



Rose Ramblings



Patron Member of the American Rose Society

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President's Message

By Deborah Magnuson, magnusonsd@sbcglobal.net



On a recent trip to a local plant nursery I overheard a young couple discussing plants and one said to the other, "But first, let's go to where the roses are as they are the most important thing." Those are exactly my sentiments, and likely yours as well. At the same time, we know that if we wish our beloved roses to look their best producing beautiful blooms this year that a strategy must be implemented. The statement 'if we fail to plan, we plan to fail' comes to mind. What is so true in other endeavors in life is also true in our rose gardens. It is no secret that the award-winning exhibitors among us have a plan put in place and we adhere to it, including daily, weekly, and monthly tasks. By now all your roses should have received their first fertilization for the season along with a fresh new layer of mulch. We are so thankful to Ruth Tiffany for once again coordinating the purchase and distribution of all the many wonderful products from Grow More, including the Bio-Start many of us now depend on. If you are new to rose growing and were not able to participate in our fertilizer sale this year, perhaps you are looking for advice in determining a fertilizer program. Please reach out to any of our Consulting Rosarians or other experienced rosarians. Whatever you choose to do, as Ruth advises, consider adding rose-related tasks on a calendar and tracking them diligently. Get it in writing as they say. Your roses will be happy, and so will you.

A number of special days this month are celebrated or observed. Due to the pandemic there may not be a St. Patrick's Day parade to attend, but perhaps this is the year to consider adding a 'St. Patrick' rose to your garden to commemorate the day. After all, we've been told gardening hasn't been cancelled. This AARS award-winning hybrid tea has beautiful yellow flowers with exhibition form on long stems with a slight greenish tinge, hence the name. It is said to perform very well in the heat of summer. Wouldn't that be quite a way to experience the luck of the Irish beyond March 17th? Very soon spring will make its official appearance on March 20. Thoreau told us spring is an experience in immortality. As rose gardeners we have the privilege of observing yet another cycle of plants breaking dormancy, beautiful new foliage emerging, and flower buds beginning to appear. A life force before our very eyes can be witnessed. This renewal of life is experienced as the days gradually grow longer. Many of us will observe Passover or Palm Sunday at the end of this month. Whatever your traditions may be, they connect us, keep us together, and make us care for one another. With the blessing of this new month I wish you happiness, good health, and the promise of new rose blooms headed your way. Happy March!

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Update for SDRS Meetings and Some Exciting New Programs

By Elaine Ornelas, cornelas1949@att.net

To accommodate the COVID restrictions, we have been offering meetings and programs using our virtual tools like GoToMeeting and Zoom and it appears that they are being successful! We hope many more of you will use these opportunities to gather information from our program speakers using the virtual tools that we must use right now until we all come back together in more 'normal' times.

As of right now, the officials at Balboa Park responsible for room reservations tell us it may be late in the year before they open rooms for our meetings. So for now, please enjoy these opportunities to harvest valuable information about growing your best roses using the virtual tools your society is providing.

SDRS Monthly Meeting (Virtual) for March

Waterwise Botanicals By Tom Jesch: Bush Roses, Single Roses, Heirlooms, and more.

By Kathy Hunyor, jkhunyor@san.rr.com Program Chair

Tom Jesch of Waterwise Botanicals Nursery in Bonsall will give a presentation at our March monthly meeting on **March 15, beginning at 6:45 p.m.** Thousands of roses are grown every year at Waterwise Botanicals Nursery and they specialize in landscape roses (flowering shrubs), single-petal roses, and some heirloom roses not found anywhere else. Tom's own single cultivar is 'Pink Cadillac'. The nursery's 20 acres is full of waterwise trees, shrubs, grasses, lilies, cacti, and bromeliads along with roses as well as demonstration gardens, ponds and a shade house.

This will be a virtual meeting using GoToMeeting technology. A reminder of the meeting with a confirmation of which virtual method will be used will be sent to all SDRS members one week before the session. Join us for this informative presentation!



'Pink Cadillac'

Mon, Mar 15, 2021 6:45 PM - 9:30 PM (PDT) (attendees: please sign in promptly at 6:45 pm and mute the sound on your device to lessen confusion)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/508322021>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: +1 (571) 317-3122

Access Code: 508-322-021

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/508322021>

Let's Talk Roses!

By Deborah Magnuson, magnusond@sbcglobal.net

To Spray or Not To Spray, that is the question. Let's talk about it on **Monday, March 22 at 7:00 pm.** By now your roses likely have lots of beautiful new foliage and perhaps emerging flower buds. Challenges may be lurking on the horizon however such as aphids amongst other insects, and fungal disease. Perhaps you are wondering what steps to take. Integrative Pest Management (IPM) is an approach that can work for you and we'll discuss the basics. Whether you are new to roses or have been growing roses for a long time, please feel free to join the conversation. Just send an email to magnusond@sbcglobal.net and I'll send the Zoom link and meeting reminder the day before. If you haven't already downloaded Zoom, it's free and this link will allow you to sign up: <https://zoom.us/signup>.

Photographer Extraordinaire!

By Elaine Ornelas, cornelas1949@att.net

Some of you may have watched the awards presentation for the ARS photo contest on February 21st. Our own Bob Martin was watching and was happy to see that SDRS member Kristine Russell had won two first place awards for her photography, one for an exceptional arrangement by Kristine and the other for an unusual abstract photo. Many congratulations to Kristine for her awards! We hope that others in our membership will participate in future photo contests. Here are a few comments from Kristine and her award-winning photos.

'Once again I had the privilege to enter the ARS rose photography contest. It's always a joy for me to pick up my camera and go out to our garden and shoot some pictures of roses. I encourage anyone to do the same!! Last year I tried my hand at rose arrangements in the Desert Rose Society rose show and was able to submit an entry of one of my arrangements. The ARS rose photography contest has a wide variety of class divisions so it gives you many different ways to enter your roses. The abstract category is one of my favorites! I like to try to view the rose in a different way. I encourage anyone who has a passion for photography to enter next year's contest. It's a rewarding feeling to share your photos with others.'



