



Illustration of the rose 'Rosa Mundi' by James Sagrauer. 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

January, 2018

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From our President:

Stephen Scanniello

As we begin 2018, a large portion of the United States is under the grip of frigid weather. On New Year's Day our Barnegat, New Jersey garden was covered with two inches of snow, with the possibility of six to eight more inches predicted by week's end. I welcome snow, especially when the temperatures are predicted to remain for long periods of time in the sub-freezing

range. Snow is Mother Nature's mulch, providing insulation from the harsher elements of winter. This current blast of arctic weather we're shivering through was preceded by a lengthy mild autumn – with spring-like temperatures well into December wreaking havoc with our heritage roses. The Gallicas, Damasks, Centifolias, and other European old garden roses appeared to be in sync with the season – most of them were dormant by mid-December. In contrast, the Tea, China, and Noisette varieties ignored the calendar and kept on pushing out new growth right up to the moment the temperatures plummeted. At this moment, these very roses appear to be freeze-dried.

We're not the first to try to grow tender rose varieties outside of their recommended horticultural zones. In fact, William Robert Prince grew many Teas in the Linnaean Botanic Garden, his collection and nursery in Flushing, NY (today a part of New York City), and wrote about them in his book *Prince's Manual of Roses*, published in 1846. Charles Mason Hovey tested the limits of Noisette and other tender types in his 19th century Boston nursery. Robert Buist, author of the first American rose book *The Rose Manual*, published in 1844, successfully grew Tea and China roses in Philadelphia. His book offers timely advice still applicable today for those wishing to grow these roses in colder zones. For the best results with non-hardy roses, he

encouraged gardeners to plant only own-root roses, mulch the roots with leaves during winter, and provide shade from the winter sun. Buist cites a planting of 'Lamarque' growing on a north-facing wall, covering an area of twenty feet wide by eight feet high as an example. He had grown this Tea-Noisette in other locations with 12-month exposure to the sun, but never with as good results as this particular planting. Buist describes the plant as being "bathed in sunlight" during spring and summer, but from November to March, the Tea-Noisette was completely in the shade. His conclusion: the winter sun, with its false promise of spring warmth, is more damaging than the winter cold.



Wrapped arches at Elizabeth Park



Wrapped Cl. Souv. de la Malmaison at Elizabeth Park.

I follow his advice in the rose garden of Elizabeth Park, our nation's oldest public rose garden, in West Hartford, Connecticut, best known for its magnificent display of arches covered in 'Excelsa', 'Crimson Rambler', 'Dorothy Perkins', and 'White Dorothy'. The gardeners have been restoring these arches to their original glory through careful pruning and training. During late autumn, to protect the tender newer canes from the warmth of the winter sun, we wrap the arches with evergreen boughs. This shades the canes and brings a festive atmosphere to the winter garden.

Robert Buist and his contemporaries offer helpful advice on pruning heritage roses. Here's a glimpse of what Buist has to say about winter pruning from his book: *Hybrid Chinese roses ("roses that bloom in June")*: prune only during November and December; *Provins, Gallica, Damasks, and Alba roses*: prune during the period from November thru early spring; *Moss roses*: prune sparingly during winter. I tell my crew, if you can tolerate being out in the garden during winter, then you can prune.

Several hands-on opportunities for learning how to prune heritage roses or to brush up on your technique will be available for our members during the winter months. The first was in Sacramento, California. I left the cold weather behind to do two pruning workshops for 150 people in the Sacramento Historic Rose Garden on Saturday, January 13. Photos of this event are on our Facebook page. In February, there will be two more opportunities to prune roses. The first is in the Heritage Habitat Garden in the American Rose Center, Shreveport Louisiana, on February 10, where HRF trustee Pam Smith will be leading the pruning and cleanup of the heritage rose garden there. Trustee Malcolm Manners also plans

to take a group of Florida Southern College students to work on that project. Then, on February 24 we will be pruning the roses in Ruth's Rose Garden on the campus of Florida Southern College, in Lakeland, Florida. And for all those brave souls who don't mind some winter weather, you're invited to help us prune the heritage roses growing on the fence lines of the rose garden at Elizabeth Park, in West Hartford, CT.

I look forward to seeing you armed with secateurs and sturdy gloves as we begin the 2018 rose season.

