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*The illustration above is of 'Rosa Mundi'
by James Sagmiller. This artwork was used on
the front cover of the first issue of Rosa Mundi,
the journal of the HRF, in Autumn, 2005.*



"Green Mount Red" on the grave of George Folliott Harison.

From Our President

STEPHEN SCANNIELLO

Early in the nineteenth century, Americans enthusiastically adopted an Old-World custom of planting roses on the graves of their loved ones. And so I have spent many a day searching for roses in cemeteries throughout the Northeast and elsewhere. In the late Twentieth Century, my first pilgrimage to the Trinity Church Cemetery and Mausoleum at Broadway and 155th Street in Harlem, New York City, was in the hope of finding a bounty of roses there. Sadly, the cemetery I found that chilly Autumn day was without a single rose. Not so today.

A number of years later on a research trip to the Detroit Public Library, I came across a document listing every grave in the expansive and historic cemetery. Included are the names of many notable gardeners and nurserymen who grew roses in their long-lost Harlem rose gardens. I returned to New York with the list of the graves in hand, determined to find those connected to roses.

Most difficult to locate was Daniel Boll, whose nursery was known as the "Frenchman's Place" (located in what is now Times Square). He sold exclusively roses christened in

France. The famed rose nurseryman and hybridizer produced many French-named hybrids while living in the countryside of Manhattan. Still with us today is 'Mme. Boll' who first appeared on the scene in 1859.

George Folliott Harison, an amateur gardener, discovered an unusual yellow colored rose growing on his Manhattan property. Harison liked the rose but loved his camellias even more. Harison took the day-long trip to Flushing, NY to trade his yellow rose for a camellia. The new owner of the yellow rose, nurseryman William Prince named it 'Harison's Yellow'—it would become perhaps the most popular rose of the century.

John Maunsell Bradhurst, another amateur gardener, grew French Bourbon roses in his parterre garden overlooking the Hudson River.

Richard F. Carman, also an amateur, grew the ancient 'Autumn Damask,' introduced before 1819 and 'Rose du Roi,' introduced 1815.

I met with the previous director at Trinity and she welcomed the Heritage Rose Foundation's invitation to include her cemetery in a proposed Heritage Rose District of New York City, which was being co-sponsored by the office of then-Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer.

As angry storms threatened overhead, the Heritage Rose District came to life during the first Saturday of October 2009 when a scrappy group of gardeners of all ages came to break ground. This would mark the inauguration of the Heritage Rose District and sites at Trinity Church Cemetery and Mausoleum were the first on the list to be planted.

Initially the Heritage Rose District sites together contained over 300 varieties of heritage roses, including found roses as well as celebrated antiques. Members of the Heritage Rose Foundation, led by the indefatigable Betty Vickers of Desoto, Texas, worked alongside neighborhood gardeners planting Heritage roses in everyday public spaces throughout Manhattan's West Harlem and southern Washington Heights. A group of student volunteers from Dr. Malcolm Manners' horticulture program at Florida Southern College also joined the effort, bringing 300+ roses, freshly rooted from cuttings in Lakeland, Florida. Many of the roses found their way into the cemetery's rocky and rolling landscape.

Fourteen years later, these cemetery roses are beautiful in the hands of the staff at this remarkable site. With the assistance of cemetery director Daniel Levatino, the landscape is now in bloom with beautiful roses May through November. A sample of them are shown in these photos.

Many varieties are the very same as grown in estates and gardens of Harlem during the early 19th century. Nearly all these estates are now long gone; only two, Hamilton's Grange and the Morris-Jumel mansion remain. But the roses that once proliferated in Old Harlem have found a safe harbor under the care of Trinity Church Cemetery and Mausoleum. We are working on plans for this spring to re-discover Manhattan's rose history and add more roses to Harlem. Stay tuned for more details. Hope you can join us! 🌹





Photo by Judy Etizen.

'Fortuniana' bloom from the former Sacramento Historic Rose Garden.

'Fortuniana'— A Remarkable Rose

MALCOLM M. MANNERS, PH.D.

Numerous articles have been written about the rose 'Fortuniana' over many years, each containing some information about this interesting variety, but none of them seeming to put together all of the useful information about it. So here is an attempt to amalgamate the relevant information into a single article.

I've written the article with citations to make it more valuable as a reference. But for those not interested in researching the background literature, I hope it will be interesting in its own right, and the reader can simply skip over the citations, as desired.

ORIGIN, DISCOVERY AND INTRODUCTION

"Dr. Robert Fortune having found fortuniana growing in a Mandarin's garden in Ningpo during his second (1848–51) of three visits to China sent it to the Royal Horticultural

Society's gardens at Chiswick, England." (Morrell, 1983). It apparently did not thrive in England's climate, and it was not until it moved to warmer climes that it really proved its worth.

The rose has a long history in Australia. According to Billy West (personal communication), the first reference to it there was by John J. Rule in his 1857 catalogue, as 'Fortunii', but he said it was a "fine yellow" rose, so probably was referring to 'Fortune's Double Yellow'. The earliest reference Billy has found to what is surely our 'Fortuniana' is 1862, in the catalogue of Adelaide nurseryman F. C. Davis, who lists both 'Fortune's Yellow' and 'Fortuniana', which is described as pure white. It was on the list of plants under cultivation at the Adelaide Botanic Garden in 1871 and offered by nurseries from the 1870s onward.



Flower and buds on 'Fortuniana'. Notice the unusual leaves (3 large leaflets and the two rear leaflets much smaller), and the mix of thicker, thornless stems and thinner, well-armed stems.

While there seems to be no firm evidence of the exact date that the rose reached the U.S., we do know that the Glen Saint Mary Nursery, near Jacksonville Florida, listed it in their 1919 catalog, saying "...after much experimentation, we listed sixteen varieties on Double Evergreen Cherokee ('Fortuniana') all grafted at \$1.00 each" (four times their normal price for a rose) (Morrell, 1983). Professor Harold Hume stated in 1921 that he had done much experimentation with 'Fortuniana', indicating that he must have had access to it for at least a few years before that time (Hume, 1921).

GENETICS AND NOMENCLATURE

This plant has been given a multitude of names, including *Rosa fortuniana*, *Rosa fortuneana*, *Rosa × fortuniana* (indicating that it is a natural hybrid, rather than a pure species), *Rosa × fortuneana*, 'Fortuniana', 'Fortuneana', Double Cherokee, etc. It was given a Latin

species description as *Rosa Fortuniana*, in Paxton's *The Flower Garden* in 1851 (Schramm, 2020). There has been much debate about whether it actually was a species or, more likely, a hybrid of *R. banksiae* and *R. laevigata*. In 2001, it was determined, by analysis of nuclear as well as chloroplast DNA (which is inherited only from the female parent) that it is, indeed, a hybrid of *R. laevigata* (the female parent) and *R. banksiae* (the male parent) (Matsumoto et al. 2001). Schramm (2020) pointed out "Though some Western rose specialists believe it to be a hybrid of *R. banksiae*, it is, according to Chinese experts, much older than the several *Banksiae* forms. In fact, 'Fortuneana' is not one specific rose variety but a small class of roses found in China, a class known as Tu Mi (or Tumi). According to Dr. Guoliang Wang, Chinese rose authority and botanist, 'A distinctive Tu Mi flower culture of the Song Dynasty was born a thousand years ago' when these roses spread from southwest to northeast China.