Kristine Russell



1st Place—Abstract



1st Place—Arrangements

What To Do in the Rose Garden in March

By Elaine Ornelas, cornelas1949@att.net, and Bill Ornelas, bornelas1945@att.net, Consulting Rosarians

February was a busy month for all rosarians. For us we gave our first fertilizer dose mid-month of 2 cups Bio-Start, 1 cup alfalfa meal and 2 tablespoons of John & Bob's Soil Optimizer scratching it in thoroughly then watering it in well. (Use half of these amounts for smaller or miniature roses.) We also sprayed our roses with a combination of neem oil and copper to suppress any overwintering disease problems. We made sure that we sprayed when the temperature was not too warm and there was little wind, and the roses were well hydrated. Next on our list is adding four inches of mulch to moderate soil temperature and moisture and to enhance the quality of the soil as the mulch breaks down. The mulch we prefer is A-1 Life-like 3/8" compost from A-1 Soils Hanson Aggregates.



Also in March we will begin our fertilizing regimen by mixing our fertilizers in a 50-gallon rain barrel full of water. Our 'magic formula' is 3 cups fish emulsion, 3 cups seaweed extract, 1 cup Epsom salts, 1/2 cup Bio-cozyme, 1/2 cup Jumpstart, 1/2 cup humic acid, and 2 tablespoons iron chelate. Once well mixed we will deliver two gallons to each full sized rose bush and one gallon to each small or miniature bush using a sump pump attached to a long hose. We have found this method to be very efficient and very helpful to our backs since we do not have to lift heavy buckets multiple times. We have calibrated the delivery rate of the sump pump so that we know how many seconds it takes to fill a one-gallon bucket. We just walk from bush to bush with the hose as it delivers the fertilizer, counting seconds in our mind.....nine seconds for large plants and seven seconds for smaller ones. Of course, the rate of delivery would vary with each type of pump so you would need to perform your own calibration if you choose to use this method. We will continue our fertilizing routine using this formula every two weeks during the growing season. We find it very useful to maintain a calendar of the rose activities we carry out, like pruning, fertilizing and spraying, with details on what fertilizer we are using and what is in the sprayer. That way we know what works and what doesn't!

Control of Chilli Thrips

In our garden we have been fortunate to not have experienced an invasion of the dreaded chilli thrips. We have had a couple of stems of new growth that looked suspicious but we cut them right away and discarded them. We count ourselves as lucky. But I would like to share with you some of the methods of control that others have used to keep these pests at bay, since they are the cause of so much damage to rose bushes, causing distorted leaves, stems and blooms. Some rose varieties are more susceptible than others. In our garden we have used Conserve (Spinosad) to control flower thrips but we only spray after the bees have left for the day since it is known to be *harmful to bees*.

These Consulting Rosarians in our society have used the following methods for control.

Sue Streeper: 'I am using **Conserve** and **Hachi-Hachi** beginning this week. I believe chilli thrips are most active when it's very hot, such as in August and September. During those times, I was alternating the two products and spraying once a week. I didn't get full control until I pruned in January.'

Ken Huff: 'I am using **Conserve** and **Hachi-Hachi** beginning now but also adding the use of a strong water spray.'

Bob Martin: 'I am using **Hachi-Hachi** and **Conserve**, spraying weekly during the growing season except for the hottest part of the summer, July-September. During these latter times I used water-wandering with my heavy volume Fogg-it Nozzle to control spider mites and that also appeared to reduce the activity of the chilli thrips. I am not sure if the higher temperatures slow the chilli thrips down or whether the nozzle blows them off. In any event I undertook this program all last year and had a great deal of success in controlling the chilli thrips. Maybe once a month I'd use another insecticide than Hachi-Hachi out of a concern of building resistance but I saw no evidence of reduced effectiveness of Hachi Hachi during the year. I have found chilli thrips easy to kill with about any insecticide but they have so many other hosts that they are constantly blowing into the garden. They also go through several life stages and Hachi Hachi is effective on them all whereas other insecticides are less so.'

A March Stroll in the Allan Garden

By Christine and Rand Allan, callan@san.rr.com

Now that you all have picked up your rose fertilizer from Ruth Tiffany, we hope you've already applied it at least once in feeding your roses. While March may not seem as critical in the rose care grand scheme of things, it indeed is a cornerstone of ensuring a beautiful spring and future blooms. We first fed in mid-February and will continue feeding every two weeks through the month of June. We sprinkle a cup of Grow More's Bio Start around the base of each rose and tickle it into the soil. Next comes our two-gallon bucket feeding consisting of ½ cup Magnum Grow, 2 tablespoons of Sea Grow (seaweed plant food), 2 tablespoons of Better Than Fish (emulsion), a few drops of Jump Start and 1 teaspoon of humic acid mixed in with water to the top of the bucket. Each bush receives its own bucket of this fertilizer concoction.

This is also the time to do thumb pruning in order to produce the right symmetry of growth with the first bloom of the season. We have a drip watering system and run ten-minute watering cycles three times a week when we've received no rain. Also, it is important to make sure the mulch supply in the garden is maintained for optimal moisture retention. Be sure to keep a close eye out for any pests that may appear in the garden with that tender and beautiful new growth sprouting out on the canes. Below are examples of our pruned rose garden and what it turns into in the spring when it is well cared for and fed regularly. As Ruth puts it, "your fertilizer does no good sitting in your garage". Use it and see what a difference it makes in rewarding you with a beautiful first bloom, and successive bloom cycles throughout the spring and summer. We are fortunate in Southern California to have the right kind of weather lengthening our rose growing season and bloom cycles. So care for your roses in feeding them regularly, and they will reward you in return with beautiful blooms and healthy growth.



North Roses
Left: Pruned
Right: Full Bloom



South Roses
Left: Pruned
Right: Full Bloom

Strange Blooms

By Rita Perwich, Master Gardener and Consulting Rosarian ritaperwich@gmail.com

'Roses in Bloom'. These sweet words are typically music to a rosarian's soul. But sometimes a bloom might strike a discordant, puzzling or even a very strange note!

