



Heritage
Rose



Foundation

Newsletter — Winter 2004



President's Message

The 2004-2005 year promises to be a productive period for the Heritage Rose Foundation. Following an exhilarating membership/board meeting in Lakeland, Florida where attendees heard presentations from noted educators and an entertaining panel discussion on Bermuda Mystery roses (see inside), we outlined a course of action for the upcoming year. The board added new trustees in Ruth Knopf, Joyce Demits and Douglas Seidel and identified major goals to be accomplished with newly formed committees. Of note, work is being done on improving the website, pursuing a National Heritage Rose Collection, and strengthening our relationship with like-minded organizations. We are already working on a spring 2005 membership meeting/conference to take place in California.

In conclusion, I personally think the Lakeland conference, because of its success, has strengthened the resolve of our board and members. It was well-attended, we made money, we met new friends, and we exchanged many ideas pertinent to the purposes of Heritage Rose Foundation.

Sincerely,

MIKE SHOUP

P.S. Thank you Malcolm and all your friends at Florida Southern College. Thanks to Toni Cartisano and the Central Florida Heritage Rose Society for making all this possible.



Lois Manners, JoAnn Breland, and Ruth Knopf, at the opening reception of the Lakeland Conference

November Conference Revisited

What a delight our annual meeting turned out to be! We had up to 63 in attendance at the various events – an enthusiastic group. The conference started off with a reception/stand-up supper, Thursday evening, November 6, in Florida Southern College's Eleanor Searle Drawing Room – a beautiful formally-furnished room – made all the more beautiful by the decorating efforts of Central Florida Heritage Rose Society members Eleanor Ramage, Carol Hoffman, and Toni Cartisano, who brought arrangements of roses. Eleanor's centerpiece arrangement on the serving table was particularly impressive.

The next morning, CFHRS members joined members of the Bermuda Rose Society and other early birds at 7:00 a.m., to set up a Bermuda-style "specimen bench" of roses – rather like an American rose show, except that the goal is to show the many varieties of roses that we grow, without the competition and judging of a formal rose show. Ann Peck brought roses all the way from Tennessee, and many of the Florida contingent brought roses. Of course, a good number came from FSC's gardens as well. That display was a great center of conversation, with numerous groups of people comparing and discussing the varieties shown. It remained set up all day Friday, and then was moved to Saturday's meeting rooms for decorating the rooms.

Next was a demonstration of shadowbox arrangements, by Liesbeth Cooper, Sheila Gray, and Marijke Peterich, of the Bermuda Rose Society. Those three boxes also then became part of the room decorations for the weekend.

To continue the Bermuda theme, the morning also included a panel discussion of the "Bermuda Mystery Roses," in which members of the BRS explained the history of the varieties, and American panel members (Mike Shoup, Phillip Robinson, Stephen Scanniello, Nancy Kohlman, Belinda Pavageau, Malcolm Manners, and Ruth Knopf) commented on how they grow in our gardens. It may well have been the most thorough discussion of this fascinating group of roses, ever. [ed. note: I had hoped to tape that discussion and print a transcript here, but in the hecticness of the meeting, I did not get a tape recorder for the session.]

After lunch in the college cafeteria, we continued with tours of the Frank Lloyd Wright campus of FSC, led by Louise Eastwood, and of FSC's rose gardens and greenhouses, led by Malcolm Manners. The HRF Board of Trustees met later in the afternoon.

On Saturday, the HRF annual general meeting was first on the agenda, followed by a fascinating report on DNA work done at FSC on rose parentage and identification (see article elsewhere in this letter). Interspersed among the events on Saturday were raffles and auctions of some of the rarest roses we had for the sale. Thanks to Doug Seidel for serving as auctioneer, and to Toni Cartisano for managing the sale of raffle tickets. These events were not only a lot of fun; they also provided a fair method of distribution for the very rare roses, without inciting a riot.

To end the morning, Dr. Art Tucker, of Delaware State University, wowed the crowd with a PowerPoint presentation, with music, of the ancient history of roses in art and literature. As always, Art's teaching style made for an entertaining, as well as educational, experience.

