HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION

Newsletter

JANUARY 2023

In This Issue:

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.*

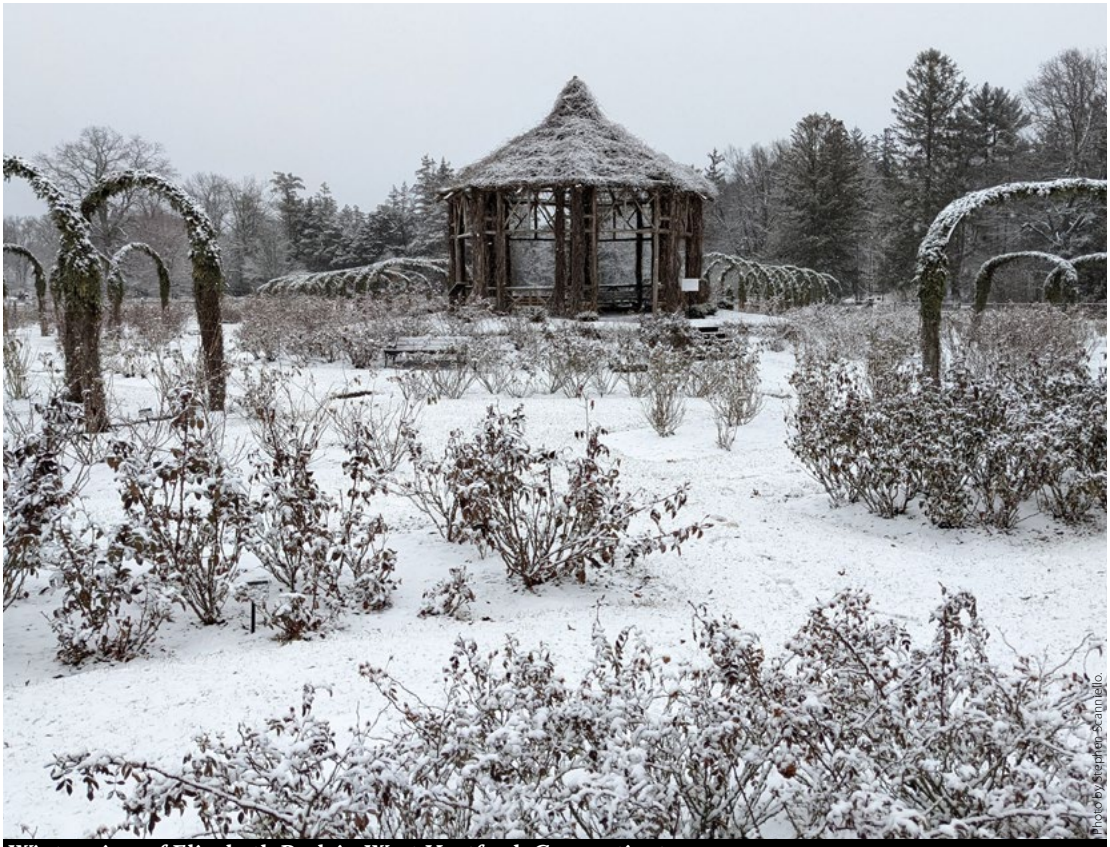


Photo by Stephen Scanniello.

Winter view of Elizabeth Park in West Hartford, Connecticut.

