



Illustration of the rose 'Rosa Mundi' by James Sagmiller. This artwork was used on the front cover of the first issue of *Rosa Mundi*, the journal of the HRF, in Autumn, 2005.

# Heritage Rose Foundation

# Newsletter

December, 2012

## Letter from HRF President Stephen Scanniello

I'm sure that many of you are wondering what's been going on with the Heritage Rose Foundation. It's been over a year since *Rosa Mundi* was published and even longer since you've received a newsletter. No, we haven't disbanded. No, we haven't succumbed to Knock Out™. We're still here, and rose preservation is still our mission. But, before I explain what we've been up to, on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Heritage Rose Foundation, and as president, I would like to apologize to all of you for our recent lack of communication.

We are in the process of resurrecting *Rosa Mundi*, upgrading our web page and Facebook page. If you are reading this, then you are experiencing our first electronic newsletter. Yes, the Heritage Rose Foundation is finally moving into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century to further our cause to save and protect our heritage roses from centuries past.

Here's a review of some of our projects from the past year:

### Historic Rose Symposium, Sacramento, CA:

Sacramento was the site for our most recent membership meeting and symposium celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Historic Rose Garden of Sacramento, the name for the beautiful rose collection housed within the borders

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of the Historic City Cemetery of Sacramento. This event was a joint effort between the Old City Cemetery Committee, the Heritage Roses Group, and the Heritage Rose Foundation. I'm very proud to say that many members of the Heritage Rose Foundation serve as volunteers in the Historic Rose Garden. [See Anita Clevenger's and Cydney Wade's notes on the event, later in this letter.]

### **The Heritage Rose District of New York City:**

The Heritage Rose District continues to grow and serve as a major preservation effort as well as a beacon for the HRF in New York City and beyond. This project, a collaboration between the Heritage Rose Foundation and the Office of the Borough President of Manhattan, continues to introduce new generations of city gardeners to old roses and bring awareness to the cause of rose preservation. In an era when old roses are being de-accessioned from public gardens, the Heritage Rose Foundation has created "safe" collections of heritage roses in more than thirty-five sites throughout the New York City neighborhood of Harlem. As of November 2012, over 1000 heritage roses have been planted and are tended to by enthusiastic volunteer gardeners of all ages – from five-year-old girl scouts to senior citizens. Recent additions to the District project include the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Morningside Park, Hamilton's Grange National Memorial, and the High School for Environmental Studies. This past spring, students from Florida Southern College conducted a propagation workshop for young gardeners from the Dorothy Day Apartments. On June 9, Borough President Scott Stringer presented Dallas high school senior Jacob Graff a proclamation in honor of his work for creating a walking tour app

for the District. The New York Chapter of the Garden Club of America awarded the Heritage Rose Foundation a grant of \$2500 to be used for the Heritage Rose District. Recently, the New York Genome Center has approached us to discuss a possibility of conducting detailed genetic studies of old garden roses.

### **The High School for Environmental Studies, NYC:**

Located in Hell's Kitchen, a Manhattan neighborhood south of Harlem, this high school is part of the New York City public school system and was recently rated one of ten top high schools in NYC. This past year, the HSES partnered with the Heritage Rose District. With the assistance of students from Florida Southern College, their rooftop garden has been transformed into a garden for heritage roses, creating a living laboratory for the high school and providing ample opportunities to study old roses. Currently, several students in the Advanced Placement (AP) Biology classes are conducting genetic studies on various roses. Propagation techniques will also be studied, and eventually this could serve as a local nursery for the District. We're hopeful that the students will share their work with us at our Florida meeting in November.

### **Chambersville Heritage Rose Garden, Chambersville TX:**

This garden continues to grow in size and popularity. In over 12 acres of land north of Dallas, the HRF has worked closely with nurseryman Dean Oswald to gather the largest collection of heritage roses that are suitable for this region of the country. During the fifth annual festival, RoseDango, it was announced that the next addition to this garden would be The Anne Belovich Rambler Garden, a collection of rambling and climbing roses from the

Washington garden of HRF member Anne Belovich. The roses are currently being propagated by the students at Florida Southern College. The garden will contain a total of approximately 200 ramblers, 56 of which have already been sent to Chambersville for growing out. Planting will begin during the winter of 2013. To showcase these beautiful spring blossoms, the RoseDango festival has been moved from autumn to spring. The 2013 event will be held Sunday, April 28, and the Belovich garden will be dedicated on May 4, 2014. [See Claude Graves' note about this event, below.]



Anne Belovich

### **Heritage Habitat Garden in the American Rose Center, Shreveport, LA:**

Several HRF members continue to volunteer at the American Rose Center to help maintain the newly christened Heritage Habitat Garden – a garden of heritage roses, shrubs, perennials, trees, and bulbs. A majority of the plants chosen are native to the northern Louisiana region. The goal of this garden is to show the home gardener how to use old garden

roses and companion plants for attracting birds, bees, and butterflies to the garden. The native plants have been generously donated by Dr. Bud Willis, owner of Willis Farm in Doyline, Louisiana. This project has transformed the former Hudson Heritage Garden into an oasis of beauty. Not without challenges, we continue to donate our sweat equity to this project. The next major event in this garden will be the annual pruning party in February 2013, the exact date to be announced.

### **Farmers Branch, TX:**

Under the guidance of Farmers Branch horticulturist and HRF Board member Pam Smith, the public rose collections in Farmers Branch have grown to rival any major public rose garden worldwide. Heritage roses are an important part of this collection. During the last year, over 500 heritage roses (donated by the Antique Rose Emporium) were distributed to young gardeners through public programs organized by Farmers Branch and the Heritage Rose Foundation.

