



Heritage Rose Foundation Newsletter

October, 2017

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

From our President:

Stephen Scanniello

I'm starting this President's Message with sad news. This year we've lost two pioneers of the heritage rose preservation movement, Joyce Demits and Barbara Worl. Their contributions to the heritage rose cause are far too numerous to list. Their legacies will live on through their love of old roses that they shared with everyone as well as through their successful efforts to bring antique roses back into our gardens and nurseries. The Heritage Rose Foundation salutes Barbara and Joyce; we shall miss you.

At a time when many public rose gardens continue to decrease the size of their heritage rose collections and heritage rose nurseries are closing, it's encouraging to see that rose preservation projects inspired by Barbara and Joyce are continuing. Here's an update on some recent rose preservation efforts that would make them proud.

Elizabeth Park, located in West Hartford, Connecticut, is the oldest public rose garden in the United States, and is celebrated for its magnificent arches draped with the ramblers 'Exclesa', 'Crimson Rambler', 'Dorothy

Perkins', and 'White Dorothy'. The original plantings from the period of 1904–1930 are still growing on the arches. Over recent years extreme weather damaged the plants, leaving large areas of arches uncovered. When I started as rosarian of Elizabeth Park two years ago, one of my goals was to rejuvenate and restore the heritage ramblers. I'm pleased to say, after two seasons of careful pruning and training (of the staff as well as the roses) many of the ramblers are once again joined at the tops of the arches. It looks as though the 2018 season is going to be spectacular. The best time to see the arches in bloom is from mid-June through early July.



Joshua Kwasny Prunes the Ramblers at Elizabeth Park.

Elizabeth Park is on the National Register of Historic Places and is managed by the Elizabeth Park Conservancy, a private organization that raises money to maintain the rose garden as well as other gardens in the park. This

year the Conservancy, through the generosity of the Connecticut Valley Garden Club, welcomed a new addition – the Heritage Rose Garden of Elizabeth Park. Designed by Heritage Rose Foundation member Ali Whyte, the garden was funded and endowed by the Connecticut Valley Garden Club to commemorate their 100th anniversary.



'Dorothy Perkins' at Elizabeth Park.

This new garden, designed with five raised beds enclosed by a fence line of antique ramblers, is tucked behind mature evergreens across the road from the main rose garden, on the footprint of a 1938 All-America Rose Selections (AARS) trial garden. Several old shrub roses and ramblers left behind from the original garden, including 'Rose du Roi', *R. rubiginosa*, 'La Belle Sultane', and 'Peggy Ann Landon', are included in the new design. At the time of the ribbon cutting ceremony in June, there were more than seventy varieties of heritage roses in full bloom, including the 'Green

Rose', 'Zepherine Drouhin', 'Louise Odier', 'Kazanlik', "Crenshaw Musk," and 'Frederic II de Prusse'. I'm very proud of this new garden. The Heritage Rose Garden of Elizabeth Park is the only public garden in the Northeast dedicated solely to heritage roses. The roses begin blooming in late May and peak in June. Many of the Bourbons and other antique repeaters continue until the first frost in October. This is yet another safe haven for our heritage roses.

During our May conference in Virginia, several heritage roses were planted in **Hollywood Cemetery** (Richmond, VA) including the long-lost "Temple Musk." For those of you who may not be aware, Hollywood Cemetery is where our charter members John and Marie Butler discovered the "Temple Musk" and the "Crenshaw Musk." The "Temple Musk" disappeared from the cemetery over the years, but now is flourishing once again on the Temple family gravesite. This beauty as well as the "Crenshaw Musk" and the many other found roses in this beautiful cemetery are in good hands under the care of the Friends of Hollywood Cemetery and the watchful eye of HRF trustee Connie Hilker.



The Crenshaw Musk rose in Hollywood Cemetery.



Planting the Temple Musk rose at Hollywood Cemetery

Speaking of charter members and the elusive musk rose, Helen Watkins of Hillsborough, North Carolina was also a key player in the discovery of *Rosa moschata* in the United States. Her home, **Chatwood**, became her private repository of found roses, including her beloved "Burwell School Musk" — a rose she discovered on the Burwell property known as The Hillsborough School for Girls. Helen passed away many years ago and Chatwood was sold. Sadly, there has never been any communication between the new owner and HRF. At a recent dinner party I met Jeff Minnich, the current garden consultant for Chatwood. Jeff has been working with the owner of Chatwood, Frances Mayes, restoring the gardens and preparing them for a feature article in *Southern Living* magazine, to be published in the spring of 2018. Frances is the author of many books including the award winning *Under the Tuscan Sun*. She has a passion for roses and is very interested in learning more about the roses she has inherited. Jeff has promised me an introduction to Ms. Mayes and perhaps a visit to the roses once tended to by Helen Watkins. Who knows, perhaps Chatwood will once again be recognized as a haven for heritage roses?

Our May conference and membership meeting held in Fredericksburg, Virginia was a huge success. Organized by Connie Hilker, we enjoyed tours of beautiful gardens with heritage roses, including Monticello, Hollywood Cemetery, and Belmont (the home of American artist Gari Melcher). The private gardens of Connie and Steve Hilker provided the enchanting setting for our closing banquet. During dinner, the Heritage Rose Foundation awarded both the Friends of Hollywood Cemetery and the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants (Tufton Farm) with grants of \$500 each, in recognition of their continuing efforts to preserve heritage roses.