Sucker Blooms

Do you have a cane on one of your rose bushes that is suddenly growing dark red blooms in place of or in addition to the rose blooms of the variety you purchased? The rogue cane you just discovered is a 'sucker'. Grafted roses are created by attaching the desired rose variety onto the rootstock of a vigorous variety and cutting away the top part of the rootstock rose. A rose sucker is a cane that starts growing off the rootstock. Most of the roses available for us to buy in California nurseries are grafted on a rose called 'Dr. Huey' which has deep burgundy-red semi-double blooms. On closer examination, you will observe that it's not just the imposter's blooms that are different. The leaves and thorns have a different appearance too, and you will notice that this cane grows really fast, and gets taller than the other canes on the bush. This is not surprising because this rootstock rose is a hybrid wichurana rambler. Roses can also be grafted on 'Fortuniana' or 'Multiflora' rootstock which have white blooms, and 'Manetti' root stock which has pink blooms. For a while, you may like the novelty of a rose bush that gives you two very different colored and shaped blooms: two roses for the price of one. You should know that this sucker growth will diminish the growth of your purchased rose and will eventually take over. So unless you like the dark red blooms more than the blooms of the variety you purchased, dig down, locate the origin of the sucker and wrench it off. The sucker growth should not be merely cut off because it will just grow back.

Sport Blooms

Sometimes the bloom is a different color than the rose you purchased, but there is no sucker growth. In this case,



you may have a 'sport'. A plant can produce a sport which is a naturally occurring genetic mutation that can result in changes to the plant, including that of producing a bloom that is a different color. A new rose variety can be propagated from the sport by removing the cane with the different bloom and rooting it. The resulting new seedling rose will have blooms like the sport, not the parent plant. This new rosebush can be introduced commercially as a new variety. My favorite pink blend rose, 'Secret', has a white sport which is named



'Secret's Out'. 'Randy Scott', a white hybrid tea, has a light pink sport which is named 'Dona Martin'. 'Brilliant Pink Iceberg' (2 photos at right) is a sport of the well-known



'Iceberg' rose, and 'Burgundy Iceberg' (2 photos at left) is a sport of 'Brilliant Pink Iceberg'. Every year my 'Burgundy Iceberg' rose bush treats me to a few white blooms amongst the big masses of its deep purple clusters. Sports can be unstable because rose cells contain the ability to repair some of the DNA changes that occurred. If that happens, sometimes the entire bush can revert to the original parent plant. Unlike suckers where we can take action,



there is nothing you can do if a sport decides to revert.

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Weather Changes Blooms

Something strange and magical happens to some of the blooms on my 'Sally Holmes' rose bush in late November and December every year. The clusters of blooms which are a creamy-ivory color all year become pink on one section of this lovely large shrub rose.



At first, I excitedly thought I had discovered a sport. For several years, I tagged the canes with the pink blooms with ribbon, but every spring the tagged canes grew the typical 'Sally Holmes' clusters of ivory blooms with not a pink bloom in sight. Some varieties of roses do this. They have blooms that change color in colder or hotter weather. 'Double Delight' which is a red- and cream-blend rose will often exhibit more red in hot weather, and a bigger creamy center in cooler weather. The un-



usual multi-colored 'Distant Drums' has more apricot shades when it is hot and sunny and more pink shades in the spring's cooler temperature.

Phyllody Blooms

Have you seen leaf-like structures emerging from the center of a rose bloom? Phyllody, or vegetative center, is one of the weirder bloom deformities you will see in your rose garden. The plant will look healthy but one or just a few of the blooms on a bush will have this strange leafy growth in the middle of the bloom. The cause for the unsightly blooms is plant hormones that are out of balance. Reasons for the imbalance, when the plant is otherwise healthy, are due to environmental conditions such as hot weather, water stress or insect damage by pests such as leafhoppers. Floribundas are more likely to exhibit phyllody symptoms due to genetic susceptibility as they have one old floribunda ancestor, 'The Green Rose', which has a stable mutation of narrow leaf-like petals in place of blooms. Don't be concerned. Enjoy the anomaly, and when the weather changes or the pest moves on, your bush will resume its production of normal flowers.



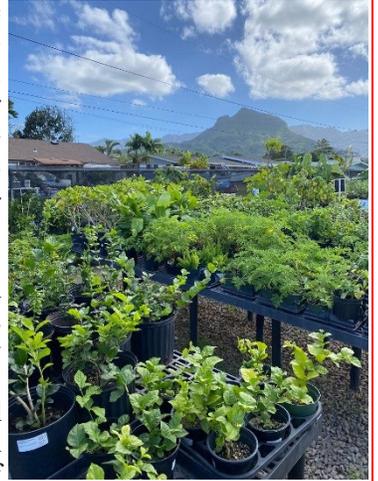
There is always something to discover in our gardens: at times the discoveries are beautiful and magical, at other times they are surprising, puzzling or just plain weird, but in the rose garden even the off-key curious blooms can bring a smile.

Starting a Potted Rose Garden in Hawaii

By Beth VanBoxtel, bethpaige@gmail.com



I recently helped my sister relocate to Oahu for the U.S Navy in February, and one of the top items on my priority list was to make her backyard feel more like home in California. My parents and I each have several roses in our own gardens, and I made it a point to shop at a local nursery, Koolau Farmers in Kailua, (pictured at right) for roses that grow well in Oahu (Zone 11) - particularly the south-west, drier side of the island. To my surprise and delight, most of the varieties sold in Hawaii are similar to roses offered in San Diego. I purchased 'Sheila's Perfume' and 'Chihuly'. I chose these roses for their color and 'Sheila's Perfume' has a beautiful fragrance. They grow well in my own garden too.



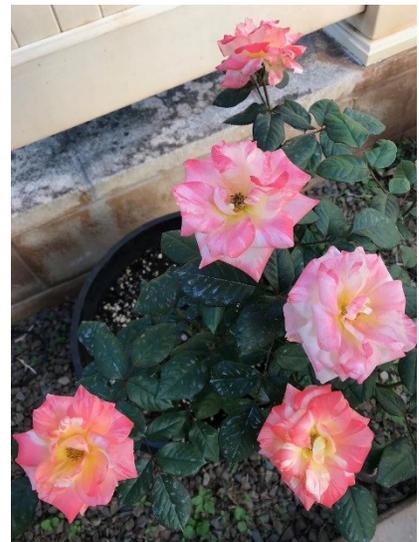
These roses came in one-gallon pots, and I repotted these into 15-gallon pots right away so the roses would grow into these larger pots over the next few years. One of the differences between San Diego and Hawaii garden stores is the potting soil offered. I bought Niu Hawaiian Style All Purpose Potting Soil, which resembled a rich mud-like soil. It was full of black pumice instead of white perlite, and is full of nutrients like worm castings, feather meal, and bone meal. It was messy and heavy to use, compared to Dr Earth Potting Soils. I added perlite to the soil to aid in the water drainage, since roses don't like to sit in very wet soil.