Dudley Farm Historic State Park Roses

Linda Rengarts (see Art Wade's Note below)

Dudley Farm Historic State Park is one of the newer parks in the Florida Parks system. Officially opened to the public on July 6, 2001, it is a unique, one-of-a-kind park. The original farm complex, totaling 18 buildings, is all authentic, not a reproduction or a collection of buildings from other locations. It is located in north-central Florida in Newberry, a few miles west of Interstate 75, near Gainesville. Many of you who attended the Heritage Rose Foundation Conference Lakeland, in 2013, visited the park as a stop on the conference bus tour.

Background

Miss Myrtle Elizabeth Dudley (Miss Myrtle) was the last surviving daughter of Ben Dudley, Jr. & Fannie Dudley, and granddaughter of Captain Phillip Benjamin Dudley

(PBH). In the 1980s Miss Myrtle arranged for a donation of great significance to historians and those interested in earlier agricultural practices. This generous gift to the Florida Park Service included 24 acres, with the 1880s-era farm house and



Linda at our 2013 HRF conference in Florida



Photo from 1897

other buildings comprising the farmstead, as well as historical documents, photographs, clothing, household furnishings and farm implements. Later, the State purchased additional land adjoining the farmstead, so the park is now approximately 320 acres.

Miss Myrtle, who was born in 1901, was still living at the farmstead until her death in 1996. She often reminisced about Dudley Farm being a showplace: "The whole front yard was in roses, from the front gate in. People would drive by on the old road; then we'd get a card from a neighbor saying, 'Well, Miss Fannie, we saw your flowers yesterday.'"

Miss Myrtle's grandmother, Mary Magdalena Dudley (married to PBH) was a lover of plants and was known for having herbs used in healing and home remedies. She more than likely brought roses with her from their farm near Walnut Hill, South Carolina, to

Florida in the early 1850s. Although there is no record of which roses she brought with her, 'Champneys' Pink Cluster', one of the varieties growing at the farm house, was hybridized in 1811 by John Champneys, a South Carolina plantation owner.

Miss Myrtle's mother, Fannie Dudley (married to son Ben), like her mother-in-law, also had a love of plants, with roses having a very special place in her heart. After her husband died



Photo from 1915

in 1918, she devoted more of her time to the garden, leaving the farm work to their grown children. It was this garden that Miss Myrtle referred to in her recollections of the many people who rode by in their wagons, and would later send a note to express their joy at seeing the beautiful blooming flowers.

Fannie Dudley had lived for over 50 years on the farm and had encouraged her children to keep the farm intact. It was Fannie Dudley who had conceived of the idea to preserve Dudley Farm as a living memorial to the family and their farming way of life. Determined to remain faithful to her Mother's wishes, Miss Myrtle entrusted the farm to the State of Florida. To help with making the transition to the Park Service by sharing her memories, Miss Myrtle continued living in the farmhouse until her death, almost 10 years later.

The Original Dudley Farm

The original Dudley Farm was established about 1859. PBH Dudley, his wife, and family first came to Florida from South Carolina in the early 1850s. By 1854 the family had sold their Walnut Hill farm and begun purchasing land in the county where Dudley Farm is located. The earliest record of a building at the Dudley Farm was a double-pen, dog-trot log cabin. This was built prior to the start of the Civil War and is no longer in existence. The current Dudley farm house was completed in the early 1880s. Over the years PBH made many business trips back to South Carolina, so it is possible that he brought roses, camellias and herbs for his wife.

Art Wade, of Rose Petals Nursery, adds this note: This article was written a few months before Linda's sad passing in April 2016. She had retired about seven months earlier, and was spending more time at Dudley Farm with her new-found freedom from the office. Linda was a dedicated and tireless volunteer who loved Dudley Farm. She cared for the Dudley roses; created a program detailing these unique roses which she presented to interested organizations and garden clubs; and prepared a map with an index listing the locations of the roses around the Dudley farmstead. In addition, for over ten years she was the publisher for the *Dudley Farm Journal*.

The Roses

There are many stories about rose cuttings being one of the treasures carried by pioneer women when they traveled to a new home site. It seems the Dudley family women were no exception to this practice. Further, the Dudley women from all three generations living at the farm took pride in cultivating their roses and other flowers. After 1918, a number of new rose varieties were planted in the front yard of their home. Many of the introduction names of the roses are unknown, as many of the roses were given the names of Dudley family members.