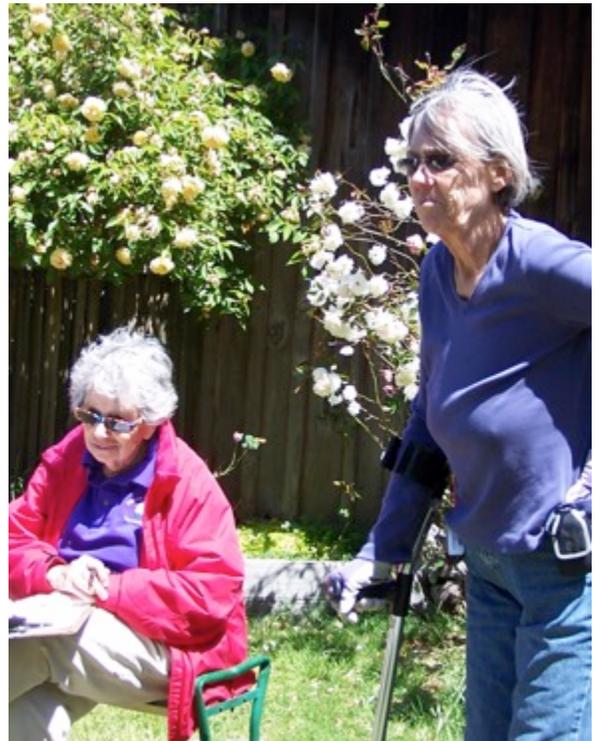
Conferences on the scale of Fredericksburg are difficult for the Heritage Rose Foundation to manage on an annual basis. We were lucky to have the cooperation of all the folks who worked with Connie to make this event a huge success. We made a “soft” announcement regarding the possibility of a conference in New York City to celebrate the Heritage Rose District of NYC during the spring of 2018. **Sadly, this cannot happen at this time due to schedule conflicts and a lack of volunteers to put the event together.** It would be great to have events in New York City and West Hartford. But, neither can happen unless we have volunteers who can assist. Is anyone interested?

Meanwhile, keep an eye on our website and future newsletters for the details on upcoming “hands-on” garden events. This list of events is in formation, dates yet to be confirmed: American Rose Center: pruning and cleanup of the Heritage Habitat Garden; Sacramento Historic Rose Garden: pruning

workshop in January; Florida Southern College: pruning Ruth’s Garden (probably mid- to late February); Heritage Rose District of NYC: pruning, planting, propagation workshop. We’ll also announce our 2018 annual membership meeting plans, when those gel.

Thank you for your continued support and membership with the Heritage Rose Foundation. Your membership helps us to keep the mission of rose preservation alive.

Remembering Joyce Demits



Joyce in her garden (with Barbara Oliva). Photo by Anita Clevenger.

Joyce Demits, rose nurseryman, long-time rose collector and grower, charter member and supporter of the Heritage Rose Foundation and long active in the Heritage Roses Group, passed away in late July. Joyce was a mentor and dear friend to many of us, and we want to honor her memory here.

Malcolm Manners:

I first met Joyce Demits in the early 1980s, at a Huntington Conference. I don't recall who introduced us, but I think it was likely Charles Walker or Ruth Knopf. Joyce and I started a correspondence, and I bought many of my early roses from her and her sister, Virginia. She was very helpful in identifying some of the unknown and/or mislabeled roses in our collection.

My favorite memory of Joyce was at the International Heritage Rose Conference in Cambridge, England, in 1997. Peter Beales was chairing a meeting of national old-rose organizations, and was having representatives of each country's organization stand to tell what they were doing. When they came to the United States, someone stood up and announced that the US had no old-rose organizations; just a bunch of people who fight constantly and hate each other! From the back of the room, I heard Joyce say "Oh NO!" She stood up and, shedding tears, proceeded to tell of the WONDERFUL organizations devoted to old roses in America, the Heritage Rose Group and the still relatively new Heritage Rose Foundation. As I recall she did an expert job of explaining the two organizations and how they benefitted the old-rose world. Many of us were quite proud of her rebuttal, and the previous speaker did not dare to argue!

Maureen Detweiler:

I purchased my first old garden rose in 1986 from Joyce Demits and Virginia Hopper. It was 'Louis Philippe'. Years later I had the opportunity to meet these remarkable women at rose conferences. I have fond memories of those occasions.

Pat Toolan (Australia):

In 2002, while in the USA on my Churchill Fellowship, the late Barbara Oliva and the late Mel Hulse organised the most incredible journey throughout California to visit old rose gurus, cemeteries, and gardens.

The journey to Mendocino and Fort Bragg was through stunning scenery and redwood forests. In Fort Bragg I stayed with Joyce and her late husband Gary, and in the short period that I was there I was struck by their serenity, genuine affection and their beautiful personalities amid a wonderland of old roses – an instant feeling of connection and joy in their friendship.

A calligraphy written Christmas card would arrive each year to bring back wonderful memories of this special couple.

So very sorry that this great rose lady has now gone. My condolences to her daughter Julie and other family members. Joyce will live on in so many people's memories.

Alice Flores:

The rose world was saddened recently when news of the death of Joyce Demits became known. Mrs. Demits (a founder with her sister Virginia Hopper of the once-popular nursery, Heritage Rose Gardens) passed in late July shortly after suffering a stroke. The announcement came as a blow to the many rosarians who had worked with Joyce over the years to re-introduce hardy heirloom rose varieties and heighten awareness of their possibilities for sustainable gardens.

Always modest about her abilities, this unassuming, soft-spoken woman was a powerful force in the greater rose world. She educated herself thoroughly in a time with no internet information available. That, and her keen powers of

observation, made her an important resource in the endless research related to the identification of "Found" roses. She was a famous in-the-field collector of naturalized roses, and her home county of Mendocino offered a rich array of such varieties. She built an eclectic collection and has opened her garden in recent years to share cuttings with other rose lovers, in the hope of keeping the rare old varieties alive in gardens both public and private.



Joyce Demits at the 1997 Heritage Rose conference in Cambridge, England.

