

Dune Rose®



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NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHAMPTON ROSE SOCIETY—AN AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY AFFILIATE

President's Letter



What a difference a winter makes. In 2012 the roses were blooming like crazy in April. Not likely to happen this year but we all know how unpredictable nature can be. In spite of the harsh winter, there's plenty to do in our gardens as winter finally loosens its grip.

I'm delighted with the slate of SRS events we've planned for 2014. You will find this year's Calendar of Events on page 7 (handy to clip out and save). If you haven't renewed your membership, we hope this will

inspire you to do so. Our first event of the season is April 19th!

The Rose Show is back, bigger and better than ever. Last year's monsoons rained us out and destroyed many promising flowers, but this year we are hoping for better weather. Our pent-up competitive spirit will be unleashed this year, so get your game on. Don't forget about our new Competitive Arranging class. By all means attend Lillian Walsh's workshop on that topic, and come to our other pre-show workshops. The next issue of *Dune Rose* will be full of Rose Show information. But start your planning now.

Another highlight this year will be the Biennial Cocktail Party Fundraiser, this year graciously hosted by Anthony Roncalli and Eric von Kuersteiner. If you attended last year's SRS Garden Tour you have already seen the spectacular, innovative gardens of our hosts. It will be a joy to be there again. For those of you who missed the Garden Tour, you're in for a treat. Do not miss this party and this chance to experience the garden for yourself. And we all need to remember the importance of this event in supporting the Rose Society's work. We created, maintain, and support five public gardens in the Village of Southampton, and we need to fund that important effort. Above all, we aim to share our love of roses—America's flower—with one another, family, friends and neighbors, and our community. We can't do what we do without everyone's support. I hope to see all of you on July 26.

Watch your mailboxes for the 2014 Edition of our *Greenbook*. Nancy Rollins, our Membership Chair, has been working for months on compiling this for all of us. In fact, we have a lot of wonderful new Board Members who have been working all winter in preparation for the 2014 season. I'm grateful to them all for their hard work and dedication.

After this past winter of non-stop snow and frigid temperatures, let's celebrate the beauty of roses and share it with others. Introduce your friends and neighbors to the Southampton Rose Society and invite them to join us. The more we grow, the more we can do for each other and for our community 🌹

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The Southampton Rose Society, established in 1976, is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization affiliated with the American Rose Society.

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Save the Roses!

PRESERVING VARIETIES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS OF ROSE LOVERS

What do these wonderful businesses have in common: Almost Heaven Roses, Uncommon Rose, Sequoia Nursery, Ashdown Roses, Jackson & Perkins and EuroDesert Roses? That's right: they've all closed up shop in recent years. It wasn't that long ago that we were able to order a wide array of miniature roses from Tiny Petals, Nor'East, Justice, and Miniature Plant Kingdom. With apologies to Pete Seeger, "Where have all the roses gone?"

Of course, there are still wonderful sources like Roses Unlimited, Chamblees, Antique Rose Emporium, Heirloom, Rogue Valley, and a number of others that are committed to selling our national flower. But are Americans falling out of love with our national flower? Or was a dismal economy mainly responsible for the loss of these companies that were purveyors of beauty?

Whatever the cause, it remains a fact that many cultivars of roses are in danger of disappearing from the planet. As a rose lover, I approach these questions the same way that I approach concerns like global warming. I can't change the temperature of the earth or influence the world's environment. Yet, I can have a profound impact on the immediate area in which I live. So rather than fretting about the loss of roses, I simply focus on the small ways that I am capable of helping to preserve genetics for future generations.

Every rose garden, regardless of size, has the potential to provide a safe harbor for one or two scarce roses. Even rosarians who are focused on exhibiting can provide refuge for a few florist or exhibition roses that are becoming uncommon. In my collecting, I find it helpful to focus on groups. At one time I collected roses by color, especially blacks, browns, greens and stripes. Greens seem to be difficult to find, but my yard provides a home for 'Greensleeves,' 'Green Tea,' 'Super Green,' and 'Green Planet.'

