

HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION NEWS

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Spring 2000 Heritage Rose Foundation Meeting in Houston

This year's meeting of the HRF will be held in **Houston, Texas**, in conjunction with the World Federation of Rose Societies' convention and the American Rose Society's national convention, **Wednesday, April 19 - Monday, April 24**. The event will provide opportunities to meet with rosarians from all over the world, many of whom have an interest in heritage roses. The WFRS program has a day of old-rose talks planned (Thursday). On Friday, HRF members are invited to an afternoon event at The Antique Rose Emporium. Our **Annual Membership Meeting will be on Saturday morning, April 22**, along with a round-table discussion among heritage-rose-oriented groups, about our activities, goals, and aspirations. On Sunday, HRF board chairman **Stephen Scanniello** is to speak on "A Year of Roses." Registration for the WFRS convention is required for any events other than the HRF membership meeting, but there is **no additional registration fee for our portion of the meeting**. This will be a great opportunity to meet new friends and share with them our commitment to the preservation and promotion of heritage roses. A more detailed description of the meeting plans begins on page 2 of this newsletter.

If you are interested in going on the Antique Rose Emporium trip on Friday, April 21, please contact Malcolm Manners (mmanners@flsouthern.edu or 863-680-4337 or by mail at the Dept. of Citrus and Environmental Horticulture, Florida Southern College, 111 Lake Hollingsworth Dr., Lakeland, FL 33801-5698), so we can inform you of the exact details of that trip, once they are firm.

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WE WELCOME YOUR INPUT

Heritage Rose Foundation News needs a steady supply of articles about your firsthand, previously unpublished experiences and thoughts relating to heritage rose preservation, history, and closely related topics. Please share what you have learned with our other members. **NOTE:** We want to publish only original material and to avoid confusion, so please tell us if you also have submitted or plan to submit your article elsewhere.

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HRF Annual Membership Meeting to be Held Jointly with World Federation of Rose Societies

Malcolm Manners, Secretary

We apologize for being so late in announcing this year's venue for the annual meeting. We had hoped that a host organization would come forward and invite us to their city, but that has not happened. So, while the place is set (Charleston!) for the 2001 meeting, and we have a tentative invitation for a 2002 meeting, this year remained open. It occurred to some of us that many of our members are planning to attend the upcoming World Federation of Rose Societies convention in Houston, in April, and that many international guests, not currently a part of the HRF but who do have a great interest in the preservation of heritage roses, would also be attending that conference. So, we've decided to hold our annual meeting there as well. We have been formally invited by Helga Brichet (WFRS president) as well as the Houston Rose Society, who are hosting the convention.

We plan to hold our **Annual Membership Meeting Saturday morning, April 22, 8:00 a.m.** We hope to have numerous international rosarians there, for a discussion of what various old-rose-oriented groups are accomplishing or hoping to accomplish in the area of rose preservation. Beyond that, we may have another event of some sort, but the real "program" will be to encourage you to participate in the WFRS convention as much as possible, or as much as interests you.

Because of the rather substantial registration costs of the convention (see below), there will be **no additional HRF registration fee**, and if you are close enough to drive in, you could attend our membership meeting without registering for the full convention. But of course in that case, you could not participate in the other planned events.

Full details of the WFRS convention may be found at the Houston Rose Society's web site (<http://www.houstonrose.org>). Here is a summary of some aspects of the convention directly relevant to our heritage rose interests:

Wednesday, April 19. Morning and afternoon bus tours to the Antique Rose Emporium, in Brenham. Cost \$20 per person.

Thursday, April 20. Symposium on old roses (all day). No extra fee. See below for details of the lectures. There is also an all-day tour of The Antique Rose Emporium and Bush Library (\$40 per person).

Friday, April 21. Trade show of rose-oriented supplies (all day). Lectures on "growing great roses." Rose show (ARS national show). We're working on a possible HRF field trip to The Antique Rose Emporium Friday afternoon/evening. Mike Shoup has invited us, but we'll have to work out the logistics of getting people there.

