



TARS NOTES

From the Tallahassee Area Rose Society (TARS)

Affiliated with the American Rose Society

March, 2026

IF YOU ARE RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER, WE HAVE YOU ON OUR LIST

AS HAVING PAID YOUR DUES FOR 2026. THANK YOU!!!

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

WE ALWAYS WELCOME NEW OR RETURNING MEMBERS!!

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, MARCH 5, 2026, 5:30 PM

Clay Nelson of Nelson's Southern Roses will discuss what's happening in their rose nursery
and hopes to bring roses to the meeting 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.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE APRIL 3rd TARS MEETING

At the EASTSIDE BRANCH OF THE LEON COUNTY LIBRARY – 5:30 PM

TOPIC TO BE ANNOUNCED!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I was very pleased to see 10 members at our meeting on February 5th, in spite of the fact that Clay Nelson of Nelson's Southern Roses in Thomasville had to cancel his attendance at the last minute because of illness. It has been a rough time for Clay and the nursery; not only was he dealing with the flu, but the extremely cold weather froze and ruptured several pipes that required repairing. Clay and the pipes are all well now. I recommend that you visit their website at nelsonssouthernroses.com to learn more about their nursery, to see what roses currently are available, and to let Clay or his wife Marion know if you want him to bring specific roses to the meeting for your purchase. You might want to bring a few dollars or a blank check to the meeting, in case you see a rose or two that you just can't live without.

We are always seeking new topics and activities that are of interest to our members (and people to present those topics!). A couple of topics planned for future meetings are: The Construction of a Simple, Home-Made, Automated Microdrip Watering System; and Practical, Winning Techniques for Rose Photography. The latter presentation will be by LeAnna Willison, whose beautiful photographs have attracted wide attention, even at the level of the American Rose Society. Stay informed for the dates for these presentations.

Another activity in the planning stage is a tour of local rose gardens, perhaps combined with a picnic. The most likely date for this seems to be Sunday, May 3rd, so let me know if this date works for you. Please let me know if you would be willing for members to tour your garden. Your garden most certainly doesn't need to be in perfect shape—I know that my own garden won't be such, but I always am glad to share what I have and to welcome suggestions on how to make it better. It also would be useful to compile a list of public gardens in the area, so please let me know of public gardens that you know of, so that I can make a list of gardens that would be fun to visit.

And finally, it's not too early to begin thinking about the major rose show that will be held each year in Thomasville, Georgia. This year, the show will be on April 24-25, 2026. Entry information for horticulture, arrangements, and photography, already is available online. I hope you'll consider entering roses, rose photographs, and/or rose arrangements, and plan to see the show!

Janet

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 5, 2026

Prepared by Mary Lou Chenevert

Place: Eastside Branch Library

Meeting Date: February 5, 2026

Social Time: 5:30 PM

Refreshments provided by Janet Newburgh with a home-baked mincemeat pie and cheese and crackers.

Announcements:

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 P.M. by President Janet Newburgh with a total of 10 attendees.

She announced that Clay Nelson from Nelson's Southern Roses in Thomasville, who was scheduled to give a presentation at the meeting, was ill and would have to postpone his visit until the March meeting. But for the current meeting Janet had prepared 2 presentations herself for the program. She also brought a brochure for the Greater Palm Beach Valentine's Day Rose Show to share that she would be attending for apprentice rose judging and which was interesting to look at.

Janet asked for volunteers to staff a table for TARS at the IFAS and Leon County Extension Office Plant Sale on Saturday, May 9th. Leanna volunteered to be there at 8:30 A.M. and Renee said she could be there at 9:00 A.M. when the sale opens to the public, and Mary Lou can be there at 10:00 A.M. or so to stay until the plant sale ends at 1:00 P.M.

There was a reminder for the Consulting Rosarian School on Saturday, June 20th, 2026, which is open to all the public, not just Consulting Rosarians or those seeking to become one.

Our next meeting will be on March 5th at the Eastside Library again which will feature a presentation by Clay Nelson of Nelson's Southern Roses and he will bring a few roses to sell. Leanna will provide refreshments.

The April 2nd meeting will also be at the Eastside Library and Renee will provide refreshments then. The following month of May is the traditional TARS picnic, possibly on May 3rd, but no final decisions were made, so details will follow at a later date.

