



TARS NOTES

From the Tallahassee Area Rose Society (TARS)

Affiliated with the American Rose Society

February, 2026

ANNUAL DUES FOR 2026 FOR THE TALLAHASSEE AREA ROSE SOCIETY ARE DUE NOW!

**THIS WILL BE THE LAST NEWSLETTER TO PEOPLE
WHO HAVE NOT PAID THEIR DUES FOR 2026**

ANYONE WHO PAID DUES IN OCTOBER, 2025, OR LATER WILL BE CONSIDERED PAID UP FOR 2026

Membership is still only \$15 for an individual, or \$20 for a Joint Membership

To get a copy of the newsletter mailed to you via the US Postal Service, please include an extra \$10 with your new or renewing membership to help with printing and postage costs.

**Dues can be paid at the meetings or mailed to the address
on the Membership Form at the end of this newsletter**

NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026, 5:30 PM

**Clay Nelson of Nelson's Southern Roses will discuss plans for the rose nursery
and will bring roses for sale**

**COMMUNITY ROOM OF THE EASTSIDE BRANCH OF THE LEON COUNTY LIBRARY
LOCATED AT 1583 PEDRICK ROAD, TALLAHASSEE 32317**

**PLEASE VISIT THE TARS WEBSITE (TallahasseeAreaRoseSociety.org)
and Follow and “like” our FACEBOOK PAGE (Tallahassee Area Rose Society)!
Send us your photos for posting.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Baby, it's been cold out there! My garden is mainly dormant right now, which gives me a bit of a break in my gardening duties. A few of the roses are snuggled under buckets, trash cans, and frost cloths, but others are out in the open, on their own. This cold weather certainly will change in just a few weeks, and warming temperatures will bring a flurry of garden tasks. Right now, good garden care last fall and possible protection now from chilling winds hopefully will get our roses through the depths of the winter and into full bloom in the spring. It's too early to prune the roses right now, but we can start that task as early as Valentine's Day.

I am very excited to announce that Clay Nelson of Nelson's Southern Roses in Thomasville will be at our February 5th meeting and will bring rose plants to sell. This is a relatively new nursery that is currently building up its inventory and that holds promise for a local excellent source of a range of rose varieties grafted onto Fortuniana rootstock, which helps them to do well in this area. Clay and his wife Marion are in the process of adding miniature roses to their operation. This effort has been advanced by Joanne Maxheimer's donation of a large number of cuttings from her own garden. I look forward to hearing more about what they are doing, and hopefully we can plan a field trip to the nursery at a later date.

We are always thinking of new topics and activities that will be of interest to our members. As Mary Lou describes below in the minutes, interest has been expressed in organizing a tour of rose gardens. It would be fun to see public gardens in the area, as well as private gardens of individual members. It's always interesting, and even inspiring, to see what other people do with their gardens, and it's certainly not necessary that a rose garden contain only roses. The inclusion of other types of plants can make the garden more interesting and more cohesive. We hope to plan at least one tour in the spring, and I hope that you will consider sharing your garden.

Another possible meeting topic would be the design and construction of a simple, inexpensive, automated microdrip watering system. Systems like that can eliminate the work of dragging hoses or watering cans around the garden on a hot day and can lead to more uniform watering. Is this something that you would be interested in learning more about? If so, let me know!

Mary Lou has a very nice article, below, with historical information about rose cultivation. I think you will find it very interesting reading, and informative. I learned a lot from it!

I also want to make sure that you know about the Consulting Rosarian School that will be held on June 20, 2026, in the American Legion Hall in Monticello. Stay tuned for more information. You don't have to be a Consulting Rosarian, or aspiring to become one, to benefit from the wealth of rose-growing information that will be presented as part of that all-day school.

Meanwhile, I hope to see you on February 5th!

Janet

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 2026

Prepared by Mary Lou Chenevert

Place: Leroy Collins Main Library

Meeting Date: January 8, 2026

Social Time: 5:30 PM

Refreshments provided by Janet Newburgh with home-baked cookies, and snacks by Mary Lou.

Announcements:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by President Janet Newburgh.

She offered a 2026 pocket calendar and a few of the 2023 ARS Rose-buying Guides, handy for looking up roses, to the first takers. She also brought graph paper and 11x17 sheets of paper for people to use in planning and laying out their rose gardens – a good way to see how the space will work for you.

Janet also announced she has booked the meeting place for February, March, and April at the Eastside Library. Needed are newsletter articles and refreshment volunteers for those months. Also, anyone wishing to present a program at a meeting, please contact her. Getting ZOOM set up for presentation topics can be worked on.

Janet and Gerard said the Rose Society has 2 Facebook pages; they are Administrators of the Public one on which people are encouraged to post photos or comments.

Gerard gave the Treasurer's report for the Rose Society, which has an account balance of \$4,179.00.

Programs:

Janet handed out a list of "Low Maintenance Roses" from "Design and Care of Landscapes and Gardens in the South" by David W. Marshall, whom she had contacted and received permission from him to use his list in the meeting. Attendees discussed those roses on the list that they had in their own gardens with attributes worth noting, most being considered Old Garden Roses and newer Shrub Roses, among others. It was noted that a few names begin with "Souvenir" followed by a proper name, and the question was asked about the significance of that initial name? Upon further research, "Souvenir" is a French word meaning memory or remembrance referring to a person, place, or event.