Saturday afternoon, we had workshops on the art and science of propagating roses. In the college greenhouses, Phillip Robinson, Gregg Lowery (both of Vintage Gardens), and Robbi Will (Antique Rose Emporium, San Antonio) explained and demonstrated how they root roses from cuttings. Concurrently, Malcolm Manners (Florida Southern College) explained and demonstrated methods of grafting and budding. At "half-time," we all traded places to hear/see the other demonstration.

Saturday evening, we were treated to a feast by the FSC food service folks – prime rib, vegetable lasagna, and all the "fixins;" even oyster dressing (at Malcolm's request). Again, Dr. Tucker entertained and educated us with a short lecture on scents, and then Bryan Skinner, our most-traveled attendee (from England) read a humorous (yes, I think I spelled that right for an Englishman...) list of things that were different in the "good old days." Then someone remembered that there was to be a total eclipse of the moon that evening, so we went out onto the patio to see it – very well-timed indeed!

On Sunday morning, we had the event many had been waiting for, throughout the conference: the sale of rare roses. The Antique Rose Emporium, Vintage Gardens, and Florida Southern College had donated plants of many varieties of roses not often seen or sold in the USA, and there was a great deal of interest and impatience among the crowd, getting to this event. The sale was a grand success, thanks in great part to members of the CFHRS and the Dallas Area Historical Rose Society, who helped set up and operate the event.

Immediately after the plant sale, many of the group loaded into a bus, for a tour of Central Florida. We started out with a couple rose gardens in Lakeland which feature heritage varieties – first the garden of Larry Burke, an FSC professor of music, who has an excellent collection of the Bermuda Mystery roses, and then on to the garden of George and Lois Manners, which emphasizes Chinas and Teas. Lois and George also provided beverages and homemade cookies (Grandma Ethel Yount's Molasses Cookies, and Betty Ochs' Sugar cookies). From there, we went to Highlands Hammock State Park, near Sebring, for a picnic lunch, followed by a couple trails through a virtually untouched cypress swamp and live-oak forest, to see some unspoiled, natural Florida. Then last stop for the day was Bok Tower Gardens, near Lake Wales, home of the Bok Tower carillon, surrounded by gardens of azaleas, camellias, tropical plants, endangered Florida natives, and yes, one tiny bed of China roses (we need to encourage them to enlarge that part...).

Every Heritage Rose Foundation conference is different from all the others, and all have pleasant, memorable experiences. I think this one will be remembered by all who attended as having been useful, informative, and well-worth attending. If you didn't make it, please do plan to attend the next one!

I, too, would like to thank some people who helped make the conference run smoothly – Toni Cartisano, who worked at various jobs throughout the meeting; David Moore and Troy Ippolito, who worked the registration desk; Terry Andreson, who provided flowers; Eleanor Ramage and Carol Hoffman, who made floral arrangements; Alicia Whidden and Traci Fraser, who helped with the plant sale. Thanks, too, to the Dallas Area Historic Roses Group (Nancy Kohlman and Belinda

Pavageau) for their help in setting up and running the plant sale. I'm sure I'm forgetting somebody, and I apologize for that. We had great workers, and they made the event a success.

Malcolm Manners.



Discussing roses on the Bench.



Shirley Morgan and Sheila Gray, at the reception.

A Heritage Rose Foundation Recommendation

of the

Field Report of Rose Characteristics,

a new publication by

Judy Dean, Lynne Storm, and Bev Vierra.

Report by Gregg Lowery

I am delighted to be able to officially voice the unanimous recommendation by the HRF board of trustees of a new publication by three avid collectors and preservers of found roses from Calaveras County in California — Judy Dean, Lynne Storm and Bev Vierra, who were inspired by their rose collecting mentor, Rusty Roller. This team of old rose lovers has developed a resource book which will assist amateurs and professionals alike in taking a serious approach to recording the old roses they encounter, and helping to preserve them and identify them for generations to come.

The *Field Report of Rose Characteristics* is a guide to observing and cataloguing found roses in the field. It provides a simple one-sheet, multiple-choice guide to the basic physical characteristics of a rose plant; these include growth habit; leaf forms, colors, textures and parts; stem and prickle attributes; flower, petal and fruit forms, colors, and other details. It is the sort of study sheet that a botanist might develop in order to guide her orderly comparison of a number of plants in a wild population of roses. However this study sheet is so carefully and simply devised, and so clearly illustrated by the simple line drawings that compose much of its multiple-choice features, that a rank beginner with no knowledge of botany will be able to utilize it readily.