Rose lovers across the country owe a debt of gratitude to Jim Delahanty and Cliff Orent, for preserving and re-popularizing the rapidly declining class of polyantha roses. With the help of Keith Zary when he was at Jackson & Perkins, I was able to rescue some superior polyanthas from Fineschi. Most of my own breeding work has been in this class. I really like my 'Spanky,' 'Alfalfa,' and 'Miss Crabtree' plants,

continued on page 6



Rosa 'Super Green' (left) and 'Quicksilver' (right), photos courtesy of John Bagnasco

Rose Care Calendar

The winter of 2013–14 has been a rough one for roses in Southampton. No doubt many plants have been lost after having been buried under snow for more than a month. The first order of business will be to see what's left in the garden.

Examine your plants carefully. If pruning brown, dead canes back to healthy growth will salvage a plant, it's probably worth doing. If the damage is too extensive, you may have to resign yourself to losing the plant and starting over with a new one.

It's hard to lose a favorite plant, and heartbreaking if you've had it for a long time. But at the same time, space will open up for new plants. That deliriously fragrant climber you discovered on a garden tour last summer? Now's your chance to grow it. For gardeners there is always a silver lining. After the winter we've had, we need to find it. 🌱

HARVEY'S ROSE CARE CALENDAR

Harvey Feinstein, SRS President Emeritus, has graciously shared his rose gardening calendar again this year. Here are his tips for spring.

MARCH /APRIL "When the forsythia bloom it's time to prune."

After this awful winter, who knows when our forsythias will bloom, but today I saw that my rose stalks are starting to green-up, and little "bipps" are appearing on some of the smaller canes I did not prune away last Fall. Have your sharp tools ready, and let's get to work.

Prune your roses by at least ½ of their current height. **DO NOT** prune climbers until their first flush of bloom in June is over. Prune your Tea Roses down to calf height (depending on how tall you are) and leave only four outward facing branches. Sprinkle Preen on the rose beds to get at any pre-emergent weeds. Attend the April 19th Pruning and Planting Session at the SRS garden at the library in Southampton. It will answer all your questions.

As the weather warms up, make certain the soil is clear of last year's debris, as insect eggs and fungus spores may have wintered over. It's a good idea to start your first spray of the season with a fungicide and aphid killer, spraying the pruned canes and the soil.

APRIL/MAY Prepare to fertilize your roses. Any good organic fertilizer such as RoseTone will get your roses growing again. I also use man-made fertilizers like 10-10-10, or 20-20-20, but they only last about 3 months and you will need to add to them later in the season. I like to use FISH EMULSION . . . 1 tablespoon per gallon of water for each bush, and a good handful of EPSOM SALTS per bush for sturdier canes, greener leaves and colorful flowers. Finger-prune any leaves or buds that have appeared growing inward to the center of the bush. You want outward facing canes so the developing roses have fresh air. Inward facing roses will get diseased.

ORGANIC ALTERNATIVES

As Sarah Owens of the BBG advised in her guidelines for the organic rose garden at the Southampton Cultural Center, organic gardeners can lightly prune shrub roses to remove crossing/dead canes and congestion.

- Work on boards to avoid compacting the soil.
- Remove any hips left on plants from last year.
- In April, fertilize using Rose Tone according to directions for established plants. Lightly scratch it into soil surface.
- Add 1 inch of aged manure, 1 inch of compost.
- Add 1–2 inches of semi-composted mulch.
- When temperatures reach above 47°F, apply 2% saturation of Neem product. (The brand the BBG uses is Triact.) Whatever brand of Neem you use, be sure to follow package directions.

Exploring Organics—the Soil Food Web

The most basic tenet of organic gardening is that healthy soil makes for healthy plants. Feeding plants with fertilizer makes them grow, but it's a short-term fix. Too much fertilizer can actually weaken a plant and make it more susceptible to pests and diseases.