From Our President

STEPHEN SCANNIELLO

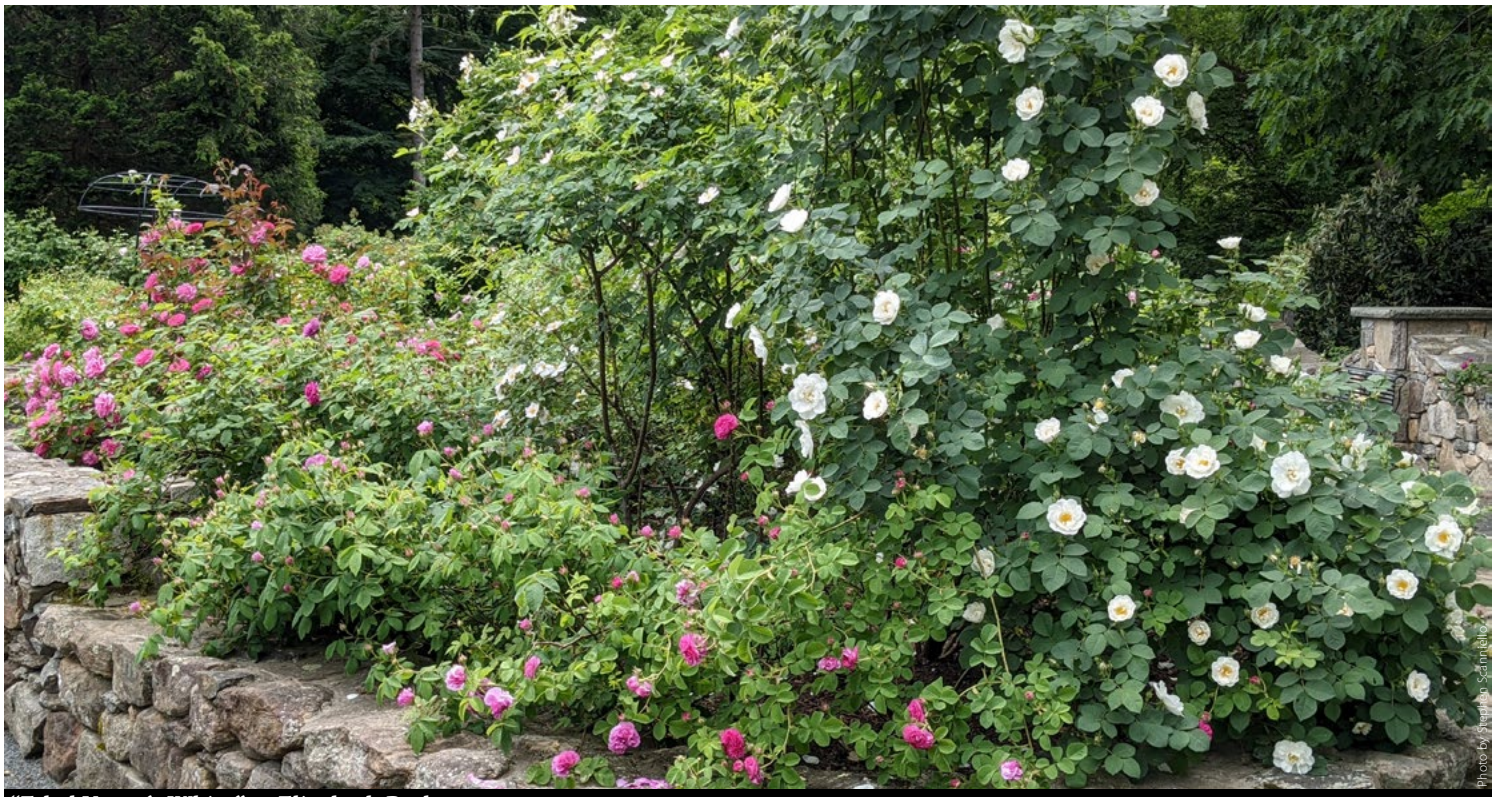
On December 30th, 2022, the Chambersville Tree Farm closed its gates for the very last time.

More than trees, the Chambersville property was the home of two rose gardens designed in collaboration with the HRF: the Heritage Rose Garden, a 15-acre study garden featuring over 150 heritage roses—including Texas found roses and Bermuda Mystery Roses—and the Anne Belovich Rambler Collection. These gardens provided visitors an opportunity to see rare and hard-to-find roses up close.

The Foundation was aware from the beginning that both gardens were existing on borrowed time. Located only 43 miles north of Dallas, it was inevitable that urban sprawl would eventually bring an end to the tree farm and its two unique rose gardens.

But, all is not lost.

Two new heritage rose collections have been established at the American Rose Center (ARC), the headquarters for the American Rose Society located in Shreveport,



"Ethel Yount's White" at Elizabeth Park.

Louisiana. Under the curatorship of HRF board member Pam Smith, the Franks Garden, the fourth circle of the Wellan Garden Rose Circles, has been planted with 148 plants of 61 varieties of old garden roses. You can check out the plant list on our website. Even better, join us for a fun weekend of pruning over President's weekend.