An early illustration of 'Fortuniana' from the journal *Flore des serres et des jardins de l'Europe*, 1852.

Indeed, a large Chinese scroll painting 1000 years old clearly depicts a large 'Fortuneana' in front of a temple, both still to be viewed to this day. Therefore, whatever date we Westerners attach to this rose—1845 or 1850—the date 1000 is probably more accurate."

While it may well be that there is an entire group of these hybrid roses in China, all evidence seems to point to the thing we in the rest of the world refer to as 'Fortuniana' being a single clone, all likely derived from Fortune's original exportation. Since the cross does not come true to type, each seedling being somewhat different (Robert Basye, personal communication), it is reasonable to consider it to be a simple cultivar, rather than a hybrid species. In that case, the use of the capitalized word, surrounded by single quotes, is appropriate. As for spelling, I'll quote (Dickerson, 1999) "It was named *Rosa x fortuniana* by Lindley in 1850 but two years later C. H. Le Make in his

horticultural reference work titled 'Le Jardin Fleuriste' spelt it fortuneana.

"Disparity between the two spellings has reigned ever since. *Modern Roses II* (1940) to *Modern Roses V* (1958) used *fortuneana* but *Modern Roses VI* (1965) corrected it back to the Latin *fortuniana*."

But then "Mr. J. R. Sealy, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens [Kew], England, in writing to Dr. S. Mc Fadden in Florida on 25 February 1963 states:

"With reference to your letter of 28 January, the proper spelling of the epithet for Fortune's rose is fortuniana. Fortune is a Latin word, and if used for a man's name in the normal form would be Fortunius. This must surely have been in Lindley's mind when he used the adjectival form fortuniana for the rose. He was thinking of Fortunius as the Latin name for Fortune and formed the adjective in the normal way, fortunianus - a- um. Le Maire's deliberate change to fortuneana cannot therefore be interpreted as the correction of an orthographic error; it simply reveals Le Maire's lack of scholarship in Latin. You will notice that the form fortuniana is used in Willmott's Genus Rosa, and in Index Londinensis. The botanical work in the former was by J. B. Baker, and the latter was edited by Dr. O. Stopf, both of whom were good Latinists" (Morris, 1997).

Kelsey and Dayton (1942) agree that, since it is a genitive adjective, it should end in "iana," not "eana."

So, in conclusion, the current "correct" name for the rose is 'Fortuniana', capitalized, with an "i" in the middle, and surrounded by single quotes. As is true of any hybrid rose cultivar, one could be pedantic and call it *Rosa x 'Fortuniana'*, but there's really no need. 'Fortuniana' is also the official registered name, as well as the American Rose Society's Exhibition name.

THE PLANT IN ITS OWN RIGHT

Left to grow on its own, 'Fortuniana' can grow to be quite a large shrub or moderately vigorous climber. It is not so "climby" as either of its parents, but will go to the top of a fairly large tree, given the opportunity and enough time. Vigorous basal canes produced in the spring are nearly thornless (yes, I know that technically roses have prickles, not thorns, but I don't think "prickle-less" is a word, so I'll



Typical stems and foliage, showing coppery new growth.



The 3 leaf types of 'Fortuniana'.

go with “thornless”), and these are quite useful as cuttings for use as rootstocks for grafting. Later summer growth tends to be thinner, more wiry, and is often quite viciously armed. The plant flowers for a rather brief season in the early spring, with 1.5-inch, fragrant white flowers in small clusters. It resembles a somewhat heftier version of the double white Lady Banks rose. The leaves have narrow, shiny leaflets, usually 3 per leaf near the base of a cane, several with five leaflets toward the middle of the cane (the two rear leaflets smaller than the top three), and often a leaf or two in between with four leaflets—one of the back small ones is missing. then out toward the tip of the cane, it reverts to mostly 3-leaflet leaves. This nearly unique leaf conformation makes the plant easy to recognize (e.g., as a rootstock sucker). The plant is quite resistant to black spot and powdery mildew, and seems to be fairly resistant to bacterial crown gall (observation—I have no reference or data for this).

USE AS AN UNDERSTOCK FOR OTHER ROSES

Of course the great claim to fame of 'Fortuniana' is its usefulness as a rootstock for grafted plants. (Note that throughout this article, the words “budded” and “grafted”

can, for all practical purposes be used interchangeably. A grafted rose is any rose in which a scion has been attached to a root system. A “budded” rose is one in which that grafting process used a single bud eye as the scion—it is still “grafted.”) It was reported in 1885 that it was being used and recommended as a stock in France, specifically under ‘Maréchal Niel’ and ‘Gloire de Dijon’ (Dickerson, 1999). Ellen Willmott, in *The Genus Rosa* (Willmott, 1914) wrote, “On the Riviera it is largely employed as the best stock on which to graft other varieties, having proved extremely potent in transmitting its remarkable vigour to the scion.”

Ralph Morris (1997) recounted the history of its use in Australia, quoting an article by Charles A. Newman (Newman, 1984):

“I have previously mentioned the name of Mr C. L. W. Newman who was the first person in the world to initiate a commercial rose industry based on fortuniana rootstock. Mr Newman senior’s contribution to the development of the rose industry in Western Australia can best be described by his son the late Mr C. A. Newman a foundation member of

the Western Australian Rose Society when in 1984 he wrote:

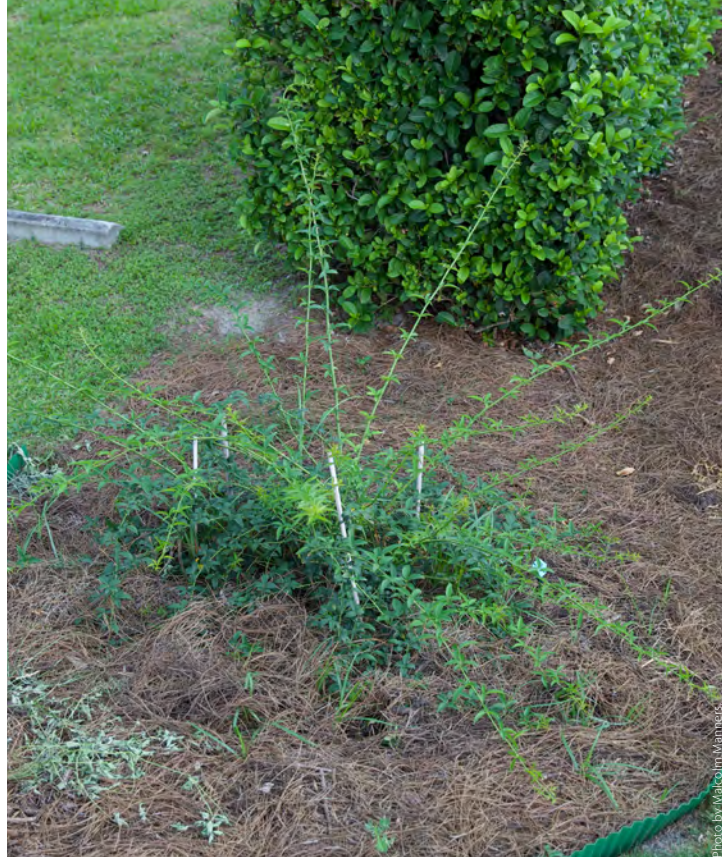
“Much of the stock at Rivervale came by ship to Fremantle from Houghton (South Australia) and included a number of roses which could have been budded on either of the rootstocks of Rosa canina or Rosa boursault. However along with many other stocks used in New South Wales which gave satisfactory results in heavy or loamy soils, they failed in the sandy soils in many of the suburbs of Perth. Our long hot summers also took their toll.