Of the many roses now surrounding the farm house, there are 25 different varieties. Of these, 16 are identified: Champneys' Pink Cluster, Chestnut Rose, Cecile Brunner, Clotilde Soupert, Comtesse du Cayla, F.J. Grootendorst, Green Rose, Lady Banks Yellow, Louis Philippe, Maggie, Mme. Lombard, Mrs. B.R. Cant, Mrs. R.M. Finch, Old Blush, Pink Pet, and Dorothy Perkins (locally known as Seven Sisters).

The nine roses that have not been positively identified bear names given by the Dudley family:



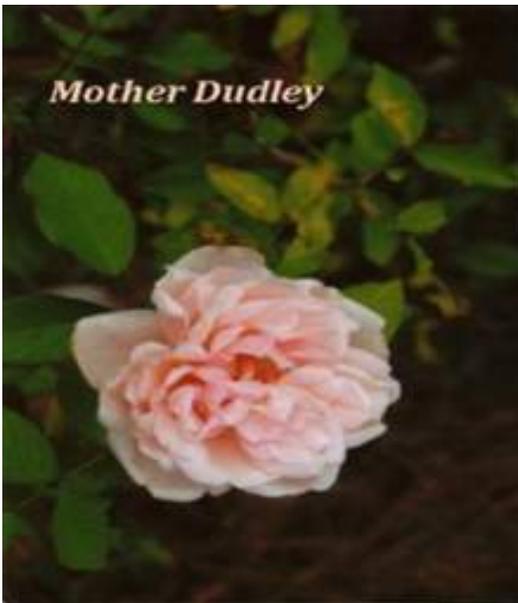
"Dollie Dudley." This rose was given by PBH to Ben and Fannie for the birth of their first daughter in 1878 - PBH's first grandchild. The original bush, over 130 years old, is still alive and doing well. A miniature China rose approximately 2 feet tall, with very small (small as a dime) medium pink blooms, with approximately 25-30 petals. There is no fragrance, and it blooms continuously with both solitary flowers and in small clusters.



"Fannie Dudley." This was one of Fannie Dudley's favorite roses, having a pure white bloom with approximately 40 petals. It is believed to be a Tea rose with a slight tea fragrance, and blooms continuously. Growth habit is to approximately 4-5 feet tall. This rose was planted in the early 1880s when the farm house was completed.



"PBH Dudley." A China rose with a red semi-double bloom, and some white at the base of the petals. It is a compact grower to approximately 2-3 feet and a repeat bloomer. It is believed to be 'White Pearl in Red Dragon's Mouth'.



"Mother Dudley." With a pink blend double bloom of approximately 20-25 petals, it is a Tea rose with a wonderful tea fragrance. The growth habit is about 3-4 feet tall with continuous blooms. This was another of Fannie Dudley's favorites.



"Leila Dudley." This is a Tea rose with light pink blooms. There is a slight tea fragrance to the blooms, which can be larger than 2 ½ inches, with approximately 65 petals. Blooms continuously, with growth habit of 3-4 feet tall. At times it will have a green eye.



"Mrs. L.J. Smith." This rose was given to Fannie Dudley by her neighbor, Mrs. L.J. Smith, so this is how the Dudleys always identified it. A medium size bush with cupped light pink flowers, it has a myrrh fragrance, which is quite nice, and blooms all season. Some believe that this could also be "Natchitoches Noisette."



"Dora Dudley." This was a pink blend Tea rose. The original bush has been lost and efforts are under way to determine if another plant exists.



"Gate Rose." This is a once-a-year blooming climber. It has a pink blend full bloom, and no fragrance. There are a lot of prickles so it has been kept cut back at the farm house. A cutting propagated from the original bush is now growing at the Visitors Center fence, where the blooms can be seen.



“Thornless Rose.” This is also a once-a-year blooming climber. In recent times no one had seen it bloom, but like the “Gate Rose,” this one was propagated and placed along the Visitors Center fence where it blooms. It is a single white bloom with yellow stamens and has a nice fragrance.

During Miss Myrtle’s talks about the garden she explained that her favorite rose was the Green Rose because of the unusual flower; but she named the Hybrid Rugosa 'F.J. Grootendorst' “Myrtle Dudley” because “it was as prickly as she was!”

For those of you who missed the visit to Dudley Farm in 2013, we hope this article provides a brief overview of the rose collection at the park. We also would like to extend an open invitation to everyone, first time or returning visitors, to tour this one-of-a-kind historic farm. Miss Myrtle often said “People from Gainesville used to come out to see the roses in bloom – now would you like to stop by and see the roses too?”