### **Wyck House and Gardens, Philadelphia**

The topic of the 2012 Wyck Old Rose Symposium on May 19<sup>th</sup> was "Fragrance and Old Roses." This was the third collaboration between Wyck, the Heritage Rose Foundation, and the American Rose Society. Wyck, Philadelphia's oldest house and garden, is where Léonie Bell, one of the charter members of the Heritage Roses Group, conducted much of her research. The Heritage Rose Foundation will once again join forces with two ARS affiliates, the Philadelphia and West Jersey Rose Societies, for the 2013 conference to be held on May 18.

So, as you can see, even though we haven't met our expectations with publications, we are still very active in the

preservation of old roses. We would like to hear of your activities and include them in future editions of the HRF Newsletter.

And, if you have some spare time on your hands, you're always welcome to volunteer with any of our projects.

In this time when all you see in local nurseries are "easy care" modern roses, we need to continue educating amateur and professional gardeners that heritage roses supply the key genetic ingredients necessary to create tomorrow's new disease-resistant and fragrant varieties. It's important to remind all – without old garden roses, new varieties like Knock Out™ may never have happened. Our goal is to insure the preservation of these old beauties for future generations of gardeners.

As old rose nurseries continue to close and rose society memberships continue to shrink, I'm thankful that the membership of the Heritage Rose Foundation has remained stable. I wish to thank all devoted members who have stuck with us during this past year and especially to all who have been with us since we began in 1986. To all those members whose memberships have lapsed – come on back, we miss you!

Thank you for your continued support of the Heritage Rose Foundation.



### A Note From Anita Clevenger, on the Sacramento Conference

The volunteers of the Sacramento Historic Rose Garden hosted a conference celebrating twenty years of rose preservation on Oct 12-14, 2012. The

garden was first planted in the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery in March, 1992, with about 100 roses collected by botanist Fred Boutin and others from historic cemeteries, homes and roadsides throughout California. The collection has expanded to over 500 heritage and species roses, including many roses that have been lost from their original site but live on in the cemetery garden.

The weekend focused on the cemetery, its rose garden, the people who collect, study and grow its roses, and the roses themselves. Time was built into the schedule for the 91 people in attendance to relax and mingle. Friday night's reception included a Lantern Tour, with costumed actors recounting eerie tales of historic figures buried in the cemetery. Saturday morning's talks looked back on the early days of the cemetery and the rose garden, California rose history and Santa Barbara's Father Schoener, most of whose roses have been lost. In the afternoon the focus shifted to found roses, including Fred's recent discovery of a rose that may be 'Bloomfield Abundance', a rose long thought to be extinct. At dinner, Stephen Scanniello continued this optimistic note by telling about the gardens being established in New York's Heritage Rose District and elsewhere, introducing a new generation to heritage roses. On Sunday, many attendees returned to the cemetery to tour the garden and enjoy the beautiful cemetery grounds.

The conference was sponsored by the Heritage Rose Foundation, the Heritage Roses Group, and the Old City Cemetery Committee. American Rose Society members and leaders were also in attendance. The goal of the conference was to draw everybody together, united in the love of old roses and the Sacramento Historic Rose Garden.



The big rose sale in Sacramento -- always a highlight of a rose conference!



Cemetery volunteers in costume for the Friday evening event. Front row l-r: Judy Eitzen, Barbara Oliva, Anita Clevenger. Back row l-r: Patricia Hutchings, Patricia Schink, and Kathryn Mackenzie

### A Note on the Sacramento Conference From Cydney Wade Archer, Florida

The 20th Anniversary of the Heritage Rose Symposium in Sacramento, California was a must-see event. A huge thanks to all of the folks who worked so hard to make the event such a success!

Each part of the three day symposium was impressive. Beginning with Friday evening in the Historic City Cemetery, members in period dress welcomed the attendees, offering wine and a nice selection of light fare. After dark, lantern-lit walking tours were hosted complete with actors representing some of the cemetery "residents" who told stories about events in old Sacramento.

Saturday was a full day of events, from presentations covering a wide array of topics to spirited bidding especially for some of the found roses now growing in the Historic City Cemetery. The evening was complete with an evening meal and presentation from Stephen Scanniello, president of the Heritage Rose Foundation.

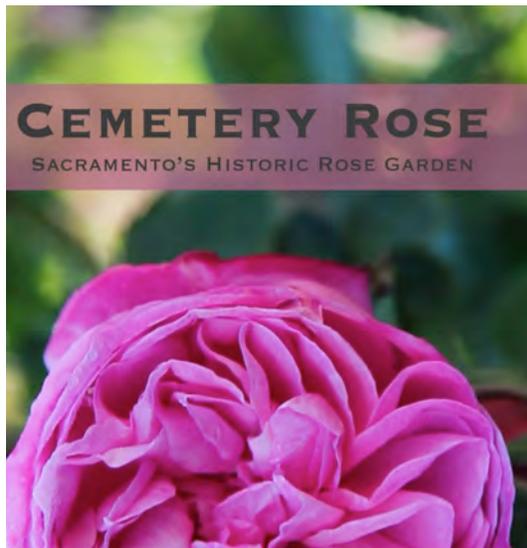
On Sunday, guided tours of the rose garden provided background and stories of many of the roses growing in this three-acre section of the cemetery. It was so impressive seeing all of the different roses and hearing the details about the process the group uses to collect, mark, identify and care for this very special collection of heritage roses.