The Field Report is intended for lightweight carrying and use in the treks that rose hunters find themselves on; across pastures, through cemeteries or down the urban alley. It is a one-page, double-sided sheet that is meant to be photo-copied to be used by the hundreds. It comes with a sixty-page companion, an informative guide on how to understand and utilize the Report, with copious explanation of the botanical terms. We get not only the simple line drawing of a lanceolate leaf, but also a concise explanation of that botanical term as well as how to pronounce it!

Prior to the International Conference on Old Roses in Charleston, I worked with Prof. Malcolm Manners and Phillip Robinson evaluating the collection of Old Noisette roses at Hampton Park. We found ourselves by necessity working up a similar checklist in order to compare the many roses that had been gathered there for study. Had we been able to avail ourselves of this Field Report, I have no doubt that our work would have been far simpler, more detailed and resulted in a more accurate comparison. I am certain that as studies continue, of rose groups like the Banshees and others, this Field Report will find an important role on the shelves of all serious students of the rose.

While this guide stands on its own as a tool that will have many uses, the authors suggest a number of relevant applications, such as the comparison of roses grown under the same name in public and private collections. Often we hear of complaints that what is grown or sold in one place is different from that found elsewhere. Subjecting the variants to this report could quickly point out similar and dissimilar plants, and those reports could be filed by different people at opposite ends of the continent, or across the globe. While those we hold to be knowledgeable are often relied upon to judge whether a rose pictured on the internet is the same as the rose labelled identically in a nearby garden, only a careful comparative analysis could with confidence tell us that the two are different. The *Field Report of Rose Characteristics* now supplies us with this universal approach, and one does not need to be an authority to use it with accurate results. The same observations in this report applied to two roses in different locales will provide enough information to be able to compare the two from afar.

The authors guide us toward an understanding that the interpretation of comparisons can be flawed by the quality of the material we are observing; a plant under great stress may not exhibit all of the characteristics of one grown under good conditions. They urge the reader to gather both botanical specimens for pressing and cuttings for replicating the plant, both to preserve it and to give it a chance to grow under more benign circumstances, before making a final comparative study.

And the sections of the book devoted to pressing specimens and taking cuttings are simple, thorough and very useful.

I feel it is important to say what this book and report do *not* do, since many who collect old roses are hungry for a guide similar to those available to birdwatchers and native plant lovers. The Field Guide does not specifically list and describe rose species or old hybrids, the plants we would be subjecting to the report. It does not provide general characteristics that would help us to categorize the type of rose we may be looking at, be it a native wild rose, an old Gallica or a Hybrid Tea. The purpose of this book is to provide us with a tool for gathering information on the rose we have encountered in order that we can at some point be able to compare those data against data we or someone else may collect on another rose found elsewhere. That may help in the ultimate identification of the rose, and without gathering that information we may never be able to come to a reasonable conclusion about the identity of a rose we have found.

We commend the authors on this very valuable learning tool which we hope will have a significant impact on the study of found and old roses around the world. We recommend it to friends and members of the Heritage Rose Foundation. Copies are available for \$25.00 (+\$1.81 Tax for California residents) plus \$4.50 shipping & handling. To ship outside the US they will quote special shipping costs. It may be ordered from:

Dean, Storm & Vierra
P. O. Box 336
Rail Road Flat, CA 95248



Malcolm carries Eleanor Ramage's arrangement from the reception room to the classroom.



Marijke Peterich and Liesbeth Cooper explain the history of the Bermuda Mystery Roses.

