, recognized as having the same characteristics for more than four hundred years, maybe as long ago as 800 years! To find an example of it growing in the back yard of a Kennewick, Washington home, where it has apparently been thriving for decades, is impressive to me.

You may be thinking, “If ‘Austrian Copper’ is listed in most references as a red-blend rose, why are there so many yellow blooms on this bush?” I had the same question until reading some of the descriptions in sources I include at the end of this article. Graham Thomas, in his [Rose Book](#) (p. 102) answers the question quite adequately by writing, “Occasionally this dazzling rose reverts on an odd branch or two to the vivid yellow of the species.” The species he refers to is, of course, ‘Rosa foetida.’ My subject bush had more than an “occasional odd branch” of totally yellow blooms. I estimate that at least a third of the bush was yellow. Linda Mercer made a comment similar to that of Graham Thomas at our last TCRS meeting when Norma was describing how to use my ‘Austrian Copper’ specimen as a rose show entry. At the time I didn’t agree, but when I read more about what the experts said, I could see that Linda and Graham were right.

*Rose Whisperer, continued from page 6*

I could clearly see the completely yellow blooms growing among the red ones. Adding to my enlightenment, Charles and Bridgid Quest-Ritson, in their work The American Rose Society Encyclopedia of Roses, say of this rose (p. 154), "The individual flowers...often have flashes and flecks of yellow in them (since) the orange or red coloring is only a few cells thick. They have the yellow stamens as the type. 'Bicolor' is an unstable mutation, and commonly reverts to 'Rosa foetida'." (Parentheses are my additions. HY.)

I found all of these mutations on this unique bush. It has flashes of yellow on some blooms and also completely yellow blooms on many canes. My first photo (left) shows a flash of yellow on one of the petals. The second photo (right) shows a typical 'Austrian Copper' bloom, while on the same branch, there is also an unusual bloom with three yellow petals and two red. Though these color combinations are the exception, they do illustrate the instability of this sport as Quest-Ritson described.



Visiting this bush, talking to the owner about it, being granted permission to photograph it and take cuttings has been a thrill for me. I enjoy this type of rose "rush," the joy of the hunt and the "capture" in a photo (or several).

I cannot leave this subject without recognizing a second



sport of 'Rosa foetida' called 'Rosa foetida persiana,' a variety with double yellow flowers. Its flowers are described as "the brightest egg-yolk yellow imaginable, with occasional hints of gold." Quest-Ritson). Throughout the 19th century, hybridizers searched for a rose they could use to bring a clear yellow color into modern hybrids. The breakthrough came near the end of the century when Joseph Pernet-Ducher succeeded, after fifteen years of work, in crossing this sport with a Hybrid Perpetual ('Antoine Ducher'). One of his seedlings (which may have been a chance seedling) when again crossed with 'Austrian Copper' in 1893 led to the first orange-yellow modern Hybrid Foetida named 'Soliel D'Or.' Graham Thomas said this hybrid "changed the colour of the Hybrid Teas beyond recognition." He meant that this rose is believed to be responsible for transferring the genetic code for yellow coloring to almost all modern yellow, orange and copper colored hybrids. In fact, our modern rose 'Peace' has this important rose's genes in its heritage. 'Peace' has also contributed genetic traits to perhaps hundreds of modern rose hybrids. 'Soliel D'Or,' though not a popular hybrid today, is still in commerce more than a hundred years after its introduction.

Most references to 'Rosa foetida' and its sports also mention a downside. They are susceptible to the blackspot virus. This susceptibility has passed into a significant portion of modern hybrids. In our dry climate it is less evident, but in more humid regions it is a significant problem. A popular strain of roses advertised as blackspot resistant is the "Knockout" rose family developed by Bill Radler. Many modern hybridizers are working hard to breed disease resistance to viruses like blackspot.

References:

1. Beales, Peter; Classic Roses; Holt, Rinehart and Winston, New York, NY, 1985, pp. 21, 134.
2. Phillips (Roger) and Ryx (Martyn); The Quest for the Rose; Random House, New York, 1993, pp. 16, 114.
3. Quest-Ritson, Charles and Bridgid; The American Rose Society Encyclopedia of Roses; DK Publishing, Inc., 2003, p. 154.
4. Thomas, Graham Stuart; Rose Book; Saga Press, Inc./ Timber Press, Inc. Portland, OR; 199; p.12, 102-103.

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## 2015 Meetings

May 18

**Sandberg Events Center**  
*(pick up supplies for  
rose show entries)*

June 22

**Timbers Apartments**  
**Richland, WA**

July 27

**Home of Harlow &**  
**Linda Young**  
**Kennewick, WA**

Aug 22

**Manito Park**  
**Spokane, WA**



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Esteemed Rosarian