After one week in its new pot, 'Chihuly' bloomed very quickly. Since the weather is so much warmer and more humid than San Diego I wasn't able to take a photo of the beginning of the bloom since it bloomed much faster than I anticipated. The colors were very pastel, compared to the bold colors of 'Chihuly' grown in lower temperatures in San Diego.

My next step is to get my sister connected to the Honolulu Rose Society!

TIP: Next time you visit Oahu, check out the Urban Garden Center in Pearl City. They have over 215 rose bushes in over 70 rose varieties in bloom most of the year.



A New Feature: Notes for Novices *The Spectrum of Rose Growers*

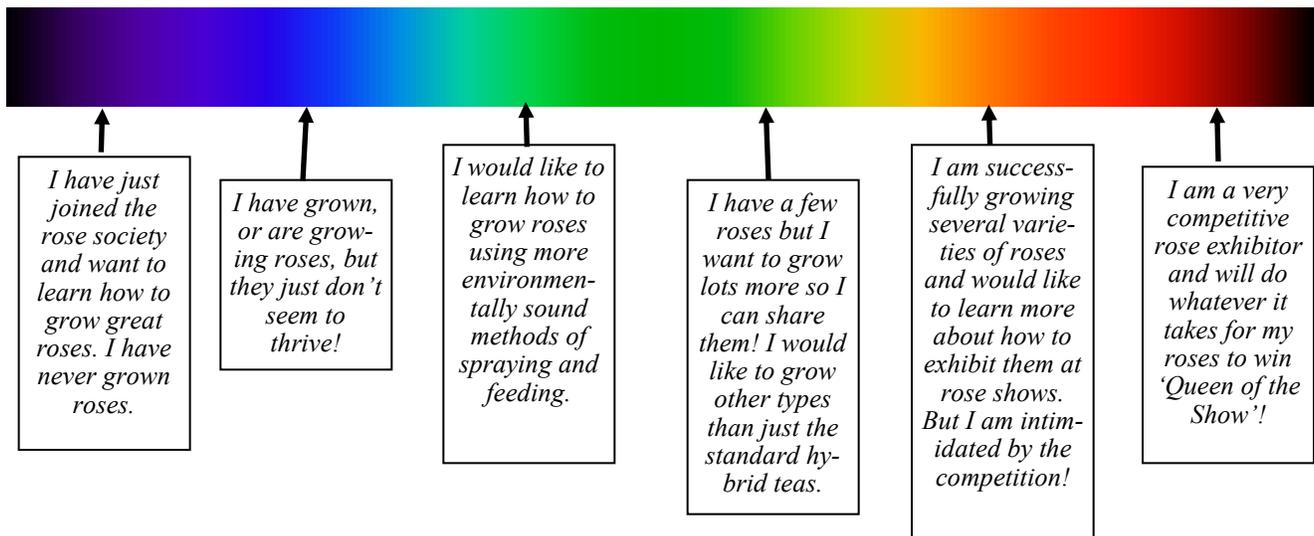
By Elaine Ornelas, cornelas1949@att.net

I am adding a new feature to the newsletter specifically for new folks that are either not familiar at all with growing roses or who have attempted to grow them but have not been as successful as they would like. We have added an extraordinary number of new members to our rose society recently and sharing all the information we can about basic rose care with a new rosarians is very important. That is the purpose for this series of articles. Caring for roses is probably not as complicated you might think. They all need the same things that all plants do: sunlight, water and food. Not really that much different than what we, as humans, need, right?

We have all visited wonderful rose gardens and thought “I wonder if I could grow roses as good as these?” We have all heard the stories....You need to spray all the time to keep the pests and diseases at bay! What kind of soil do they need to be planted in? How do I choose...there are so many types? They have nasty thorns and you will get stuck! Do they require special fertilizing? They require so much work to maintain! They seem so fussy! Hearing all of this you may wonder, why should I try at all?!

But still that little voice in your head keeps saying, “I really love roses! I love smelling their fragrance, enjoying their beautiful variation in color, and sharing as many roses as I can with my family, my friends and especially with those in need of a little cheering up.” So how to reconcile this conflict? Step out in confidence knowing that you too can have your own rose garden! With the help from our San Diego Rose Society experts, just make a start!

Among rose lovers there is a ‘spectrum’ of folks. That is, there are people who are just starting to research what it takes to grow roses and maybe have just joined a rose society. At the other end of the spectrum are people who grow hundreds of roses, pour hours of their lives into the maintenance of these beauties and who probably are the premier exhibitors of roses at rose shows, wanting more than anything to claim the coveted ‘Queen of the Show’ trophy as their own, attempting to have their rose plants produce the most nearly-perfect rose blooms ever!



If you find yourself in the first few categories of the left side of this spectrum above then this series of articles is for you. In these articles we will talk about rose basics: types of roses and making the right choice for your garden, soil type and health, rose requirements, fending off pests and diseases, pruning, feeding, watering and finally, exhibiting roses. It will be presented in basic terms that are easy to follow. We might be able to toss in a little information about making arrangements as well! Of course, we will not cover all of these topics at once. But once you become more familiar with the basics of rose growing, you will be surprised how much easier it is than you thought.

**Next Month's Topic:
Type of Roses to Choose From.**

My First Year as a San Diego Rose Society Member

By Melinda Bourg, melindahbourg@gmail.com



As I look back on my first year of joining the San Diego Rose Society, I can categorically confirm last year I grew the healthiest roses ever! No one knew during the February 2020 meeting that it would be our last in person for over a year.

Survival of the fittest is how I always approached gardening. I know, it sounds harsh. Prime dirt real estate is precious here in San Diego. If it doesn't do well, out it goes for something else. I never really put into words what my garden philosophy was until like most of us, I found myself spending more time outside in the yard. Having time each day to physically inspect my roses and other plants, really opened my eyes.

I took notice when white flies started in early spring before the predators arrived, two leaves with blackspot appeared in April on my 'Mellow Yellow' rose and the bloom size of my David Austin roses started showing a subtle decrease with each consecutive bloom. My plants were given a home and water but not much food. They seem to grow fine without any fertilizing needed. I previously only laid 2" of chicken manure once a year and that's it.