“A parcel of budding wood arrived in the late summer at Rivervale and all the rose stocks had been used. It was suggested that they be budded on R. fortuniana, a vigorous white climbing rose considered one of the best in its class in those days of the early 1900s. The results were surprisingly good and in the year 1903 it was adopted as the main rose stock, although the previous stocks were still used owing to lack of sufficient supplies of R. fortuniana.

[Morris then writes] *“At this point I would like to clarify part of the above paragraph as told by Mr C. A. Newman to Mrs Jean Waghorn some years ago when they were fellow council members of the Western Australian Rose Society. When the budwood mentioned above arrived in late summer (about 1900) Mr Newman senior, at the suggestion of his foreman, decided to bud the surplus buds onto bushes of fortuniana which formed a hedge at the nursery. The buds grew so well that the experience remained in Mr Newman’s memory. In 1903 fortuniana began to be used as a rootstock and over a number of years gradually replaced the original rootstocks.*

“Mr C. A. Newman continues his father’s story as follows:

“He never faltered in his love of roses and in particular, his faith in the Fortuniana stock, which by now he had proven without any doubt. Many were his opponents, mainly because R. fortuniana does not strike roots readily and they had failed to overcome this disadvantage. In the late 1920s our rose catalogue carried a Foreword as follows. ‘Fortuniana was first



A young plant (less than one year) of ‘Fortuniana’, showing its habit of sending up masses of long, straight, virtually thornless canes after flowering in the spring. These make the best rootstock cuttings.

used for budding roses on in this State in 1903 by C. L. W. Newman, founder of the firm. Many were the difficulties encountered in those pioneering days of rose growing in sandy soils. Several different stocks were tried with varying results, but by comparison it was found that those budded on Fortuniana made more vigorous growth; grew equally as well in sandy soil, or clay; and produced 50 to 100 percent more blooms and better. Our exclusive adoption and rigid adherence to this stock in the face of all criticism has been one of the greatest contributions made to rose growing in Western Australia. Hundreds of satisfied clients who have had success with our roses on this stock, prove conclusively that there is no equal to Fortuniana stock for this State.”

As mentioned previously, it was being used in the United States as a rootstock by the Glen Saint Mary Nursery, in Florida, by 1919 (Morell, 1983). Beginning in the 1950s, it was popularized in Florida by the O. F. Nelson and Sons Nursery, in Apopka (<https://nelsonsfloridaroses.com/history/our-rootstock/>).



A mature 'Fortuniana' plant, perhaps 10' wide by 7' tall, in flower in March (Lakeland, Florida). It never goes quite leafless here, but does lose many of its leaves as it prepares to flower in the spring.

Ms. Katie Lampkin, of Sarasota, was a great advocate of the use of 'Fortuniana' as a rootstock, and I recall her telling me, in the 1980s, that she still had plants of 'The Fairy' grafted to it, from the 1950s. With her encouragement, Dr. Sam McFadden, at the University of Florida, researched the use of 'Fortuniana', discovering and publishing how best to root cuttings of it (McFadden, 1956b), its performance compared to other commonly used stocks (McFadden, 1956a), the effects of nematodes on it (McFadden and Kerr, 1958; McFadden and DiEdwardo, 1961), how to produce standard (tree) roses on it (McFadden, 1959), the performance of Hybrid Tea roses on it, as compared with other rootstocks (McFadden, 1962), and successful methods of grafting roses on it (McFadden, 1963 and 1969). These papers were all published in the proceedings of the Florida State Horticultural Society and were greatly responsible for the increase in popularity of its use in Florida and throughout the South.

McFadden's research provided good data supporting the superiority of 'Fortuniana' as an understock, showing that the variety 'Happiness' produced twice the number of flowers, on longer stems, when grafted to it, as opposed to

other rootstocks (McFadden, 1956b). He later trialed two scion varieties ('Happiness' and 'Spartan') on four stocks (McFadden, 1962). I'll quote his results:

Comparison of 'Happiness' and 'Spartan' Rose Plants With 5 Root Systems; Each Yield Item Is Number of Salable Flowers Cut from Two Plants.

Plant material top/root combination	Fall 1961: Yield of salable flowers (10 week sample); age: 5 years	Fall 1962: Description of growth condition; age: 6 years
'Happiness'/R. fortuniana	105	Satisfactory
'Happiness'/'Mme. Plantier'	87	Satisfactory
'Happiness'/'Dr. Huey'	81	Satisfactory
'Happiness' w/own root	52	Fair
'Happiness'/own root	10	Poor, nearly dead
'Spartan'/R. fortuniana	446	Excellent
'Spartan'/'Mme. Plantier'	273	Very Good
'Spartan'/'Dr. Huey'	127	Satisfactory
'Spartan'/'E. E. Marlitt'	97	Satisfactory
'Spartan'/own root	83	Satisfactory

NEMATODES

It is often said that 'Fortuniana' is superior as a rootstock in Florida because of its resistance to nematodes. Certainly, plants budded on Fortuniana seem to maintain a healthy root system in nematode-infested soils, but scientific data about resistance to specific nematodes is lacking. Still, I think anecdotal evidence suggests that it's true.

OUR EXPERIENCE AT FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE

At Florida Southern College, we have always grown a majority of our roses on 'Fortuniana' roots. There are a few that we don't—some of the Chinas we know have done well in central Florida for many years, on their own roots—'Louis Philippe', 'Cramoisi Supérieur', 'Napoléon', 'Old Blush', 'Ducher', and a few others, including 'Smith's Parish' and 'Pink Pet' (a.k.a. "Caldwell Pink"). Also, some of the David Austin roses ('Heritage' and 'Graham Thomas', for examples) make fantastically large shrubs that seldom flower, if grafted to 'Fortuniana'. So we grow them either own-root or on 'Dr. Huey'. Some roses are perfectly healthy and long-lived on their own roots, but when grafted to 'Fortuniana', they produce a larger bush with more flowers. The photo of 'Faith Whittlesey' shows that effect. That photo shows six plants (three across and two deep). The pair on the left is own-root, and the four to the right are



'Faith Whittlesey'

grafted to 'Fortuniana'. The plants were several years old at the time of the photo, and had been pruned to a uniform height the previous spring. While the own-root plants appear healthy and are flowering, the grafted plants are much larger, with far more flower buds.

Propagating roses on 'Fortuniana' is somewhat problematic. As mentioned by many of the old papers listed here, it has always been a challenge to root it from cuttings. McFadden's work "solved" that problem in that we now know that with the use of intermittent mist, it can be rooted at nearly 100% success. Of course, that does not solve the problem for nurseries that may need tens or hundreds of thousands of them; the need for mist dramatically increases the cost of producing such a rooted cutting, in increased labor and the capital cost of the misting facility.