Saturday, April 22. Heritage Rose Foundation Annual Membership Meeting 8:00 a.m. Trade show (all day), Rose show (all day), and more lectures on "growing great roses." Private garden tours in the afternoon (\$32 per person).

Sunday, April 23. Lectures on exhibiting roses. More garden tours (\$32 per person). Our own **Stephen Scanniello** will be speaking on "A Year of Roses."

Monday, April 24. Lectures on "horizon roses" (breeding history and trends for the future).

The Thursday old rose symposium is to include the following talks:

"OGRs: A Collection for Northern Climates." Claire Laberge, Montreal Botanical Gardens.

An invitation to a tour in the rose garden; sharing her expertise of Old Garden Rose culture in a cold climate; discovering the best performing varieties in the collection as well as legends and historical references. Claire is the horticulturist in charge of the rose garden at Montreal Botanical Garden in Quebec, Canada.

"100 Old Roses for the American Garden." Clair Martin, The Huntington Gardens, California.

A slide survey of Old Roses by class with brief descriptions of key characteristics for identification and a discussion of their culture, history, and garden worthiness. Clair is the Curator of Roses at The Huntington Gardens in San Marino, California. Author of four books.

"Landscaping with OGR's." Dr. Bill Welch, Professor, Texas A&M.

Bill Welch is a legend in the Gulf Coast for his outstanding love of gardening. Author of several books on roses and perennials. He is considered one of the most knowledgeable speakers on heritage roses. Author of several outstanding books.

"Roses from India Old and New." M.S. Viraraghavan, India.

A rose rustler from India, Viru, searched the Himalayas and North East Mount Sirohi in Manipur discovering rare roses. He began growing and breeding roses in 1965 and introduced over 50 rose varieties in India. After obtaining a Master of Science Degree in Chemistry, he served as Director of Agriculture & Horticulture and as the Secretary for Food & Agriculture for the Department of Andhra Pradesh Government.

"A New Look at OGR's" G. Michael Shoup, Jr. The Antique Rose Emporium, Texas.

Owner of the Antique Rose Emporium specializing in the reintroduction and distribution of historic roses, with display gardens/retail centers in historic Independence, Texas, Dahlgonega, Georgia, and San Antonio, Texas. An active member of the Heritage Rose Foundation, Mike authored numerous articles and supplied photographs to many magazines and periodicals. Co-author of *Landscaping with Antique Roses* with Liz Druitt.

"A History of Flower Arranging Using OGR's." David Ruston, South Australia.

David lives on the family farm in Renmark, South Australia, which serves as both a cut flower and rose budwood business. The display garden includes bulbs, perennials, trees, shrubs, and a large rose garden. David is an active member of the Australian Rose Society and the Australian Heritage Rose Society. He is a past President of the World Federation of Rose Societies. One of the best-known rosarians, his knowledge of the history of the rose, OGR's, and his artistry in arranging flowers is recognized around the world.

"New Roses in the Old Style" Michael Marriott, David Austin Roses.

Michael has served as the Nursery Manager for David Austin Roses for the past 15 years, responsible for the production of the rose crop and

dispatch of the retail orders. A graduate of Reading University (Botany) he works closely with David Austin in the rose hybridizing aspects of the Nursery and overseas the display gardens at the David Austin Nursery in England.

"Hardy Roses." Robert Osborne, Canada.

Robert is the President of Corn Hill Nursery in New Brunswick and an active member in various horticultural societies. Author of *Hardy Roses-An Organic Guide to Growing Frost and Disease Resistant Varieties*.

Registration: The registration fee is \$125 for the first person in a household; \$100 for each additional member of the same household **until March 15**. After that date, the fee is \$175 per person! So register soon. You can get an official registration form at the Houston Rose Society website, or mail your registration to: **Houston Rose Society, P.O. Box 22614, Houston, Texas 77227-2614**. Make checks payable to: **"Houston Rose Society."**

Questions? Call Baxter and Patsy Williams, convention registrars, 713-944-3437. They'll need to know your name, address, phone number, etc. Specify which add-on tours you plan to do and include those amounts as well.