Joyce was a founding member of the Heritage Roses Group, formed in 1975 at the instigation of the formidable Miriam Wilkins, a life-long friend and colleague of Mrs. Demits. Her sister joined the American Rose Society and Joyce joined the Royal National Rose Society. When the Heritage Rose Foundation was formed, both sisters added that organization to their circle of interests. Joyce supported many smaller societies and received their newsletters

with great enthusiasm, continually educating herself. She maintained correspondences world-wide with other Old Rose enthusiasts, all of it through the US Postal Service.

Though Joyce was self-effacing, she could be passionate about what she knew, and brought an intuitive intellect to her work. She was generous with her knowledge and mentored and inspired many students of the rose, including this writer. One of her last public speaking appearances outside of Mendocino County was at the 2005 Heritage Rose Foundation Conference, held in collaboration with the Heritage Roses Group in El Cerrito, CA. The conference was a large and vibrant gathering of rose lovers from around the world. Joyce's own story appears in the Journal that was created from the offerings at the conference.

Though her personal garden may not survive much longer than she, her legacy remains in the Pioneer Rose Garden installation at the Mendocino Coast Botanic Gardens. This portion of the larger gardens was designed to showcase the Found roses that Joyce and Virginia loved best. It remains an educational and delightful place to spend a contemplative hour. A Memorial potluck was held in that place on August 26th. It was be good to gather with fellow rosarians to honor this significant and lovely person.

Remembering Barbara Worl

News of Barbara's passing arrived too late to get many quotes. But we'll plan to continue remembering her in our next newsletter. But a couple for now:

Anita Clevenger:

Yet another legendary California rosarian is gone. Barbara Worl will be

greatly missed.

Malcolm Manners:

I first met Barbara Worl at a Huntington rose conference, in the mid-1980s. Ruth Knopf introduced us, and I quickly discovered that Bell's Book Store, thanks to Barbara's great work there, was an astonishingly rich source of old rose books, many of them rare and out of print. But if it existed somewhere, Barbara could probably acquire it for you and sell it at a very fair price. It then usually arrived with a handwritten note from Barbara, hoping you'd enjoy the book! I saw her at many other conferences over the years, and it was always a delight to visit with her.



Barbara Worl at her book stand at a Celebration of Old Roses, El Cerrito California.

Save the Roses! Preserving Genetics for Future Generations

John Bagnasco

Compared to many types of public gardens, rose gardens might be thought of as being a bit ephemeral. While individual rose plants, as witnessed by discoveries in abandoned cemeteries and ghost towns, may thrive for years, a proper rose garden needs yearly upkeep. If maintenance cannot be provided by volunteer labor, then there is a substantial cost involved to provide the appropriate amount of care to keep the plants looking their best.

In *Dust in the Wind*, the singing group Kansas opines, "All we do crumbles to the ground, though we refuse to see...nothing lasts forever, but the earth and sky." While I somewhat agree with their basic premise, I don't look at our rose-saving attempts as hopeless or pointless. An appreciation of the creative process has driven civilization to preserve the works of artists in museums and the great literature of authors is preserved in libraries and now on the Internet. How will the natural-art creations of rose breeders be preserved for future generations to enjoy?

To those who have tried, this seems to be an almost overwhelming endeavor. We've seen many of our best rose growers close their businesses in the last twenty years, so the lure of profits is probably not a motivating factor. However, people have been lured by the enchantment of the rose for centuries, so preservation will ultimately come down to a labor of love. Not only are individual species and cultivars in need of preservation, but the history of roses

also needs safeguarding. *Help Me Find Roses* (helpmefind.com/roses/) is currently our best source for the conservation of this knowledge and deserves the support of all rosarians. Gardeners should be encouraged to post the varieties of roses in their own gardens in order to build up a database that can easily locate specific cultivars.



'Pauline Lancezeur'

I've been increasingly concerned with rose conservancy for the last fifteen years. As the current president of the California Coastal Rose Society, I work with members who have completely geared their efforts in this direction. Every fall, the society supports its efforts through a rose auction that includes many varieties no longer in commerce. Proceeds from the event are used to procure and produce plants for the following year. Roses sold are kept in a database so the new grower can be contacted, if our stock plant of that variety is lost.

This year's auction will be the seventeenth annual and has evolved into a three-day affair. The evening of day one is a get-together where fellow rose lovers can become acquainted with one another. The actual auction occurs on Day Three (Sunday), but Day Two is

filled with a series of lectures by well-known rosarians, growers and breeders from across the country. The talks are in the form of PowerPoint presentations that cover the approximately 300 varieties of roses being offered. All the roses to be auctioned can be seen at www.ccrsauction.com. Due to many requests, the society has begun allowing Internet bids and ships plants to winning bidders. CCRS even offers to hold plants until spring for gardeners in colder parts of the country.



'Fulgurante'

The efforts of CCRS have helped to encourage the leadership of the American Rose Society to the point that "preservation" is being added as a purpose to its Mission Statement. Now the preservation of historic roses can be a common goal that unites members of the ARS and the Heritage Rose Foundation. An objective partnership can support struggles of American rose growers and gardens in a "Save the Roses!" effort. And the cooperation needs to extend

internationally as many of the world's most famous rose gardens are also experiencing their share of hurdles.

Gardens such as Italy's Roseto Botanico Gianfranco e Carla Fineschi, the Europa-Rosarium in Germany and Japan's Keisei Rose Garden have a tenuous hold on some of the planet's most endangered rose cultivars. I have been in recent conversation with the curator of the Budateteny Rose Garden in Hungary and his concerns apply to the problems that many of the gardens are encountering. The director states, "... as the collection of our garden is quite good, but the vigor of the plants is poor (due to the hot summers and severe winters), disseminating these varieties is very important." This garden not only is home to rare varieties from many countries, but was also recently able to preserve many of the 800 cultivars produced by the famous Hungarian breeder, Gergely Márk. Very few of Márk's wonderful creations ever made it into the US so their efforts are especially important. The only variety I can recall seeing was 'St. Elisabeth of Hungary', which came to America through the efforts of Cliff Orent.