Also, whereas most roses are produced by shield budding (T-budding) throughout the world, 'Fortuniana' is difficult to bud by that method. When you try to lift the bark flaps to insert the scion, they just tend to shred into a splintery mess. Therefore, chip budding and cleft grafting (pioneered by McFadden's work) have proven to work much better. Using these methods, we can approach 100%

success, but because these methods are slower and more labor-intensive than T-budding, they also drive up the cost of producing a plant.

For more information on how we produce our plants and then how we deal with them in the garden, here are some videos that may be of interest: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8MppihS1DHUzszMgRXmLIiFDt79PfhIne>.

DISADVANTAGES

There is an old saying among citrus growers that you choose your rootstock based on how you want your trees to die, since every citrus rootstock seems to have some potentially fatal flaw. While I would not go quite that far when discussing rose rootstocks, it's true that none of them is perfect. And a rose grafted to 'Fortuniana', excellent as it is in many ways, does have some disadvantages.

- It is not very cold hardy, so in colder areas, it may not survive the winter. Of course one could plant more deeply, putting the union underground, but that would ultimately encourage the scion variety to make its own roots, and the benefits of the rootstock may be lost.

- Not only will it not survive extremely cold winter weather, it is difficult to propagate in consistently chilly weather. Kim Rupert, who gardens in a cool area on the California coast, says that while an established, grafted plant on 'Fortuniana' grows successfully, he has had great trouble rooting cuttings of it, and that grafted buds fail to ever push out new growth. Also a stock plant of 'Fortuniana' in his climate will flower constantly but never get around to making the long canes needed for good cutting material. Apparently, it much prefers warm- to hot-weather.
- It is physically weak throughout its life, and so it is important to tie the plant to a sturdy stake and maintain that staked condition indefinitely. The plant will never be able to support itself vertically, especially in wind.
- It is prone to making suckers from the above-ground trunk. Fortunately, it does not tend to sucker below ground, so does not spread in the garden as do some roses, and when it does throw a sucker from the trunk, its growth habit and unusual leaves make it obvious. (One of the disadvantages of 'Dr. Huey' is that when it makes a sucker, it is often not noticed, since the leaves may closely resemble those of the scion variety.)
- 'Fortuniana' is finicky about rooting from cuttings and it is also difficult to T-bud. Therefore, plants grafted to it are necessarily more expensive than those budded to other stocks, because they are more difficult and costly for the nursery to produce.

CONCLUSIONS

After more than 100 years of use as a rootstock, with much research along the way, I think it can be stated rather confidently that 'Fortuniana' has dramatically improved the ability to grow healthy, long-lived roses, especially in warm climates with sandy soils. And even on better-quality soils, it often gives plants greater vigor and productivity than they might have on a different root system. Here at Florida Southern College, it has enabled us to grow Hybrid Perpetuals, Damasks, Bourbons, and various other types of heritage roses, that we otherwise would not have been able to grow successfully. And so, I think it's worth considering, as long as its known disadvantages don't outweigh the potential advantages in your garden situation. 🌹



Mature 'Fortuniana' at the former Sacramento Historic Rose Garden.

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Chip budding a rose. The bud eye and small shield of bark between the person's thumbs is the "scion," cut from the desired variety. It is being surgically inserted into the stem of the rootstock plant. They will heal together, and eventually the rootstock stem will be cut off, just above that scion bud. Then the entire new bush will grow out from that bud, with the foreign root system under it.

Photo by Malcolm Manners

Budding Versus Own-root Roses

MALCOLM M. MANNERS, PH.D.

Rose growers often discuss (sometimes passionately debate) the relative merits of grafted vs. own-root roses. I have always found the topic to be somewhat odd, in that it often omits any discussion of which rootstock, or which cultivar is involved. With own-root roses, it is important to remember that each variety has its own unique root system. If you grow 50 different own-root roses, they are on 50 different root systems. To assume all of them will behave in the same way is not reasonable (nor do casual observations in the garden support the idea). Too, a grafted rose on one rootstock may behave dramatically differently from one on a different rootstock. So in the same sense, "grafted" is not really a thing.

Certainly, some generalizations can be made—with own-root plants, you don't have to worry about rootstock suckers. And in a disaster such as an extreme winter freeze or a fire, if the plant is killed to the ground, and it comes back from the underground part, you'll still have the original variety, rather than a rootstock sprout. On the other hand, own-root Gallicas and Rugosas will often try to take over your garden from their suckering—a problem solved by use of a rootstock with the union above ground. The potential benefit of a grafted rose, then, is that you get to choose the root system that goes under your plant.

In some climates or soils, that decision may dramatically affect the growth and productivity of the rose, particularly if the variety is known to have a weak root system of its own, or if it is known not to thrive in a certain soil type.

The other interesting thing about the argument is that it appears to be nearly unique to U.S. rose growers. For hundreds (sometimes thousands) of years, people have grown both own-root and grafted plants of apples, pears, peaches, plums, cherries, almonds, walnuts, pecans, persimmons, avocados, mangos, olives, grapes, camellias, peonies, junipers, and a plethora of other plants, without it ever occurring to someone to argue against the practice; they simply realize that in some cases, with some plants, there is a justifiable advantage to putting a plant on a different root system. And even among rose growers, I've not met many outside the U.S. who consider the argument important. But with U.S. rosarians, it often becomes a topic to be approached with an almost religious fervor.

I wish we could get over such arguments in either direction. It really comes down to finding the best way to grow a particular rose variety so that it performs in the way you expect. In some cases, that may be own-root; in others, it may be grafted to an appropriately selected root system. 🌹



Novaspina Nursery.

Photo by Novaspina Nursery.

Davide Dalla Libera: Inspired by the Legacy of Heritage Roses

SABRINA MOSNATA

"Every rose needs charm, elegance and personality. Following these threads, each new variety we breed gets to have an unmistakable beauty of its own"

—Davide Dalla Libera

In the April 2023 Heritage Rose Foundation newsletter, I wrote about the 'Trail of Roses' (La Via delle Rose), a path 'in a neighborhood near Genoa, Italy where different classes of roses, grown in private plots along the main road of Trasta, show visitors some of the many shapes,



'Mortali Satis Pianta'

Photos by Novaspina Nursery.

scents and colors the genus *Rosa* can have. 'La Via delle Rose' connects Trasta to Murta and its ancient cemetery full of blooms which is the final, triumphant stop of the trail.