Accommodations: The official convention headquarters hotel is the *J W Marriott* by The Galleria, 5150 Westheimer, Houston, TX 77056 Phone: 713-961-1500. Fax: 713-961-5045. Single or Double room \$85; Additional Person \$10.

Other recommendations:

Marriott West Loop by The Galleria, 1750 West Loop South, Houston, TX 77027 Phone: 713-960-0111. Fax: 713-624-1560. Single or Double \$82; extra person \$10.

Marriott Courtyard near The Galleria, 3131 West Loop South, Houston, TX 77027 Phone: 713-961-1640. Fax: 713-439-0989. Single or Double \$77; extra person \$10.

Marriott Fairfield Inn near The Galleria, 3131 West Loop South, Houston, TX 77027 Phone: 713-961-1690. Fax: 713-627-8434. Single or Double \$62; extra person \$10.

Airlines: Continental Airlines is giving a special convention rate. Mention Reference Number: M945SX, and Z Code: ZK3W.

Growing Tea Roses in Las Vegas

James J. Sagmiller

Las Vegas, Nevada

I will start by saying that I love the old Tea roses more than any other class or type. As a group, they are represented by beautifully shaped, healthy plants with glossy, graceful foliage and exquisite, softly colored flowers. Tea rose blossoms are the most refined and exquisite of all flowers. The plants are quite disease resistant and, if attacked by any rose diseases, are able to recover quickly. An outstanding characteristic of Tea roses is that if weather conditions are unfavorable for a time, the plants can recover almost overnight as soon as conditions improve. After long, hot, dry summers that yellow and brown their leaves, Tea roses will begin to bloom and flourish again with the advent of cooler autumn weather. If you plant Tea roses in your garden, you will have an abundance of bloom in all but the frost season, and the display will attract the continual attention of passersby.

I have been collecting Tea roses since I came to Las Vegas, about eight years ago. Right now, I have 55 different varieties of true Tea roses, some climbing Teas, a few Tea-Noisettes, Chinas, Noisettes, Bourbons, and older Hybrid Teas. Collecting them has taken time and consistent effort. Sometimes a gardener receives duplicate, misnamed or mislabeled plants! I have found that I have to keep buying plants offered in catalogs so that I can compare the varieties that I already have with what each nursery sells. This is because of frequent labeling and identification problems in nurseries, gardens, and botanical collections. How often it is that a rose sold nowadays as a particular variety differs entirely in color, shape, or petal count from a rose having the same name that was described in the old literature! As collectors of old roses, we often encounter this problem, even with plants from reputable nurseries.

It is also often difficult to acquire plants of a particular variety that one desires to add to his collection. I waited six years to have a plant of 'Rosette Delizy'! And if a gardener orders a plant that must be custom-propagated, it may take a

considerable amount of time. I received 'La Sylphide' only last year, after a wait of two years. Building a collection of old Tea roses takes years of effort and determination.

Tea roses do well in the desert if conditions in the garden are adjusted to accommodate them. Las Vegas has an extremely dry climate. We receive just under four inches of rain per year, but our evaporation rate is 72 inches per year. That means we have to put at least 84 inches of water on our rose bed per year to grow roses. In my garden and in many others, most surfaces are paved except the flower beds. The soil is extremely alkaline here, and so is the water. We also have frequent, sometimes constant drying winds from March through June. We do, however, have a very mild climate, with temperatures dropping to only about 25°F in most winters. To give the reader an idea of our climate, a few of the typical ornamental plants grown here are *Phoenix canariensis*, *Washingtonia robusta*, *Aloe barbadensis*, *Pittosporum tobira*, *Nerium oleander*, and *Cycas revoluta*. Because of the mild climate, I am able to grow tender roses such as 'Marechal Niel', 'Chromatella', and *Rosa gigantea* without worrying about winter damage. The real challenge to the gardener here is to cope with extremely hot, dry summers.