For More Information and to Visit the Park

Please feel free contact the Friends of Dudley Farm, Inc., a Citizen Support Organization dedicated helping the Dudley Farm Historic State Park or the Park Staff:

Friends of Dudley Farm. Inc.
<http://friendsofdudleyfarm.org/>

Florida State Parks
<https://www.floridastateparks.org/park/Dudley-Farm>

More on the Dolly Dudley Rose from Stephen Hoy

The following is an excerpt from an article by Stephen Hoy, "Miniature Hybrid Chinas – The Lawrencianas," which appeared in his newsletter *Singularly Beautiful Roses*, Vol. 6, Issue 1, Fall 2015. Used here with permission.

"...As a result of the huge influx of horticulture during this time period there is reason to believe that some members of the Lawranceana class began to populate the gardens of Charleston. One documented link is found in the history of a family that relocated from



Dolly Dudley Rose



Abbott and Burns Family Rose

Charleston to Florida in the 1850s. Phillip Benjamin Harvey "P.B.H." Dudley and family made several trips to the area before purchasing farm land in 1859 just west of modern-day Gainesville, Florida. Capt. Dudley (served in a Florida regiment during the Civil War) made numerous trips to Charleston to sell cotton and other crops raised on his Florida farm. They transported numerous roses from Charleston to their new homestead over the course of several decades. Among the many that would have been commercially available in Charleston - 'Champneys' Pink Cluster,' the 'Green Rose,' 'Old Blush,' etc. - was a miniature pink China hybrid whose given name is lost to commerce. Family members recall that Dudley purchased the diminutive rose around the time of the birth of his first granddaughter Dolly (Catherine "Dolly" Dudley, b. 1878). In my garden "Dolly Dudley" has dime-sized medium pink blooms of about 20-25 petals and grows in a container about 12-15" in height and width. The chronicle of the westward journey of many old rose varieties is told in Thomas Christopher's wonderful book *In Search of Lost Roses*. However, despite the mention of many a China rose not one account is told of a Lawrenceana type. As with 'Dolly Dudley,' a family history opens our eyes to the preservation and relocation of another historic "found" rose. In 1857 several families banded together to depart from their Arkansas homes and travel west to California. The Abbott, Burns, and Epperson expedition encountered many hardships and endured the loss of family members, livestock, and personal possessions. Suggesting something of its intrinsic value, a tiny pink China rose was among the belongings that survived the arduous journey. One of the Abbott daughters, Catherine, married young Jesse Burns the day after their arrival in California. The little rose, an Abbott family keepsake, survives to this day nurtured in the historic rose garden located in the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery known as the "Abbott and Burns Family Rose." In my garden the little semi-double to double pink blossoms continue to remind one of the significance of plants as family heirlooms."

Work Day at the Hamilton Grange National Memorial

Malcolm Manners

In mid-November, I traveled with two of my students and Art Wade, of Rose Petals Nursery, to New York City, to work on a project at the Hamilton Grange National Memorial. We were joined by FSC alumnus Claybo Varnum and his dad, Scott Varnum, both of whom had worked on New York Heritage Rose District projects with us in the past. The Grange was Alexander Hamilton's home, located in Harlem (409 W 141st St). It was one of the early properties planted as part of the New York Heritage Rose District. Florida Southern College students had in past years planted period-appropriate roses on the property, most of them propagated at Florida Southern by other students, in keeping with sketches by Hamilton himself, of a garden he would have liked; however, he got himself shot before he got to plant it! But at the request of David Korins, set designer for the musical *Hamilton*, we worked with HRF president Stephen Scanniello to replant the garden to another design of Hamilton's, to include spring bulbs and "wild roses" (we used *R. arkansana*, which is native to New York). David Korins and some of his co-workers were also there and helped with the replanting, and we had numerous local volunteers also involved. The large group made it a relatively quick project. We removed the main bed of roses and made a spoked-wheel patterned planting of iris, tulips, hyacinths, and other spring bulbs, surrounded by a mix of the roses we had removed from the bed and the new *R. arkansana*. We also moved some of the original roses to beds near the front of the house, to fill in gaps there.



The old garden at the start of the day



Clearing the main bed



Garden bed cleared and cleaned up.



Laying out planting guides for bulbs.



FSC Students Robert Lommerse and Levi Lovett taught children to make rose cuttings.

