



'Napoleon' (China, 1835)



'Miss Atwood' (Bermuda Mystery Rose)

**The  
Heritage Rose Foundation  
Newsletter  
April 2003**



*Rosa banksiae lutescens*



## From the President

"We may affirm absolutely that nothing great in the world has been accomplished without passion."

Friedrich Hegel, 1770-1831

I start with Mr. Hagel's quote because I think it embodies so much of what the Heritage Rose Foundation and old-rose preservation is about. With passion there is commitment and this is not only evident in our trustees, but many of the members of this organization as well as avid gardeners and collectors. I continue to get letters from individuals wanting to save a family rose, acquire information about a particular old rose or simply to offer their assistance for future endeavors with old roses. More and more people are embracing our goals for preservation, research and distribution.

The HRF continues to plow ahead in the once fallow field of old rose preservation. Our next effort will be seen in our upcoming membership meeting / conference November 8-11 2003 in Lakeland, Florida. Tentative plans include a three-day seminar with tours of area attractions and gardens near Florida Southern College. There are also plans to sell rare roses both named and unnamed and to provide demonstrations on propagation and breeding. I invite you to come share the camaraderie of other old rose enthusiasts this November. Look for our finalized plans including the events and speakers in the next newsletter. In this uncertain time, saving roses and gardening is something to feel good about.

Have a great spring,  
MIKE SHOUP

Editor's Note: See the official invitation to the meeting later in this letter.



## Miriam Wilkins Honored

HRF Member Bill Grant, of Aptos, California, sent us this note:

Miriam Wilkins, Founder of the heritage rose movement twenty-five years ago, was honored in January at the Huntington Botanical Garden with the Great Rosarians of the World award. Held at the garden in San Marino, California, the event in the past two years has honored Peter Beales of England and Ralph Moore of California.

She placed an ad in the American Rose Society magazine in 1974 that stated "Those who love old roses are asked to write M. Wilkins... Objective: share information, unobtainable varieties and enthusiasm." The response was immediate and nation-wide. She formally announced the organization of the Heritage Roses Group, which has operated since that time. Other countries followed suit and organized their own brand of

old rose societies: New Zealand, Australia, France, and the U.K.

Wilkins was born over eighty years ago in El Cerrito, California, and has lived there all her life, with the exception of a few WWII years when she lived with her husband in Washington, DC. Each year she has organized a Celebration of Old Roses in El Cerrito, which brings thousands of people to exhibit every kind of species and old rose, with rose sales, talks, and demonstrations. This year's celebration will be on Sunday, May 18.



### Meet Your Trustees

To continue what we started in the January letter, here are introductions to two more of the Heritage Rose Foundation's trustees:



Photo: Jim Estes

**Nancy Kohlman**, First Vice President for Membership. Venus, Texas.

My adventures with old garden roses began in the spring of 1988, when I went to a nursery in Ft. Worth, looking for the rose my grandmother grew on the barbed-

wire fence, in the backyard of the house where I grew up (which, as it turned out, was not 'Seven Sisters', as my aunt had remembered, but 'Dorothy Perkins', a 1901 rambler introduced by Jackson & Perkins.) I met two rosarians who persuaded me to try several of the Chinas and the Teas instead. Later that year, I joined the Dallas Area Historical Rose Society and met Joe Woodard and Belle Steadman, both masters of the gardening versatility of old roses. They convinced me that my future in growing roses was assured with old roses and converted me to the beauty and the history of OGR's.

President - DAHRS 1994 to 1997

Board of Directors - DAHRS 2001 to present



Photo: Jim Estes

**Claude Graves**, Treasurer. Richardson, Texas

My wife Pam and I started growing roses in 1969 when we built a swimming pool with a "flower bed" on one side, to transition from the level pool deck to the sloping yard. My mom gave us a dozen Jackson & Perkins bare-root Hybrid Tea roses.

The roses flourished in the raised bed with good sandy loam soil. I learned to spray to prevent blackspot and fertilize often. We grew good roses and I thought I was a "rosarian." In 1984 we leased our house and moved to Durango, Colorado. Roses were not so easy to grow at a 7400 foot elevation with a 100 day growing season, limited water and unlimited hungry deer! We joined the local Four Corners Rose Society to try and learn how to grow roses in that environment.

A few of the members of the rose society were into old roses and we started learning about these wonderful, hardy roses. 'The Fairy' was the first non-Hybrid Tea in



our limited garden. It did great, and the deer did not eat it! We were beginning to see the advantages of the “old roses.”

In 1992 we moved back to Dallas and started rebuilding the rose gardens, which had reverted to rootstock during our absence. Old garden roses started finding more spots in our garden. A friend in the Dallas Rose Society invited us to a meeting of the Dallas Area Historical Rose Society. Joining the DAHRS accelerated our interest in old roses, and we began to grow a larger variety of Chinas, Teas, Hybrid Musks, Polyanthas, etc. Then we discovered the wonderful Noisettes. Our love of roses was becoming an obsessive compulsion for roses! As many do, I went through the “got to have one of everything” syndrome. Then I finally figured out how many great roses there are! We finally slowed down on building beds at about 300 roses including some 35 large climbers. We now grow all types of rose, and love them all. I must admit as much as I love the old roses, some of the new shrub roses that mimic their look and fragrance but with more frequent bloom and great color are carving a larger niche in the competition for space.