Ideally, a garden for roses in this climate should have protection from winds, especially west winds. Reducing wind velocities diminishes their drying effect on rose leaves. In this climate, the Tea roses seem to appreciate quite a bit of shade as well. Summer sun is so intense in the desert that not as much exposure is needed to bring roses into bloom as would be needed in other climates. Some of the best specimens of roses in Las Vegas are grown in shaded or partly shaded locations. In my garden, I am encouraging Mexican fan palms (*Washingtonia robusta*) and windmill palms (*Trachycarpus fortunei*) to grow among the roses and create a light, moving half-shade. Some Tea roses seem to demand protection from our summer sun, and I place prunings of dead palm leaves around them to shade them. Some of the Teas that seem to enjoy shadier conditions here are 'Alexander Hill Gray', 'Souvenir d'un Ami', 'Maman Cochet' and its

Some of my favorite Teas are 'Victor Velidan', 'Rosette Delizy', 'Mme. Charles', 'La Sylphide', 'McClinton Tea', 'Marie Van Houtte', 'Catherine Mermet', and 'Souvenir d'un Ami'. With all the challenges of growing roses in the desert, I would

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Dr. Charles Walker Raleigh, North Carolina

So a persistent question is: How did these viruses ever get into roses in the first place? It has been hypothesized that at some point plants that are closely related to roses (apples and cherries, for example), may have been grafted onto roses or vice versa, just to see what would happen. Budding and grafting, even between plants that are graft-incompatible, have been used as means to transfer

viruses in laboratory settings, so it is entirely feasible that this could have been an accidental avenue for the entry of these particular viruses into roses. Support for this hypothesis is shown by a phone call I received in the 1980s from an elderly gentleman who had been in the nursery business. He recounted having seen an apple tree upon which, he was told, a rose had been grafted or budded and that the rose had bloomed. Based on what is known about rose and apple physiology, this is very unlikely. It is more plausible that this gentleman misunderstood what he was told, perhaps as a young boy, or perhaps someone found humor in his gullibility. Nevertheless, it shows an interest in joining roses and apples, although the reciprocal situation - apple budded onto rose - would have been necessary to transfer an apple virus into the rose. As has been pointed out by Dr. Manners, it would not have been necessary for the graft or bud to have survived in order for the virus to be transferred, only that a cell-to-cell connection exist for a period of time, and a relatively short period might suffice. It would be interesting as well as relatively easy to test this transfer hypothesis.

Although there are several instances of intergeneric hybrids in the plant world, I know of none involving the rose genus (*Rosa*). (We could count the pioneering work done with *Rosa* and *Hulthemia* by Jack Harkness, but the distinctness of *Hulthemia* from *Rosa* is debatable.) However, the rose literature does reveal a strong interest by at least one individual in crossbreeding roses and apples (genus *Malus*).

Dr. J. H. Nicholas (1875-1937), the breeder for the well-known Jackson & Perkins rose nursery from 1929 until his sudden death, attempted several crosses between roses and four other genera. In a manuscript serialized posthumously during 1952-1954 in *The Rose*, monthly newsletter of the Philadelphia Rose Society, he gave some details about this work. Dr. Nicholas spoke of having been encouraged by Dr. E. H. Wilson, the famous plant collector who brought back several roses and other plants from China, to cross roses with hawthorn (*Crataegus*) and with *Potentilla*, both of which are genera in the rose family (Rosaceae).

He began these intergeneric crosses in 1927,

putting 'Smokehouse' apple pollen onto several Hybrid Teas. About a fourth of the flowers set hips, but a rodent got into the greenhouse one night through a vent that was accidentally left open and took all but two hips, both on 'Betty Uprichard'. From these came three seedlings that had the general appearance of roses, but only one of them, to Dr. Nicholas's eye, had apple traits. It was tall, upright, with red branches, and its leaves had a shape and veins like those of apples as well as downy lower leaf surfaces. It had a "peculiarly colored double apple blossom" and only barely rebloomed. Vegetative growth ceased entirely after the spring bloom, and there was a second growth spurt in the fall. The other two of these three seedlings showed the same kind of growth pattern. Dr. Nicholas termed all three of them "arctic," a word he defined in his article on the subject in the 1937 *American Rose Annual* as able to withstand arctic temperatures and conditions. How he determined this characteristic for these three seedlings was not explained. He also said later that all of these seedlings of 'Betty Uprichard' × 'Smokehouse' apple were completely sterile.