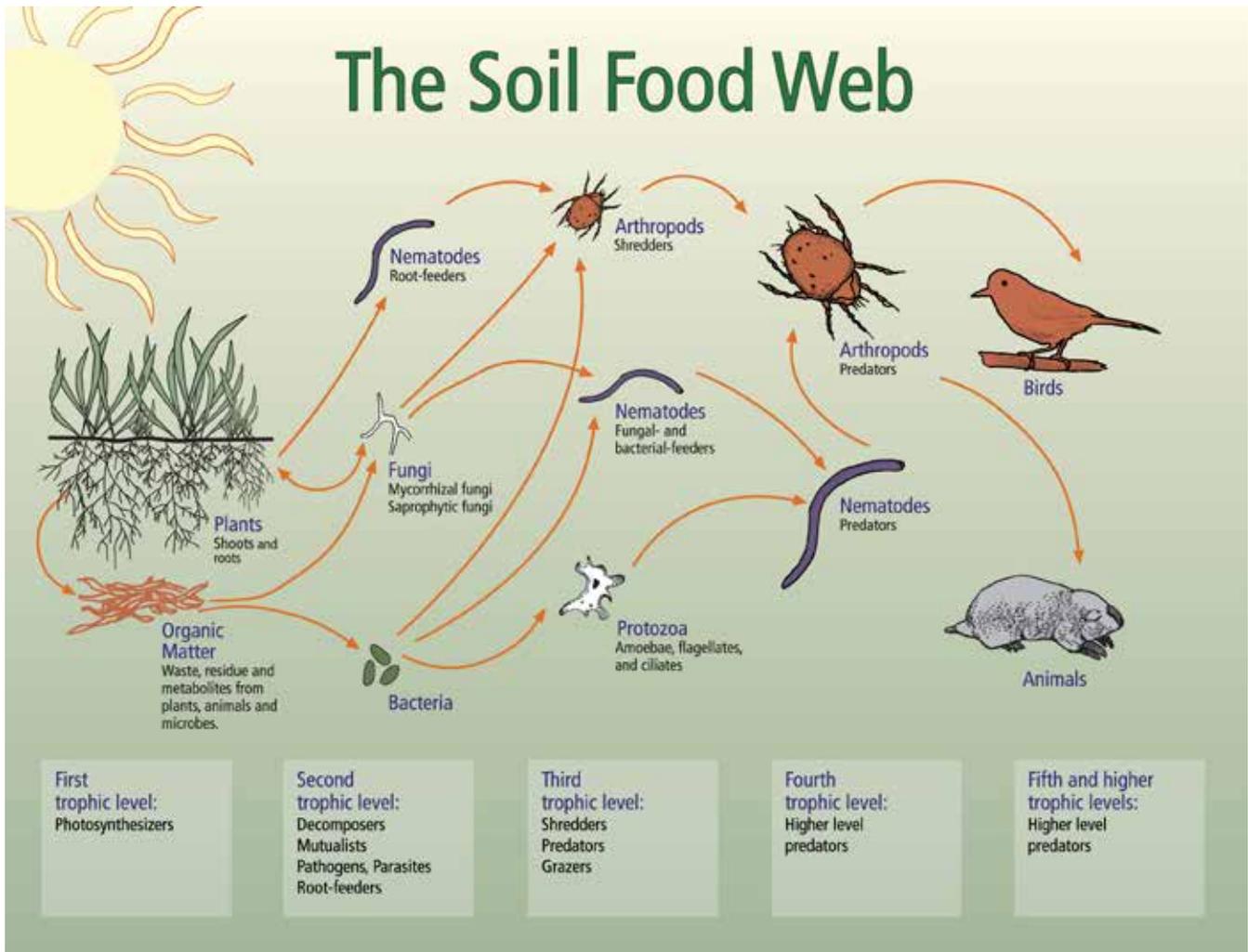
So, the goal of organic gardeners is to nurture the soil, which will, in turn, nurture the plants. To feed your soil, you need not just to think of it as dirt, but to appreciate the community of living organisms it is. A good way to understand the biology of soil is through the concept of the Soil Food Web, brought to public attention by the soil microbiologist Dr. Elaine Ingham.

