



Heritage  
Rose



Foundation

Newsletter – Autumn 2004



New nursery facility at the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden



Ms. Georgina Lawrence, working at the potting table at the SJHRG's new facility.

## **Letter from the President**

The Heritage Rose Foundation will have it's annual board meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup> at the Antique Rose Emporium's Fall Festival of Roses in Independence. Please let us know your thoughts, concerns, or questions so that we may address them at this meeting. More importantly, please reserve the dates of May 13-15, 2005 to attend our Annual members meeting and Conference in California. It will be a grand affair, complete with evocative presentations and beautiful garden tours in Northern California. These meetings always go a long way in the Foundation's efforts to foster the preservation of these old garden roses. We want to see you there to not only enjoy each other's company, but to share ideas and have a great time. See you in El Cerrito!

G. Mike Shoup

## **What Happened to the Summer Newsletter?**

No, it was not lost in the mail. We did not publish a summer edition this time — hecticness of schedules and a lack of articles to be published caused us to decide to make this issue the first since spring. Could we take this opportunity to invite members to send original articles, not published (nor to be published) elsewhere, for consideration? Observations on found roses, historical notes, etc., are welcome.

## **California Meeting, 2005**

In case you have not seen the tentative plan for the California meeting on our website ([www.heritagerosefoundation.org](http://www.heritagerosefoundation.org)), here is Gregg Lowery's summary:

**California's Rose Heritage  
A Conference for the Heritage Rose Foundation**

## **May 2005 at the El Cerrito Community Center**

By Gregg Lowery

In January of 2004 a steering committee of California old rose lovers gathered together to plan a conference for the Heritage Rose Foundation, to celebrate and learn more about the history of roses in California. We hope to entertain and educate rose lovers from around the country and the world with a program of speakers and presentations that chronicle the story of the rose in the far west of the United States. This is a story that goes back before the arrival of westerners and traces the arrival of Spanish missionaries, Californios, the early American pioneers, and the Forty-Niners, and the roses that came with them. It follows the course of California's development as a giant of agriculture and a major force in horticulture, and ultimately as the dominant rose-growing and rose breeding region of North America.

But it is also the story of the passionate search for and rediscovery of the legacy of roses left by these early settlers and rose breeders. We will look at some of the principal groups of roses which remain as significant elements of the human landscapes of California, including the Tea roses and their 19th century offspring, the early Hybrid Teas which thrive in neglect in cemeteries and old homesites across the state. And we will learn more about the old rambling roses which illuminate our rural roadsides in April, May and June, and their dwarf progeny, the Polyantha roses.

The rediscovery of these old roses of an earlier California have inspired all of us to grow and collect old roses, and our presentation is in part about this renaissance of interest in old roses on the West Coast. We will hear from noted rose rustlers who have rescued treasures and passed them on to others; share the stories of their discoveries, see and smell the roses, and have a chance to

ask the collectors more about their finds. We will look at some new techniques for collecting old roses and documenting our collections, and we'll see how new technologies and the internet may help us in our attempts to catalogue and preserve found roses. We'll also have a chance to share the trials and triumphs of old rose gardeners across the state as they share their garden creations from the North Coast to the Sierra Foothills to the Central Valley to the desert.

And, finally we will look at how efforts around the world continue to try to understand the heritage of roses and sort out the puzzles of naming from Europe to Australia. We will learn about a world-wide movement to preserve old roses from extinction, and to distribute them to gardens around the globe. We believe this will be of particular interest to participants at the conference, as the Heritage Rose Foundation begins its effort to develop a network of hundreds of North American old rose collections that will be open to the public.

The conference will lead up to the Celebration of Old Roses, the Heritage Rose Group's annual display of thousands of old roses, which is free to the public. Our meeting will begin as a foretaste of the larger display which will take over the premises on Sunday. This extraordinary event has for many years provided a sense of community among old rose lovers in Northern California, offering collectors a chance to display their latest finds, novices a place to bring unknown roses for identification, and gardeners a magnificent plant market where they can buy locally grown roses and companion plants sold by dedicated and knowledgeable nursery people, as well as books, preserves, potpourris and the like.

Framing both ends of the conference will be two garden tours, one on the Thursday to the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden, one of the largest public collections of old roses in the world, and one on Monday to Sonoma County

to visit the Lowery-Robinson collection of old roses in Sebastopol, as well as some small private rose gardens of exceptional quality.

## The Heritage's Nursery

Mel Hulse

Volunteer Garden Director, San Jose Heritage Rose Garden

It's done! Roses are in it and being "automagically" irrigated! Readers of past newsletters will remember that the Heritage Rose Foundation provided the initial grant that got City of San Jose approval and work started on an Interim Propagation Facility to support the 3,500 variety San Jose Heritage Rose Garden. This is the culmination of an over-two-year dream. We've gained an adequate facility to grow out newly propagated roses and roses donated/purchased in small pots to a size where they can compete with their neighbors in the main garden.

The \$3,000 Foundation grant provided the incentive for individuals to donate \$4,535 more toward the facility. The facility was developed under the auspices of the non-profit Friends of Guadalupe River Park & Gardens. Friends was the umbrella organization that managed donations and shepherded this project through the city process.