HRF President Stephen Scanniello and Barbara Oliva, in the Sacramento Historic Rose Garden

### New DVD Available



A new DVD celebrating the Sacramento Historic Rose Garden was introduced at the Sacramento Conference. It traces the history of the garden and includes beautiful videography of the garden and its roses. Copies of the DVD are available for \$20, including shipping, through their website [www.cemeteryrose.org](http://www.cemeteryrose.org)

### RoseDango Moving to the Spring Claude Graves

RoseDango, the fall celebration of roses at the Chambersville Heritage Rose

Garden in North Texas, is moving to a spring date! At the October 2012 RoseDango it was announced that Chambersville will be building and planting a new garden featuring a duplication of Anne Belovich's fantastic collection of rambling roses. In recognition of the realities of a large collection of once blooming ramblers, Chambersville has elected to move the traditional October date of RoseDango to the spring so all the Chambersville Heritage Rose Garden's collections – Teas, Chinas, Hybrid Musks, and Ramblers – can all be observed while in bloom.

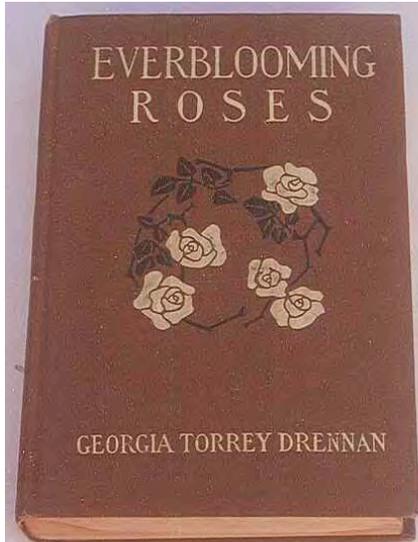
Anne Belovich, who was the featured speaker at the 2012 RoseDango, has already been sending cuttings for the new Rambler garden to Malcolm Manners in Florida to be rooted. The first group of rooted cuttings have been shipped to Chambersville and after overwintering in cold frames will be grown out to be planted next summer/fall in the new garden, which is being designed by Stephen Scanniello.

The dedication of the Anne Belovich Rambler Garden is scheduled for May 4, 2014; in the meantime the 2013 RoseDango has been scheduled for April 28, 2013 to establish the season switch for the event and prepare for the 2014 Anne Belovich Rambler Garden dedication.



Roses in the Sacramento Historic Rose Garden

**Book Review: EVERBLOOMING  
ROSES - 100 YEARS LATER  
Maureen Reed Detweiler**



Once upon a time, exactly one hundred years ago, Georgia Torrey Drennan wrote a wonderful book entitled *Everblooming Roses*. The book conveys her preference for roses that re-bloom all year, in no uncertain terms. She writes, "I hasten to say and emphasize that no rose, however queenly and however lovely, that blooms but once or twice a year is worthy of cultivation in gardens where everblooming kinds can be induced to grow." On occasion she resorts to military terms: "The ranks must be zealously guarded that none but true everblooming roses are admitted."

Georgia also strongly encourages those in cold climates to grow the everblooming Tea-type roses by engaging in what we now call "zone pushing," and she offers the following testimony in support of her case:

She reminds us that in *An Island Garden* (by Celia Thaxter - 1899 Houghton Mifflin Company) Celia states that she "accidentally left 'Anne-Marie de

Montravelle', the double white Polyantha rose, out in the garden, and it came through the cold Isle of Shoals winter chipper and cheery."

Then Georgia quotes from the book *Elizabeth and Her German Garden* (by Elizabeth Von Arnim - 1899 The Macmillan Company), "There is not a German gardening book that does not relegate all Teas to the hothouse. I rushed in where Teutonic angels fear to tread, and made my Teas face a northern winter. I am beginning to think the tenderness of the Teas much exaggerated. I am certainly glad I had the courage to try them in this northern garden (located within 15 miles of the borders of the Baltic Sea)."

And it seems that in the 1860s the Tea 'Niphetos' was thought to be entirely lost to culture. Then in a garden in the Blue Ridge mountains, a 'Niphetos' was discovered full of the unmistakable, elongated, oval, snow-white blooms. Georgia states, "The prize was secured and taken to Philadelphia. ... This instance of a pure Tea enduring the cold of the mountain top is encouraging."

*Everblooming Roses* was the best known, and most cherished, book written about rose cultivation in the Gulf South until the publication of *Antique Roses for the South* (Taylor Publishing Company) in 1989 by Dr. William C. Welch. In his book, Dr. Welch states, "In the United States, Georgia Torrey Drennan, a southern woman about whom very little is known, wrote a wonderful book about rose culture in the Gulf South. Published in 1912, and no longer in print...the text reveals a wealth of firsthand experience and the skill of a knowledgeable horticulturist."

Georgia was born on December 9, 1843, at her parents' plantation, Round Hill, in Holmes County, Mississippi. On April 6, 1861, she married William A. Drennan, a lawyer from Lexington,

Mississippi, in Holmes County. They made their home in Lexington and had seven children. In 1895, they moved to New Orleans and settled in the Carrollton section of the city where St. Charles Avenue and Carrollton Avenue meet and where many of Georgia's descendants still reside.

Georgia wrote many articles which were published in various garden publications over the years, and in 1912, at age 69, she wrote and published *Everblooming Roses* which was published by Duffield & Company in New York. The book is filled with history, science, 16 full-page photographs, and folklore. The final chapter provides a gift to researchers of old roses. It is a listing of 572 everblooming roses with descriptions and Georgia's own assessments. The lists are arranged according to class and color.