The ground beneath our feet is, like our own world, home to multitudes of interdependent organisms. Underground life ranges in size from the earthworms and ants we all know to minute single-celled bacteria

and fungi. When all these different creatures and life forms are thriving, they work to break down organic matter into nutrients plants can absorb. They decompose or sequester potentially harmful compounds and prevent them from becoming pollutants. When their populations are balanced, harmful organisms cannot take over and cause damage. The system is in harmony. These underground dwellers also help to create good soil structure, aggregating some soil particles together and opening up space between others to create soil texture that provides oxygen for plant roots while holding moisture long enough for roots to absorb.

The illustration (which can be found on the National Resources Conservation Service website; see below) provides an overview of different groups of soil organisms.

continued on page 6



My Favorite Rose

This year we introduce a new feature in *Dune Rose*. In each issue one of our members will, we hope, tell us about their favorite rose: how they discovered it and why they love it, and share some of their tips for growing it.

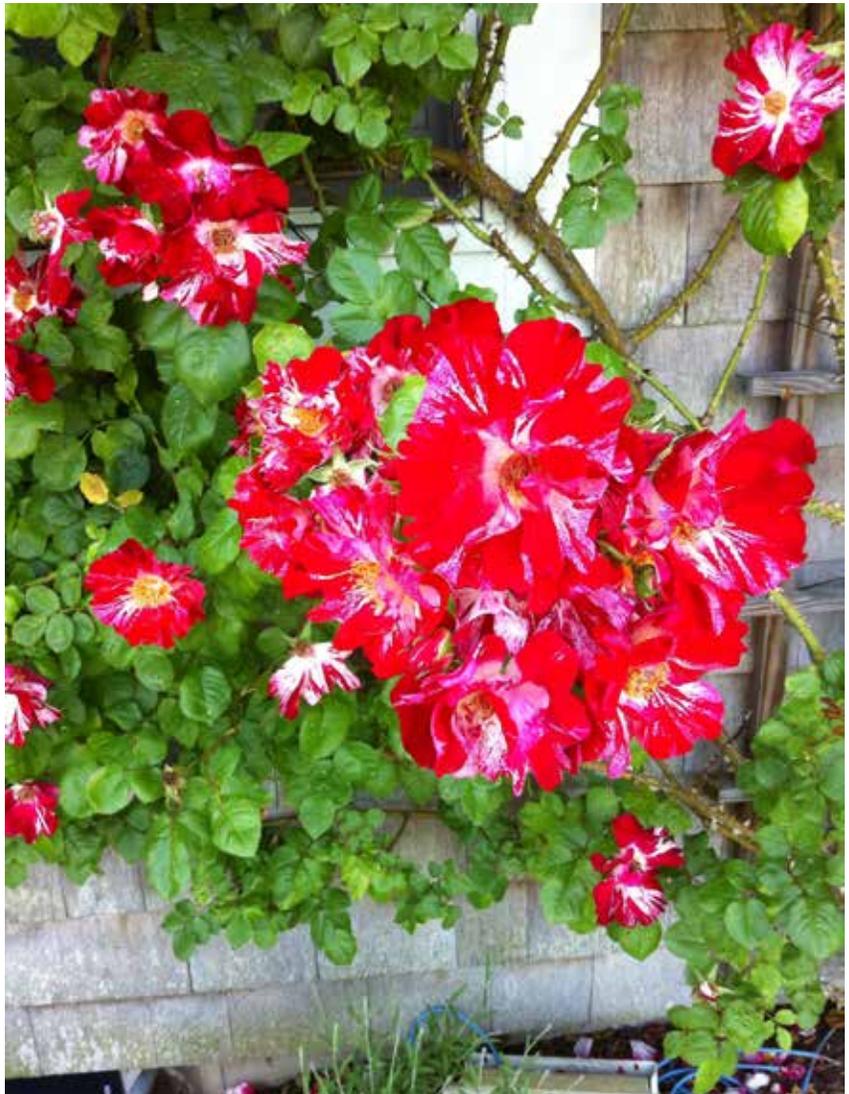
Mimi Goldberg, Chair of our annual Rose Show, inaugurates the series. We hope to hear from many more members on this topic. If you'd like to share some thoughts about your favorite rose, please contact Anne Halpin White at ahalpinwhite@yahoo.com or by phone at (631)834-5460. Don't worry if you don't feel up to writing an article yourself—Anne will be happy to interview you.

