

RAMBLING ROSE

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Door Prize Winners

50-50 Raffle

February program

The February program will be on soil tests and why they are needed and how to take one..

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have finished pruning my fruit trees and cleaned up the mess. Now I am working on the berries. Spent all day yesterday on my knees weeding with the potato fork. Finally stopped when my leg started to cramp. I have at least one more day on the logan berries and then I still have to do the tay berries, marion berries and Boysen berries. After that someone planted a whole bunch of roses in my yard that still need to be pruned. I can't imagine who would do such a thing. It took me three days to dig up the shasta daisies and I filled six garbage bags full. I gave Linda two bags and a neighbor one bag. I am also saving one bag for my sister but if anyone wants some I will bring them to the meeting. Just

let me know. I am also looking for used pots of any size so if you have some you are not using please bring them to the meeting. Plenty to do here on the homestead so best get busy.. See you at the meeting, Ed



ROSE GROWING MADE EASY

The Rose Growing Made Easy class will focus in February on soil amendments. Class instructor is Corinne Clifton . The Rose Growing Made

Easy class covers all aspects of rose growing and tries to make rose growing truly easier. The class will now follow the program. A short segment on what to do in your garden in February will precede the

presentation.

SOIL TESTING FOR THE ROSES

While most of us as rose gardeners are concerned with the plants growing above the soil, it is really the soil we should turn most of our attention to.

We commonly refer to feeding our roses. This is totally inaccurate because what we put down as fertilizer must be converted by soil microbes, bacteria and fungi, into a form usable by the rose plant.

I recently heard a very experienced gardener refer to plants as the "perfect solar panel." This is very accurate.

Plants and soil have what is referred to as a symbiotic relationship. In simple terms

this could be referred to as "You scratch my back and I will scratch yours."

Plants collect the sun's rays during the day and then during the night, these large sugar factories transfer the sugar to the roots where they interact with the soil bacteria and fungi to in turn provide fertilizer in a form usable for the plant.

To insure that your roses are receiving what they need from the soil they are calling home, a soil test should be performed every few years.

Mail order soil tests are very easy to obtain and easy to use. Most mail order companies send results by email

and they are very easy to interpret, even for someone with little to no knowledge of soil chemistry. At the very least a soil test should test for pH and basic nutrients. Once you know what kind of soil you're working with, you can amend the soil so your roses flourish.

Soil, especially clay, is made up of minerals, organic matter, air and water. Soil testing determines whether your soil is acidic, neutral or alkaline. It also indicates which elements are missing and how to remedy the problem.

The Southwestern Oregon Rose Society is affiliated with the American Rose Society. It was established in 1976 to educate southern Oregon coastal residents how to grow roses in a cool, coastal climate. It meets on the first Thursday of the month, September through June, at 6 p.m. at the Coos Bay Library, 525 Anderson Ave, Coos Bay 97420. A Rose Growing Made Easy class follows the program. A judged rose show is held in June and a potluck and garden tour are held in July or August.

2026 ROSE SHOW MEETING RESULTS

The photo on the front page depicts one of our rose shows in which roses were judged by color classifications.

Effective with the 2016 show this is no longer the case and SWORS has been using an alphabetical show format. This means that roses are no longer placed on the tables by color classes but in alphabetical

cal order. We still have the different classes but roses will be placed alphabetically within those classes. Therefore it is **critical** that you know the name of your rose before you show it.

Also, this year we will continue to award crystal trophies in all classes. Each year we are trying to buy more perpetual

trophies and eventually eliminate the others.

Arrangement themes are yet to be determined but will reflect the show's theme which is in recognition of SWORS 50th anniversary. The 2026 rose show is scheduled for June 21 at the Coos County fairgrounds.

The mission of the American Rose Society is to increase the general interest in the cultivation of the rose for all people and to improve its standard of excellence. The objectives of the American Rose Society are to encourage amateur and professional rose culture; to increase the general understanding of and interest in all aspects of roses, including but not limited to the history of roses, hybridization, growing, exhibiting, artistic designing and judging, research and thereby to improve the standard of excellence of the rose for all people; to record, publish and establish priority on rose cultivar names and rose cultivar ratings.

SWORS BUSINESS NEWS

The meetings were held at the Coos Bay Library.

It was attended by Ed and Mary Anne, Lou Kolkhorst, Cindy Lusby, Corinne Clifton, Connie Gorsch, Martha Blochlinger, Marie Erm, Linda Gilliland, Frankie Raymond.

Meeting opened at 6 p.m. by President Ed Kreutzer.

Minutes and treasurer's report for November plus treasurer's report for December

were accepted. Motion by Lou, seconded by Frankie to accept. Passed.

February 5 meeting will be held at 1865 Thompson Road at Dr. Charles Reagan's office. Parking is limited so parking will be at the Bay Clinic which is directly across the street.

Discussed possible insurance companies since ARS is in limbo at this time. Need insur-

ance for two plant sales and the June rose show.

Rose show planning meeting at the Kreutzers on Jan. 15.

Corinne did a program on rose propagation in Germany. They only introduce five new roses a year. Labor is very high in Europe. Goal is to find roses resistant to black spot, powdery mildew, downy mildew and

Please see Page 4

KNOW A ROSE

'Black Magic' is a very dark red miniature, almost black, as depicted in this photo by Rich Baer. It was introduced in 2003 by an Australian nursery and was a top exhibition miniature for a number of years. Placement in the garden is critical because as is the case with the dark red roses, the petal edges can burn in the hot sun. It doesn't grow very tall, about 12 inches, and its exhibition quality flowers are usually borne singly. It is fairly disease resistant..