Local kids learning to make rose cuttings.



Planting beds laid out and ready.



Iris plants in place.



Planting bulbs.



Planting Bulbs.



Moving roses nearer the house.



Florida Crew: Art Wade, Malcolm Manners, Scott Varnum, Claybo Varnum, Robert Lommerse, Levi Lovett.

More on Barbara Worl Darrell Schramm and Gregg Lowery

In our last letter, we announced the passing of Barbara Worl, with the promise of more in her memory in this edition of the letter. What follows here is quoted from *The Vintage Rose*, newsletter of the Friends of Vintage Roses, edited by Darrell Schramm. Darrell and Gregg Lowery worked together to produce this tribute to Barbara. (used with permission)

BARBARA WORL died September 12. Over the years she made three gardens in Palo Alto and Menlo Park, California, that have enchanted and inspired all who have visited them. Born in Indiana and educated at Stanford University, she is one of the original members of the Heritage Roses Group. An exceptional photographer, she owned Sweetbriar Press and built the garden book section at Bell's Books in Palo Alto, where she had worked since 1950. Her third garden was featured in *Visions of Roses* by Peter Beales.

From "My Third Garden" by Barbara Worl (2005)

I've been lucky enough to make three gardens in my life, two of them on the same piece of land. It is said that the third time is the charm, but the chance for me to prove it came when I left my garden at Cowper Street and returned to the first garden that I had made around my home in the mid- to late 1950s. Although it had been neglected for some years and suffered a lengthy drought, many of my original plants had survived to be woven into the new design.



The first project was clearance. Ivy, seedling privet, and acacia trees were removed as were the old, ailing Japanese cherry and my quince tree. I wanted to build a double 8-foot-wide trellis for climbing roses across 60 feet of my frontage and over a raised bed which on the street side stepped up along its entire length by thirds, and jugged out on slants so that cars could be parked on angles. The inside was a gentle curve along the entire 60 feet made with my old concrete chunks. About 30 feet down it went behind *Rosa canina*, the Dog Rose, which Graham Stuart Thomas had sent me from Sunningdale Nursery in the early '60s. The top was once the rose 'Bullata' but the *canina* root stock had survived. Two years later the neglected, scraggy rose had made a great recovery. So did my new third garden come from the roots of the

first one.

I had a great time getting climbers for the double trellis. Every post had at least one rose, one post had three, and several remaining ones had two, one front and back. In pruning season two winters later from the top of a ladder I surveyed the expanse I had spent 10 days pruning and thought to myself, "You must be crazy; you are 67 years old and it's only going to get bigger as the years go on!" So I removed 'Constance Spry' and 'Baltimore Belle', which were lovely roses but programmed to conquer the world. 'Blairii No. 2' got furious with me for

consistently pruning it too hard and it died. I was still left with lots of real house eaters: 'Buff Beauty', 'Mme Alfred Carrière', 'Rêve d'Or', the southern version of 'Lamarque', 'François Juranville', the false 'Sombreuil', 'Fantin LaTour', 'Alexandre Girault', 'Pink Mermaid', 'Graham Thomas', 'Reine des Violettes', and climbing 'Iceberg', while underneath grew shade-loving primroses, ferns, and epimediums. . . .

The large original plant of "Grandmother's Hat" was already planted against the fence. Near it went the single white Banksiae rose, supported by a group of large iron rebar "lollypops." This rose is supposed to float the scent of violets freely on the air when in bloom; sadly I confess I've never noticed that from my plant. After blooming, it's pruned back hard as otherwise it would completely cover everything around it. Close by is a January-blooming white flowering bush quince and the spiraea 'Bridal Wreath,' which blooms in April to May with many of the old roses.

Since automobiles had been evicted to the street for parking, I turned half the carport into a garden shed and got ready to go on with plants all around the house, even on the former driveway. But prevented from tearing it up, I devised a way to get around this! The first solution was pots. I returned from Half Moon Bay Nursery with two of the lovely large brown Chinese pots, but when I went to buy more they had doubled in price. I played around with the pots' heights, searching out different iron stands to set some of them off. One very large one, looking like something out of *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves*, contains the double Chestnut Rose, *R. roxburghii plena*, which repeats its flowers during the summer. On opposite sides of the driveway, in brown Chinese pots went 'Souvenir de la Malmaison' and 'Souper et Notting', an excellent Moss rose that climbs and gives sprays of pink flowers. Both these roses repeat.