The book also contains her memories of olden days, such as the ones about Uncle Solomon, the head gardener at Round Hill Plantation. He could predict the weather, and "never did anything in his long life but tend the flower garden, which developed into one of the famous gardens of the Old South - the like of which will probably never be seen again," she immodestly states. She tells the story of the naming of the Tea rose 'Maréchal Niel' in 1863, and the origin of the Manheim, Pennsylvania "Feast of Roses" in 1752. And please, don't ever call a prickle a thorn. She was concerned about the improper use of the word thorn and devoted an entire chapter to correcting this error. She states: "Albeit commonly referred to, in prose and verse, as thorns, the armament of a rose consists only of prickles."

Georgia's partiality to roses grown in New Orleans is also clearly expressed in the book: "Roses bloom in perfection ten months of the year in New Orleans;

obviously, it is not expedient to construct roses houses to force blooms for about eight weeks of winter." And "If a rose itself, or an induced form of any rose, appears well in New Orleans, its claims to beauty are fully established. The abounding contrast of a flora unsurpassed in the world, consigns all ordinary roses or commonplace flowers to the realm of the rejected in the Crescent City."

In closing I quote the most touching words of Georgia's book, the dedication.

"My dear children and grandchildren:  
"The loveliest and sweetest of the everblooming roses that I am telling you about grow in a garden in the south.

"You will never see the roses nor tread the garden walks. It is a beautiful garden. The roses are always in bloom. The buds never blight and the roses never shatter or fade. The seasons never change. It is always summer. Daffodils, hyacinths, snowdrops, and tulips — flowers of spring; lilies and pansies, and sweet peas and honeysuckles of summer; chrysanthemums and asters of autumn, in one sweet day of summer are blooming with the roses.

"There is a wealth and tangle if bloom. Weeds are crowded out by many kinds of flowers close beside the roses, blooming as flowers only bloom for those who love and tend them with patient care and thought.

"From the nearby orchard, fruity odours blend with the perfume of the roses. Bees are droning over the old pond pasture, white with clover blossoms. There is a vinous tang in the air from the Concord grapes in the little vineyard across the road and the wind comes blowing over the few resinous pine trees beyond. The ambient air is sweet with the spicy breath of pinks and the fragrance of violets bordering the beds where the roses grow.

"Children are there at play. The heart of the happy young mother responds to their flute-like voices mingling with the notes of songbirds flitting in and out of the roses climbing over the nursery window.

- Tread softly. – Close the garden gate.
  - Dispel not the dream.
- G.T.D."

Georgia's book is as valuable today as it was when it was written one hundred years ago. I believe that those who write and leave their writings behind for others to enjoy, achieve a form of immortality. In this case it is certainly true.



Georgia Torrey Drennan

### The Climbing Prairie Rose – *Rosa setigera* Gregg Lowery

A most intriguing wild rose from North America, *Rosa setigera* was first observed and described by the French Botanist, André Michaux, from plants found in South Carolina in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Known also as the Bramble Rose, or Blackberry Rose, and named *Rosa rubifolia*, by the later botanist, Robert Brown, it was distributed over a very wide

region of North America from the Great Lakes region southward to Louisiana, Texas and the Carolinas, and through the northeastern states into New England.

*Rosa setigera* found its way into the hands of early American rose breeders, including Robert and William Robert Prince, nurserymen of New York, and Samuel Feast of Maryland, and to later breeders, Rudolf Geschwind and Michael Horvath. The rose held the promise of many valuable qualities as a plant for gardens. Its common name, the Climbing Prairie Rose, explains its initial attraction to breeders who saw an opportunity to breed cold-hardy, disease resistant climbing roses. Its other common name, the Blackberry Rose, alludes to the large, smooth foliage of *Rosa setigera*, which is lustrous and beautiful. Smooth stems with widely spaced prickles, and large flowers in clusters added to the appeal of this fine wild rose. Many have concluded that problems of breeding with *R. setigera* led to its demise as a breeding tool, however very recent research has shown that this rose species is uniquely dioecious, having male and female flowers on separate plants. [Editor's Note: all of the plants produce stamens (male) and pistils (female), but in "male" plants, the pistils do not contain viable ovules, so are sterile; likewise in "female" plants, the stamens do produce pollen, but it doesn't germinate, so is also sterile.] Understanding this characteristic offers breeders hope of returning to the American Prairie Rose to create new rose hybrids adaptable to extreme climates, and particularly to develop more cold-hardy climbing roses. This presentation will explore the history and future of an extraordinary wild rose.



*Rosa setigera*. Photo by Alan Cressler;  
Used with permission.

### The wild *Rosa setigera*

Long before André Michaux observed and provided a Latin name for the rose it was familiar to Native Americans and to Europeans colonizing North America. Its names were many, the Michigan Rose, the Illinois Rose, the Kentucky Rose, the Prairie Rose, and, most significantly, the Climbing Prairie Rose. Americans have a fondness for naming plants after their own corner of the country. *Rosa setigera* is distributed over one of the widest territories of any species rose in the world, ranging from southern Canada to Florida, and from Connecticut on the east coast to central Oklahoma in the west. That is an area roughly the size of Europe! *Rosa setigera* shares its wide distribution with numerous other rose species.