In 1930, Dr. Nicholas tried a second set of crosses, this time using the pollen of six different commercial varieties of apples. Only one of these, 'Yellow Transparent', was successful. This he felt was due to the fact that this apple variety had the most "rose anatomy" of the six. Of the several varieties of roses he used, only 'Charles P. Kilham' produced seed that germinated, and he obtained only seven seedlings from the twenty seeds.

In only two of these offspring did Dr. Nicholas see strong apple characteristics, and he noted that they were "unifoliate," apparently meaning that the leaves were not divided into leaflets in the way that rose leaves are. Both were weak plants, at least for the first year, and had not bloomed, but he did not say how they performed later. He tried grafting them onto rose understocks, but the grafts either failed or remained dormant.

In contrast, the remaining five seedlings all bloomed, but with a strange mixture of colors - vivid red with a yellow base - and with ragged form. He interpreted this to mean that there had been some kind of "upheaval." One of the five

produced hips, but at the time of his writing he had not germinated any of the seeds, if indeed the hips contained any.

He also made reciprocal crosses - the six apples pollinated with roses. Of these, only one cross - 'Yellow Transparent' × 'Etoile de Hollande' - was successful, but unfortunately the three fruit were broken off prematurely when the tub in which the plant was growing was moved out of the greenhouse.

Dr. Nicholas also followed Dr. Wilson's suggestions and pollinated roses with various hawthorns, but hips resulted only from the old English hawthorn (*Crataegus oxyacantha*). This Dr. Nicholas attributed to the fact that it had the most "rose anatomy" of those used. He obtained a "fair number" of seeds, but none had germinated at the time he recorded his observations, even though the same roses, pollinated with their own pollen, produced seeds that germinated promptly.

He was much less successful in pollinating roses with *Potentilla veitchi* (suggested to him by Dr. Wilson because it was his favorite shrub). His only apparent success was a single seedling from 'Ophelia', but it was a weak grower and closely resembled 'Ophelia', suggesting that it might have been only a self-pollination and not a hybrid. Nevertheless, Dr. Nicholas was anticipating the harvest of seeds from this presumed hybrid and intended to plant them.

He discussed these attempted intergeneric crosses with several botanists and professors, all of whom pronounced the situation to be an instance of apogamy - production of seed without fertilization - a phenomenon which does occur with some plants but not, to my knowledge, in roses. Dr. A. B. Stout, well-known among daylily breeders, visited Dr. Nicholas and observed his seedlings. He, too, thought that apogamy was at work but could not explain the apparent success with one kind of apple pollen but failure with five others or the apparent success of the single kind of hawthorn pollen. Nor could he explain why the apparent seedlings from the cross of 'Charles P. Kilham' with 'Yellow Transparent' apple were so much alike while the seedlings from self-pollinated 'Charles P. Kilham' were so very different from each other (an

observation that Dr. Nicholas had not pointed out earlier in his manuscript.) Dr. Stout was said to have admitted that there might be something to these results.

Dr. Nicholas also mentioned, without providing further information, that he had made several attempts to cross roses with pears, but all were unsuccessful and lacked any indication of apogamy.

In all of these crosses, Dr. Nicholas was seeking not to produce "freaks," as he termed them, but to introduce more cold-hardiness into roses. The fate of his apple-rose crosses is unknown. I have not found any further reference to them other than a very brief mention in the 1932 *American Rose Annual* by a somewhat skeptical Marion Hatton, who saw a "supposed rose and apple hybrid" among other curiosities produced by Dr. Nicholas when he visited him at Jackson & Perkins on June 13, 1931.