Businesses donated or gave us great prices for design support, irrigation, fencing and other necessary material. The San Jose Conservation Corps obtained state approval to supply the labor. Volunteers did the above-ground irrigation system. Preliminary information is that the costs are within the money we have. To give an idea, the estimate for commercial construction was \$31,000.

What do we have?

- An expanded, fenced toolshed area with a shaded 10' potting bench and a water source. It

- also contains a terrarium to start cuttings (a future article!)
- A nearby 900 square foot, fenced area for the roses with a potting soil bin filled with 4 yards of soil. The area has three beds with 3' deep pebble filled sumps below. One is 3' x 25'. The other two are 6' x 25'. These are served by hoses with Roberts Irrigation Spot-Splitters on leads, 2 per pot, to irrigate 300 #5 pots. Those are controlled by a professional grade, battery operated irrigation controller. There is storage space for pots and other materiel.
- A 4' irrigated bed along two sides of the fence outside to plant Polyanthas.

Now that it is complete, we've dropped the bureaucratic name, "Interim Propagation Facility" in favor of "Nursery," a name plant folks can relate to!

We've already started filling it. Well over 100 already. One backyard's pots are there and another backyard migration is in progress. We have picked up the first 64 of the complete collection of 88 - 2' standards of Award of Excellence miniatures being grown for us by Sequoia Nursery. These are already potted to #3s. Many old roses are expected during the remainder of the season. Larger roses go into #5s. I am fortunate that we have a rosarian volunteer who will care for the Nursery.

While the project is labeled "Interim," It should only to be replaced when there is a major, park-wide facility. I don't see that happening for many years.

The future. By the end of the year, the Heritage will have been converted to reclaimed water as part of a project to improve the southern half of Guadalupe Gardens of which the Heritage is a part. Included will be a special line to provide potable water to the potting area. Later, we hope to get electricity which makes a mist controller feasible.

The Heritage owes a great debt of gratitude to the Foundation for their faith in this all-volunteer garden, by putting up the initial grant that got us started. Our thanks go to many individuals and companies that have helped us. Now it is up to us volunteers to use the nursery to increase the collection for the enjoyment of all. When you visit us, come to the back of the garden and see our new playpen!

## Fundraising – Texas Style

Rozanna Tamplin

On May 1, 2004 my fellow rose addicts and I had a little party and raised a little money for the Heritage Rose Foundation, and we had lots of fun doing it. How to raise money for the Heritage Rose Foundation and have a good time doing it? That was the question.

1. Plan ahead - I started planning for the party 6 months in advance. That way I not only had time to finish many unfinished projects, get the yard (Southerners have yards, not gardens) in shape and have several nervous breakdowns in the process.

2. Beg for roses. Begging works every time. Contact every grower you can find/every individual you know whether via the Internet or in person. Tell them what you are planning and ask for donations. Heck - they can't kill you. The worst they can do is say "NO." Specifically I asked for hard-to-find varieties or ones not currently in commerce. After all, you want the bidders to really lust after the roses available.

3. Ask everyone you know to attend and to bring food. I gathered together about 50 of my closest friends, most that I had never met in person. We knew each other through the Antique Rose Forum, the Rose Forum and the Texas Forum on internet's Garden Web. And they came. From California, New York, Georgia, Mississippi,

Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas and probably some places I don't remember - but come they did.

4. Pray for good weather. We didn't get that — 5 inches of rain the morning of the party in less than 3 hours. But a little rain never stopped a Texan or a Rose Lover either. We partied in the rain.

5. Feed the guests and let them gather and talk and get each other hyped up. Rose people are the WORST enablers.

6. Make it inexpensive to get your rose. We sold tickets for \$1.00 each on a chance for a rose. Everyone bought tickets and put a ticket in the bucket for every rose they wanted. They could put as many tickets in each bucket as they were willing to spend.

7. Save the best for last. We picked out several large or really hard to find varieties and had an old fashioned auction. I make a fairly good auctioneer if I do say so myself.

8. And lastly, make sure everyone goes home with a rose and has a good time. I had a BUNCH of roses I had rooted myself so I made sure everyone had a door prize. No one left empty handed except for the bunch from California because they cannot bring anything in to the state.

It's not the roses or the weather or the food that make a party or an auction successful but the people; the fellowship with other rose lovers. Get yourself a bunch of rose lovers together and you have succeeded.

NOTE: HRF treasurer Claude Graves reports that the Foundation received \$115 from Rozanna's party. Thank you!

## **Hurricane Report**

Malcolm Manners

Florida is working at recovering from 4 hurricanes in a row. Polk County (where Lakeland is located) has the

dubious distinction of having been hit directly by three of them. Only Frances did significant damage to the Florida Southern College campus, with many trees blown over or snapped off. But we're happy to report that we'll likely not lose any of the roses. They look quite whipped and scrambled at the moment, but all seem to be ok at the base. We've been trimming and restaking them, and are optimistic about their recovery. The greenhouses were fine.

## About Our Cover

The front cover rose is '*Zéphirine Drouhin*', a Bourbon from 1868, growing in the Florida Southern College gardens. Under Florida conditions, the plant becomes massively large, and while it does produce a flower here and there in the summer and autumn, the only really good bloom is in the spring. It apparently prefers cooler climates.

On the back cover are two photos from Mel Hulse, to go with his article on the completion of the nursery facility at the San Jose Historic Rose Garden, which HRF helped to fund.



Gartendirektor Otto Linne. Shrub, 1934.