Actually, it was mainly through the efforts of rosarians like Cliff and Gregg Lowery that many once-threatened roses now happily live in American rose gardens. But rose preservation is a venture that can quickly sap the energy of one person or even a small group of people. In comparison, if "it takes a village" to raise a child, it takes a whole country to protect our national floral emblem. I suppose, as one breeder told me, an argument could be made that "some roses deserve to go extinct." But in my mind, that's the same as proposing to destroy a painting, simply because it does not represent the artist's best efforts.

As one of many confirmed "rosaholics," my first break in addiction began with the realization that I really could not collect one of every rose in the world. Yet, maybe it's possible to know enough people who would be able to combine efforts and accomplish the same goal. Every rose grower has a class, color or other aspect of roses of which they are especially enamored. If groups could be found that were willing to specialize in collections and create a database for them, this may be as productive as dreaming of an idyllic hundred acre rose sanctuary.



'Celine' (Laffay)

The Save the Roses! Group currently has someone interested in preserving mid-century Hybrid Teas and Floribundas. Another member's garden houses every striped rose made available. There are some gardens devoted to the great breeders like Ralph Moore, Pedro Dot, Seizo Suzuki and the McGredys. Roses could be protected by color or form. Many of us know people involved in only miniature roses or infatuated with Hybrid Perpetuals, Teas, Chinas or Ramblers. Cliff and I are currently in the process of writing a book devoted to Polyantha roses. This might

help with the resurging interest in growing this once unappreciated class.

There is no doubt that we grow roses because they bring us pleasure. Preservation of varieties should do the same or gardeners won't be compelled to try. On a small scale CCRS members have begun the process. Last July was hopefully the first of what will become an annual budding seminar. Burling Leong of Burlington Roses conducted a hands-on seminar in which over sixty roses were budded onto 'Pink Cloud', 'Dr. Huey' and 'Fortuniana' rootstocks. Since many older roses do not thrive on their own roots this practice will be especially useful in future propagation and conservation.



'Frau Helene Videnz'

The concept of saving roses is nothing new to most members of the Heritage Roses Group and the HRF. They have led the way in rustling and plucking roses from precarious situations for years. But we need as much assistance as possible. The endeavor to rescue is never-ending and only becomes more urgent as the country's landscapes become overrun with "Iceberg" ('Korbin') and Knock Out® ('Radrazz') roses. Hopefully, even more rosarians will ponder the enduring beauty of what is passed down to us in a rose, through both the largesse of nature and the protective hands of gardeners,

who for centuries have embraced and extended the life of this beguiling flower.

Editor's Note: The HRF is a Gold-level supporter of helpmefind.com We encourage our membership to consider supporting them as well.

**'Arnold' – From Acclaim
to Obscurity**
Ben Whitacre

"He was so modest. It wasn't until decades later I was to learn what an important part he himself had played in raising these plants." – Betty Blossom Johnston, from a profile she published in *Horticulture* magazine in 1957 about her grandfather, the rose hybridizer Jackson Thornton Dawson. *Horticulture* had eulogized Dawson as the 'Walt Whitman of horticulture' in 1916.

Case for a D-Lister

The most celebrated roses do at least one of two things: innovate or illuminate. So, 'Peace', the ultimate A-lister, reset the course of Hybrid Teas and told a poignant tale of survival and hope during World War II. 'Knock Out', 'La France', 'Champneys' Pink Cluster' and a handful of others get a seat at the VIP table.

If those are the celebrities of the genus *Rosa*, then the little-known 'Arnold' is a D-lister. Yet 'Arnold' has a lot in common with 'Peace' and its peers: It may have been the first major Hybrid Rugosa; it is a namesake of Harvard's Arnold Arboretum, once the site of a rose program as ambitious as the Roseraie de L'Haÿ; and its origin story features what may have been America's first botanical garden (at Harvard College in 1672), and the American Civil War.



Herbarium specimen of 'Arnold'

If that weren't enough, 'Arnold' appears to have lived a double life in Europe under the name 'America'. As the flagship cultivar of Harvard's new breed of American roses, 'Arnold' arrived in England in 1892 on the 400th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of the New World. Nurseryman George Paul gave it a new name to match the occasion (Darlington 1915).

In counterpoint to its story, 'Arnold' is simple. Like 'Champneys' Pink Cluster', or Knock Out®, it has a modest number of petals arranged simply – though in 2002 its brilliant shades of crimson and green inspired *the Journal of the American Medical Association* to rhapsodize about it as a stand-in for the mythical Christmas Rose (Leet 2002).

Still, 'Arnold' is a no-name rose, despite a soap-opera-worthy narrative.

The Rise and Fall of Harvard's Rose Empire

In 1851, historian Francis Parkman, Jr. was ill. Blinding migraines, shot knees, crippling depression. His wife offered a suggestion: "with all your getting get roses." Parkman's rose garden helped him recover (Whitehill 1973) and he became one of America's leading experts on the genus, publishing *The Book of Roses* between installments of his seven-volume *France and England in North America*.

A decade later, the militaristic writer had to sit out the Civil War. But he got a consolation prize: several crates of Asian flora – the first shipment of plants to New England from Japan, including species never before seen in the West (Spongberg 1993). The stash had been intended for another horticulturist who joined the Union Army. Parkman began hybridizing his windfall, selling his *Lilium parkmanii* to an English collector for \$1,000.