Being in the garden, in real time, made me see the minute changes that allowed me to course-correct quickly. I sprayed the leaves with water every day to remove the white flies until the predators took care of them, snipped black-spot off quickly as our damp nights transitioned into warm nights and pruned more strategically throughout the growing season instead of in January and August.

I am happy to share my new philosophy is 'Survival with Kindness'. If it wasn't for the rose society and all the information I've poured over, I would still have fine roses. That is no longer good enough for me. Roses should be *spectacular*, not fine.

Sharing the Wealth!

By Elaine Ornelas, cornelas1949@att.net

One of the wonderful features of belonging to a rose society is sharing! We share our knowledge of the best practices of rose growing, our time to help others in growing roses or volunteering at a rose society event or our energy in managing a fertilizer sale! Related to the latter was the transport of fertilizer obtained as part of our society's fertilizer sale to our friends in the Orange County Rose Society. None of their members had a truck suitable enough to bring up the volume of fertilizer needed from Ruth Tiffany's house to their location in Orange County. So Gary Bulman and Bill Ornelas volunteered their time and their truck! Ken Huff accompanied Gary, I accompanied my husband Bill, and Ruth and her husband Tim came, along with their new puppy, Maizie, who just came for fun!

It was a fun day delivering the fertilizer to Kathy Monge's house. She was just finishing up the pruning of her roses. We offloaded the fertilizer into her garage as the order was checked off by Tom Cooney, also a member of OCRS. As soon as we arrived, members from their society lined up to harvest their 'precious cargo'. Here are a few photos of the effort. Many thanks to Gary, Ken, Bill and especially to Ruth for her work as the coordinator for the fertilizer sale. This fertilizer is such an important aspect of our society and helping another society is just 'frosting on the cake'!



Ruth offloading the last bag to Kathy



Tom Cooney, Gary and Bill talking roses



Kathy and Gary taking stock



All Done!

Traditional Large Flowered Climbers

By Robert B. Martin Jr., ARS President and Master Rosarian, petrose@aol.com

We look up this month at the climbers in our garden, specifically the traditional climbers classed as Large Flowered Climbers. In fact we have many more roses in our garden that grow as climbers, including most of the hybrid musks and noisettes that we have previously discussed. There are also a number of English Style roses classed as climbers, as well as English Style shrubs that grow as climbers. These will be discussed in later installments. Here we will stick with the traditional Large Flowered Climbers.

With our smaller gardens of today many rosarians have room for only a few climbers, if indeed they have any room for them at all. Ours, however, is a larger garden and so we have room to grow more than the average. This enables me to introduce you to a number that are worthy of consideration for your own.

Climbers are well known to rose enthusiasts and gardeners alike with their dramatic statement of color and the vertical interest they add to the garden. Roses of course, do not actually climb, in the sense of a plant like ivy that attaches itself to a wall with tendrils. Instead a climbing rose produces very long canes that must be trained to a structure, such as a wall, pergola or obelisk.

Climbers in fact typically bloom from lateral stems that come off those long canes. This is important to understand in training and pruning climbers because you don't want to cut back the long canes. Instead, the objective is to train the climber (the fancy term here is "espalier") so that the canes are as horizontal as possible. This encourages the lateral growth and the resulting blooms. So the best thing to do with climbers is to wrestle with them and tie them up so that they will grow as you want them to grow.

The long canes also pose a challenge not only at pruning time, but also in cutting blooms for the house or show, as well as deadheading spent blooms. My solution to this problem is the Corona "Long Reach Cut 'n' Hold Bypass Pruner". These have an overall length of 46" that permits me to reach at or near the top of climbers. It also has a cut and hold feature that keeps hold of the cut stem until you release it. That feature enables me to cut a stem high in the air and to thereafter bring it down and release it into a waiting holding bucket or trash can.

Tom Carruth

With a limited number of climbers to consider it is best to start with the best. Here the selection of the best climber is easy, that honor going to **'Fourth of July'**, a 1999 AARS winner and the first and only climber to win the AARS award since 'America' in 1976. This spectacular velvety red, white and yellow striped beauty is a bloom machine and, unlike most climbers, will bloom profusely in its first season.



'Fourth of July'

'Fourth of July' is a vigorous climber, routinely making spreading canes 10 to 14 feet in height. The blooms are large, semi-double and come in large free-flowering clusters all over the bush. The colors are variable, and are quite similar to the striped miniature climber, 'Roller Coaster' from which it was bred, with more emphasis on the red and white. The blooms also have a moderate, fresh cut apple scent. The foliage is large, abundant and reasonably disease resistant.

'Fourth of July' was hybridized by Tom Carruth from a cross of 'Roller Coaster' and 'Altissimo', my previous favorite climber discussed below. Tom has told me that of all the wonderful roses he has hybridized, he is most proud of **'Fourth of July'**. And well he should be.

'Fourth of July' is known in England as 'Crazy for You', presumably because the English are not crazy about celebrating the day as a holiday. There it is also considered a cluster flowered floribunda for no evident reason at all.



'Fourth of July'

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I have had occasion to comment before on Tom Carruth's "Purple Period" represented by such outstanding roses as the grandiflora 'Wild Blue Yonder'. In climbers this period is represented by the outstanding purple climber 'Night Owl', introduced by Weeks Roses in 2007. 'Night Owl' is a spreading climber with canes about 10-14 feet in length. The large, single to semi-double blooms have 8 to 12 petals and are typically a wine purple with bright yellow stamens that stand out attractively from the dark blooms. The blooms are said to have a moderate clove fragrance but this has escaped my notice. The foliage is somewhat greyish and shows excellent disease resistance.

'Night Owl' derives from Tom Carruth's use of the hybrid of *Rosa soulieana* discussed in last month's discussion of the single shrubs 'Be-Bop' and 'Paul Ecke, Jr.' Others using that hybrid included 'Wild Blue Yonder', 'Flutterbye' and his classic yellow floribunda, 'Julia Child'. The breeding of 'Night Owl' itself includes this hybrid of *Rosa soulieana* and a mélange of several other roses, including the floribunda/small shrub, 'International Herald Tribune'; the sprawling miniature/polyantha, 'Sweet Chariot'; the mauve hybrid tea, 'Blue Nile'; and the large flowered climber, 'Rosy Outlook'.



