TOP TO BOTTOM: Marilyn Wellan, Odile Masquelier, Ann Bird.
RIGHT: Garden Valley Ranch. Photo by Ron Robertson.

MADAM PRESIDENT

Three Contemporary Leaders of the World of Roses

The Heritage Rose Foundation will host a one-day conference this October in California to recognize the contributions of women who are leading the way toward a new direction in the world of roses.

Our three keynote speakers have each held the position of president of national rose societies, and all three have championed the importance of historic roses.

Odile Masquelier of Lyon, France founded the first French old rose society, Roses Anciennes en France. This group hosted the 8th International Heritage Roses Conference in Lyon in 1999, a tour de force of scholarship and passion about old roses, which was presented in French and in English with simultaneous translation. The yearly journal is a bilingual publication and has led to an intense connection between French and English speakers on the subject of old roses. Odile's exquisite garden at La Bonne Maison in Lyon is a very personal creation, inspired by her childhood memories of the place and her love affair with roses. Graced with old trees and old roses, often interwoven, La Bonne Maison attracts visitors from around the world.

Ann Bird, president of the Royal National Rose Society (RNRS) of Britain is the first woman in the 130 year history of that venerable organization to preside over its membership. She has taken the reigns at a crucial point and is overseeing the development of the Society's new gardens at St. Albans. Grounded in a passion for old roses—"I only grow old roses in my own garden," she says—she has not only worked to present the old roses to their best in the garden but is bridging a divide between the old rose and modern rose lovers that has brought new harmony to the RNRS. A restoration of the RNRS annual publication in its original book form and a vigorous membership drive under her leadership are returning the RNRS to its former role as the leading rose society in the world. Ann gardens in the center of England

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at Market Harborough in Leicestershire. She was a founder of the British Historic Roses Group and has served three times as chair of that group.

Marilyn Wellan recently completed her term as president of the American Rose Society, only the second woman to serve as president in the more that 112-year history of that society. Her hands-on approach, her faith in the membership, and her commitment to reach out to all lovers of roses resulted in a forward-looking, uniting spirit in the ARS. The exceptional work that has begun to transform the Gardens of the Rose in Shreveport has been the brainchild of Marilyn Wellan. Her vision of a garden that celebrates old roses as well as new, perennials as well as roses, and a reverence for the great natural beauty of the site, will serve American gardeners for generations to follow.

This fundraising event will also honor two very special leaders of the Heritage Rose movement. And the funds raised from auctions of rare old roses and rare old rose memorabilia will be used to support some very special efforts in the world of old roses. The event will take place in the rose garden at Garden Valley Ranch in Petaluma on Sunday, October 21st, 2007. To sign up for the conference visit the HRF website at *www.heritagerosefoundation.org,* or contact Ron Robertson at 498 Pepper Rd., Petaluma, CA 94952.

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Keep up with the Past

Publications from the Heritage Rose Foundation

Support your foundation and learn about old roses by ordering back issues of *Rosa Mundi, California's Rose Heritage,* the *Charleston Conference Journal,* and now with three publications from Sweetbriar Press, recently donated to the HRF by Barbara Worl: A Facsimile Edition of *Beauties of the Rose* by Henry Curtis, *A Portfolio of Rose Hips,* painted by Jesse-Chizu Baer with commentary by John C. MacGregor IV, and the reprint of the 1959 *Roses of Yesterday and Today Catalogue.* All three of these beautifully printed publications are available in limited quantities from the Heritage Rose Foundation's website, *www.heritagerosefoundation.com.*

Give the Gift of *Rosa Mundi!*

Enroll a friend in this wonderful organization, and you will be remembered three times a year as each elegantly illustrated issue arrives at their doorstep, full of good news about old roses and how they are being saved. Sign up at *www.heritagerosefoundation.com.*

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