Soon Parkman found a disciple – a propagator so gifted that his peers had to borrow from music, poetry, and the dark arts to describe him (Allen 1891). Jackson Thornton Dawson began working for Parkman in 1871 at Harvard, recalling forty years later how Parkman introduced him to newly discovered and disregarded Asian roses (Archives 1911). Sometime before the mid 1880s (Falconer 1888), Dawson bred tens of thousands (Blossom 1957) of hybrids of *Rosa rugosa*. Only two, a pink and a crimson, had commercial merit. But he hoped their care-free nature would revolutionize rose gardening. The fully-double pink rose was stolen. The other would become 'Arnold' (Dawson 1902).

Dawson would adore his 'Arnold' until the end of his life, writing just a few years before his death that "when the sun shines on the Arnold rose the eyes are

quite dazzled" (Dawson 1911). He particularly valued its rich fragrance, perpetual bloom, and vigor. C. S. Sargent, the director of the Arnold Arboretum also admired 'Arnold', rating it as "perhaps the showiest rose in the shrub collection" (Sargent 1919).

After a long period of circulation among collectors, Dawson's Hybrid Rugosa won recognition from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society in 1892 (Society 1892). Perhaps encouraged by the award, Sargent sent Dawson's rose to Europe (Darlington 1915), where *Rosa rugosa* and a set of its recent hybrids had begun selling. An English nursery christened it 'America' and introduced it. 'America' quickly earned a reputation as one of the best roses of its era in Europe (Soci  t   1912).

For a moment, it looked like the same success would occur back home. In 1893, the Massachusetts Horticultural Society awarded Dawson's rose its highest honor for hybridization (Mass. 1893) and Sargent made it the namesake of the arboretum (Rehder 1922). As much as 22 years after being hybridized, 'Arnold' finally entered commerce in the US, the same year Parkman died.

By that time, Dawson had also already won awards for the first Hybrid Wichuranas and arguably the first Hybrid Multifloras bred from the species type (Whitacre 2015). Dawson became such an authority that Liberty Hyde Bailey invited him to write about his rose program for *the Cyclopedia of American Horticulture*. In the same vein, Dawson's colleagues at the Arnold Arboretum seized the highest superlatives for rose taxonomy (Rowley 1959) and the discovery of new species, while Sargent promised immortality (for at least a thousand years) to anyone who would fund a rose garden with every rose in existence in it.



Postcard of 'Arnold'

Then more than a century of bad luck began. 'Arnold' bombed in the US, where it would take another decade for *Rosa rugosa* to be appreciated by gardeners. Dawson took it off the market, writing that "[his] hopes were dashed" (Dawson 1902). He reintroduced it in 1914 when it may have been as much as 43 years old. Unfortunately, 'Arnold' managed to be both too early and too late to the Hybrid Rugosa party. High praise for Dawson's rose quickly faded as the Hybrid Teas set the next trend. After Dawson's death, the Arnold Arboretum's own taxonomist, Alfred Rehder, published a Latin botanical description of 'Arnold' citing its date of origin as circa 1914 (Rehder 1922), following an error that had been spread by the *American Rose Annual*.

A generation later, even the existence of a rose breeding program at Harvard came into question. One of the Arnold Arboretum's own directors asserted that there had never been a rose breeding program there. Instead, 'Arnold' was simply a chance seedling

that turned up one day in the living collections (Leet 2002).

Trouble Trebled

The combination of three errors ensured that 'Arnold's would wait a hundred years before being considered for A-list status: false dates of hybridization and introduction; seeming lack of communication between George Paul and Sargent about 'Arnold' and 'America'; and the denial or downplaying of a rose breeding program that had been one of the most significant of any era. In evaluating the information available about 'Arnold', I use the simple standards "more likely than not," "possibly," and "unlikely."

False Dates

Rosarians usually start the clock for Hybrid Rugosas with the French rose 'Mme. Georges Bruant', released in the winter 1887/88 catalog season. While most members of the class live on for garden value rather than order of introduction, 'Mme. Georges Bruant' proves the value of precedence. Yet, in January 1888, when Thomas Meehen's *The American Garden* announced the introduction of France's first significant rugosa hybrid, it also mentioned another member of the new class, in circulation for long enough to generate a reputation as the best of its kind...an unnamed crimson variety raised by Dawson (Falconer 1888). Assuming Dawson's account of his roses is correct, then this is probably 'Arnold'.

To give an idea of the trajectory of Dawson's roses from seedling to nursery catalog, Ellen Willmott named Dawson's *Rosa x jacksonii* after seeing it growing at Kew in 1897, three years before its commercial release. Dawson's own favorite creation, 'Sargent', entered circulation in 1903 and the market in

1912. The little-known 'Farquhar' may have been a parent of the similar 'Dorothy Perkins' despite being sold for the first time two years after it (Whitacre 2015).

Based on such circumstantial evidence and documents, 'Arnold' may be put forward as a candidate for first major rugosa hybrid, vying with 'Mme. Georges Bruant'.

Poor Communication

By the same logic that 'Arnold' and the unnamed seedling from *The American Garden* are the same, 'Arnold' is probably also synonymous with 'America', one of the stars of turn-of-the-century gardens in Europe. 'America' had wide nursery distribution, featured in gardens such as the Roseraie de L'Haÿ, and is crowned in the French book *The Most Beautiful Roses of the Early 20th Century*, where its origin at "Harvard University"[sic] is noted. When the British Royal National Rose Society published a retrospective on Hybrid Rugosas in its first annual in 1915, it recorded "Prof. Sargent of the Hartford Botanic Gardens" as the source and 1892 as the shipment date of 'America'. A reprint of the article indicated that "Hartford" was Harvard and that Sargent had in fact sent 'America' from the Arnold Arboretum rather than the Botanic Garden.