'Night Owl'

Continuing in his "Purple Period", Tom Carruth introduced in 2009 the purple and white striped climber 'Purple Splash', bred from a cross of the striped climber, 'Soaring Spirits' × 'Rhapsody in Blue', a dusty purple shrub. 'Soaring Spirits' is a first generation descendant of 'Fourth of July' thus making 'Purple Splash' a grandchild of 'Fourth of July'. Like 'Fourth of July', 'Purple Splash' bears large, elongated clusters of large, semi-double blooms on a moderate spreading, relative tall climber 12 to 14 feet in height. Advertised by Weeks as a 'Fourth of July' in shades of purple, 'Purple Splash' also blooms well in its first year. The foliage is a bright green and abundantly frames the large clusters of bloom.

'Purple Splash' is temporarily absent in our garden, with our large well-established bush having recently succumbed to a combination of the creeping crud and being undermined by an aggressive ground squirrel. We are currently in the market for a replacement (bush – not squirrel).



'Purple Splash'

Other Climbers

Although not bred by Tom Carruth, Tom was also responsible for the introduction by Weeks in 1999 of another striped climber, this known as 'Berries 'n' Cream'. This is a pink blend large-flowered climber bred by Pernille and Mogens Olesen of Denmark and originally introduced in Denmark by Poulsen in 1997. In our garden 'Berries 'n' Cream' grows to the top and over the center of an 8-foot arbor with canes of 10-12 feet in length. The medium semi-double blooms of 10-15 petals are primarily a medium pink with wide cream-colored stripes and come in small clusters. The blooms have a slight fresh apple fragrance noticeable under the arbor. The foliage is also a fresh apple green and displays good disease resistance.

The reported breeding tells us little about 'Berries 'n' Cream' with the seed parent identified as 'Evita', a 1984 white patio miniature by Olesen × an unnamed seedling described as having red and white striped blooms. In our garden 'Berries 'n' Cream' is quite care free and productive of bloom and makes an attractive look against its white arbor.



'Berries 'n' Cream'

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Returning to the color purple, Tom Carruth was also responsible for the introduction in 2012 by Weeks of the dark purple climber, **‘Stormy Weather’**. Bred by Pierre Orard of France, **‘Stormy Weather’** is a shorter upright climber of perhaps 10-12 feet that displays large, semi-double blooms that, depending on weather and age, vary in shade from a dark purple to lavender. The blooms come abundantly in nice clusters framed by large, dark green, leathery foliage. The reported breeding is from a cross of the red blend shrub **‘Heart ‘n’ Soul’** × **‘Rhapsody in Blue’**.

Pierre Orard was also responsible for breeding the eye-catching striped, cream and smoky orange climber **‘Tropical Lightning’**, introduced by Weeks in 2016. Although introduced as a climber, **‘Tropical Lightning’** is more of a tall-growing shrub that after several years in our garden is not much higher than the six-foot fence against which it is growing. It is also not particularly productive of bloom, but the blooms that do come are unusual enough to earn its continued presence in the garden. The large glossy, disease-resistant foliage also sets off the blooms quite nicely. **‘Tropical Lightning’** was bred from Orard’s similar-looking yellow-orange blend climber **‘Summer Lodge’** which unfortunately has not been introduced in this country. The pollen parent is reported as two hybrid teas, the orange Meilland introduction, **‘Christopher Columbus’** and the apricot Harkness introduction **‘Lady Jane Grey’**.



‘Tropical Lightning’

Altissimo

Before **‘Fourth of July’** my favorite climber was **‘Altissimo’**, a tall stiff upright climber from 1966 with dark green foliage that produces very large 7-petaled dark red velvety blooms. For many years the race for the top show climber was between **‘Altissimo’** and **‘America’** the popular orange climber that was an AARS winner in 1976, America’s bicentennial year. **‘Altissimo’** won that race every year until 2001, when but two years after its introduction, **‘Fourth of July’** blew by **‘Altissimo’** and has not looked back, having clearly become established as the number one show climber.



‘Altissimo’

‘Altissimo’ continues to be an excellent climber to grow and in our garden occupies the highest spot in the garden, which is appropriate since *altissimo* is an Italian word for “very high” and in music is understood to be the uppermost register on woodwind instruments. That term derives from the Latin *altisonus* meaning sounding from on high, high sounding or sublime.

‘Altissimo’ was bred by G. Delbard, of France *circa* 1966, whose wonderful striped floribundas and shrubs were introduced in a previous installment. The very large single (7 petals) blooms of **‘Altissimo’** are borne mostly solitary, sometimes in small clusters, usually displaying a



shallow cup that shows off brilliantly its yellow stamens against the dark red “velvet Elvis” blooms. The blooms also have a subtle clove fragrance that is difficult to appreciate on the tall growing upright plant. The foliage is dark green and very disease resistant. Because of its upright growth – easily 12-15 feet in height – and relative tolerance for shade, **‘Altissimo’** is also suitable for use in narrow applications, as a pillar or to flank high doorways or garage doors. **‘Altissimo’** was bred from **‘Ténor’**, a medium red Delbard climber now out of commerce whose musical name likely inspired **‘Altissimo’**.

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Speaking of inspiration, the name 'Altissimo' reminded me of the word *excelsior*, another Latin term meaning "ever higher" and also the name of the High School in Norwalk, California that my older brother attended. "Excelsior" is also the name of a short poem written in 1841 by American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow that I was inspired some years ago to parody using the name 'Altissimo'. With a little extra space this month I close by reprinting the same, content to leave my discussion of English Style climbers and shrubs to future installments.

Altissimo

By Robert Wordsmouth Martin*

The shades of night were falling fast,
As through the climbing garden passed
A youth in hand, bionic gloved,
A marker with the named beloved ~
Altissimo!

"Try not the wall," the old man said;
Dark lowers the tempest overhead:
The monstrous bush is deep and wide!"
And loud the clarion voice replied,
Altissimo!

"O stay," the maiden said "and rest
Thy weary head upon this breast!"
A tear stood in his bright red eye,
But still he answered, with a sigh,
Altissimo!

Beware the rose's thorn clad branch!
That will not give you 'ere a chance!"
This was the gardener's best advice;
A voice replied, far up the height,
Altissimo!

At break of day, as heavenward
The pious monks of Saint Bernard
Uttered the oft-repeated prayer
A voice cried through the startled air,
Altissimo!