Further Rose Genetics Research at FSC

Previous research by Dr. Nancy Morvillo, molecular geneticist at Florida Southern College, and undergraduate student co-workers, was reported at the Ninth International Heritage Rose Conference, in Charleston South Carolina. (Proceedings of that meeting are still available through the Antique Rose Emporium – \$10.00 plus shipping). In that earlier research, it was determined that all but one of the “finds” of the true musk rose (*R. moschata*) in the U.S., as well as Graham Thomas’s discovery in Britain, were so genetically close as to appear virtually identical, using RAPD-PCR analysis with five primers. These results indicated that all of those roses are so closely related that they likely derived from each other, through minor mutations (sports) for degree of flower doubling. The one exception was the “Bremo Double Musk,” from Monticello, a well-documented and, therefore, historically important rose, which tested quite different and apparently unrelated. But at that meeting, it was suggested that we may have been sent the wrong plant, and so there was doubt about our result. Also at that meeting, it was reported that the rose grown and sold in the USA as ‘Champneys’ Pink Cluster’ appears to be the same rose, at various nurseries, and that it is a direct offspring of *R. moschata* and ‘Old Blush’. While this does not prove that it is the true, original ‘Champneys’ Pink Cluster’, it does support the

concept that it is the real thing. Also, the rose grown by many nurseries as 'Blush Noisette' appears to be the same rose at the various nurseries, and it appears to be an offspring of 'Champneys' Pink Cluster' and some other rose. So again, we cannot prove that the rose currently grown as 'Blush Noisette' is the real, original cultivar of that name, but the results do support that idea.

At the November 2003 HRF meeting in Lakeland, Dr. Morvillo and her two student researchers, Mary Caroniti and Anji Lewis, reported on their summer 2003 research project, further studying genetic relationships in roses. This research was partially funded by a \$3000 grant from the Heritage Rose Foundation. This year's research sought to answer five unrelated questions:

Question 1: What rose is the father of 'Xanadu'?

This problem does not deal with old/heritage roses at all, but was a good "starter" project for the student researchers to refine their techniques in working with roses, before tackling the more important problems, and was of interest to me. It also is a nice demonstration of how the RAPD-PCR method of DNA analysis can be used to determine parentage of a rose. I grew 'Xanadu' from an open-pollinated seed of 'Carefree Beauty'. Because of the level of doubleness and the orangish-pink color, as well as the parent's position in the garden, I suspected that the father may have been 'Fragrant Cloud'. So, 'Xanadu' DNA was compared with that of 'Carefree Beauty', 'Fragrant Cloud', and unrelated rose controls. It was determined that 'Fragrant Cloud' is not likely the father, in that it appears not to have contributed any DNA. On the other hand, 'Xanadu' may well be a self-pollinated seedling, since 'Carefree Beauty' seems to account for all of the DNA bands seen for 'Xanadu'.

Question 2: Is the "Bremo Double Musk" rose closely related to the other musk roses? This question is particularly important, since there is a written history of this particular selection of the musk rose, indicating that it was purchased from Benjamin Prince's nursery in 1815, as the "Musk Cluster Rose." If this rose is closely related to the other musks, than it tends to validate them, as well, as the true musk rose of history. After the report in Charleston that the Bremo rose was not related to the others,

and the suspicion that we may have received the wrong rose, Peggy Cornet, Doug Seidel, and Ruth Knopf made sure we got correct material of the "Bremo Double Musk." Its DNA was compared with that of some of our other musks, and sure enough, they appear to be virtually identical.

Question 3: Are 'Devoniensis' (as sold by west-coast nurseries including Vintage Gardens), "Tradd Street Yellow" (collected in Charleston by Ruth Knopf), and "Katie Bell's Devonianthus" [sic] all the same rose? Again, the importance of this comparison is that the last-mentioned rose has a long history, which would tend to validate the concept that the rose we grow as 'Devoniensis' is the real thing. Here is an excerpt from an article Charles Walker published in the HRF newsletter, years ago:

"Here is its history as [Mrs. Katie Bell] recalls it.

"Devonianthus" was grown in the family of her grandfather, George Washington Middleton, who had built a home near Warsaw in Duplin County, North Carolina, during the period 1851-1855. One of George's sons, Fred George Middleton (1859-1925), went as a young man to Florida to work and brought this rose back with him. Mrs. Bell said that he went to Florida only once and that this was before he married. Thus, the date that this rose came into the Middleton family can be established as prior to 1884, the year Fred married Sally Mosely Thompson.