One of the collections I'm particularly fond of is a small garden with five plants* that I obtained from Davide Dalla Libera. These roses really create a link between our beloved heritage roses and modern times. The panel** that introduces it briefly summarises the main features of Dalla Libera's work: love of tradition, research, innovation and cooperation—ingredients that aim at creating strong, healthy and beautiful modern roses with the unique charm of historic ones. If you read the catalogue of Davide's nursery, Novaspina, you'll find brand new roses belonging to the lineage of early 20th or 19th century (or even older) classes: Gallicas, Noisettes, Polyanthas, Multifloras and Hybrid Musks, just to mention a few. All of these groups are widely displayed in our project. When I started dreaming about the 'Trail of Roses,' I imagined it as an outdoor rose museum where visitors could learn about the main classes of roses, but also about the men and women who created them. As Davide Dalla Libera is a contemporary Italian breeder who also supports the work of a few other like-minded producers, I thought I had to find a place for him, also to show modern Polyanthas or Hybrid Musks close to their ancestors. I recently talked to Davide about his work, and I'd like to share his thoughts with you. Following are his remarks:

"I was born and raised in a stimulating countryside environment and I attended the Agricultural College in Padua, Italy. There I was able to explore and study all the different features of horticulture. My passion for roses exploded when I was about 14. That summer, I started to intern at La Campanella, one of the best heritage rose nurseries at the time, not only in Italy. This experience continued for about ten years and greatly enriched my botanical and technical skills. In the meantime, I also started breeding roses. In 2009, when I was 24 years old, I was awarded the gold medal for the most beautiful Italian variety at the



International Rose Trial in Monza, Italy. This marked a milestone for my life and a turning point in my career.

"In 2011, I opened my nursery Novaspina with the goal of producing and introducing on the market new varieties of flowers. The nursery actually specializes not only in roses but also in irises. Each new plant is officially registered by Novaspina; however, as I actively collaborate with other hybridizers, they are also labelled with the name of the breeder. I like cooperating with colleagues who share my ideals and my philosophy. One of them is Rolando Zandri, a master to whom I will always be grateful and



with whom I have an exclusive collaboration. His first roses were introduced in the 1970s, and some of them still deserve to be cultivated for their beauty and hardiness. Moreover, in the past couple of years I have been receiving roses from the Indian hybridizer Viraraghavan. They are definitely the best evolution of China and tea roses, a still under-explored genetic heritage, in my opinion. Viru's roses were created in a tropical climate and I am sure that his work is a great contribution to the roses of the future, especially for their resistance to climate challenges.

"The main goal of my nursery is to preserve the biodiversity of roses, which is why in the catalogue you can find varieties obtained from different species and classes. There are new hybrids derived from old heritage roses, but also from modern ones aimed specifically at a more commercial audience.

"In my opinion, the world of roses is already saturated with very valid but rather similar varieties, so I prefer to propose something truly different, chosen not only for the shape of the flowers, but also for the decorative value of the plant as a whole and for a specific space in the garden. From this perspective, the shapes, scents and





"Augusta Palatina".

decorative features of roses that come from the past cannot be ignored as they continue to provide us with solutions of great refinement and elegance. This means studying and working with different genetic lines ranging from historical once-flowering varieties to the most recent ones. Roses of all classes are thus selected, and although our company is not large, every year we obtain very good results even in international competitions.

"The parameters of choice in the creation of a rose can be different, but, in my opinion, if we want to produce plants that may really furnish and decorate our gardens, we should orient our work toward testing the performance of the plant and its reliability in the most different situations



'Aureliana.

over the seasons and share ideas with other breeders or nurserymen before deciding which roses to introduce. At the moment, I am working on the selection of a new range of colors.

"Although progress has certainly improved rose breeding, the process is still very similar to what our colleagues did in the 1800s.

"A breeder's work is composed of many different tasks: research and selection cover almost half of our working hours, and then there is the time devoted to cultivation and propagation, equally very important, but often with no real profit. Those who decide to do this work are mainly motivated by a passionate creative instinct that goes beyond the economic part and the hope of fame, even though financial outcome is very important to run a company.



'Rosalba Carrieria.

"It literally takes years to select and introduce new varieties. I have found that the success of a rose is always very much related to the strength of marketing campaigns and to the horticultural culture of different countries.

"If I had to suggest a rose from my collection I'd definitely choose 'Peace in You', one of the best-selling varieties for group plantings."

Novaspina's website is <http://www.novaspina.com/en/>. Presently, none of his roses are commercially available in the United States. 🌹

* Roses from the Davide Dalla Libera Collection along 'La Via delle Rose' include 'Villa Fidelia', 'Aureliana', 'Rosalba Carrieria', 'Peace in You' and 'Sorriso di Pace' by Cazzaniga.

** Davide Dalla Libera, owner of Novaspina Nursery (Padua, Italy), produces roses that can adapt to challenging climates and be highly resistant to diseases. In his program, he starts from both heritage and modern roses. The names he chooses for his creations are very poetic as they refer to historic landmarks or to famous Italian artists.



A sampling of San Jose Heritage Rose Garden's found roses, clockwise from top left: "Leutzinger," Phalaenopsis," "Legacy of Edith Hawkins," "Row of Wooden Markers," "Legacy of Martha Lequerhic."

Found Roses in the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden

ANITA CLEVENGER

In 1988, San Jose Mayor McEnery proposed transforming a weed-infested area that had been cleared for airport expansion into a city park. Lorrie Freeman, the "Mother of Guadalupe Gardens," asked Tom Liggett to develop a proposal for a rose garden. From the initial concept of a half-acre rose garden, the plan grew to dedicating a full city block to "the Sangerhausen of the West," with the largest public rose garden in the Americas. With the support of the South Bay Heritage Roses Group, Liggett's proposal was approved by the San Jose City Council in 1992. Budwood was imported from Europe and collected widely, and Tom and others embarked on a major effort to bud and grow garden-ready roses. The initial planting was 1995.

This effort was at a time when the movement to find and preserve old roses from pioneer cemeteries, homes and waysides was at its peak. Heritage Roses Groups thrived in the United States, Australia, and New Zealand. San Marino, CA's Huntington Gardens had a study

bed filled with found roses. Nurseries such as "Vintage Gardens," "Roses of Yesterday and Today," and "Lowe's Old Garden Roses" flourished. The Sacramento Historic Rose Garden began in 1992, with many found roses collected by garden co-founder Fred Boutin and others of the Yolo and Beyond Heritage Roses Group. Thomas Christopher published *In Search of Lost Roses* in 1993, detailing the work of rosarians across the United States, including Boutin, the Texas Rose Rustlers, and many others. Avid rosarians studied found roses, tracing their history and trying to identify them. Animated conversations flourished at conferences, in letters, and on the internet. Because the SJHRG's goal was to preserve the gene bank of roses, it was only natural that it would include as many found roses as possible in addition to known varieties.

Today, the bloom is off the found rose. It's harder to discover unknown roses because most promising sites have already been searched repeatedly, and development, drought and clean-up efforts have taken a toll. Many of the

movement's leading figures have passed away or moved on, and many heritage rose gardens and nurseries are greatly diminished or gone altogether. Fortunately, organizations like the Heritage Rose Foundation and the Heritage Roses Group continue to work to preserve old roses and to educate the public about them. Some new non-profits including the Friends of Vintage Roses and nurseries have been founded. The SJHRG has suffered, victim of the loss of some key leaders, many volunteers, and the pandemic. However, it continues, still supported by the South Bay Heritage Roses Group.

The first curator, Ed Wilkinson, worked with other rose collectors and visited cemeteries and other historic sites to find unknown roses. Found roses are given study names, often of the gravesite where the rose was collected. Rosarians mapped the roses in historic sites in a race against time and people who did not understand or appreciate the roses. Wilkinson said that many cemetery roses were "destroyed by the Preservation Committee."