What sets this species apart from the crowd of American wild roses are the unique qualities found in the botanical details of the rose. The flowers are born in clusters of 3 to 15 and are distinctly large, sometimes 3 to 4 inches (7.5cm to 10cm) across. Foliage is similarly large in scale, and can measure 6 to 8 inches (15cm to 20cm) in length. The downy surfaces of the leaves, sometimes lustrous and shiny, sometimes matte and fuzzy, are indented at the veins, creating a distinctive and

attractive quilted effect, not unlike that of *Rosa rugosa*. The clusters of bright scarlet, shiny fruits, with their prominent bristles are striking in the cold autumn months when seen against the mass of bright yellow foliage. And, *Rosa setigera* is a notably late blooming species, perhaps the last of the North American species to come to bloom.

Like many American species roses it is a cold hardy rose, surviving the bitter northern winters of USDA zone 3 (-40F/-34C). Yet it also thrives in the mild winters and intense heat and humidity of the Deep South, and is equally beautiful. Most significantly, *R.setigera* is a naturally climbing rose, and its canes survive not only the extreme cold but the exposure high in the branches of trees where the wind chill factor would desiccate most wild roses.

### America's Wild Climbing Rose

Suckering, scrambling or climbing – which is the case? The common names of *R. setigera* tell us something about the variability, or more accurately about the versatility of this rose. Now most commonly referred to as the "Prairie Rose," in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century the climbing abilities of this species drew the attention of botanists and nurserymen. It was they who named it the "Climbing Prairie Rose," because it was unique among North American wild roses in that regard. Although imported climbing species like *Rosa multiflora* and *Rosa wichuriana* of Japan have naturalized in the Great Plains and in the East, and are today our familiar "wild climbing roses," only one American species is truly climbing: *R. setigera*.

Across its wide territory this rose is found in a range of habitats from the verges of swamps to the edges of hardwood forests, to the small, protected folds in the vast expanse of flat prairie land

known as the Great Plains. In this landscape I first encountered the Prairie Rose along the creeks and streams outside a small town in Iowa where I was raised. There it grew at the verges of woodlands, arching and suckering into the open meadows, and tossing its long ropes of stem up into the branches of the trees. Blooms on the ground, blooms in the air; the rose divided its chances for pollination, creating a magical vista of pink blossoms. In pastures devoid of trees it seeks out water and remains an arching shrub, tip-rooting in its quest for new ground.

### Early American Rose Breeding

Such spectacles of bloom and feats of acrobatics were not wasted on the European-Americans who went in search of wild plants to bring back to their gardens. Shortly following Michaux's publication of *Rosa setigera* appeared in 1803, the wild rose and many unusual forms began to be grown in gardens, and soon after became the subjects of curiosity by 'florists' of the day, those we would today call nurserymen and plant breeders. Early 19<sup>th</sup> century America supported a thriving industry of horticulturists and plantmen. Plant societies abounded in cities like Charleston, where the first rose hybrid in the new United States, created by an amateur breeder, was introduced, 'Champneys' Pink Cluster'. This cross between the tender rose from China, 'Old Blush', and the only slightly hardy old Musk Rose, was widely admired, and quickly distributed along the Eastern seaboard. No sooner than Champneys' second seedling was sent to France, this new group of roses was named for a French nursery family, the Noisettes.

These American Noisette roses had great appeal. Their large clusters of small, fragrant, blush-colored flowers and freedom of bloom promised a new era of

roses that bloomed repeatedly. In France the hybridizers crossed them with the Tea roses and a new class evolved with larger blooms, a warm range of pastel colors, and the long-caned climbing habit that secured their favor for a century to come. Yet they were tender, challenging to grow in Northern Europe and even more so in North America. Along the coastal belt from Virginia and Maryland to New Jersey and Long Island, they barely survived normal winters. The parent group, the Champneys' Noisettes fared better. They proved a popular set of roses where winters were not harsh.



'Champneys' Pink Cluster' (photo M. Manners)

Noisettes were grown and sold by William Prince's nursery on Long Island, and at the Baltimore, Maryland nursery of Samuel Feast and his brother, John. The Feasts grew many roses, among them forms of *Rosa setigera*. And it was Feast who first experimented with combining the good qualities of that hardy wild rose and the Champneys' Noisettes.

In a contribution to "The Horticulturalist And Journal of Rural Art and Rural Taste" in 1850, Mr. V. W. Smith records the following story, apocryphal though it may be:

“Mrs. Hannah Levering of Baltimore, Md., having removed to Lancaster, Ohio, forwarded seeds of the wild Prairie Rose to Mr. Samuel Feast, an eminent florist of Baltimore, who planted the same, and after they had vegetated, permitted a few to climb over a bed of Noisette roses.” The suggestion follows that from this experiment the original group of hybrid *Setigera* roses introduced by Feast resulted from his collection of the resultant seed.

At the same time, in Washington D.C., an amateur flower breeder, Joshua Pierce followed a similar line of experimentation which lead to a similar, but smaller group of hybrids, some of which were introduced by Samuel Feast. In New York, William Prince may have been creating additional hybrids of *R. setigera*, although none of his introductions appear to have survived for long.

### Feast and Pierce

Of some twenty *R. setigera* hybrids introduced by Feast and Pierce, only a tiny handful have survived in commerce or in notable rose collections today. That they have survived at all is remarkable, and to some degree a testament to their cold hardiness.

‘Baltimore Belle’ is perhaps the most widely grown of these few survivors. It is moreover one of the most prolific and beautiful old roses I grow. The small flowers of cupped form and palest blush coloring perfume the air with their fragrance. They appear in large clusters on a long-caned plant that is ideal for covering an arbor or fence. The old Noisette parentage is very evident in this variety, from the typical Musk Rose clustering of the small blooms, to the pale, apple-green tint to the foliage. It is the rose’s propensity to re-bloom in the Autumn in climates with long growing seasons that marks it as a Noisette

seedling. I have noted an odd quality about the plant itself, which is a tendency to ‘retire’ its climbing canes early in their life. Each winter about a third of the canes produced in the previous year turn black and die.