Mimi Goldberg's favorite rose is Fourth of July. It's a large-flowered climber with open, red-and-white-striped flowers.

"It's a magnificent bloomer!" she exclaims. It blooms all season long, from spring to frost. She credits Harvey Feinstein for recommending Fourth of July to her. "In the early 2000s," she recalled, "Harvey told me if I wanted a really good climber to grow Fourth of July."

So, Mimi planted Fourth of July. She planted one, and it thrived. Then, "the first year of the rose show," she said, "I entered it and won first prize. I was hooked for life!" She planted another one, and another one, and then another, behind her house. Eventually the entire back wall of the house was covered in Fourth of July. "I could see it from my bedroom window," she said.

Fourth of July needs sun—"It's magnificent in sun," Mimi explained. It needs moisture but is adaptable, too.



Rosa 'Fourth of July,' photo courtesy of Mimi Goldberg

In Mimi's garden it was not automatically watered by an irrigation system, though she did water it by hand during spells of dry weather.

Like other climbers, the long canes of Fourth of July need support in order to ascend the heights. Train them on a trellis, fence, arbor or other support.

The flowers aren't fragrant, and their very thorny stems make them unsuitable for cutting for the vase. Spent flowers do need deadheading to keep the plants flowering. But this rose rewards gardeners for their efforts. Given this basic care, Fourth of July has bloomed lavishly for Mimi for years.

Mimi had to say goodbye to her beloved Fourth of July roses when she sold her house. But she's bought a new one here in the Hamptons, where there's plenty of room for new plants. 🌿

Membership Notes

Don't forget to renew your membership! You should have received your membership renewal form in the mail by now. If you haven't, download one from the website, southamptonrose.org. Better yet, download two and give one to a friend. We are actively looking for new members.

And remember, your membership in SRS is fully tax deductible.

Also please consider joining the American Rose Society. Along with membership comes their beautiful magazine, *American Rose*, which is full of interesting profiles of notable rosarians, passionate gardeners, and researchers. Plus there's lots of hands-on growing information. The print magazine is an invaluable resource. Your membership also gives you access to the ARS website—a real treasure trove of information. It will keep you immersed in roses all winter long. 🌹



Rosa 'Beverley'

Save the Roses! (continued from page 2)

but Jim says that 'Marshmallow Fluff' has had the most blooms of any polyantha variety that he has grown. My personal favorite is 'Gwen Cleary,' both because of its ever-changing beauty and the memory of the lovelier person that it was named after. This rose puts out impressive clusters of flowers that open a deep rose-pink, change to medium pink, and end up as light pink, almost white before falling from the plant. All these colors on one bush make for a lavish showing and unlike most polyanthas, 'Gwen Cleary' is extremely fragrant.

This article could quickly grow into a book. Where are the gardens that will save endangered roses like 'Conrad Hilton,' 'Sunrise-Sunset,' 'Orange Juice,' 'Quicksilver,' 'Graceland,' and 'Buttercream China,' if not in our own backyards?