The cedar structures designed by Pam Smith will be a vertical feature in this garden—a donation from the Heritage Rose Foundation and the ARC. Pam gives an update on the garden's status in this newsletter

Under the watchful eye of curator Claude Graves, the second garden from Chambersville, the Anne Belovich Collection, is being preserved at the American Rose Center. This includes two nurseries capable of growing a total of 350 additional ramblers. Presently there are 12 large towers being erected as a pilot garden near the Wellan Garden Rose Circles, bringing the total number of ramblers planted at the ARC to 33.

Both gardens, the Heritage Rose Garden and the Anne Belovich Collection, will be used as teaching tools about heritage roses and how and when to prune them. As a preview, check out Claude's article about his approach to pruning and maintaining ramblers in this newsletter.

Pruning time is well underway in warmer zones. For those of you who are in the colder zones and are itching to prune, join us in one of our free workshops. So far, there are two February workshops scheduled—the American Rose Center and in Ruth's Garden on the campus of Florida Southern College. Beginners and experts are welcome. I'll be at both events and I can guarantee a good time for all!

Speaking of upcoming events, the HRF is joining forces with the American Rose Center for a national conference to be held in Shreveport, scheduled for May 4–6.

We are often asked what heritage roses and ramblers will survive in cold climates. Darrell Schramm's article, 'Tall Roses for Snow Country,' is very timely after the recent "bomb cyclone" winter storm that many of us, and our roses, endured. The found rose "Ethel Yount's White," found in northwest Pennsylvania, is very likely to be 'Alba Semi-Plena', which Darrell recommends. It is extremely winter hardy and grows without winter protection in Elizabeth Park, as do other Old Garden Roses from the 18th century and earlier. There are many techniques to winter-protect more tender varieties. In Elizabeth Park, we wrap the ramblers in evergreen boughs.

I look forward to seeing everyone as we begin to thaw out and venture into the gardens with well-oiled pruners. ❧

Tall Old Roses for Snow Country

DARRELL G.H. SCHRAMM

Gardeners living in the upper Midwest and Canada are often in search of climbers, ramblers, and tall arching rose plants that will survive their winters. Gardeners in these cold zones, Zones 5 to 2, should be aware that a plant that acclimates to cold temperatures too slowly can be injured at the onslaught of winter. Too swift a deacclimation (see glossary) as a result of warm temperatures in late winter can also leave a plant susceptible to injury if a cold spell follows. While snow can serve as insulation, those parts of many rose plants above the snow generally die. In addition, some cultivars vary in injury from cane to cane. It should also be noted that few rose varieties can endure the severest winters, those below minus 30 degrees Fahrenheit (Zones 3 and 2). What follows is a discursive description of ten or so hardy climbing, rambling and tall mostly old roses conducive to northerly cold zones, nearly all of which bloom only once.

'Alika' should be pronounced as asserted by the man who introduced it: "Ah-lie-ka", i.e. with a long "i." Usually a semi-double rose of eight to ten petals, but sometimes more, the flowers are deep pink, very fragrant. A spreading

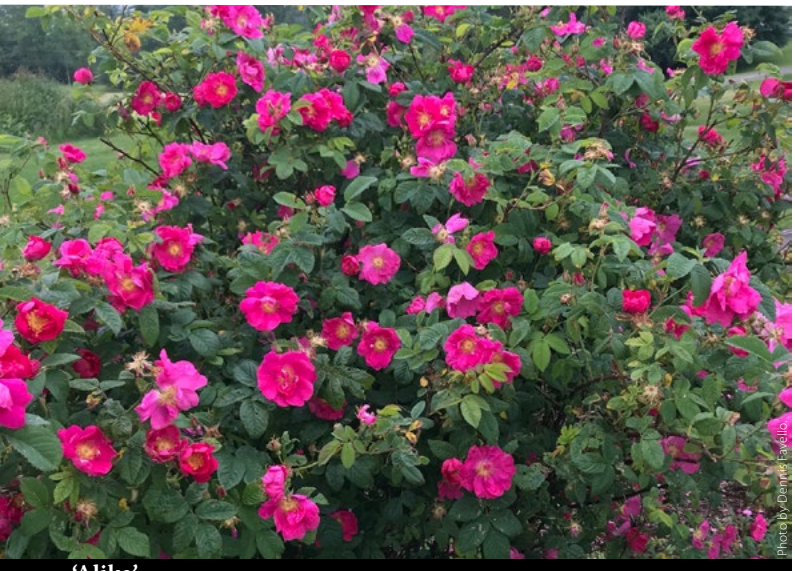


Photo by Dennis Lavelle.