A traveler, by the faithful hound,
Half-buried in compost was found,
Still grasping in bionic glove,
That marker that we've come to love,
Altissimo!

There in the twilight cold and gray,
Lifeless but beautiful, he lay,
And from the sky, serene and far
A voice fell, like a falling star~
Altissimo!

(*With apology to the heirs of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow)



'Altissimo'



'Altissimo'

Becoming a Consulting Rosarian

By Beth Van Boxtel, bethpaige@gmail.com

A few months before I joined the San Diego Rose Society (SDRS), I was a novice rose grower, exhibiting roses in the San Diego County Fair, and I had eleven hybrid tea roses that I watered and sprayed occasionally for pests. I thought it was so fascinating to see about fifteen rose growers bring dozens or hundreds of beautiful blooms for nine shows during the fair season (usually twice per week) and consistently place first, second, or third place. I wondered what they did differently to grow such fantastic and beautiful roses.

Since first joining the SDRS in December 2017, I have involved myself in a few different aspects of the SDRS (rebuilding the website and managing the SDRS email inbox, encouraging people to join the SDRS, posting to Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram, and attending the board meetings).

Over the months and years of being a SDRS member, I kept reading the *Rose Ramblings*, attending the SDRS meetings, and attending the board meetings, I realized that I was modeling my love for roses and the rose community after the Consulting Rosarians and Master Rosarians. They are a special, friendly, and encouraging group of members that have a passion for growing roses and growing the community of rosarians.

The American Rose Society offers a five-week online Consulting Rosarian school and ends with a test to review the material. The Consulting Rosarian school online webinars include: The Consulting Rosarian Mission, Soil and Water, Fertilizer, Insects and Diseases, and Chemical Safety. I am almost done with viewing the live webinars and will take the online exam on March 9. You have to be a member of the American Rose Society for at least two years and submit an application, in order to be eligible to become a Consulting Rosarian (or you can view the informative webinars for fun, if you are not eligible to become a Consulting Rosarian).

One of the things that I love about becoming a Consulting Rosarian is that the course material is very helpful and is great knowledge for any gardener, as they are up to date with the latest rose disease findings, fertilizer advice and soil tips, integrated pest management and chemical pesticide suggestions, and there is a plethora of very helpful information to give rose care advice to others of any level (beginner to advanced).

I am looking forward to becoming a Consulting Rosarian and helping more people start new rose gardens, maintain their current gardens, and show their roses in the annual SDRS rose show and in the San Diego County Fair! I am also looking forward to opening my garden for people to come and see all of my roses and ask me questions about growing roses. I highly recommend becoming a Consulting Rosarian as soon as you are eligible!

Late Breaking News! We Have 2 New Consulting Rosarians!

At the time of publication of this newsletter we just found out that both **Beth VanBoxtel** and **Natalie Stout** have completed the course work and passed the exam to become certified as Consulting Rosarians! Congratulations to both of these nice folks!

Beth Van Boxtel



Natalie Stout

In Our Thoughts and Prayers....

Please lift up your healing thoughts for the folks in our rose family who are suffering with illness, injury or loss.

And we especially send our protective thoughts and prayers to all of the **doctors, nurses and other caregivers** who are placing their lives at risk in caring for any of us who are stricken with the COVID-19 virus infection. Bless you all!



Rose Days started out with a card table on a Saturday and inviting family and friends to come out and enjoy a day among thousands of roses. It has grown to include seminars, workshops and food trucks. This year we are scaling back on the seminars but not on the 150,000 rose plants and their flowers!

Rose Days is scheduled for **Wednesday - Saturday, April 14-17**. Our 28th annual event will feature thousands and thousands of blooming roses for you to wander through and enjoy the sights and smells of America's favorite flower. When you find something to take home with you, there will be a discount on all roses! So come on out in April to enjoy the beauty and aroma of roses.

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB
23RD ANNUAL GARDEN WALK
SATURDAY
MAY 8, 2021
10AM - 4PM

WHERE FLOWERS bloom SO DOES hope

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT
Community Improvement Projects

MAP PICKUP AT TIME OF RESERVATION
Mission Hills Nursery | 1525 Fort Stockton Drive

TICKETS \$30 (In Advance) • PURCHASE TICKETS: MissionHillsGardenClub.org

A list of the gardens to be visited should be in the San Diego Union Tribune or on the Mission Hills Garden Club's website soon.

Your membership is Growing !

By Kirk Rummel, Membership Chair, knlrummel@sbcglobal.net

We must be doing something right! Since our last issue we have added another 14 new members. Maybe this is due to the great San Diego weather for rose growing, maybe our excellent programs, the extensive social media certainly has added a lot, perhaps the excellent rose care advice from our experts, or perhaps the early sign up bonus of free pruners we offered this year for early renewals or new members. I suspect that it is all of these reasons along with the need to escape the isolation the pandemic has imposed on us.

For whatever reasons the addition of these wonderful new members has gotten the attention of the American Rose Society who has asked us to share our secrets with them on how we are expanding our membership so successfully. They are asked all of the time how to attract new members. Apparently few societies are doing as well as we are.

I am trying to accumulate the factors that led some of our new members to join. So, can you help? Email me with what led you to join and I'll share them with the ARS and maybe folks throughout the land.

So, to these our February new members, we offer our sincere welcome.

Marsha Herman

Annette Gomez

Judi Phillips

Vicki Lugo

Ramona and OJ Oge

Brenda Carlson

Jon Schwartz

Cynthia Nakagawa

Jonathan de Vera

Kari Axtman

Dawn Harrison

Doris Davies

Carole Melucci

Connie Kim



The membership form can be completed and payment submitted using this online link:

<https://www.sandiegorosociety.com/join>

Or you can complete the paper membership form included in the this issue of *Rose Ramblings* and send a check to our Post Office BoxP.O. Box 86124, San Diego Ca. 92138-6124.

