



Heritage
Rose
Foundation

Newsletter
Spring 2004

Note from the President by Mike Shoup

Excitement is growing for our 2005 annual meeting, to be held in California next May. Gregg Lowery and his committee have, at my latest viewing of the Heritage Rose Forum, generated close to 200 individual queries regarding the program, venue, tours, publicity etc. I would encourage all to log on and share or read some of the engaging discussion. The Forum also provides the popular "Ask the Experts" site that Malcolm Manners and Stephen Scanniello host. For those of you that have questions about roses, this is a perfect opportunity. Our thanks to Vintage Gardens, for hosting the Forum pages. The address is www.heritagerosesfoundation.org

Our 2004 board of trustees meeting will take place in Brenham, Texas this November 6th. We are delaying the 2004 annual membership meeting/conference that normally takes place at the same time, to be assimilated in May's 2005 meeting/conference in California. The conference stands to be a great event for the Heritage Rose Foundation and its membership.

This being said, let us not forget the roses themselves. We often receive letters and emails about roses that need to be saved. Malcolm Manners, Gregg Lowery, and others including myself continue trying to root, identify, and most importantly, create a home for these roses until they can be placed into a permanent "garden" that is cared for with preservation in mind. Until the Foundation acquires these gardens, we need your help. Help us identify roses that need to be saved, share cuttings, or simply provide a good home for them. In this endeavor, you will share in the joy of growing and preserving old roses.

Remembering Rae Chambers by Douglas T. Seidel
(Written for the Heritage Rose Group's *Rose Letter*, in which this article will appear in the May issue. Marlea Graham, its editor, has kindly permitted us to run the article here, as well.)

There are some roses whose bloom is so welcome after the long months of winter, but when the buds finally swell and open - at least here in the unpredictable Northeast - the flowering is over way too soon. The Scotch Briar roses all do that in my Pennsylvania garden, whether it's 'Glory of Edzell', 'William III', the 'Single White' (R. spinosissima) or the 'Double White Burnet',

or even the unnamed "Pink" my neighbor found while deer hunting. They are beautiful, but gone too soon, way too soon.

I first met our late editor, Rae Chambers, at Monticello's Historic Plant Symposium in 1997, and then again at the dedication of the Leonie Bell Noisette Garden (also at Monticello) the following spring. Rae's grasp of Old Roses, her sharp intellect, her sense of humor, were immediately appealing. Although we didn't agree on politics or religion, we had the Rose and that was plenty. I will always remember the day we spent in her garden three years ago. Her thriving collection of early Noisettes, Musks, and even Teas and Tea-Noisettes, was truly amazing. And all of this was grown in a well-designed postage stamp plot in, of all places, Central Pennsylvania!



Rae was well prepared to be our editor. She had earned a master's degree in biology, worked in the biology department at Penn State, and was a seasoned graphic designer and botanical illustrator. She used this expertise to stretch the borders of what our Heritage Roses quarterly could be - the new larger format, the expanded use of color, the additional illustrations.

When Rae's cancer was diagnosed almost a year ago, all of us who knew her well were pulling for a successful outcome of her surgery and following treatments. Friends of this publication worked hard to keep the issues coming, and to keep them up to Rae's expectations. On February 18, Rae died quietly at home with her family at her side and her garden just a few feet away. Rae Chambers set some high standards for our future editors, and we will truly miss the unique person she was. Some of the most beautiful roses are here and then gone too soon, way too soon.

San Jose Heritage Rose Garden Propagation

Facility by Mel Hulse

Work started on construction of the Interim Propagation Facility today. With a large crew of California Conservation Corps workers, it should take less than a month to complete construction. Then we volunteers will need to do the above ground irrigation installation and other details needed to be ready for plants.

It has been a long time coming, but I am very happy that we are finally getting the support we need to keep our inventory from decreasing. Thank all of you for your support in making this possible!

Bermuda Rose Society Celebrates 50 Years

Malcolm Manners

In April, the Bermuda Rose Society celebrated their fiftieth anniversary, with a weekend of rosey events. The celebration started out with a gala dinner at the Fourways Inn. BRS members prepared huge arrangements of old roses for the rooms, as well as smaller arrangements for on the tables. Past presidents of the society were honored, and Dr. Charles Walker (founder and first president of the HRF) spoke to the group.