"The long canes of "Devonianthus" filled a trellis on the right hand side of the Middleton house for many years until the house burned, in 1933. Luckily, the rose survived the fire, and Mrs. Bell's father, Henry Moore Middleton, moved it to his new home. Mrs. Bell remembers that one day her father took several cuttings from the rose and set them out to root. At his side was his granddaughter Barbara, Mrs. Bell's daughter, who also remembers the incident. This would have been about 1943, when Barbara was six years old. Enough of the cuttings rooted successfully that Mr. Middleton was able to give each of his four children a plant.

"Sadly, the original "Devonianthus" is now gone. Of Mr. Middleton's four plants, only Mrs. Bell's still exists. Mrs. Bell provided budwood from this last survivor in late November, and I mailed it to Lakeland, Florida, to Malcolm Manners, who

agreed to help preserve it by propagating it. As of this writing, the buds appear to have taken well and are growing out. Malcolm will also compare it with "Tradd Street Yellow", a 'Climbing Devoniensis' candidate discovered by Ruth Knopf in Charleston several years ago and which he has growing on a trellis in the rose garden on the Florida Southern College campus. Within the next two years or so, the necessary comparisons will have been made, and we will let you know the results."

The DNA work done this past summer indicates that these three roses are virtually identical, supporting the concept (but not absolutely proving) that they are all the original 'Devoniensis'.

Question 4: Is the rose we grow as 'Spray Cécile Brünner' really a sport of 'Cécile Brünner', or is it the unrelated hybrid of 'Sylvia' X 'Dorothy Page-Roberts', introduced in 1920 by Thomas, as 'Bloomfield Abundance'? This argument has been going on for quite a long time, often resulting in rather heated debate, in which no one is convinced to change his/her mind about it. So, DNA of 'Spray Cécile Brünner' was compared with that of the bush form 'Cécile Brünner' as well as the climbing form. Using five different primers, these three roses appear to be virtually identical, very strongly supporting the concept that they are simple sports of each other, and virtually ruling out the possibility that the rose we currently grow could be 'Bloomfield Abundance'.

Question 5: What is the relationship of the many "found" old Noisettes in the Hampton Park Study Garden, in Charleston, to each other and to 'Champneys' Pink Cluster' and 'Blush Noisette'?

The Hampton Park Garden has a good collection of "found" old-style Noisettes, collected predominantly in the Carolinas, but with some from other parts of the USA and world. They tend to be quite similar, but with subtle differences. It has been conjectured that they represent a population of seedlings of the earliest Noisettes, possibly several generations away from the originals. Many of these found roses were compared with RAPD-PCR analysis, to each other and to 'Champneys' Pink Cluster' and 'Blush Noisette'. In each case, the found roses were

determined not to be either of those named roses, but they do share substantial DNA, indicating that the hybrid swarm concept is likely true.

Conclusions: These studies demonstrate the use of a powerful tool in the study of relationships among roses. Such exciting results cause us to hope that much further research will be done, at FSC as well as at other institutions, to try to sort out more of the mysteries concerning our old roses and their histories.



Dr. Art Tucker,
speaking at the
conference

Meet your Trustees

We'll continue with introductions of our HRF trustees, this issue, with two more members of the board.

James Sagmiller

James began growing old roses in Montana when he was fourteen. The extremely cold winters made growing Hybrid Teas and Floribundas well rather difficult; if plants survived the winter, they were quite dwarfed by the short growing season. Neighbors and friends grew shrubby, once-blooming or repeat-blooming roses in their gardens and James decided to try some. A teacher friend gave 'Louis Gimard' and *Rosa foetida bicolor*; abandoned farmyards yielded 'Rosa Mundi' and 'Fru Dagmar Hastrup.' After reading an article in 1967 *House Beautiful* magazine about old-fashioned roses, James decided to order

some from Joseph J. Kern Nurseries in Mentor, Ohio. The plants were grafted, cost \$2.50 each and were shipped in the springtime. James' first purchased old roses were 'York and Lancaster,' *Rosa x centifolia* and 'Salet.'

During the 1970s James attended the University of Montana in Missoula and received a Bachelor of Arts in art in 1977. Painting and drawing are James' favorite modes of artistic expression, and roses and gardens are often subject matter for him. Over the years, James has illustrated several varieties of old and species roses in watercolors for private individuals, and later for the Vintage Gardens Nursery catalog.