Dr. Nicholas indicated that Rev. George M. Schoener had also produced intergeneric rose hybrids, having crossed *Rosa rugosa* with native crabapples of the Pacific Northwest, succeeding in producing a plant with firm-fleshed fruit, unlike the pulpy ones of the *Rugosa* parent. Its fruit also had the brilliant red color of *Rugosa* hips. But, as luck would have it, a fire destroyed these and all of Father Schoener's other seedlings.

We may never know for certain whether Dr. Nicholas's or Rev. Schoener's efforts actually produced intergeneric rose hybrids, unlikely though they may be. It is unfortunate that these men apparently did not photograph their results.

However, in the case of the rose-apple attempts, materials are available, at least in part, to anyone who is inclined to repeat them. Both 'Smokehouse' and 'Yellow Transparent' are listed by specialty nurseries on the Internet and may possibly be found in germplasm collections. 'Smokehouse' was growing at the USDA Fruit Research Station in Byron, Georgia, in the 1970s. 'Betty Upchurch' and 'Etoile de Hollande' are still in commerce, according to *Combined Rose List*.

If anyone is interested in trying such intergeneric crosses or in testing the hypothesis that viruses could have been introduced into roses via grafting with other genera of the rose family, we would like to share the results with our members.

PURPOSES. The Heritage Rose Foundation is a non-profit corporation created in November, 1986 to

- Collect and preserve heritage roses and promote their culture, with particular emphasis on those varieties that are not known to be in commerce. For purposes of this corporation, heritage roses shall consist of those types, classes, and varieties of roses that originated in the nineteenth century or earlier, and those varieties that are deemed by the Board of Trustees of this corporation to have historic, educational, or genetic value.
- Establish one or more gardens wherein heritage roses may be grown and displayed.
- Conduct and contract to conduct investigations and research in heritage roses, to include but not be restricted to their history, identification, genetics and breeding, propagation, diseases and pests, and suitability for landscape use.
- Publish and disseminate information about heritage roses as well as the results of research conducted or contracted by the corporation. Such information shall include characteristics of certain classes and varieties, methods of propagation and culture, and similar topics consistent with the purposes of the corporation.
- Establish and maintain a library of books, periodicals, research papers, manuscripts, catalogs, and other items to facilitate investigations and research in heritage roses.
- Conduct seminars, meetings, forums, panels, lectures, tours, exhibits, and other appropriate means to foster public knowledge and appreciation of heritage roses and their preservation.

MEMBERSHIP in the Foundation is open to any individual or organization who is in agreement with its purposes and goals. The Foundation is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the U. S. Internal Revenue Code and contributions to it are tax-deductible.

SCHEDULE OF ANNUAL DUES:

Organization \$25 • Individual \$10 • Family \$12 • Senior (over 65) \$ 8 • Student (under 21) \$ 8

For your convenience, 2-year memberships are available at double these rates.

DUES PAYMENT. Make all checks payable to The Heritage Rose Foundation and mail to 1512 Gorman Street, Raleigh, NC 27606-2919, U. S. A. Members outside the U. S. should pay with a draft or check payable in U. S. funds and drawn on a U. S. bank. Dues, meeting registrations, and other payments may be included in a single check.

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER. Members receive *Heritage Rose Foundation News*, published in January, April, July, and October. Overseas newsletters are sent via air mail. BACKISSUES are available for \$2.00 each, postpaid. Volume 1 (1987) has three issues, later volumes have four.

INQUIRIES to the Foundation: Please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to expedite your reply. Persons wishing to mention the Foundation in newspapers, magazines, or other news media are requested to contact the Foundation prior to such coverage.

MANUSCRIPTS in keeping with the Foundation's purposes and emphasizing all aspects of heritage rose preservation and closely related topics such as propagation and identification studies are continually invited. Submissions should be exclusive (not previously published or submitted elsewhere) and may be sent either electronically (disk or e-mail) or on paper. Manuscripts of a scholarly or scientific nature will be reviewed by the Editorial Committee prior to publication.