‘Baltimore Belle’

‘Queen of the Prairies’ produces cupped blooms of smoky pink that appear in small clusters along the wiry, thorned branches. The blooms are often too double for my wet spring season, but thankfully come late in the first flush of bloom and last well and long. The color is often described as pink with white or blush stripes or streaks, and I find this effect most charming.



‘Queen of the Prairies’

'Gem of the Prairies' was introduced by a contemporary of Feast and Pierce, Adolphe Burgess in 1859 or 1860. The plant I received from Ashdown Roses some years ago appears to be identical with what I have received as 'Geschwind's Orden'. It is unclear to me which is the correct name, but this is most definitely a *R. setigera* hybrid, with round flowers of rich rose purple and an outer halo of white that creates a very dazzling effect. There is further evidence of Boursault rose ancestry in this variety as well; the young canes are nearly thornless and reddish in coloring.



'Gem of the Prairies'

It has been disappointing that during the past few decades of old rose gathering from waysides in the U.S. only one *R. setigera* hybrid has been uncovered. Yet it is a rose of such exceptional beauty, that we ought to be very pleased. The rose which I stumbled across at an old house on the North Coast of California, has been found as well at a site in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains. My findling is named for the town in which I found it, and for the color and form of the blooms; "Arcata Pink Globe". Its doppelganger from the Gold Country is known as the "Moser House Shed Rose." The flowers come in great abundance, late in the season, are medium sized, and colored

blush pink with a lilac tint. It is sweetly scented.



"Arcata Pink Globe," a.k.a. "Moser House Shed Rose"

These early American hybrids of *Rosa setigera* had an enduring impact on American gardeners, even though most have now disappeared. But even more significant was the impact that followed on two Austro-Hungarian rose breeders who refined this group of hardy climbing roses, Rudolf Geschwind and Michael Horvath.

#### **Rudolf Geschwind and *Rosa setigera***

The work of Rudolf Geschwind, the German rose breeder who worked as an amateur, introducing his roses in Central Europe in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century is a story of considerable merit, but far beyond my capacity to fully recount. His works, in German, have not been translated into English, and the details of his intent as a breeder have come to me only second hand. Erich Unmuth of Austria, and Ingrid Verdegem of Belgium have studied Geschwind and worked to gather the remaining hybrids of Geschwind into a European collection.

What I am able to offer is the perspective of one who has grown many Geschwind roses, observed their exceptional qualities, and learned to appreciate the phenomenal output of this gifted rosarian. Perhaps the most famous of his roses for contemporary rose lovers is the rose 'Eugenie Marlitt', which has been distributed across the globe and proven to be a rose of great value in a wide range of climates. Geschwind was keenly focused on creating roses that were hardy for Middle Europe, and though most of his roses did not find their way to America, or indeed, even so far as France, their impact was significant.

Geschwind understood the value of *Rosa setigera*, its usefulness in parenting a line of hardy climbers with larger blooms than those found in other hardy ramblers. He worked through several generations in an effort to produce remontant *R. setigera* hybrids. As a scientist he applied modern methods of deliberate crossing of roses, taking the work of Feast and Pierce in America to a new level.

A number of Geschwind's *R. setigera* hybrids have survived, thanks in large part to their inclusion in the Rosarium Sangerhausen. And, over the past three decades these have gradually made their way to North America. They have proven to be popular among growers of old roses, although many of them are quite new to our gardens. Because Geschwind worked with a large number of species parents, and followed lines of breeding, his *R. setigera* hybrids are varied in appearance. While some hone to the characteristic signs of the species, such as 'Erinnerung an Brod', others show a predominance of *Rosa multiflora*, *Rosa canina* and the Alba roses.

'Alpenfee' is a rose of great delicacy and beauty. The cupped and crowded flowers open from fat round buds and smother the plant with bloom.

'Aurelia Liffa', a hybrid between *R. setigera* and the Hybrid Perpetual 'Marie Baumann', brings the beauty of the HPs into this splendid realm of hardy climbers. The flowers are full, quartered and fragrant, and of a delicate blend of lavender, pink and rose crimson. A notable importation of 'Geschwind's Orden' under this name caused considerable confusion in the US for some years. More recently the real 'Aurelia Liffa' has found its way here thanks to the efforts of Cliff Orent of California who attempted to bring all of the known surviving hybrids of Geschwind to America.

'Erinnerung an Brod' has seduced many notable rosarians, including Charles Quest-Ritson. In his book 'Climbing Roses of the World' he waxes poetical in his description of the deep maroon-violet flowers. What I find fascinating is that this rose appears under the names of many other roses, such as 'Souvenir d'Alphonse Lavallée', recently reintroduced from Europe to America. And we have moreover received some distinctive imposters from Europe under the name 'Erinnering an Brod', including an apricot flowered rose of *R. setigera* appearance.