James collected over 400 varieties of old roses during the time he lived in Ronan, Montana, while working in the nursery and seed business. He propagated and sold winter hardy species, old-fashioned and newer hybrid shrub roses and antique perennials at a garden center in Ronan. James also wrote a gardening column in the local paper for three years, and several articles for the Heritage Roses Group's *Rose Letter*.

In the late 1980s James moved to Sequim, Washington and grew over 100 varieties of antique roses and perennials in a garden two blocks from the ocean. *Rosa moschata* and the Hybrid Musks, certain species and several locally found Hybrid Teas were the best adapted to the cool climate.

In 1991, James had the opportunity to stay with Phillip Robinson and Gregg Lowery, to study and illustrate old roses for the Vintage Gardens rose catalog. Living with their garden of over 3500 varieties was an excellent chance to more fully understand the history of the rose and the complexities and interrelationships in past rose hybridization.

In 1992, James moved to Las Vegas, Nevada where he now resides. James attended the University of Nevada and received a masters degree in anthropology in 1998. James has lately concentrated on his art, now producing portraits and scenes of everyday American life in pastels and acrylics. James has collected over 180 roses of the Tea, Hybrid Tea, China and Noisette families, as they are well adapted to the warm, dry climate of Las Vegas. James has propagated the varieties best adapted to the desert and has produced several new everblooming seedlings of Tea roses.



Kathy Zuzek

My educational background is in forestry, forest pathology, and plant breeding and genetics. I have been a research scientist on the woody landscape research program at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum since 1987. This research program's goal is to develop shrub and tree cultivars that are ornamental, hardy in northern climates, and tolerant of pests and environmental stresses. I have worked primarily on shrub

rose breeding for the past fifteen years, to develop repeat-blooming, Zone-4-hardy, black-spot-tolerant roses. Most of my time is spent hybridizing, germinating seed, evaluating rose seedlings, and in rose propagation. Our first polyantha and shrub rose seedlings with cultivar potential are in regional and national trials now. After this last step in our evaluation process, we will be selecting our first cultivars for release to the gardening public. I am always searching for new sources of cold hardiness and black spot tolerance to use in my hybridization program. Many old garden roses are not sufficiently hardy to perform well in Zone 4 but I do work with Gallicas and Albas because of the hardiness levels and the black spot tolerance found among cultivars of these two classes.

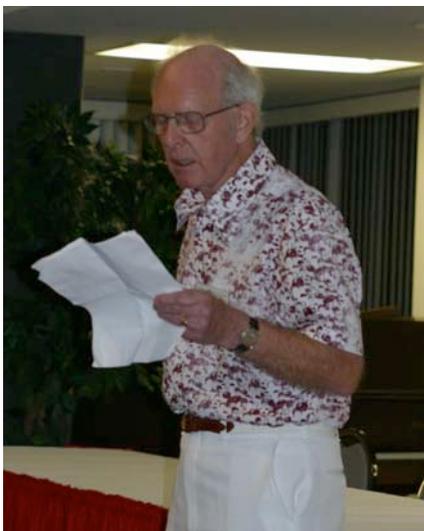


Bermudians among the Bermuds Mystery Roses, Larry Burke's Garden.

A correction and clarification of the finding and naming of “Morgan Spring.”

In an earlier newsletter, we got the story wrong, on the discovery and naming of the rose that we grow as “Morgan Spring.” HRF past-president Dr. Charles A. Walker, Jr., sent this note, to correct the error:

“I noticed in the current issue of The Cherokee Rose that the rose "Morgan Spring" has been attributed to me, but it's not one of the ones I've found. Frances Grate of Pacific Grove, California, discovered it in the Morgan plot in Springwood Cemetery in Greenville, South Carolina, sometime in the 1980s, if I remember correctly. She named it by combining the family name with part of the cemetery name. I was under the impression that the name was a single word, but you will need to check with her on that point. She found another rose, dubbed "Green Spring" or "Greenspring," in the same cemetery, the "Green" coming from the city's name. She thought that this type of naming scheme might have advantages over some of the others that have been used for founding roses, and I agree.”



Bryan Skinner entertains at the banquet.