Discussing the different roses, Loretta suggested perhaps organizing a tour of members' gardens at an appropriate time of the year, and it was also brought up we could tour the Thomasville Rose Garden or set up a visit to Nelson's Roses nursery up in Thomasville. Janet will also contact Clay Nelson about giving a presentation at one of the future meetings.

Another program presentation as a handout from Janet gave an example of how to find recent Rose Introductions by using www.HelpMeFind.com/roses which can be very handy for new roses on the market.

And, the last presentation information from Janet was a handout of notes for Planning Your Rose Garden : important points to consider and keep in mind for your rose garden from selecting a site, doing a soil test, how to make an attractive landscaped rose garden, and with many more helpful suggestions and notes, even setting up micro-watering to save time and water where needed most.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

SOME NOTABLE ROSE HISTORY

By Mary Lou Chenevert

Roses have been a fixture in gardens since the days of Pharaohs, so that is a testament to their longevity and endurance giving pleasure to all those who grew them and continue to grow them. In this country, William Penn brought garden roses to America in 1699 – but according to Captain John Smith, he had been preceded by Native Americans who already were growing wild roses that they transplanted from nearby areas in the James River valley to enhance their villages.

Roses were transplanted along the length of the Oregon Trail by those making the trek in wagons – this particular rose was commonly known as “Harison’s Yellow”. This very vigorous grower spread by suckers that provided rooted shoots which could be easily dug and potted to make the long trip. Once established, this rose was impervious to drought and cold. It had originated as a chance seedling at the country home of New Yorker Richard Harison, before 1830. It is often claimed as the “Yellow Rose of Texas” as it spread across that part of the country.

In other countries around the same time, almost 200 years ago, there were hundreds of nurserymen all working separately, and rather secretly, to produce their own versions of a perfect rose. One such example this was the famous French rose producer, Monsieur Vibert, who began his career as an undergardener to Empress Josephine, wife of Napoleon, at her estate Malmaison. Monsieur Vibert specialized in striped and spotted roses that were popular throughout Europe. The old garden rose “Souvenir de la Malmaison”, a Bourbon rose that was developed in 1843, was not grown by Empress Josephine but was created as a tribute to honor her love of roses and her gardens at Malmaison. This rose can still be purchased and successfully grown here today in Florida.

The rose is the national flower of England dating back to the 15th Century, where the red rose represented the House of Lancaster and the white rose represented the House of York. The Tudor dynasty founded by Henry VII created the Tudor rose which unites both the white and red roses.

In the United States, the rose was adopted in 1986 as the national floral emblem, but some individual states established the rose as their state flower much earlier. The state of Iowa adopted the wild rose in 1896 for their state flower; North Dakota adopted the wild prairie rose as its official state flower in 1907; Georgia adopted the Cherokee rose (*R. laevigata*) for its state flower in 1916; New York adopted the rose in any color or form in 1955 for its state rose; and Oklahoma adopted a new cultivar named “Oklahoma” as its state flower in 2004.

Portland, Oregon has been called the “City of Roses” since 1888 and has held an annual Rose Festival since 1905. Closer to home, Thomasville, Georgia began holding its Rose Festival in 1922.

Roses found in abandoned old home sites or cemeteries or other old established areas are fun to grow and are often named after the person who rescued them or the place they were found until an official link or identification can be determined to a known rose, not always an easy task.

Looking for old roses that may have been planted hundreds of years ago and then abandoned, but that somehow have survived on their own, and then researching such a rose to determine whether or not it is a known rose, can be a fun and rewarding pastime for all rose lovers. But that’s another interesting topic for a future article.

Sources of information used in preparing this article:

“In Search of Lost Roses” by Thomas Christopher, copyright 1989, Avon Books

Wikipedia – Rose Symbolism – <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rose-symbolism>

TARS BOARD AND OFFICERS

President – Janet Newburgh – JanNewburgh@gmail.com

Vice-President – Cheryl Gifford

Treasurer and Website Coordinator – Gerard Nimis

Secretary – Mary Lou Chenevert

Board Member – Marion Nimis

Board Member – LeAnna Willison

Board Member – Vacant

HELP WANTED

Newsletter Editor

Newsletter Articles

Rose Photos

Refreshment Coordinator

Outreach Coordinator

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Tallahassee Area Rose Society 2026 Membership

Member Name _____

Joint Member Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code +4 _____

Telephone _____
Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____

E-Mail _____
Member _____ Joint Member _____

Tallahassee Area Rose Society Membership

Annual Individual	(\$15.00)	_____
Annual Joint	(\$20.00)	_____
Postal Mail Copy of Newsletter	(\$10.00)	_____
Donation to TARS	(Optional)	_____

American Rose Society

Annual Individual, Digital Copy	\$57.50	_____
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You may write one check for membership to both to the Tallahassee Area Rose Society
and for your American Rose Society Membership.

The amount for your American Rose Society membership will be forwarded.
If you have questions, please call 240-281-4352.