Every historical description of 'America' matches that of 'Arnold', raising the question of what rose Sargent sent in 1892, if not 'Arnold'. Dawson was the only person creating rose hybrids at Harvard and he emphasized that he only produced one rugosa shrub of value. The fact that 'America' arrived in Europe the same year that 'Arnold' won its first award supports the narrative that Sargent was showing off his rose program's first award-winner.

Another argument for synonymy requires seeing clues in the absence of them. Notably missing from European records – the name 'Arnold'. George Paul, his brother William Paul, Jules Gravereaux, and others in Europe had an obsession with Hybrid Rugosas. They bred them, sold them, and tried to collect them all. That none of them ever listed their close associate Sargent's most prized rose suggests that they didn't need to. They had it under the name 'America'.

But Sargent's silence prevents certainty – to put it in context, he also never corrected the *American Rose Annual* or his taxonomist Rehder when they wrote that 'Arnold' was created shortly before 1914...a far more crucial error.



'Arnold'

Legacy on the Down-Low

'Arnold' is just one piece of a monumental rose legacy at Harvard that weaves its way through major events in world history – the American Civil War, the American Revolution, the French Revolution all the way back to

Harvard's 1672 botanical garden, which itself was in part a result of the English Civil War. Correctly remembered, this association might add romance and luster to 'Arnold'. So it might be hard at first to understand how one of the Arnold Arboretum's own directors, Richard Howard, helped diminish it.

Horticulture magazine offers a window into Howard's thought process. According to a 1908 article by Rehder, every hybrid raised at the arboretum *was* a chance seedling, just as Howard said. There was just one exception: the roses (Rehder 1908). Unfortunately, Howard's slip is just a stand-in for a larger wave of forgetfulness. The Arnold Arboretum moved on to other projects and so did rose growers.

'Arnold' as Caveat

Whether 'Arnold' deserves to be placed beside 'Mme. Georges Bruant' as the first major example of a Hybrid Rugosa or whether it actually captured the fascination of European gardeners as 'America', it merits more attention than it has gotten in the hundred years since Dawson rereleased it. A quick glance at the rose literature of the past thirty years shows that the experts who still mention 'Arnold' often continue to repeat the false 1914 introduction date, fail to list Dawson as the first known American to produce Hybrid Rugosas, and ignore that it was the flagship rose of a program that set the stage for of rose breeding with cold-hardy Asian species like *Rosa rugosa* and *R. wichurana*. [Roses of America is the general exception; for examples of my point see *Rosa rugosa* from 1991 or *The Old Rose Adventurer* from 1999.]

If nothing else, the 'Arnold' story ought to serve as a case study for old rose collectors eager to flesh out the background of their own favorite roses. In other words, if a rose created at one of

the worlds' foremost botanical institutions – one known for its record-keeping – could get so confused, expect it in other roses. 'Arnold' is a best-case scenario.

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A Plea for Your Help

Malcolm Manners

Some of the last known plants of 'Arnold' in the USA were at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and at Vintage Gardens Nursery. Sadly, it no longer exists at either of those places. But it is possible that some of our members may still have and grow it. If you grow 'Arnold' or know someone who does, we would be very interested in getting it back into general cultivation. Florida Southern College would be happy to propagate it and make it available to the nursery community. So if you have a lead on

where it might be re-acquired in the US or Canada, please contact Malcolm Manners (malcolmmanners@me.com) about it! And if you know of specimens of the plant grown in Europe as "America," (the one thought to be 'Arnold' – there are several "America" roses out there) that would be of interest as well, although it would require the rigmarole of importation and Federal quarantine, if it's not already in the US.

Update on Hurricane Irma and Ruth's Rose Garden

Malcolm M. Manners

Many of you have visited Ruth's Rose Garden, on the campus of Florida Southern College, in Lakeland. The garden houses nearly 300 roses, most of them heritage varieties. On the night of September 10/11, Lakeland received a direct strike of Hurricane Irma, as either a strong Category I or a minimal Category II storm. In any case, we had sustained winds of at least 85 mph and gusts of well over 100 mph, lasting several hours. The eye passed directly over the FSC campus. We also received over 7 inches of rain in those few hours.

I'm happy to report that as far as we can tell, we will not lose a single rose! Many are blown over, mostly defoliated, and/or have broken limbs, but those things can all be repaired and outgrown. The beautiful climbing structures, designed by HRF President Stephen Scanniello and then upgraded to meet central Florida hurricane-resistance code by a local architect, appear to be completely undamaged, and the roses on them show very little damage. The same is true in our smaller Jane Elizabeth Jenkins Rose garden – no dead roses, and only slight damage to the wooden gazebo there. The greenhouses lost a

couple roof panels, and the mist propagation bed lost part of a wall, but those are also repairable, and no plants were lost. So we are very thankful and happy indeed!

Meet Your Trustees

The Heritage Rose Foundation, as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit foundation, is managed by a board of trustees, who are always listed at the end of our newsletters. It has been suggested that members might like to know more about those folks and their involvement with heritage roses. So with this newsletter, we'll start that process.

PETER HOLMES
Bermuda

Peter and his wife, Felicity, moved back to Bermuda in 1976. They bought their home, "Barngrove" on Tee Street in 1979. Peter is a registered quantity surveyor by profession now retired.

He has been passionate about gardening since he was a young boy and has always had a green thumb; growing many plants, vegetables and flowers over the years. His passion for roses started when he began developing gardens at his home. He now has 250 roses in the ground consisting of 130 varieties. Peter joined The Bermuda Rose Society in 2007 and shortly afterwards was asked to join the Executive Committee. He currently serves as Past President. In 2013, he was responsible for inviting the ARS to run a judging course in Bermuda with 30 plus attendants. It was a great success. Peter is an International Rose Judge for the World Federation of Rose Societies, judging in USA, New Zealand & France and for The Bermuda Rose Society.