Due to a conflict from both the Coos Bay Library and the Coos Bay Fire Station, we will be meeting at 1865 Thompson Road in the former Dr. Charles Reagan office which is directly across the street from Bay Clinic. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. and SWORS will be providing dinner in the form of soup, bread and dessert. So bring an appetite and join us for food and fellowship.

TREASURER'S REPORT JANUARY FEBRUARY 2026 (JANUARY CORRECTED)

Beginning balance	\$2428.71
Bills	
NCNH District Criteriont	\$50.00
Action Trophies	\$64.00
Income	
Alysen Erm, Michael Norberry dues	\$50.00
Ending balance checking	\$2364.71
Total cash on hand	\$57.00
Marie Erm, Winter Sun	\$10.00
Connie Gorsch, columbine	\$3.00
Total checking and cash	\$2492.71

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- February 5— SWORS meets at 6 p.m. Thursday at 1865 Thompson Road, Coos Bay. The meeting opens with a program followed by a Rose Growing Made Easy class and business meeting. I
- May 9—Rose plant sale, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Farr's, Coos Bay.
- June 20 and 21 — Rose show set up and show at the Coos County Fairgrounds,
- July — Coos County Fair at the Coos County Fairgrounds.
- TBA—Humboldt Rose Society tour.

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 _{SWORS}	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

The American Rose Society has completely redesigned its website. Give it a look and check out the links to publications, webinars and other valuable information for rose growing.

SWORS BUSINESS NEWS

From Page 2

Rust. They do not like the spiral centers of tea roses. She covered the area from 1914 to present so it was very informative.

Check out our new website done by Linda Gilliland. Any suggestions please contact her at llgcpr@yahoo.com.

Swors website is southwestoregonrosesociety.Org.

Next meeting is February 5 at 1865 Thomp-

son Road.
Meeting closed at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lou Kolkhorst
SWORS secretary

ROSE CARE CALENDAR

February means the end of the vacation for the rose gardener.

If roses haven't been pruned yet, now is the time. Remember the four basic concepts: Remove all dead and dying canes, all weak canes smaller in diameter than a pencil and all crossing canes. If you've been troubled by spider mites or disease last year, open the bush center as much as possible by removing canes in the middle. Also try to remove the oldest canes so that new canes may replace those.

This is the time to plant bare root roses. The roses need at least two months for the roots to establish and it is better to do that while the weather is

cool and rainy. It is also a good time to move roses. Sometimes that's all that's needed to rejuvenate a rose.

It is also a good time to get soil tested to find out what kinds of amendments you need. If pH is too low (and it is not unusual to have pH levels in this area around 4.2-4.6.) Roses need a pH in the 6.5-7.0 range.

When the pH is too low, nutrients are tied up at the soil level and not available to the rose. You can keep putting more and more fertilizer down but if the pH is not addressed, that fertilizer and other nutrients will not be available to the rose.

There is still time to put lime down since we will certainly have more rainfall. Lime takes weeks to work.

This is also a great time to add manures and other soil amendments such as blood meal, fish meal or alfalfa meal. There is enough rainfall that the amendments are watered in. These amendments take quite a bit of time to be turned into usable rose nutrients.

If you use organic fertilizers, they may also be applied in February. Unlike the synthetic fertilizers, heavy rainfall does not leach the organics from the soil.



Membership Form

Membership dues are \$25 per year. Members receive a monthly newsletter with interesting and informative tips related to roses. To join, attend a meeting or mail this form if you have an e-mail address please include it Happy gardening.

For additional information, please call:

Comments:

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**Affiliated with the
American Rose Society**

*Starting our 50th year helping
southern Oregon residents grow
roses*



SWORS

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Ed Kreuzer, chair

Marie Erm,

Auction

Connie Gorsch

Door Prizes

Connie Gorsch

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IN THE ROSE GARDEN

BY CORINNE CLIFTON

Those of us who grow roses on the southern Oregon coast may have been blessed with an ideal climate to bring out the brightest colors in our roses but we were less than blessed with the soil in which those picture perfect roses grow.

Most of our soils are either naturally heavy due to the high clay content or are so sandy there is no substance to them at all.

The answer to improving both types of soils is by adding lots of organic matter. Compost or animal manures are the most cost effective.

Manures can modify the soil structure and water-holding capacity of a garden. In fact, this is probably the most important reason to add manures.

The addition of organic matter is the only way to improve soil structure. But it is a never

ending process. The roses (or whatever else you grow) use up the organic matter so it needs to be continually replenished.

One of the best sources for organic nitrogen is blood meal. Unfortunately it has gotten quite expensive in the last couple of years so I usually apply it every other year. The application rate is 1.5 to 2 pounds per 100 square feet. But if you've had a garden which has not produced as it did in the past, blood meal is a great addition to waking up all the soil fungi and microbes.

Another soil amendment which has gone from cheap to spendy is fish meal. However, fish meal is ideal for rose gardens. It supplies nitrogen but also is a good source of calcium which is vital for blooming plants. Soils in western Oregon are naturally deficient in calcium. It takes at

least a cup of fish meal per rose. I alternate the application of fish meal through my gardens or use it strictly on those roses which are not blooming as they used to.

The one soil amendment most of us are familiar with is alfalfa. Alfalfa is a source for nitrogen but it is the hormone triacontanol which makes alfalfa the "secret ingredient" to prize-winning roses. If you don't want to bother with alfalfa pellets, you can buy alfalfa meal.

One note of caution — if you are growing roses in containers, use soil amendments sparingly but more often.