Wilkinson sought to plant found roses next to each other so that they could be studied and "sorted out." Indeed, many roses that were first planted under study names turned out to be a known cultivar. When that

is determined, the current curator, Jill Perry, changes the SJHRG's database to the cultivar name, but retains the original study name as an alternate name for future reference. The database also lists where and by whom the roses were first obtained. If a study name begins with "Legacy of," it was often collected by Wilkinson.

Roses need to be grown in multiple places to preserve them. Perry and the curators of the Sacramento Historic Rose Garden traded lists of roses, seeking to ensure that both locations were growing as many of the California found roses as possible. Other gardens, nurseries and private collectors were sources of found roses for the SJHRG, and in turn, accepted plants or cuttings so that they could be grown more widely,

The SJHRG currently has 3,000 plants with 2,600 different varieties, including about 300 found roses. Perry continues to collect additional found roses and replaces ones that have been lost, such as "Jost Plot Tea" from the Sacramento cemetery.

Proponents of found roses often talk about how tough the plants had to be to survive a century or more in their historic sites. The San Jose Heritage Rose Garden and its volunteers are tough survivors, too. 🌹



"Jost Plot Tea" shown at the former Sacramento Historic Rose Garden in 2008.

The Many Faces of Rose Rosette Disease: A Virus of Disguises

GAYE HAMMOND

Worldwide, Rose Rosette Disease (RRD) has become the major rose disease of concern. Caused by *Emeravirus rosacea* (formerly the Rose Rosette Virus), the virus invades and travels through a rose plant at the cellular level. Because it lives inside the plant's cells, it is difficult to attack chemically without doing equal damage to the host cells. Eventually, RRD overcomes the rose's natural anti-viral defenses, which some believe, causes the plant's decline and ultimate demise. Presently, there is no cure for the virus.

While RRD has been around for at least 80 years, our understanding of the disease, how roses get it and what to do if we find plants with it has been rapidly expanding in the last 8 years. Likewise, the best practices or "what to do" if we find it are constantly evolving. For this reason, what you heard two years ago, may have changed and become outdated.

Know the normal growth habit of your roses. Symptoms of RRD-infected plants differ between cultivars. Common RRD symptoms include:

- Witches broom (see photo)
- Strapped leaves (long skinny)
- Flattened stems
- Increased or excessive thorniness
- Rubbery stems and thorns

Not all roses infected with RRD demonstrate all symptoms and no two roses with RRD will have identical symptoms.

Symptoms of witches broom, excessive thorniness and rubbery stems/thorns are only found with RRD. Dr. Mark Windham (University of Tennessee at Knoxville) suggests that if two or more symptoms are present, the rose is likely infected with RRD. If in doubt, compare the normal growth to abnormal growth on the same bush and/or have the suspect plant material tested at a reputable plant pathology laboratory.

When symptoms of RRD occur depends on the rose cultivar: its age, size, and the general health of the plant. Symptoms appear to accelerate as the weather gets

hotter. Plants in stress are reported to be more prone to contract RRD and more prone to demonstrate symptoms. For example, between November 2022 and March 2023 I received an average of 10 RRD reports per month. As I write this in July, I've received 129 reports of RRD—and still have 3 days of the month to go.

At the meeting of the National Clean Plant Network-Rose (2022) researchers announced two main reasons why roses get RRD:

- Transmission by a wingless eriophyid mite that moves from sick to healthy roses by walking or being blown by wind (or leaf blowers).
- Transmission by propagation, budding, grafting and/or movement of infected stock.



Sample of witches broom growth.

- All other means of transmission have been discounted.
- Since the primary cause of disease transmission involves the mite, eliminating the mite makes sense.

On infected plants, Dr. Windham suggests that there can be 40 times more mites among witches broom growth than on asymptomatic foliage. Thus, pruning off rosettes or witches broom growths until the plant can be completely removed makes sound epidemiological sense. When faced with possible RRD infections, I have found it to be a good idea to disinfect pruning shears and equipment before working on a healthy plant.

There are effective chemical controls for the mite available to commercial applicators as well as homeowners. The University of Tennessee and University of Delaware have led the country in research on the RRV-carrying mite for many years and report that for commercial applicators, miticides containing the active ingredients fenpyroximate (Akari), spiromesifen (Forbid),

spirotetramat (Kontos) and bifenthrin (Talstar) have successfully stopped RRV in research plots for 5 years. For homeowners, products containing the active ingredients Bifen I/T or Bifenthrin are likewise effective in controlling the disease-carrying mites. In research plots, the use of miticides began three weeks after pruning and continued through the growing season. Work continues to determine proper spray intervals and if spray intervals are the same for all miticides.

Just because a rose has unusual-looking growth does not necessarily mean that the rose has RRD. Lots of things can cause weirdness with damage from herbicides and chilli thrips at the top of the list. However, this year I've looked at photos from around the country of plants with chlorosis, spider mite damage, normal new growth and plants that have received excessive fertilization. In these cases, the homeowners seemed convinced that their plants had RRD—when in fact, the plant was either not sick at all, or had something that was able to be corrected.

This is where knowing the growth habit of your plants becomes important. For example, if a bush has thorns spaced two inches apart on a normal stem, and then the same plant has a cane that has 50 thorns crammed in a two-inch space—additional investigation and possible testing of the plant should be considered.



Strapped leaves.



Rubbery stems and thorns.

During the 2022 growing season, I looked at a large number of photos containing stems of normal red new growth submitted by gardeners convinced their bush had RRD. “Red” does not mean a plant has RRD. New growth in roses tends to be red, maroon or bronze that changes to green as the plant tissue hardens off. The red color comes from a water-soluble pigment that helps protect young stems and leaves from damage by the sun’s UV rays. Once the protection is no longer needed, the red color fades and is replaced by the normal green color in the leaves and canes. For roses infected with RRD, the red may not change to green. I have even seen witches broom growths that were not red, but a neon pink and even lime green.

In July 2022, research teams from Texas A&M University, the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Entomology & Plant Pathology announced that they had identified two locations within rose genetics where resistance to RRD resides. This is a huge development!

As part of the work on resistance, roses which have indicated some resistance to RRD have been planted in research plots in Oklahoma with one of the goals from this field study to confirm the level of resistance previously identified.



RRD-symptomatic tissue in this rose was neon pink.

Research on RRD continues to evolve as funding becomes available for all aspects of research on the disease and its vector. For this reason, older publications may not have the most accurate data for management of the virus. Additional information is available through the Rose Rosette Network, www.RoseRosette.org and the Combatting Rose Rosette Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/CombatingRoseRosette>.

Currently, best practices recommend eradication of bushes infected with RRD. 🚫

GAYE HAMMOND is a Master Rosarian.
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EDITOR’S NOTE: *The mites move very readily on clothing, gloves and plants. Don’t forget that bringing home a cutting or plant from grandma’s house could start an epidemic in a whole new area. Plants can be diseased without symptoms; mites can hide in crevices or buds.*



Excessive thorniness.



Pam in the garden.



Climbing 'Mlle Cecile Brunner'



Ellison weeding.

America's Rose Garden Update

PAM SMITH

I never cease to be amazed to see a plot of soil transform into a garden. While we always want maturity instantly, the journey wouldn't be the same as both the gardener and the garden are nurtured along the way. The Fourth Circle of Heritage Roses in America's Rose Garden at the American Rose Center (ARC) in Shreveport, LA is flourishing and coming into its own.