A Resolution of Cooperation

By Claude Graves

Treasurer, Heritage Rose Foundation

Chairman, ARS OGR Committee

At our Annual Trustees Meeting and General Membership Conference in November 2003, the Heritage Rose Foundation passed a Resolution of Cooperation with the American Rose Society. What is this all about?

I have been an active member of the ARS for about 17 years and have been a fan of old garden roses for most of that time. I have been active in the Dallas Area Historical Rose Society (The Yellow Rose) for 10 years. I also joined the Board of Trustees of the Heritage Rose Foundation in 1999 and currently serve as its treasurer. During this period I have also twice been president of two different Dallas area rose societies. My experience from being in so many different volunteer organizations with overlapping interests has developed in me a certain knowledge that things sure go smoother when everyone is on the same page and cooperate. It also became very evident that each organization had its individual strengths and weaknesses, but when working together, great things could be achieved.

Over the last few years I have had a number of conversations with Marilyn Wellan, the newly installed president of ARS, and it became very clear that her feelings are the same as mine. It just makes more sense for all the various rose organizations to work together for the common good, each organization focusing in its own area of expertise, but assisting the other organizations where possible for the common good. The Heritage Rose Foundation, originally founded by Charles Walker, does have considerable expertise on the subject of heritage roses among its membership and has become very active in utilizing its financial resources to further support the preservation and protection of old roses. Recently the Heritage Rose Foundation funded a DNA research study into the genetic relationships of various Noisette roses, the results of which were announced at the Florida conference. HRF has also granted funds for a rose propagation facility at the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden. HRF is currently evaluating a number of additional requests for funding for

worthy heritage rose programs including assisting local old rose societies, possibly funding publication of out-of-print material and possible additional grants for OGR DNA research. Marilyn's invitation to me to be the Chairman of the Old Garden Rose and Shrub Committee of the American Rose Society was an outreach toward tapping the expertise of HRF and its members to the mutual benefit of ARS and HRF.

Marilyn and I felt that HRF's substantial knowledge and experience in the field of heritage roses could be of assistance in an advisory capacity to ARS (and specifically the OGR and Shrub Committee), similarly ARS through its large membership of rose enthusiasts and monthly publications has much potential to benefit the HRF's cause of preserving, protecting and promoting old garden roses.

Marilyn and the ARS are very well aware that the interests of the typical American gardener are undergoing a dramatic change. The average homeowner just does not have the time to spend in the garden that they used to. Today's homeowner is also more environmentally aware and does not want to spray. They want easy-to-grow, disease-resistant roses that make nice landscape plants who require little or no maintenance. OGR's are a very viable vehicle to use in reaching these potential new rose enthusiasts and potential new ARS members.

The American Rose Society realizes its future is in appealing to these new gardeners by introducing them to roses with which they can have immediate success. Once these new rosarians are successful, the ARS is hopeful that they can be developed to grow more roses and more classes of roses. This is not a new idea; take a quick look back at the *American Rose Magazine* published by the ARS over the last few years and you will be amazed at how much space the magazine has devoted to OGRs and shrubs and no-spray gardens. I personally have noticed that the OGR or shrub rose programs presented at national ARS conventions are always the highest attended meetings. A major percentage of ARS members are growing at least a few OGRs and the percentage growing only hybrid teas is rapidly dwindling.

The Heritage Rose Foundation does have a significant interest in what the ARS is doing. The ARS is the world's official

rose registrar and the actions of its Classification Committee have considerable repercussions on the world of old roses. It is much to HRF's benefit to be working and consulting with ARS in matters of classification and rose registration instead of just complaining about decisions after the fact.

In passing the Resolution at the last Trustees meeting, the HRF is volunteering its expertise and experience to ARS to help in whatever ways are reasonable, in those areas where the goals of HRF and ARS are the same. In the same spirit we anticipate the ARS will be proactive in identifying areas where they can assist the HRF to realize its mission of protecting and preserving rare and endangered old roses.

I personally would like to see every member of the Heritage Rose Foundation become a member of the American Rose Society. The ARS is the leading, and by far most visible, champion of roses in the country. Anything we can do to strengthen their message about the pleasure of growing roses to the American gardener will be beneficial in the long run for HRF and the entire rose community. Likewise I would encourage all members of ARS who have an interest in old garden roses to join us in the Heritage Rose Foundation and help us sharpen our focus on these treasures from the past.