Peter Holmes

He enjoys entering roses for competition and has won many awards at The Bermuda Rose Society, Garden Club of Bermuda and at the annual Agricultural Exhibition. For five years in a row he won the Mary Jean Mitchell trophy for the adult exhibitor accumulating the highest points in roses at this show. He has attended WFRS conferences in South Africa, New Zealand and Lyon, France.

MAUREEN REED DETWEILER
New Orleans, Louisiana

Maureen is a native and lifelong resident of New Orleans. She lives uptown with her husband, William Detweiler, and many, many old garden roses. They have been married over 50 years and have four children and six grandchildren.

She was one of the three founders of the New Orleans Old Garden Rose Society in 1993. She is a trustee of the Board of Directors of the Heritage Rose Foundation, currently serves as the Board's Corresponding Secretary, and has been a member of the Foundation since 1987. She has published articles on old roses in *The Rose*, *Preservation in Print*, *La Rose d'Orleans*, *New Orleans Plants and Gardens*, *The Yellow Rose*, and has served as the editor of *The Old Garden Rose and Shrub Journal* of the American Rose Society.



Maureen Detweiler

Maureen was the first woman ever elected to the Board of Trustees of the Institute of Politics of Loyola University in 1992, and the first woman to serve as its president from 2001 to 2008. She has been active in politics throughout her life and has served as campaign manager in several campaigns.

She was a charter member of the Culinary History Consortium of Tulane University's Newcomb College, and is

the founder of "Save Our French Bread." She was one of the five founders of the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival, and currently serves as a member of its board of directors.

Maureen was employed as the Special Events Coordinator for the Mayor's Office of the City of New Orleans for 12 years, as Deputy Director of the City's Sanitation Department for two years, and as Conservator for the New Orleans Notarial Archives for seven years. She retired in 2004.

She has served as president of St. Mary's Dominican High School Alumnae, and as president of Pro Christo Laborantes Medical Missionaries. She has served as a member of the boards of directors of the Preservation Resource Center, Friends of Audubon Zoo, De La Salle High School P.T.A., Mercy Academy P.T.A., the Mayor's Mardi Gras Coordinating Committee, the Mayor's French Quarter Task Force, and as a founding board member of the French Quarter Festival.

PEGGY MARTIN
Gonzales, Louisiana

Peggy has been a member and President (many times) as well as Vice President of the New Orleans Old Garden Rose Society, over the past twenty years. She serves as chairman of the Old Rose and Shrubs Committee for the American Rose Society Gulf District, for the past twelve years. She has served as the Heritage Rose Foundation's Vice President of Membership since 2007, and as our Treasurer since 2010.



Peggy Martin

She has traveled from California to New York and all the Southern States many times, as well as to Bermuda, to speak on Old Garden Roses and the Peggy Martin Rose.

For forty-four years, Peggy has gardened organically, having 450 Old Garden Roses in the lost garden before Hurricane Katrina, and now somewhere in the 350s in her new garden in Gonzales, Louisiana.

WAYNE MYERS
St. Augustine, Florida

Wayne has been a heritage rose enthusiast since the '90s when he discovered that most modern roses need regular spray with fungicides to survive in his north Florida climate. After several years of active membership, Wayne joined the HRF Board of Trustees in 2015. He has also been active in the Jacksonville Rose Society since 1990. He has written their newsletter's rose-care column since 2009.



Wayne Myers

Wayne has twice retired from aviation careers, first with the US Air Force, then with a small private company. Now his rose hobby has evolved into a third service career.

He is an early adapter and disciple of “sustainable” rose growing and played a key role in the restoration of 2 sustainable gardens in Jacksonville that feature heritage roses: the Cummer Gardens and a neighborhood park in San Marco.

In 2001 Wayne planted and since then has maintained a no-spray rose garden of mostly heritage roses at Orange Park [FL] United Methodist Church.

He has published rose articles in local, district, and national rose publications, having now won three Awards of Merit from the American Rose Society (ARS) and authored 15 pages in the 2016 “American Rose Annual.”

He attended the 2012 World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS) Convention in South Africa and visited the best rose gardens in Central Italy in May 2015. In May 2016 he attended the WFRS Regional Convention – Asia and the 14th Heritage Rose Conference in Beijing. He has attended the last three Great Rosarians of the World – East

conferences in New York City and several Heritage Rose Foundation conferences. In July 2017 he presented a scientific poster at the Twelfth International Society of Horticultural Sciences International Rose Research Symposium in Angers, France.

Wayne has served as an ARS Consulting Rosarian (CR) since 2002, became a Master Rosarian in 2012. Currently he serves as the Chairman of CRs for the Deep South District of the ARS (managing 100+ CRs in FL, GA, and AL). He has been an ARS Life Member since 1995.

He is Chairman of Judges and Gardens for the American Garden Rose Selections™, a rose-trial program that identifies regionally-excellent, sustainable roses.

For 23 years in Orange Park, FL, Wayne grew over 200 rose varieties in his half-acre yard. His collection evolved from popular modern varieties to Old Garden Roses, species, and other sustainable roses. Currently in the third year of growing roses without fungicide in St Augustine, Florida, Wayne enjoys caring for an eclectic collection of over 80 rose varieties.