'Erinnering an Brod'

'Himmelsauge', so far as I have been able to observe is identical to 'Russelliana'. The story might well end there, except that there are qualities in 'Russelliana' that have long puzzled me. The foliage in particular is very much in the style of *R. setigera*, and not typical of *R. multiflora* hybrids

### Michael Horvath: Another European Takes on *Rosa setigera*

Horvath, who emigrated from Austro-Hungary to America in 1890, spent his youth studying forestry, much like Rudolf Geschwind, and it is difficult to imagine that Horvath was not familiar with the Geschwind, whose roses were in full evidence at Marie-Henriette Grafín Chotek's great rose garden at Dolná Krupá, Slovakia. Horvath ultimately settled in Ohio where he worked extensively with *R. setigera*, seeking hardy, large-flowered climbers for the harsh winters of the Great Plains. His work reflects the mind of someone intent on furthering and improving the work of Geschwind. Unfortunately very little remains of a personal legacy for Horvath, and though he wrote publicly about his methods and goals of breeding, we know almost nothing about the reason for his placing such faith in this unreliable American species rose. The most famous series of roses introduced by Horvath are his *R. setigera* hybrids named for characters in Robert Louis Stevenson's novel 'Treasure Island', including 'Captain Kidd', 'Jean Lafitte', and 'Long John Silver'. We do believe that the first two roses are still correctly named in commerce, but 'Long John Silver', according to Dan Russo, an expert on rambling roses in Rhode Island, appears to be incorrectly sold in the USA and elsewhere, and is more likely to be 'Iceland Queen'.



'Captain Kidd'

'Mrs. F. F. Prentiss', which received considerable publicity in the rose press of the 1920s and 1930s, was in fact not ever readily available to the public, although it became an important parent for Horvath. Its semi-double, lilac pink flowers are unforgettable, yet demure and refined. My own personal favorite hybrid from Michael Horvath is 'Thor', a rich rose crimson bloom of modest size, but bright promise. It blooms late and then blooms again in our extended bloom season in California, and always catches my attention.



'Thor'

It seems somewhat odd to become enamored of a group of roses with so few traits that are extraordinary. The hybrids of *Rosa setigera* typically bloom just once in

the year, and offer little in the way of dramatic color effects, dazzling foliage or alluring perfumes, though many are quite fragrant. I have often wondered why they seem to have hold over many lovers of old roses, including myself. History is always a compelling factor in why we grow roses, and the history of rose breeding, particularly the efforts of those breeders who have sought solutions to significant problems, compels our interest. Our own interest in roses that have derived from our homelands inspires us as well.

[Editor's Note: All photos in this article are used with permission, from the Vintage Gardens online catalog, except where otherwise marked.]

### The Rose Collection at Florida Southern College

For nearly 30 years, Florida Southern College has been involved in the world of heritage roses, first with its rose mosaic virus heat therapy program, and later through the introduction to the U.S. of Bermuda's Mystery Roses, collecting all of the known forms of the Musk Rose, *Rosa moschata*, and more recently in DNA research on the identity and heritage of some of the old Noisettes and other roses. The college has had a series of gardens, and as the campus landscape changes, those gardens sometimes evolve. The large main garden that used to be just north of the Horticulture Department was recently removed, to make way for a large "green," and a new site has been selected for a new, improved rose garden to replace it. Nearly the whole collection has been propagated and is living in pots in the FSC greenhouses at the moment. The hold-up on the new garden is finding sponsorship to finance it. The college is looking for someone who would be interested in sponsoring the garden, e.g. in memory of a loved one. The entire garden could be named and dedicated for a gift of \$50,000.

A bed in the garden could be named and dedicated for \$10,000, and smaller objects (pillars, arbors, benches) could be named for \$500. If you have an interest in such a memorial, or if you would like to support the effort, please contact Malcolm Manners (malcolmmanners@me.com) or Dr. Matt Thompson, FSC Vice President for Advancement, (863) 680-3000 or mthompson@flsouthern.edu

### From the Editor

It has been eight years since I last edited a newsletter of the Heritage Rose Foundation. Since then, we have had *Rosa Mundi*, one of the finest and most beautiful old-rose publications in the world. It is our plan to continue to produce *Rosa Mundi*, but because of the extraordinary amount of time, effort, and expense that go into its production, it necessarily cannot appear as frequently as we might like. And so we have decided to supplement it with newsletters, to better stay in communication with the membership, between issues of *RM*. When I started this issue, I thought it might be three or four pages long. I'm delighted to find that we had a lot more to say than that. I want to thank the authors who sent material for this letter, and great thanks to Betty Vickers, Alicia Whidden, Anita Clevenger, and Stephen Scanniello for their help with proof reading and editorial suggestions.

I hope this letter will serve to renew and reinvigorate your interest in the HRF and in heritage roses and their preservation. I also hope you'll be making plans to join us in November 2013 for our conference and annual meeting in Lakeland. One of the things members have said they missed were the conferences that we've had in the past, and certainly, the Sacramento event this year was a great inspiration.

Malcolm Manners

## Upcoming Events

### **Heritage Rose Foundation 2013 Annual Meeting and Conference**

Please mark your calendars for **November 15-17, 2013**, when the annual meeting and conference of the HRF will be held in Lakeland Florida, on the campus of Florida Southern College. It is our hope to have the new garden planted and growing well by then. But even if not, we plan to host the HRF meeting there. (We do have two other rose garden areas and greenhouses in any case!) The exact schedule of events and speakers list is still to be determined, and details will be forthcoming. But please do plan to attend.

Weekend of **February 16, 2013**.  
Heritage Habitat Garden Cleanup Day,  
American Rose Center, Shreveport, LA.  
Contact Stephen Scanniello  
(steprose@mac.com) for details.