Then on Saturday, a series of lectures by invited international guests were held, attended by well over 100 people. I spoke first, on performance of Bermuda's Mystery Roses in Florida, and then on recommendations for growing good roses in Bermuda's climate and soils. Next, Charles Walker gave a talk on the Bermuda Mystery Rose 'Smith's Parish', its origin and true identity. It has been suggested that this could be Fortune's "Five-Coloured Rose," and certainly, it seems to be a good candidate, but Charles carefully pointed out the pitfalls of trying to tack a historical identification on a rose that is currently grown, and the types of proof that would be needed. So, 'Smith's Parish' remains a very good candidate, but cannot be certified to be the original Five-Coloured rose.

The group had a break for refreshments, during which we enjoyed viewing a large number of shadowbox arrangements,

prepared by BRS members, after which Ann Bird, deputy chairman of the Royal National Rose Society (UK) and vice chairman of their Historic Roses Group, spoke, reminiscing on a life with roses.

The event was a delightful experience, and surely renewed excitement in Bermuda about growing old roses. It is to be hoped that many of the public who attended the symposium will become avid rose growers and active members of the Bermuda Rose Society.

Heritage Rose Foundation president Mike Shoup sent congratulations on behalf of the HRF to the Bermuda Rose Society at the time of the celebration, but again here, we congratulate the BRS on 50 years of interest in, and protection of, their old roses. I don't know of another rose society that could claim such active involvement in old-rose preservation for so many years. We wish them many more years of success and growth.

Meet your trustees

Rev. Doug Seidel (no photo available) has gardened, seriously since he was 3. His first old rose was 'Gloire des Mousseaux' given by the cleaning lady to be planted in his herb garden, when he was 14. He devoured Graham Thomas' books on roses and began propagating what he could find locally, under peanut butter jars. As a college student he wrote a fan letter to Leonie Bell when her book, *The Fragrant Year*, was first published, and she (surprise) wrote back. The two began researching and collecting old roses extensively, with special focus upon the roses of Easton Cemetery in Doug's hometown of Easton, PA. These efforts were written up by Thomas Christopher in his 1989 bestseller, *In Search of Lost Roses*.

Since the mid-1990's Doug has been a regular contributor to the Heritage Rose Quarterly. He is also a consultant for the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants, where he helps with the Leonie Bell Memorial Noisette Garden. He regularly speaks at the Center's Open House, and he has been a contributor to their Historic Plant Symposia on topics which have ranged from The History

and Origins of the Noisette Roses, to the use of plants in historic cemeteries, to North American rose species, varieties, hybrids in cultivation 1700-1850. Last year Doug gave a presentation on Die-Hard Old Roses for the Williamsburg Garden Symposium. After 25 years of pastoring in Pennsylvania Dutch country, for the past three years Doug has been teaching at the interdenominational Jesus Focus Ministry in Southampton, PA where he serves as Senior Pastor. He lives and gardens in historic Emmaus, PA.



Ruth Knopf lives in Sullivan's Island, South Carolina, where she collects Noisette, China, and Tea roses. She has lectured extensively in the U.S. and Bermuda about the care and preservation of old roses. Her passion led to the creation of the Noisette Study Garden Project in Charleston, as well as that city's Noisette Rose Trail. Ruth designed the rose gardens at Boone Hall Plantation. She was the primary force behind the 9th International Heritage Rose Conference, held in Charleston in 2001.

In Search of Lost Roses by Kaye Kettrey, Mansfield, AR

My journey began doing research for a talk on OGRs. A friend suggested I look into roses grown in the area in the past and the rest is antebellum Arkansas history, recorded by one Jacob M.J. Smith. His journals are in the hands of the University of Arkansas library as part of the state's history. Jacob Smith immigrated from Denmark in 1799 and found his way to the newly established state of Arkansas in 1836, where he established a nursery on 160 acres bordering Skull Creek, two miles from the young community of Fayetteville in northwest Arkansas.

Jacob's journals record cultivars of many plants, including his beloved roses, the arrivals and departures of many species of birds, and the temperatures through the seasons. The journals cover a period of time from 1844 to his death in 1878 and were continued for a period of several more years by an unknown hand.

His nursery, "Smith's Flower Garden," provided flower seed and "gardenseed" to residents in the area as well as providing a source of cut flowers for funerals, weddings and parties.

Jacob wrote an article for *The Horticulturist* recording the winter of 1851-52, in which he wrote about the temperature swings of 98 degrees in nine days with the lowest being 28 below zero. "Chinese honeysuckle, *Deutzia scabra* and the hardy roses, with one exception, are killed to the ground."