Many thanks to Dr. Malcolm Manners for propagating plants for the garden. These twenty plants helped to fill in some blanks left by the freeze of 2022. The trusty red wagon helped to transport the plants to their final home. Timely rains and nurturing by the ARC staff have given them a great stronghold.

My granddaughter Ellison joined me on one visit and was a tremendous help in weeding the beds. Fellow board member Sharrie Ely was also there to help. We left a clean garden with an accurate inventory of all the roses. You will also notice that the *Salvia farinacea* 'Henry Duelberg' has taken off and will provide lots of bloom throughout the growing season. The Salvia was a gift from Dr. Allen Owings.

As with most public gardens, many different people and groups are involved. The HRF membership is certainly one of these groups. It was wonderful to see so many HRF members at the convention in May. I hope that if you have not yet had the chance to visit the ARC, your travels will take you there. 🌹



Photos by Carolyn Hayward

One of Carolyn's favorites is 'Brittania', a 1929 polyantha that has been blooming repeatedly despite the triple digit heat and a lack of rain this year.

Meet Your Trustees

CAROLYN HAYWARD



Thank you so much for inviting me to become a board member of the Heritage Rose Foundation. My first Heritage Foundation Convention and my favorite was the one in El Cerrito, CA. I was impressed with the big size factor in the gardens; lots of large roses, especially

ramblers. I had never seen a rose growing to the top of a tall tree.

I started growing roses when I was 9 in Dover, NH. After Keith and I got married, we moved twice due to his job: from Maine to Minnesota in 1983 and then to Texas in 1994. While living in Minnesota, grafted roses had to be buried and covered with 1–2 feet of straw for the winter, so I began growing Old Garden Roses and Canadian Hardy

Roses. Before we moved to Texas, I contacted Claude Graves about rose societies in Texas. First, I joined the Dallas Rose Society, and then the Dallas Area Historical Rose Society.

Degree-wise I have a BA from the University of New Hampshire in Vertebrate Zoology. Why? I wanted to be an Ornithologist. From age 13 until we moved to Minnesota, I was a bird life lister. My second degree is a Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Arlington, Texas. This degree focuses on landscape design, but I specialize in plants and plant design as I have spent most of my life studying different types of environments.

I'm an organic gardener. Keith and I encourage wildlife into our yard. We are pleased with the number of birds and lizards that visit and live in our yard. My favorite rose groups are polyanthas and hybrid musks. I know these are shrubs, but I have a small yard—thus, my roses are carefully chosen. I am excited to share my gardening and rose experiences. 🌹

Carolyn Sanders—Rose Hero Unsung

GREGG LOWREY



Carolyn Sanders.

Photo by Martina LaBelle

We lovingly referred to her as Col. Sanders. A former probation officer, Carolyn Sanders always went by the book. She expected no less from the rest of us who care about preserving roses—we should dedicate ourselves to the mission, as though it were the most important thing we could do with our lives.

On the day thirty years ago that I opened my first retail nursery, Carolyn was there, catalogue and notebook in hand, a smiling inquisitor looking for just the right rose. It had to be right. Her small city garden near San Francisco Bay was a study—a gardener's garden filled with favorite plants, each well chosen, each complementing the next. Her tiny paradise gave room to countless roses over many years, the new, the old and especially the mysterious. Like all good gardens it changed with the seasons, and with the years. And, like all good gardeners, Carolyn never stopped thirsting for more knowledge.

She joined the American Rose Society early in her rose years. From the start she was the one who always helped out in her local group, the East Bay Rose Society. In time she came to lead the group and reprise the role of

president. That dedication made a mark on the people she came to know. But something intervened in her seventies that marked a new era of service for Carolyn. She fell in love with old roses.

Carolyn was one of a core group of volunteers that began assisting me in the maintenance of a very big collection of heritage roses. Along with Paula, Jean, Carol, Luanne, Gene, Michael and Pamela Temple, who first proposed to create a 'Friends of Vintage Gardens,' Carolyn was there on day one of 'Dirt Days,' and she never left. Those volunteers came monthly to help stabilize the garden and complete the planting that had been envisioned 20 years earlier.

Carolyn and the other volunteers soon became members of the Heritage Rose Foundation in the years leading up to 2005 when they assisted a huge gathering of old rose lovers in Northern California who mounted a conference in El Cerrito, home of Miriam Wilkins, founder of the Heritage Roses Group. The conference celebrated the re-start of the HRF which was just emerging from a few years of inactivity. It focused on California's rose history. And for the first time it brought together the HRF and the Heritage Roses Group at the Celebration of Old Roses, the springtime magnet for old rose lovers in the Bay Area.

Some who attended will recall that the force behind the scenes was Carolyn Sanders. She took charge of the

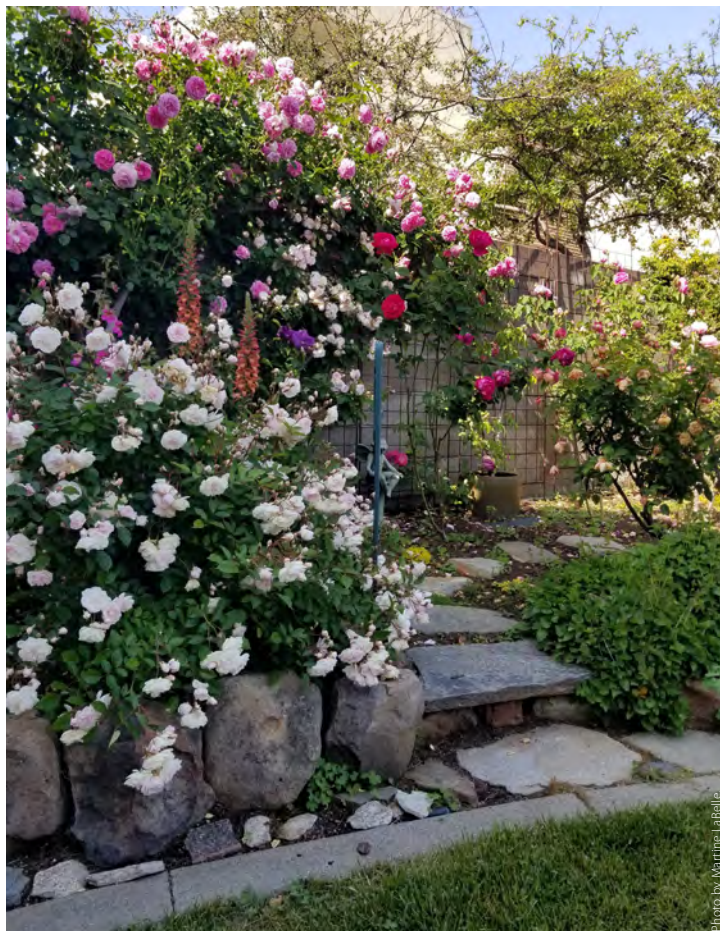


Putting on dustjackets in Lakeland FL in 2013: Pam Smith, Tom and Karen Jefferson, Anita Clevenger, Carolyn Sanders and Paula Larkin.