**April 28, 2013**. RoseDango,  
Chambersville Texas. For more info:  
Claude Graves [claudes.graves@att.net](mailto:claudes.graves@att.net)

**May 18, 2013**. The 2013 Old Rose Symposium, a partnership event with The Heritage Rose Foundation. Wyck, Philadelphia, PA. This is a one-day event, with speakers and workshops, tours of their historic rose garden, rose identification, box lunch on the lawn, and often a thrilling auction. The historic home is open and may be visited. Contact Elizabeth Belk for more information at [ebelk@wyck.org](mailto:ebelk@wyck.org)

**May 4, 2014**. Dedication of the Anne Belovich Garden, Chambersville, Texas. For more info: Claude Graves [claudes.graves@att.net](mailto:claudes.graves@att.net)

**June, 2014**. Mottisfont, Hampshire, England. An event honoring David Stone and HRF Conference. David Stone has served as Head Gardener at the Mottisfont Rose Garden since 1978. He will be retiring in 2014, and Jonny Bass will be taking his place. (Some of the HRF members may have met Jonny Bass at the HRF Lyon conference in 2011.) At this moment the conference is being planned, to be held at nearby Winchester, home of the Cathedral. Garden tours will be included as part of the event.

### **Other Heritage-Rose-Oriented Events**

Great Rosarians of the World "GROW-West," honoring Dr. Malcolm Manners and Dr. Walter Lewis, will be held at the Huntington, San Marino CA, **February 2, 2013**. Contact Clair Martin ([clairmartin@mac.com](mailto:clairmartin@mac.com)) or Danielle Rudeen, [drudeen@huntington.org](mailto:drudeen@huntington.org), 626.405.3505 or Melanie Thorpe, [mthorpe@huntington.org](mailto:mthorpe@huntington.org), 626.405.3504 for more information.

Sacramento Historic Rose Garden's "Open Garden," **April 20, 2013**, 9:30-2:00. Includes tours and a rose sale.

Annual meeting of the Southern Garden History Society, **May 3-5, 2013**. Quoted from their website: With great enthusiasm we announce plans for the 2013 Annual Meeting to be held in Lynchburg, Virginia May 3-5, 2013. Our theme "Someone's Been Digging in the Dirt" applies to the archeologists at Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest, the ladies of the Garden Club of Virginia, the Harlem Renaissance poet Anne Spencer, the Southern Memorial Association in its work at the Old City Cemetery, the

Saunders family of boxwood growers, the flower gardeners and fruit growers on the 200 year old former plantation, Pharsalia, and the handicapped individuals and inner city children at the urban farm, Lynchburg Grows. Many other stories will be told and sites visited, including beautiful private gardens open for the post-symposium Sunday Extension. For more information visit the SGHS website at

<http://www.southerngardenhistory.org/annualmeeting.html> or contact meeting chairman Jane White for more information, at [janebaberwhite@gmail.com](mailto:janebaberwhite@gmail.com)

Great Rosarians of the World "GROW-East," honoring Dr. Malcolm Manners and Dr. Walter Lewis, will be held at the Queens Botanic Garden, NY, the weekend of **June 1, 2013**. Contact Pat Shanley ([pshanley@aol.com](mailto:pshanley@aol.com)) for more information.

**June 19-23, 2013**. WFRS 13th International Heritage Rose Conference, Sangerhausen, Germany. Sangerhausen, home of one of the foremost rose gardens on the planet, will be the site of the 13th International Heritage Rose Conference. Arrival and registration on Wednesday, June 19, followed by speakers on Thursday and Friday, June 20-21. Saturday, June 22, there will be an excursion to either (your choice) Weimer or to Kassel. Sunday, June 23, more speakers. Following the conference, on Monday, June 24, there will be a tour to Dresden.

For more information, please refer to the conference website: <http://europa-rosarium.de/index.php?id=304&L=1>

**May, 2014**. Dedication of the restored garden at Chateau de Malmaison, France. Malmaison was the private abode of Napoleon Bonaparte and the Empress Josephine at the beginning of the 19th

century. There the Empress created one of the most beautiful gardens in the area around Paris, known in all of Europe for its exotic varieties, but especially for its collection of roses, one of the richest and most celebrated of France. In May of 2012, work began to restore this garden. This work is expected to be completed by May, 2014, in time to honor the bicentennial of the death of Empress Josephine, when her garden will be rededicated.

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And some event announcements from sister organization the **Heritage Roses Group**, via Jeri Jennings:

**May 19, 2013**. Celebration of Old Roses, El Cerrito, CA. 11:00am to 3:30 pm

The Heritage Roses Group looks forward to 2013 with **preliminary** plans for a pair of Seminars - or what might be more accurately called One Seminar, delivered in Two Parts.

The educational gatherings will take place **June 8** and in September, and will be held along the Northern California Coast, in the Mendocino area. The first session will focus on Rose Identification, and the second on Rose Propagation - two elements which make up the foundation of Rose Preservation.

For early consideration, visit the HRG Website to explore Mrs. Keays' 1935 article on rose Identification:

<http://www.goldcoastrose.org/>

Go to "Articles," and select "What Old Rose Is This."

The September date for the 2013 event is not set. Queries may be emailed to Jeri Jennings at:

[heritageroses@gmail.com](mailto:heritageroses@gmail.com)

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**The Heritage Rose Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit foundation with this mission:**

- To collect and preserve heritage roses and promote their culture
- To establish one or more gardens where heritage roses may be grown and displayed
- To conduct and contract to conduct investigations and research in heritage roses
- To publish and disseminate information and research about heritage roses
- to establish and maintain a library to facilitate investigations and research in heritage roses
- To foster public knowledge and appreciation of heritage roses and their preservation

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