Remember that any rose lover can find room for one OGR, one found rose, or an oddity. 🌹

By John Bagnasco (abridged from American Rose magazine, November/December 2013)

Exploring Organics (continued from page 4)

How can you nourish the vibrant underground community in your garden? Simply give it organic matter. Compost, leaf mold, livestock manure, plant wastes, minerals—adding these to your soil will build the kind of soil that will let you decrease, and eventually forgo, chemical fertilizers, pesticides and fungicides.

How to tell if your soil is healthy? One clue is earthworms. If you find worms when you dig in your garden it's one sign that the soil is healthy.

To learn more about the soil food web, go online to the Natural Resources Conservation Service website: www.nrcs.usda.gov or Google Soil Food Web and look for this website under the choices that come up.

A local source of biodynamic organic products is Water Mill-based Natural Science Organics. You can order from their website: naturalscienceorganics.com. Local nurseries and garden centers, such as Lynch's in Southampton, also carry a range of organic soil conditioners, fertilizers and pest and disease control products. 🌹

By Anne Halpin White

SRS 2014 Calendar of Events

Saturday, April 19, 10 AM

Pruning and Planting Session

Guest speaker: Peter Bertrand
Location: SRS Rose Garden at Rogers Memorial Library, Southampton

Friday, May 9, 4–4:45 PM

Children's Mini-Rose and Art Program

For children ages 5 to 10
Guest speaker: Peter Bertrand
Location: SRS Rose Garden at Rogers Memorial Library, Southampton
Reservations required; please call the Library at 631-283-0774

Saturday, May 31, 10 AM

Competitive Rose Arranging

Guest speaker: Lillian Walsh
Graciously hosted by Christl Meszkat
150 Halsey Neck Lane, Southampton

Saturday, June 7, 10 AM

Showing Award-Winning Roses

Guest speaker: Lillian Walsh
Graciously hosted by Jim Berkrot & Michael Staples
44 Hill Top Road, Southampton

**Saturday, June 14, 7 AM for Members,
open to the public at 1 PM**

38th Annual SRS Rose Show/Competition

Roses must be placed between 7 and 10 am to qualify.
Location: Rogers Memorial Library, Morris Room

Saturday, July 26, 6 PM

Cocktail Party and Auction Fundraiser

Graciously hosted by Anthony Roncalli and Eric von Kuersteiner
176 Halsey Neck Lane, Southampton

Sunday, September 7, 4 PM

Members' Annual Garden Party and Photo Competition

Graciously hosted by Carole Guest
359 Wickapoque Road, Southampton

Saturday, September 13, 10:30 AM

Roses at Bridge Gardens

Guest speaker: Rick Bogusch
Location: Bridge Gardens, 36 Mitchell Lane, Bridgehampton

Friday, September 26, 6:30 PM

Annual Members Meeting

Graciously hosted by Miriam Goldberg
15 Halsey Avenue, Southampton

Saturday, September 27, 12:30 PM

SRS Annual Luncheon and Lecture

Guest Speaker: Fabien Ducher
Location: The Meadow Club, Southampton
Price: \$80 per person

Saturday, October 18, 10:30 AM

Preparing Your Garden for Winter

Guest Speaker: Peter Bertrand
Location: SRS Garden at Rogers Memorial Library

Peter Bertrand demonstrating pruning techniques at last year's Pruning and Planting workshop



Southampton Rose Society
P.O. Box 1022
Southampton, NY 11969-1022



UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Saturday, April 19, 10 AM
Pruning and Planting Session**

With Peter Bertrand. SRS Rose Garden at Rogers Memorial Library, Southampton

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Competitive Rose Arranging**

With Lillian Walsh. Home of Christl Meszkat

**www.southamptonrose.org
631-740-4732**

Bouquet of hybrid musk roses, photo
courtesy of Michael Shoup