As the original two pots hardly made an imprint on the empty driveway, the problem was solved by mixing chimney flues of various forms and sizes with different pottery containers. The largest of the flues was a circle 20 inches wide and 3 feet tall. Some were used full height, some cut in half, and even a few in thirds. Into several of the largest flues went 'Long John Silver', 'Breeze Hill', a rose which Leonie Bell had sent me as the real 'The Garland', 'Phyllis Bide', and the French rose 'Claudia Cardinale'. Over each we placed a rusty iron tower in which they could climb. Three large rectangular flues were located directly near the fence as I hoped to give better drainage to the roses planted in them: 'Kew Rambler', which has climbed into the persimmon tree, *R. macrantha*, and 'Daisy Hill'. Over the years I've added many smaller containers around the larger ones so that I can have daffodils and tulips in their season, and then later in summer different dahlias and coleus. At this point I even have pots in front of the driveway gate!

Though it really is a small garden, it gives the illusion of being bigger and more spacious than it truly is. Three years ago when Gregg Lowery gave a talk on roses at Filoli, he and Phillip Robinson came to see my new garden afterwards. We went all around, talked plants and roses, and dug up a few things for them. After sitting on the patio for a time with my favorite drink — lemon, ginger, echinacea, Gregg got up and walked around the garden again, from front to back and back to front. As he went he gently muttered to himself, "I like this garden . . . I do like this garden." It was a mantra that I too could say over to myself, and I am honored that he felt the same. Making gardens is a most happy way to live. This third garden has been a joy from beginning to end. I do not look forward to the day when I must curtail my activity in it.

Meet Your Trustees

To continue the series we started in the last newsletter, here are introductions to several more of our HRF trustees.

Anita Clevenger first became interested in found roses when her neighbors, Bill and Vivian Harp, began showing her roses that they had rescued from family homes in Virginia and northern California, and during their travels in California's Mother Lode. They would pull out their many rose reference books and excitedly try to identify them. Their enthusiasm, and the fragrance, diversity, beauty and mystery of these roses, infected Anita as well. She began to borrow their books and planted a few of their roses, including a very vigorous 'Achduke Charles' which still thrives in her garden. She went with them to visit the Historic Rose Garden



in the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery soon after it was established in 1992. She was astounded that Bill could, with a glance, tell a Damask from a China, and resolved to learn to do that as well. In the cemetery, Anita fell in love with 'Paul Neyron,' a Hybrid Perpetual with fat peony-like buds and blossoms, and decided to add it to her garden in place of the peonies that grew at her family's Ohio farm. She also was entranced with 'White Maman Cochet, Climbing' and its red guard petals that opened to frame lemon-white, luxuriantly full-petaled flowers. "Aunt Sally" was another great favorite, a tall bush with dainty quartered, intensely fragrant deep pink flowers that was

later identified to be the same as "Portland from Glendora," thought to be 'Joasine Hanet'. She was hooked.

After her early retirement in 2001, Anita became a Sacramento County Master Gardener. Despite the training, she didn't know how to care for her small collection of heritage roses. She attended a rose pruning class put on by Curator Barbara Oliva in the cemetery in December, 2002. It was cold and foggy, but Barbara seemed impervious to the chill and talked with passion and knowledge about the roses and their care. Anita came home resolved to "help out for the pruning season." The season has lasted fifteen years, so far, and seems to never end. Anita now has a collection of long underwear for similarly cold, damp days.

Anita became the manager and then the curator of the Historic Rose Garden as Barbara declined, and became active in the Heritage Roses Group and Heritage Rose Foundation, attending as many conferences and events as possible, and visiting rose gardens across the world to learn about old roses and how they can be grown. She has been on the board of the Heritage Rose Foundation for the past seven years, and is now Vice President for Publications. She speaks and writes about old roses, leads tours, teaches classes and works tirelessly for preservation of the Historic Rose Garden and old roses everywhere.

Much as she loves old roses, she loves even more the rose people whom she has met throughout the world and the genuine friendships she has made with people who share her

passion. She hopes for decades more of involvement, carrying forward the legacy of old rose champions who led the way and who are now gone.

Alicia J. Whidden is an Extension Agent for the University of Florida in Hillsborough County and works with farmers who grow vegetables and small fruits, mainly strawberries and blueberries. She is a graduate of Florida Southern College with a B. S. in Botany and a minor in Horticulture and has an M. S. from the University of South Florida in Microbiology. She enjoys her job and helping the farmers produce delicious fruit and vegetables but her real love is gardening and especially growing roses.

