



# TARS NOTES

From the Tallahassee Area Rose Society (TARS)

*Affiliated with the American Rose Society*

April, 2026

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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 are for each calendar year and can be paid at the meetings or mailed to the address on the Membership Form at the end of this newsletter.

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**NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026, 5:30 PM**

**Topic: Constructing a Simple, Relatively Inexpensive Do-It-Yourself Automatic Watering System**

**Refreshments will be provided by Renee White**

**COMMUNITY ROOM OF THE EASTSIDE BRANCH OF THE LEON COUNTY LIBRARY**

**LOCATED AT 1583 PEDRICK ROAD, TALLAHASSEE 32317**

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**ANNUAL SPRING PICNIC**

**SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026**

**Details and Schedule to be Established**

**At the Meeting on Thursday, April 2, 2026**

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**PLEASE VISIT THE TARS WEBSITE ([TallahasseeAreaRoseSociety.org](http://TallahasseeAreaRoseSociety.org))**

**and Follow and “like” our FACEBOOK PAGE (Tallahassee Area Rose Society)!**

**You can also communicate with the Society Through our new Email Address**

**at [TallahasseeRose@hotmail.com](mailto:TallahasseeRose@hotmail.com)**

**Send us your photos for posting.**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Keeping your garden watered adequately is always important and especially this time of year when we normally get little rain. Watering is even more important right now since we are experiencing a serious drought. It can be a real pain to get out there into the garden each day, dragging a hose or watering pot around to manually water the plants. The coming hot summer weather makes this chore even less inviting. Professionally installed systems can be very expensive and frequently use a lot more water than is necessary, because the simplest professionally installed systems frequently rely on overhead watering. A lot less water is needed if it is delivered directly to the roots of each plant, through micro-drip irrigation. The meeting topic for the meeting on Thursday, April 2, is how you can set up your own automatic micro-drip system using relatively inexpensive parts that are readily available locally or online. I set up my own first micro-drip watering system several years ago and if I can do it, I am sure that you can as well! I hope you will come to the meeting and participate in the discussion, and that you will share your own experiences about watering your garden.

At the March meeting, I passed out a document about the Thomasville Rose Show that is held each year near the end of April. I had gone to the website for the Thomasville Rose Show, and under the topic for the Rose Show 2026, I found a document about how to enter the rose show. I was so happy to see such a document that I neglected to realize that although that schedule was under a heading for the 2026 rose show, it actually was the schedule for the 2024 show of two years earlier! The Thomasville rose show authorities have since removed that outdated document from their website. They tell me that the correct rose show schedule is still under construction and that they will let us know as soon as it is available. I'll pass that information along as soon as I have it, or if you find it before I do, please let me know. Please note that the dates for the 2026 rose show are Friday, April 24, and Saturday, April 25. If this year's schedule is like that of previous years, rose show entries are to be submitted on Friday morning, April 24, and then will be judged that morning. The rose show should open to the public Friday afternoon and be open on Saturday, April 25, so be sure to mark your calendar and be thinking about what entries you plan to make for the show.

At the April 2nd meeting, we also will develop plans for our annual spring picnic, which will be on Sunday, May 3rd, 2026. Nelson's Southern Roses, located near Thomasville, Georgia, has invited us to tour their nursery that day, and they have an area where we could sit and enjoy our lunch. If possible, bring your own chair. Among the issues that we will discuss in planning our picnic are: What time should we convene at Nelson's Southern Roses? Do you want to do a pot-luck shared lunch, or would you prefer that each person bring their own bag lunch? We understand that there is a very nice rose garden in Thomasville; we will try to find out where that garden is and then consider whether to visit there, either before or after going to Nelson's. Another question is if we do visit the garden in Thomasville, do you want to have lunch there in that garden, or at Nelson's? One consideration in deciding where to eat lunch is that we will be assured of a covered area at Nelson's but maybe not at the Thomasville rose garden.

Plans are under way for the Consulting Rosarian School on June 20 in Monticello. This school is open to everyone, whether or not you are a Consulting Rosarian or hope to become one. The School will include a lot of good rose-related information should be valuable to everyone. More information will be sent to you as plans for the School are developed.

After our May 3<sup>rd</sup> picnic, we will take our usual TARS summer break, with our next TARS meeting on Thursday, August 6, 2026. Meanwhile, I hope to see you at the Eastside Library on Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 5:30 pm, and then again at our picnic on Sunday, May 3, 2026.

Janet

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 5, 2026

Prepared by Mary Lou Chenevert

**Place:** Eastside Branch Library

**Meeting Date:** March 5, 2026

**Social Time:** 5:30 PM

**Refreshments** were provided by LeAnna Willison.

There were 14 attendees including a couple of new guests and the featured guest speaker, Clay Nelson.

### **Announcements:**

The meeting was called to order at 5:55 PM by President Janet Newburgh.

There was sad news from Janet who told us that Ralph Stream of Micanopy, FL passed away on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. He was a hybridizer and an organizer of the District meetings.

Janet reported that the West Palm Beach Rose Show she attended on Valentine's Day weekend as an apprentice judge was small, but had very nice roses on display.

Janet will also be an apprentice judge at the Dothan Rose Show on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, and then also in Atlanta on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Thomasville Rose Show will be April 24 – 25 this year and the schedule will be available online soon.

A dedicated email account and address has been set up: [TallahasseeRose@hotmail.com](mailto:TallahasseeRose@hotmail.com). Please help test it by sending an email message to the above email address.

The next meeting will be April 2 at the Eastside Library where the presentation topic, timely for warmer weather, will be on setting up a simple and relatively inexpensive DIY automatic watering system.

Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, will be the annual picnic to be held (pending final confirmation) at Nelson's Southern Roses in Thomasville in their barn after a tour of the nursery. There is a table in the barn, but please bring your own chair(s).

### **Program:**

Clay Nelson from Nelson's Southern Roses in Thomasville was the guest speaker who presented very interesting and helpful information. He and his family moved from the Orlando area at the end of 2023 to establish the nursery in Thomasville. He said one of his goals, as was his dad's, is to educate rose growers about the benefits of buying roses grafted on Fortuniana rootstock (which all their roses are) because of its drought-resistance and ability to take a fair amount of abuse. The Nursery's goal is also to be there for the community and help with growing good roses, rather than just selling roses to customers. He then opened the presentation to questions and Gale asked about soil amendments for roses. Clay replied he recommends a top dressing of Osmocote or Nutricote, both of which can also be used on roses in pots. He also said he uses a fertilizer with an analysis of 18-15-12 which covers the spectrum for roses and which he gets at Graco in Cairo, that has the best prices in Georgia, but can also be found other places around town. He also gets his bags of potting soil from them. Janet asked about what to use for Crown Gall and he said it is difficult to control, but if caught

early enough, there are sprays that can help. Also, for chili thrips he recommends Conserve by Bayer, but it is expensive. He said to plant new roses in the ground, plant ¼ inch below the soil line, water in thoroughly, and then water well every day for 30 days, or at the very least, water daily for 1 ½ weeks, which is definitely necessary to get new roses established.

Clay is getting more miniature roses and will have some on display in the Thomasville Rose Show.

Clay also brought a good selection of roses from his nursery to sell and everyone enjoyed looking through them and purchasing one or more to take home to start the new season.

A door prize drawing was held at the end of the meeting for a rose doated by Clay Nelson, which was won by Gale Dickert.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

### EARLY SPRING IN YOUR ROSE GARDEN

By now, hopefully we have all completed pruning our roses, taking care to keep all our equipment clean and sanitized between cuts with either a 10 percent solution of Chlorox, Lysol, with 70 percent isopropanol, or by wiping your equipment down between each cut with Chlorox or Lysol wipes. If you use Chlorox as a disinfectant, be sure to finish your work by rinsing your equipment with water and drying it carefully, as Chlorox can cause metal equipment to rust.

I am thrilled about how good my roses are looking on these early spring days, and I hope yours are, too. I did a little clean-up pruning to remove stems and branches that did not survive the recurring cold snap. We should now be finished with freeze damages for the year, and it is now safe to feed your plants. I personally am applying Osmocote per Clay Nelson's recommendation, as the long-acting pellets release fertilizer gradually over a six-month period, thus saving myself a lot of work. I also am applying BioAdvanced Complete granules, which not only feeds the roses but helps to protect them from diseases and insect damage, although the BioAdvanced benefit should last only about 6 weeks before re-application is needed. I pulled the mulch back from around the rose plants, applied the Osmocote and BioAdvanced products, watered them in well and then replaced the mulch. The watering is important to make the products available to the roses.

It is recommended that all roses receive the equivalent of an inch of rain per week. As noted in Clay's comments in the Minutes, newly planted roses need to receive water daily, and frequent watering is needed for roses and other plants grown in pots. For the rest of the garden, if there is less than an inch of rain in a week, additional water should be supplied, ideally to the roots of each plant.

I also want to reiterate information that I emailed to you recently about a serious, difficult-to-control bacterial disease call crown gall disease that can affect roses and over 600 other plant species. I have recently detected some small lesions in some of my own garden that might be crown gall disease, and have been learning what I can about it.

**Crown gall disease** is caused by the bacterium *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*, which can exist in the soil for years. There is considerable controversy about whether crown gall disease can be cured, so prevention is far and away the best way to go. More information about this disease can be found by copying and pasting this link into your online browser:

[UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center » Be On The Lookout For Rose Crown Gall](#)

This disease is frequently transmitted through injuries to roses, such as what happens in pruning, deadheading, and grafting. It is therefore **very important to make sure you sterilize your equipment between cuts, as described above**. When a plant is infected with crown gall, a piece of the bacterial DNA is incorporated into the plant's own cells. This makes it very difficult to get rid of the infection and the plant may have to be sacrificed.

Before trying to plant another rose in that spot where an infected plant had been, the recommendation is to either remove at least two wheelbarrows of soil, avoid replanting the area with roses or another susceptible plant for at least 3 years, or replace it with a plant that is not susceptible to crown gall. Several lists of plants thought to be either susceptible or resistant to crown gall can be found on the internet. In my reading, azaleas and several fruit trees probably are susceptible to crown gall (who knew that roses and apples are closely related?), but camellias and ornamental grasses appear not to get it.

Since prevention is far away the best way to go, be sure to inspect carefully before purchase any plant that you are considering adding to your garden. If you find a seriously infected plant in your garden, the best thing seems to be to dig it up, bag it, and put it in the garbage. If that happens, be sure to sanitize the equipment and gloves that you used to dig up and dispose of the plant.

Let's make use of our society connections, and share any information that we gain about roses, growing them, and about diseases that can be problematic. Let's help roses, and each other.

Janet

#### **TARS BOARD AND OFFICERS**

President – Janet Newburgh – [JanNewburgh@gmail.com](mailto: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**

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

Tallahassee Area Rose Society  
2645 Antietam Trail  
Tallahassee, FL 32312

American Rose Society  
P. O. Box 30,000  
Shreveport, LA 71130-0030

The Tallahassee Area Rose Society and the American Rose Society are 501c(3) nonprofit organizations. Your donation may be tax deductible under the law.

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.