As my interest in roses grew, so did my involvement with rose organizations. I have been twice President of the Dallas Rose Society, am currently President of the Collin County Rose Society, have been a Board member and remain an active member of the DAHRS, am on the OGR and Shrub Rose Committee of the American Rose Society and a Trustee of the Heritage Rose Foundation, prior to becoming Treasurer of the HRF this year. This year I was awarded the Consulting Rosarian of the Year Award for the South Central District of the American Rose Society.

My most exciting project currently (besides helping to re-establish the HRF) is the development of a Heritage Rose Garden at the Historical Farmstead in the City of Plano Texas. This historical site and beautiful Victorian

home, owned by the Plano Park Department, depicts life in rural Texas in the time period 1890 to 1920. The Collin County Rose Society is helping them develop a period rose garden which will display in a beautiful setting some 150 roses of the period, including lots of big Teas and my favorite Noisettes.



### **New Research Funding Approved**

The HRF Board has approved a \$3000 grant to continue the research of Dr. Nancy Morvillo and two of her students, at Florida Southern College, on the relationship of various Noisettes and musk roses in the Hampton Park Study Garden, Charleston, SC, using DNA analysis techniques. Malcolm Manners reported on the first part of that research at the Charleston meeting in 2001. This summer’s research is to continue that work, including a number of “found” Noisettes, and accessions from more commercial sources. Nancy plans to present results of this project at our meeting in November. Our grant supplements two others, from the City of Lakeland and the Charleston Horticultural Society.

This is the second grant provided by the Foundation this year; as was announced in Texas at our last meeting, we also provided \$3000 to Mel Hulse, at the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden, for much-needed renovation of a propagation area.

### **Charleston Proceedings Still Available!**

Note that the Proceedings of the 9th International Heritage Rose Conference, held October 14-28, 2001, in Charleston SC, are still available. This 122-page paperback book, with several pages of color photos, should be of interest to anyone who grows and loves the Noisettes, Chinas, and musk roses. It was published by the HRF and proceeds of sales go to the Foundation. The price is \$13.00 (\$10 plus \$3 shipping/handling) in the US and Canada; \$18.50 (\$10 plus \$8.50 shipping/handling) to other countries. Available through the Antique Rose Emporium, 9300 Lueckemeyer RD, Brenham, TX 77833, or call 1-800-441-0002 or email roses@industryinet.com. Visa and Mastercard accepted.

Rose societies or individuals may purchase quantities of 15 or more copies at \$7.00 each plus a lowered packing and shipping rate. We encourage rose societies/clubs to consider helping us distribute such a useful piece of literature, in this way.

### **Invitation to Our Next Meeting, in Lakeland Florida**

As mentioned in Mike Shoup's note, the next meeting of the Heritage Rose Foundation will be at Florida Southern College, Lakeland, Florida, starting the evening of November 8, and going through Nov. 11. The Central Florida Heritage Rose Society and Malcolm Manners at FSC (hosts) invite you to attend! In addition to things Mike already mentioned, other aspects of the November conference "in the works" include a seminar on the Bermuda Mystery Roses, with growers from Bermuda, Florida, Texas, and (we hope) other areas, to discuss how they grow these wonderful and historic roses. Also, we hope to have a report from FSC's Dr. Nancy Morvillo, on

her continued research on rose DNA and its use in identifying roses, determining their parentage, etc.

We'll include more information in our July letter, but if you want to plan ahead, the convenient places to fly into are Tampa (TPA) and Orlando (MCO) airports. Both are about an hour from Lakeland. Car rental is very cheap in Florida, and we're near the major attractions (Disney World, Universal Studios, Busch Gardens, etc.) so you may want a few extra days on either side of the conference, if those possibilities interest you. Lodging will be in local hotels. A list will be included in the July letter.

### **'Napoleon' to Star in Exhibit**

Member Maureen Detweiler writes: 'Napoleon', a China rose, was named in honor of the Emperor Napoleon. This is a wonderful, carefree rose which is constantly in bloom. The flowers are medium pink and darken with age to a deep pink. the bush will grow to be a large shrub which requires a minimum of care.

This rose is included in the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial exhibit at the New Orleans Botanical Garden in City Park, which opened on Saturday, April 12 and will close August 31, 2003. The exhibit is entitled, "Plants of the Louisiana Purchase," and features plants and growing techniques of the late 18th Century and early 19th Century at Monticello, Malmaison, and in Louisiana.

### **Graham Stuart Thomas**

We're sad to report that Graham Stuart Thomas, author of many books on old roses and long-time mentor on the subject to most of the old-rose world, passed away on April 1, 2003.