Let's go back to her early years where it all started. Both sides of her family had avid



gardeners and her relatives would take her out for walks in their gardens. This led to her starting to grow plants at a young age. At the age of 5, her first plant was a pink and white striped petunia that she carefully tended so that it grew to cascade down from the pot and be covered with blooms. She was so proud of it and thought was the most beautiful plant in the world. As for roses, both her grandmother and her 2 great aunts grew roses. When she was 11 years old her grandparents planted several 'Louis Philippe' at the family cemetery and taught her to love the "Florida Cracker" rose as they called it. Alicia started growing her own roses while in college 40 years ago. Her first rose was 'Tiffany' which she still grows today and is still one of her favorite roses. She started out growing modern roses and, of course, 'Louis Philippe'. Her next old rose was a 'Clotilde Soupert' that she bought from Miss Pearl Blalock, who advertised roses for sale in a farm market bulletin. Miss Pearl was a great champion of

old roses in Florida and was selling them long before it was popular to call them heritage roses. Today Alicia grows a great mix of roses, both modern and many classes of heritage roses in her garden. She lives out from Lakeland on 5 acres and has a horse, dogs and cats. She grows many different types of plants – both flowering plants and fruit trees. Some flower beds have the roses mixed with other types of plants – maybe even a fruit tree or two – for a more cottage type look, and other flower beds are dedicated just to roses. The Tea roses are her favorite class of old roses, but when the Hybrid Perpetuals and Bourbons bloom with their romantic old fashioned flowers or the Bermuda roses such as Spice are in full bloom she has a hard time not claiming them as her very favorite. As many rose lovers say, "the favorite is the one blooming at that moment!"

Alicia feels that it is important to preserve the roses of yesteryear. She is a charter member of the Central Florida Heritage Rose Society (CFHRS). She learned about HRF from the Drs. Malcolm Manners and Charles Walker coming to speak at an early meeting of CFHRS. She started going to the wonderful HRF conferences and meeting the many wonderful rosarians across the country and even the world. She likes nothing better than going to visit gardens and has enjoyed all the ones seen at the conferences. The reason she volunteers to be on the board and is serving her second term is that she feels HRF has a worthy mission – preserving roses of the past, and the public gardens that display them, so that we and future generations can continue to enjoy these gems of the past!

Connie Hilker has always been fascinated by history. As a child, she read books on historic places and people. As a young mother, she often took her three daughters to visit historic homes, museums, and cemeteries. A chance meeting with the local rose society president led her to roses. With this, it seemed predestined for historic roses to take over her life.

Connie loves to use tools and build things. She puts these skills to use as she and her husband restore their historic home (a Gothic-Revival farmhouse built in 1848), renovate the outbuildings, and design the gardens. Her rose gardens contain an eclectic collection of over 600 varieties, many of which are unidentified found roses.



When Connie is asked what she does for a living, her answer is always "professional volunteer". She went to college to become a teacher, but decided that stay-at-home-mom was the best and most rewarding career choice. Some of her volunteer jobs were Girl Scout leader, Master Gardener, vice president of the local chapter of ReBuilding Together, president of a homeowner's association, and greyhound adoption representative. Connie currently manages the documentation, preservation and restoration of the historic rose collection at Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia; is the

rose consultant for the Center for Historic Plants at Monticello in Charlottesville, Virginia; and serves on the Board of the Stafford County Historical Society. She can often be found collecting roses from cemeteries and old home sites and teaching classes on rose history, care and propagation. Her overall message is 'roses are not rocket science' and she strives to show that anyone with a basic knowledge of gardening can choose appropriate roses and grow them well.

Cydney Wade is the owner of Rose Petals Nursery in Newberry, Florida. A Florida



native, she has been growing roses of every type for over 40 years. The first of her many rose gardens was started in Gainesville, Florida. Gardening came naturally to her. First her paternal grandfather grew gladiolus commercially in South Florida. Then her parents both instilled a love growing plants by giving her plenty of opportunities to try her hand at most every kind of gardening.

In college, she mainly grew houseplants along with her friends. After college, she planted the first of many rose gardens. In each home thereafter, she had a rose garden larger than the last. She was hooked on roses. As career and family demands grew she continued to experiment with different classes of roses, finding that the antique and old garden roses she now grows did very well with little attention.