In 1858 and 1859, he recorded the first bloom of some forty-two rose cultivars, the first of which is 'Harrison's Yellow' on April 26, 1858. There are lapses in information about the roses but some speculation is his source was Thomas Affleck's nursery in Washington, Mississippi. Many of the roses were from the hybridizer Laffay in France, just two years or so after being introduced. On the 9th of May, 1859, he records the first blooms of 'Louise Odier', 'Madame Laffay', 'Geant des Battailes', 'William Jesse', 'William Griffith', 'Duchess of Sutherland', 'Boquett de Flore', and 'Appoline'. The 15th of May, he records blooms on 'Dr. Marx', 'Pierre de St. Cyr', 'Eugene Beauharnais' and 'Queen of Lombardy'. The 16th records 'Baron Haller', 'Bella Isadora' and 'Painted Damask'. 'Safrano' is noted in bloom on the 20th.

Many of these roses are still in commerce; many are not and have been lost or possibly still exist on an old homeplace, surviving the years. Such may be the case of the rose growing in my mother's garden for almost 40 years, given to her as a cutting by a lady who had gotten a cutting from her mother. 'Shailer's Provence' may have come from Jacob's garden many years ago.

Plans are in the works to plant a special rose garden at the Peel House in Bentonville, AR, to commemorate the roses that Jacob Smith grew. The Peel House was built in 1875, during Jacob's nursery days and the gardens are in the process of being revamped with roses of that historic period.

It does seem fitting that Jacob was “laid to rest in his own beautiful garden-among the roses he’d tended so long; a fit resting place for one whose life was devoted to their propagation and culture,” from the *Fayetteville Democrat*, September 29th, 1878.

Charleston Area Rose Rustle by Malcolm Manners

The first week in March, I was privileged to visit Charleston South Carolina, to speak to the Charleston Horticultural Society about old roses. While there, Foundation members Ruth Knopf, JoAnn Breland, Kathy Woolsey, and I went on an “adventure,” to find John Champneys’ plantation, off Hwy 17, headed for Savannah from Charleston. Kathy had talked with Mrs. Mamie Howell, who, along with her children and grandchildren, now lives on the estate, so we went to see her. She had a McCartney rose (*R. bracteata*) in her garden, which had been collected growing wild out in the woods, as well as an old red China from her mother-in-law’s garden in Lucedale, Mississippi. She graciously gave us cuttings of that plant. But there were no old Noisettes in her garden. She directed us to her daughter’s home down the road, where we saw a ‘Champneys’ Pink Cluster’ plant, but apparently purchased and recently planted; not an “original.” Next, we visited Ms. Neltie Linker, who has an extraordinary garden of roses and other plants. She has a large plant of a thornless form of the single white Lady Banks rose (*R. banksiae normalis*). This rose was known for many years, to be in a private garden in Charleston. Neltie got her original cutting from that plant. Since the single white Lady Banks is normally prickly, this rose is a unique find. With the generosity of a gardener, Neltie welcomed us to take cuttings, and they, too, are now rooted and growing at Florida Southern College.

Planning for the 2005 Conference by Mel Hulse

The Heritage Rose Foundation annual Conference for 2005 will be held at the Community Center in El Cerrito, California. The conference theme is "California's Rose Heritage." Dates are Thursday, May 12th through Monday, May 16th. The 12th, 16th and probably, the morning of Sunday, May 15th will be optional garden tours. Conference Registration will be on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning. Presentations will be on Friday

and Saturday. On Sunday, attendees will be treated to the Heritage Rose Group's annual "Celebration of Old Roses."

The conference committee has agreed on the program, but speakers have not yet been invited. Once speakers are agreed upon and any program adjustments are completed, the program will be made public. Soon thereafter, lodging and meal arrangements will be provided along with costs and application procedures.

Gregg Lowery, Vintage Gardens, and Mel Hulse, San Jose Heritage Rose Garden, are co-chairs for the event.

Our Cover Photos

This issue’s cover photos were all taken at the Bermuda Rose Society’s 50th anniversary celebration, in April. On the front cover is a large arrangement of heritage roses at the Fourways Inn, prepared for the opening banquet. On the back cover: Top photo – The BRS display garden at Waterville, a Bermuda National Trust property. Center photo – Sally Madden, Vice President of the Bermuda Rose Society and Deputy Chair for the Waterville garden; Liesbeth Cooper, past President of the BRS and HRF trustee; Ann Brown, Chairman of the Waterville Garden; and Judy Montgomery-Moore, President of the BRS; in the Waterville Garden. Bottom photos – more arrangements of heritage roses at the Fourways Inn.



Rose beds, interplanted with herbs and other flowers, at the Bermuda Rose Society's Waterville garden.