Event Calendars and Web Sites

San Diego Rose Society Calendar of Events

2021

Monday, March 15, 2021, 6:45 p.m.; SDRS Monthly Program (virtual): Waterwise Botanicals By Tom Jesch: Bush Roses, Single Roses, Heirlooms, and more (see details on page 2 of this newsletter)

March 22, 2021, 7:00 p.m.: ‘Let’s Talk Roses’ virtual session with Deborah Magnuson, magnusond@sbcglobal.net; Topic: ‘To Spray or Not To Spray and Integrative Pest Management (IPM) Basics’ (see details on page 2)

April 17-18, 2021: Open Gardens at Sue Streeper’s and Ruth Tiffany’s houses; (more details to come)

May 9, 2021: Open Gardens at Bob and Dona Martin’s house; (more details to come)

June 11-13, 2021: (Very tentative) SDRS Rose Show (more details to come)

Other Local Gardening Events

2021

Saturday, March 20, 2021: Pacific Rose Society Rose Auction; 29412 Water Street, Highland, CA; Silent auction at 10:30—11 am; Live auction begins at noon; contact: Chris Greenwood, crisgreen1@aol.com

Saturday, May 8, 2021, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.: Mission Hills Garden Club 23rd Annual Garden Walk; info: <https://www.missionhillsgardenclub.org/Garden-Walk>; tickets (In Advance) \$30

San Diego Floral Association Calendar <http://www.sdfloreal.org/calendar.htm>

San Diego Botanic Garden Calendar <https://www.sdbgarden.org/events.htm>

National Events

2021

September 10-13, 2021: 2021 ARS National Convention and Rose Show; Milwaukee, WI; website: <https://www.creamcityroses.org/>

Useful Websites and Links

San Diego Rose Society (www.sandiegorosesociety.com)

American Rose Society (www.rose.org)

American Rose Society Pacific Southwest District (www.pswdrose.org)

Help Me Find (roses) (www.helpmefind.com/rose)

Rose Show Results (<http://www.roseshow.com/results/>)

The San Diego Rose Society Has a NEW Website!

By Beth Van Boxtel, bethpaige@gmail.com

Our brand new website is up and running! We have a new URL and a new website featuring virtual garden tours, FAQs, information on future events as they become scheduled, how to donate and volunteer, membership info, and much more.

www.sandiegorosesociety.com

Also, feel free to drop by our Facebook page to check out the latest videos and tips for year-round gardening, as well as our latest virtual garden tours. And the Instagram page is full of rose blooms! Go check it out!

Process for Contacting Consulting Rosarians

By Elaine Ornelas, cornelas1949@att.net and Beth VanBoxtel, SDRS webmistress

The listing below for consulting rosarians is also listed on the San Diego Rose Society's website, including phone numbers and email addresses. Our website is a public domain and can be viewed by everyone and is intended to be that way so that the public can harvest useful information about growing roses. However the email address can be accessed by 'web crawlers' and can be used to receive spam emails and spam phone calls. Listing emails and phone numbers is not a good idea with today's data breaches. So our board has decided, at our webmistress' encouragement, to not post emails and phone numbers.

So the new procedure for contacting consulting rosarians is to use a generic contact email address, listed below. Once the user accesses this email the message goes directly to the webmistress who will forward the email on to the appropriate consulting rosarian. Hopefully this will prevent any adverse conditions which might have resulting from having the emails and phone numbers posted readily.

New SDRS email address: sandiegorosesociety@gmail.com

Consulting Rosarians for San Diego Rose Society

Name	Area	County Location
Christine Allan	La Jolla	W
Steve Berry	San Diego	C
Frank Brines	San Diego	E
Gary Bulman	Escondido	N
Linda Clark	La Mesa	E
Frank Hastings	El Cajon	E
Ken Huff	Escondido	N
Bob Kolb	Sunset Cliffs	W
John Lester	Tierrasanta	C
Deborah Magnuson	Clairemont	W
Carl Mahanay	Imperial Beach	S
Dona Martin, Master Rosarian	Escondido	N
Bob Martin, Master Rosarian	Escondido	N
Soledad "Rita" Morris	San Diego	C
Elaine Ornelas	Clairemont	W
Bill Ornelas	Clairemont	W
Rita Perwich	Coronado	W
Jim Price	San Diego	C
Dwyn Robbie, Master Rosarian	Del Mar	W
Robert Russell	Crest	E
Sue Streeper, Master Rosarian	El Cajon	E
Ruth Tiffany, Master Rosarian	San Carlos	E

List of Nurseries for Roses

Here is a list of nurseries which some of our rosarians commonly use to obtain roses.

Some of these are local and some are some distance from San Diego or are for on-line ordering only.

LOCAL:

Armstrong Garden Centers	www.armstronggarden.com
Walter Andersen	www.walterandersen.com
Kniffings	www.kniffingsnursery.com
El Plantio Nursery	www.elplantationnursery.com
Hunters	www.huntersnursery.com
Evergreen	www.evergreennursery.com
Waterwise Botanicals	www.waterwisebotanicals.com

NEW →

NOT LOCAL OR ON-LINE ORDERING ONLY:

K and M Roses	www.kandmroses.com
Regan Nursery	www.regannursery.com
Wisconsin Roses	www.wiroses.com
Palatine Roses	www.palatineroses.com
Angel Gardens	www.angelsgardens.com
Laguna Hills Nursery	www.lagunahillsnursery.com
Plant Depot	www.plantdepot.com
Rogue Valley Roses	www.roguevalleyroses.com
Green Thumb	www.greenthumb.com
Cool Roses	www.coolroses.com
Otto & Sons	www.ottoandsons-nursery.com
Heirloom Roses	www.heirloomroses.com
Burlington Roses	www.burlingtonroses.com
Antique Rose Emporium	www.antiqueroseemporium

Photo Credits for this Issue

Page 1: Photo provided by Deborah Magnuson

Page 2: Photo provided by Tom Jesch

Page 3: Photos by Kristine Russell

Page 4: Photos by Elaine Ornelas

Page 5: Photos by Christine Allan

Pages 6, 7: Photos by Rita Perwich

Page 10: Photo submitted by Melinda Bourg

Pages 11-13: Photos of 'Altissimo' bush, 'Fourth of July' bush, 'Night Owl', 'Purple Splash', 'Stormy Weather' bush, and 'Tropical Lightning' by Bob Martin. Photo of 'Altissimo' by Louis Evans. Photo of 'Berries N Cream', 'Fourth of July' by Dona Martin.

Page 15: Photos submitted by Beth Van Boxtel and Natalie Stout

Page 16: Photos from Otto and Sons Nursery and Mission Hills Garden Club

Rose Ramblings

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