Photo by Malcolm Manners

venue, hotel accommodations, registration, meals and much more. And thus, on her way to age 80 she took on a new role, the quiet but effective one of doing the detail work for a string of events that raised funds for the Heritage Rose Foundation for the next seven years. They included the 'Madam President' conference which featured three women, Anne Bird of England, Odile Masquelier of France and Marilyn Wellan of the USA, each of whom had led national rose organizations and were lovers of the old roses, 'Lunch with the Louberts' a massive picnic at Garden Valley Ranch in Petaluma to meet and hear from Therese and Raymond Loubert whose historic rose nursery on the Loire River in France remains to this day a world rose treasure trove. And, 'The Roses of Hearst Castle' in 2008 shed light on a remarkable restoration of a rose planting from the 1920's at the famous mansion built by newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst.

At the same time Carolyn served with the editorial team of *Rosa Mundi* as Circulation Manager, a fancy-sounding name for the one who stores all the books and mails them out to members. We're all familiar with



Carolyn's garden.



Carolyn at the HRF table at the 2015 Celebration of Old Roses.

this sturdy do-gooder; they are the gold standard of volunteerism, the sport that makes our world much more beautiful and fun.

In 2012, in her eighties, Carolyn once more took up the banner and joined the first board of directors of the non-profit The Friends of Vintage Roses, the group that had once helped weed my rose collection and were now building a force to preserve that collection for future generations. She served on our board for nearly ten more years, totting up a lifetime total of more than 40 years of volunteer service to the rose. I will measure the rest of my life by the decades that I knew Carolyn and saw her dedication. And for me, she is right—preserving the roses may be the most consequential thing we can do with our lives. Thank you, Carolyn for leading us all! 🌹

EDITOR'S NOTE: Carolyn's role as Circulation Manager also extended to assembling, selling and mailing the rich trove of Sweetbriar Press publications donated to the HRF by Barbara Worl. New HRF members received the Portfolio of Rose Hips, and large donors were sent a copy of Curtis' Beauties of the Rose. These publications, along with reprints of the 1959 catalog from the nursery, Roses of Yesterday and Today were also offered for sale at rose events and conferences, and on-line. Carolyn literally did the heavy lifting to manage this material, and meticulously assembled the portfolios, put dustjackets on the Curtis book, and checked every catalog to make sure that its staples weren't rusty. As every good Colonel would do, she organized others to help, but demanded that the work be done to her exacting standards. Carolyn patiently stood at an HRF table at rose gatherings and conferences, selling the publications and signing up new members. Thank you, Carolyn, for your dedication and rare generosity!

Book Review: *Roses in the Fire of Spring*

ANITA CLEVINGER



Viru and Girija Viraraghavan bring Viru's scientific background, love of gardening and vision for radically new roses together with Girija's humanities education, love of history and gregarious nature. They were first invited to speak outside of India about Viru's work to

hybridize roses that would thrive in warm, even tropical, climates at the 2000 World Federation of Rose Societies' conference in Houston. Since then, the Viraraghavans have traveled the world, attending (and speaking at) many other rose events, visiting rose gardens and rosarians, trekking to remote areas to look for roses to introduce into their breeding lines, accepting awards, and making friends everywhere. They took advantage of the Covid-19 lockdown to write about their roses, travels, and friends. The result, *Roses in the Fire of Spring: Better Roses for a Warming Climate*, is a beautiful, inspiring book.

Even if you rarely leave home, reading about their travels will allow you to imagine circling the globe with them, sharing in their delight. If you've had the opportunity to travel to some of the same events and locations, you can relive your experience through their detailed description of the people and places. In fact, you might even find your own name in the index of this beautiful book.

Rose books are supposed to be beautiful, and this book does not disappoint. The cover portrays Viru's striking rose 'E. K. Janaki Ammal,' named for an Indian botanist and painted by botanical illustrator Hemlata Pradhan. The text is well-organized and there are many photographs. The book's design makes it a pleasure to peruse, with drawings of rose flowers and leaves on the margins of many pages. There is even a yellow ribbon to mark your place.

What does new rose breeding have to do with members of the Heritage Rose Foundation, devoted to the cause of preserving heritage roses? Rose preservation and exploration are key to their work. Viru's breeding program

was founded by observing rose varieties that do well in a warm climate, many of which are old, known European cultivars in China, Noisette and Tea classes such as 'Reve d'Or'. Other roses that thrive in humid heat are widely grown in the tropics but are known only by local common names. Still other promising varieties have been found in isolated locations. Viru has also developed breeding lines using two species that are well-adapted to warmer climates, *R. clinophylla* and *R. gigantea*. The book's last chapter offers intriguing ideas about where promising roses might still be found and what genetics might contribute to warm-climate roses in the future, with the hopes that others will follow in their path (or create new paths altogether).

Viru has introduced over 100 varieties of roses. While the names are trademarked, the roses are not patented. They range from more conventional Hybrid Tea roses to extravagantly beautiful enormous Hybrid Giganteas. In the U.S., Roses Unlimited, Rose Petals, and Angel Gardens offer a selection of Viru's roses, but many are not yet available.

The book also describes the efforts of several early plant explorers and botanists, and how they built the foundation for all garden roses, both heritage and modern.

Interested purchasers can contact Girija via Facebook Messenger or at veerugij9517@gmail.com. Her Facebook page also has many appreciative comments about the book and links to reviews. 🌹



Anita Clevinger, Viru Viraraghavan, Girija Viraraghavan, and Stephen Scanniello at the 2014 HRF Mottisfont Conference.



Save the dates

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Nordic Rose Conference

Kalmar, Sweden, will be the site of the 2024 World Federation of Rose Societies' regional conference from July 2–6. Lectures will focus on sustainability and how our old roses can tell stories for future generations of rose lovers. The keynote speaker, Lars-Åke Gustafsson, will talk about Sweden's National Program for Cultivated Plant Diversity (abbreviated "POM" in Swedish), which has set the standard for rose preservation by documenting and preserving all roses of Swedish origin as part of the Swedish National Gene Bank and conducting DNA analysis of them. There will be tours every afternoon. For those wishing to extend their Scandinavian visit, a pre-conference tour will go to Finland. Post-conference, a tour will visit Norway. Registration opened August 26th. Information is at <https://www.nordicroses2024.com/#sweden-section>. 🌹



The Award of Garden Excellence plaque at the former Sacramento Historic Rose Garden.

Garden of Excellence Award Withdrawn

The City of Sacramento was notified by the World Federation of Rose Societies that the former Historic Rose Garden no longer meets World Federation of Rose Society standards for its Garden of Excellence award. This garden was founded by volunteers in 1992 in the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery. At its peak, it had over 500 roses, mainly collected from historic sites such as cemeteries and mining camps. The garden attracted visitors from around the world, attracted by the unique combination of heritage roses, allowed to grow to their full potential size, and the beautiful pioneer-era cemetery. It received the Garden of Excellence award in 2015.

The WFRS' decision was based on an independent evaluation responding to concerns about changes in cemetery management and priorities, which led to dismissal of the dedicated volunteer force. Many of the rose plants continue to grow in the cemetery, but all labels and supports have been removed and roses are cut back without regard to their class or health.

References to the Sacramento Historic Rose Garden have been removed from the WFRS website, and the city has been asked to remove the Garden of Excellence award plaque. 🌹

Mission Statement

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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