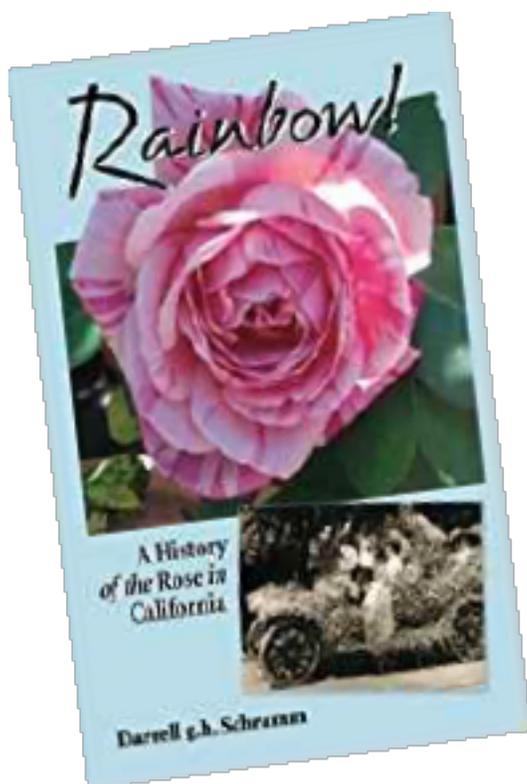
Two New Rose Books

Judy Eitzen

These days, we tend to gain much of our information via the web, but there is something special about cozying up with an informative and interesting book. We are fortunate that two recent releases are from two who have spent time in support of the Sacramento Historic Rose Garden, Tom Liggett and Darrel g.h. Schramm.

One thing that has caught the imagination of Historic Rose Garden volunteers is the history behind our collection of found roses and Darrell

puts that history at our fingertips. From the early days of European visitors to California through the 1920s nurserymen, *Rainbow* is a fascinating read.



Learn of California's real 'Rose of Castile', of which much has been speculated in story (e.g., Steinbeck's *Tortilla Flat*) and song (an opera in three acts by Michael William Balfe). From the discovery of species roses to roses planted on early homesteads, Darrell includes stories of the men and women who discovered, grew and shared roses in the early days of the state. The book includes appendices with lists of lost roses, early nurserymen, and a thorough bibliography for those who wish to research further.

Tom Liggett's book, *How to Prune, Train and Tie Rose Plants*, focuses on some very specific rose growing techniques. Tom believes that to understand how to prune roses, one must first understand how roses grow. He delves into the

specific needs of various types of roses from minis to climbers, modern roses to old garden roses.

This is a great guide to starting a new garden or tidying up one that has become overgrown; Tom's expert advice covers it all.



There is little technical jargon to confuse the new gardener, and enough detail for the experienced one. Each chapter is introduced with Tom's poetry and reads as if one is listening to Tom talk. A very enjoyable read with lots of pertinent information.

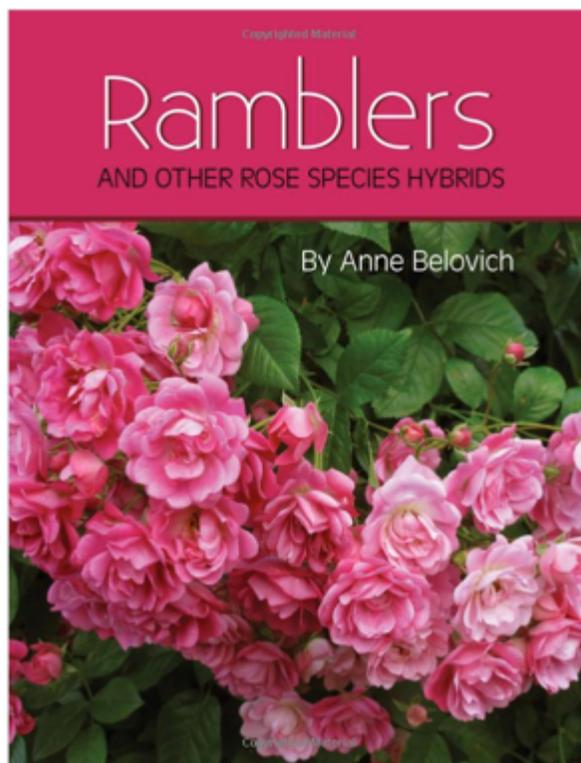
Both books include excellent glossaries of rose terms and are available from Amazon.

And Another Recent Rose Book

Anita Clevenger

Anne Belovich wrote a comprehensive, illustrated guide to over 300 of her beloved ramblers in *Ramblers and Other Species Hybrids*. Her significant collection of these roses is a result of "obsessive searching out of new varieties of ramblers," and has given her the opportunity to photograph and study these roses first-hand. This soft-

covered reference book compiles much of what she knows about this often-unappreciated but stunningly beautiful group of roses, many of which are rare and in threat of extinction.



Upcoming Events

The membership of California Coastal Rose Society extends a warm welcome to you! The 2017 CCRS 17th Annual Rare and Unusual Rose Plant Auction will take place on Friday evening October 20th, Saturday October 21st and Sunday October 22nd in Oceanside, CA 92056 at the 'QLN Conference Center' (located at 1938 Avenida del Oro). Check the website for hotel info

www.ccrsauction.com

- Friday - evening meet and greet social
- Saturday - lecture series and open silent auction bidding

Sunday - finish silent auction and live auction bidding

Sacramento Historic Rose Garden Fall Events.

Sacramento Historic Rose Garden

On November 18 at 10am, rose garden curator Anita Clevenger will lead a tour, "Fall Color in the Rose Garden," showing late blossoms and fall foliage and colorful hips. There are many species and other once-blooming roses in the collection, and the hips vary from tiny little red berries to black spheres to huge pear-like yellow fruit.



Rosa roxburgii hip

The Historic Rose Garden has 500 rare and historic roses, mostly collected from historic sites throughout California's Mother Lode and planted on gravesites from California's pioneer days. It is located in the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery at 1000 Broadway, Sacramento, 95818. All tours and classes are free, but donations are gratefully accepted for cemetery and garden upkeep. Parking is available on city streets. Refer questions to Anita Clevenger, anitac5159@gmail.com.



In the Sacramento Historic Rose Garden.

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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