For more information on the American Rose Society visit their website at www.ars.org.



Mike Shoup and Doug Seidel manage the auction of rare roses.

***Everblooming Roses* by Georgia Torrey Drennan**

Originally published in 1912

Heritage Rose Foundation member Kent Krugh has reproduced this book on CD, and is donating proceeds of its sale, beyond his costs, to the Foundation. The text is in PDF format, so Adobe Acrobat Reader is required (available free, online, if you don't have it on your computer).

In a discussion about the origin and identity of 'Champneys' Pink Cluster' and 'Blush Noisette', Leonie Bell, in her article *The Two Roses of Charleston* * writes:

Despite her relative obscurity, Georgia Torrey Drennan, author of *Everblooming Roses*, wrote with authority about the roses she knew, so her casual allusion was not to be ignored. We can discount her word "hardy", however, because Mrs. Drennan wrote in the Deep South, Louisiana, where the yellow Tea-Noisettes thrive. But while her statement was made one hundred years after the fact, two realities deserve consideration here: that the South has a deeply ingrained taste for oral history which at times must serve in lieu of written proof, and that a third rose was indeed involved.

Mrs. Bell's research and study of roses frequently led her into the rose books published in the 19th and early twentieth centuries by the likes of Prince, Redoute and Thory, Buist, Rivers, and Georgia Torrey Drennan. Born in 1843 on Round Hill Plantation, Mississippi, Mrs. Drennan would have been 69 years old when her book was published, implying a long gardening career in the deep South. True to the title, *Everblooming Roses*, Mrs. Drennan writes about the repeat blooming roses she grew or was familiar with.

Although not perfect in every detail, Mrs. Drennan's knowledge and perspective on repeat blooming roses grown in the southern United States is insightful and fascinating to read. She describes numbers of roses by using local common names which can be misleading. And she mistakenly claims that 'Souvenir de la Malmaison' was the first bourbon rose. In her chapter on Bourbon roses she writes:

I am not acquainted with a rose that remains fresh on the bush as long as Malmaison, nor buds that keep fresh and

fadeless longer when cut. Apolline is not a very famous rose, but I have found it one of the most remarkable bloomers, and for bordering beds of larger, taller roses, I know of no rose to surpass this purplish-pink little Bourbon. It blooms as freely in such positions as petunias or any free flowering annual plant. The only regret is that purplish tinge. White flowers always improve the tone of such colour among roses.

Her chapters discuss the following classes: Tea, Hybrid Tea, Climbing Tea, Bengal (China), Hybrid Perpetual, Polyantha, Bourbon, thornless roses, and Lord Penzance eglantine hybrids. Also included is a 54-page-long descriptive list of roses by class and color with personal comments. There are a total of sixteen full-page black-and-white photos.

*Published in the 1983 Royal National Rose Society Annual.

The CD is available for \$45.00 from:

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Bus tour group at Highlands Hammock State Park, near Sebring.

Is Your Membership Up To Date?

Please note that the expiration date of your membership is on the mailing label of your newsletter. For example, if the date on the label says "Jan '04", then your membership is paid up through this newsletter. A membership application/renewal is included in every newsletter, so please don't let your membership expire!



Troy Ippolito, David Moore, and Toni Cartisano run the registration table.



Bus tour visit to Prof. Larry Burke's garden (Larry with the beard)

Our Cover Photos

This issue's cover features photos from the November HRF conference in Florida. On the front cover are the three beautiful shadowbox arrangements designed by Bermuda Rose Society representatives Liesbeth Cooper, Sheila Gray, and Marijke

Peterich. On the back cover, top to bottom, are the Bermuda-style show bench, the banquet, and the group at a lecture in the Jack M. Berry Citrus Building.



Refreshments at George and Lois Manners' garden



Nancy Kohlman helps set up the rare rose plant sale.



Panel discussion of the Bermuda Mystery Roses' performance in the USA.



Rosemary and Bryan Skinner, Gary and Joyce Demits, at the opening reception.