For the last twenty years she and her husband have lived on a former 1800s turpentine and logging plantation, raising endangered livestock (cattle and horses), in addition to antique roses. Her two sons have grown up with the roses she still grows today at Rose Petals Nursery. Even her granddaughter now plays amongst the very same roses her father enjoyed. Editing her

rose gardens and reintroducing varieties to commerce, as well as educating others about roses are always a constant at her nursery and everyday life.

Traveling to conferences and shows all over the world has enabled her to meet many friends of the rose. With "Walks and Talks" at Rose Petals Nursery, she educates and entertains numerous organizations from the North Central Florida area about the roses she grows. Cydney and her husband have been members of and are currently on the Board of Directors of the Citizen Support Organization of Dudley Farm Historic State Park [see article earlier in this newsletter] for the last 17 years. She joined the Board of Trustees of the Heritage Rose Foundation in 2014. She is a member of many Florida rose societies, as well as The Heritage Roses Group, Gainesville Garden Club and Newberry Garden Club. Various historical and agricultural societies count her in their membership as well.

Rose philanthropy has and will continue to be of major importance to Cydney. Installation of gardens and donation of her roses to museums, botanical gardens and charitable organizations have reached the four corners of the United States. Her mission remains the same as that of her beloved nursery, "Preserving History One Rose at a Time."

Upcoming Events

February 10 Annual pruning and clean-up of the HRF Heritage Rose Garden at the American Rose Center, Shreveport Louisiana.

February 24 Annual pruning workshop in Ruth's Rose Garden at Florida Southern College, Lakeland, with HRF President Stephen Scanniello.

Volunteers are invited to these events! They are great places to get some tips on pruning/training the various classes of old roses, as well as fun and camaraderie with HRF members and other old-rose enthusiasts.

Multiple spring dates in Sacramento. Sacramento Historic City Cemetery's Historic Rose Garden will be hosting a number of spring events. Roses in this internationally-recognized collection of heritage roses, many of which were found at historic sites throughout California and beyond, begin blooming in mid-March and peak in April.

The "Spring Beauties Awaken" tour on Saturday, Mar 31, at 10 am will feature many early-blooming rose varieties, including banksiae, Teas and Chinas.

The annual Open Garden and rose sale will be Saturday, April 14, from 930 am - 2 pm. Over 600 rare and historic roses have been propagated by volunteers and will be offered for sale. A catalog of roses will be posted on the garden website, www.cemeteryrose.org, by April 1. This event will also feature tours, sales of rose merchandise, and a chance to mingle with rose enthusiasts from far and near.

An evening fundraiser, Romance & Roses, will be held Saturday, April 21 at 6 pm (\$20 donation requested). As they walk through archways and walkways surrounded by roses, guests will

hear love stories of people buried in the cemetery, and how roses have figured in romantic legends and tales throughout history.

Garden volunteers will also be conducting rose walks and talks on Sundays at 1 pm, giving people an opportunity to learn about the different types of Old Garden Roses and to see how they grow and bloom. Dates are April 22 (Teas, Chinas and Noisettes) , April 29 (Hybrid Perpetuals and Bourbons) and May 6 (Albas, Gallicas, Centifolias, Damasks and Mosses).

With the exception of the evening tour, entrance is free, although donations are gratefully accepted. The address is 1000 Broadway, Sacramento, California 95818. Parking is limited on-site but available on surrounding city streets.

(Submitted by Anita Clevenger, Curator)

Friends of Hollywood Cemetery's 6th Annual Rose Volunteer Work Day. (412 South Cherry Street, Richmond, VA 23220)

Come help prune and train the heritage roses at Hollywood Cemetery Saturday, March 10, 9:00 a.m.. Please dress for the weather – Volunteers are asked to bring whatever light garden tools they have ... gloves and pruners at the very least. Loppers, pruning saw, trowel or weed hoe, etc., are useful. Lunch will be provided.

Please RSVP to nshepherd@hollywoodcemetery.org or phone (804) 648-8501



The Crenshaw Plot Musk Rose (*R. moschata plena*) flowering in the Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond.

Editor's Note: I would like to thank Anita Clevenger, Stephen Scanniello, and Betty Vickers for their great help in proof-reading and for editorial comments, for this letter. Malcolm Manners

Photos are compliments of the author of the article in which they are included, unless otherwise noted.

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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