Programs:

Janet presented 2 very informative and helpful handouts with her first presentation listing "Sources of Roses" with a blurb about each place, including some addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses for online ordering, if not visiting the local ones in person. The local nurseries included were Tallahassee Nurseries, Esposito's, Nelson's Southern Roses, and Lloyd Nursery (by appointment only). The non-local nurseries were Jackson & Perkins in Greenwood, SC, K&M Nursery in Buckatunna, MS, David Austin Roses in Tyler, TX, and High Country Roses in Broomfield, CO. It was noted that an ad for a nursery selling roses was in the brochure Janet brought for Angel Gardens Rose Nursery in Alachua, FL. Some of the attendees said they'd ordered from some sources mentioned.

The other presentation and handout prepared by Janet was on "Rootstocks for Grafting Roses" with information on the most popular 3: Fortuniana rootstock, Dr. Huey rootstock, and Multiflora rootstock. In the South and our area Fortuniana is the best to use or buy roses rooted on it, because it effectively protects our garden roses from nematode damage and is also suited for sandy soils in Florida. It was tested by the University of Florida in the late 1950s and was found to be superior to other rootstocks in Florida exhibiting more vigorous growth. They worked with Nelson's Roses further south in the state who has pursued using the Fortuniana rootstock with their roses.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 P.M.

MARCH IN THE ROSE GARDEN

With a little luck, the worst of the cold weather is behind us, and the birds, including cardinals, are singing their hearts out. It still pays to be a bit cautious, though, as the average last freeze date in the Tallahassee area isn't until about March 23rd and we have seen how quickly our weather can change. (Our area almost certainly will be frost-free by April 11.) Still, a lot of these days are really lovely, and it's time to get out into your garden, to enjoy and have a little fun!

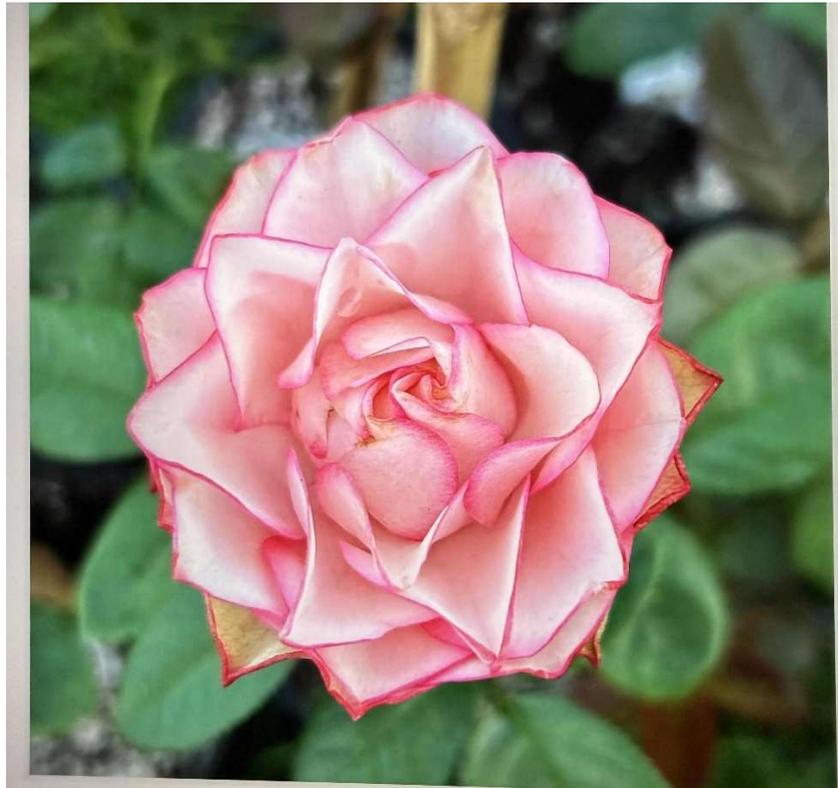
This is the best time of the year to prune repeat-blooming roses. Once-blooming roses generally flower in the spring, so it's best not to prune them until after they bloom. Very young plants. Miniature and miniflora roses, and most heirloom roses don't need a lot of pruning, beyond removing diseased, dead, and crossing branches, and opening up the center of the bush to admit more air flow and sun.

I like to prune my rose plants to give them a pleasing shape. Taller plants often benefit from cutting about a third of their height. Climbers generally appreciate a nice trellis for support, and taller plants often benefit from stabilizing staking.

Springtime tends to be a dry time of the year in our area, and lately it has been particularly dry. On average, roses need about an inch of water per week. Hence, it's wise to check the soil around your roses to make sure that it stays moist. Mulch always helps to preserve soil moisture and adds essential organic matter to the soil.

And finally, keep an eye on potential problems due to disease (especially black spot in our area), insects and other creatures (deer?) coming out to enjoy the nice weather and yummy rose plants.

Janet



**CAROUSEL – A Hybrid Tea rose
sold by Nelson's Southern Roses**

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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