'Alika'.

Gallica rose which suckers, it will reach six to eight feet. Mid-winter hardy (see glossary), it is known to endure a temperature of 24 degrees below zero. The tips of some canes may be injured at that degree but not more than 10% will result in dieback.

Though no doubt older, 'Alika' was brought back from St. Petersburg, Russia, to South Dakota in 1906 by Niels E. Hansen. By 1923 it was listed in a Netherlands nursery catalogue but not introduced to the U.S. until 1930. Hansen used it in his hybridizing program.

Another rose promoted by Hansen, one that he bred in 1938, is **'Lillian Gibson',** a medium or salmon pink, highly fragrant flower, with *Rosa blanda* in its genes. A

Photo by Karl King.

'Lillian Gibson'.

quite healthy, double rose that does not repeat its bloom, it occasionally hosts a touch of rust. Rambler-like, this arching plant reaches nine feet or more. 'Lillian Gibson' can survive temperatures of 35 to 40 degrees below zero.

According to a writer for the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, Alba roses are believed to have come from the cold Crimea and were introduced to England by Roman traders prior to 77 CE. The evidence may or may not be forthcoming. Most Albas are quite cold hardy. '**Alba Semi-Plena',** which can be grown as a climber, suffered no adverse effects at a winter low of minus 28 degrees in a three-year test by the University of Minnesota. The first winter, the temperature had declined gradually, allowing 'Alba Semi-Plena' to adjust. The next winter, with a low of minus 26 degrees, the plant suffered some injury at the tips. At minus 24 degrees the following winter, when the temperature had plunged more sharply, the rose


Photo by Judy Eitzen

'Alba Semi-Plena'.

suffered injury and thus dieback on about 50% of its canes. In any case, it is a surviving rose in Zone 4. However, Albas have survived in Zone 3B as well.

An emotive semi-double rose clothed in pure white petals with a boss of yellow stamens, the flowers of 'Alba Semi-Plena' develop in clusters of three to fifteen, exhaling a fresh scent of lemons. Its long stems, good for an arch, can grow to ten feet or more. It is thought to be a sport of 'Rosa Alba Maxima', a look-alike but double, reaching eight feet. The latter can endure temperatures down to 35 below.

'Common Moss', also known as 'Communis', also does fine in Zone 4. (In the days before the word pink was used as a color, it was sometimes called 'Red Moss'.) The flower is fully double and is more fragrant than its parent *Rosa x centifolia.* Even the leaves are scented, as is the moss-like covering of sepals and pedicels—an aromatic rose indeed. It appeared as a sport in France about 1700. In Zone 4 (-20 to -30 below) it may acquire no injury in winter or none worse than injury to less than half the plant. It will reach seven feet in height and sometimes width. And it may sucker.

Another Moss worth considering is **'William Lobb',** which grows from six to eight feet. A rose of 1855, the color tends toward velvety violet, even slate or mauve, a full rose in small, very mossy clusters. The moss wanders down the stems, which usually need support, as onto a trellis or pergola, but they can also be pegged down. Very sweetly scented, 'William Lobb'will survive to minus 26 degrees. While it may lose half its canes to winter injury or even die back to the base, in spring new canes will grow from its crown. In fact, it almost routinely dies back, but just as routinely makes a comeback. If complete dieback occurs to the base of most once-blooming Old Garden Roses, they will not flower in the spring. 'William Lobb' appears to be the exception. The rose is named for a Cornwall plant collector, one of England's greatest, for the nursery firm of James Veitch. Lobb died in San Francisco in 1864.

A hybrid of *R. spinosissima* and a Hybrid Tea, **'Frühlingsgold'** (1937), whose name means springtime gold, is an obvious reference to the color of the flower and the season of its bloom. However, the color is rendered more light yellow than gold. The semi-double rose grows on arching canes that reach eight to twelve feet and hold a pleasant aroma. Mid-winter injury occurs in Zone 4, either just to the tips of the canes, or to as much as half the plant dying back. In Zone 5 there is generally a complete absence

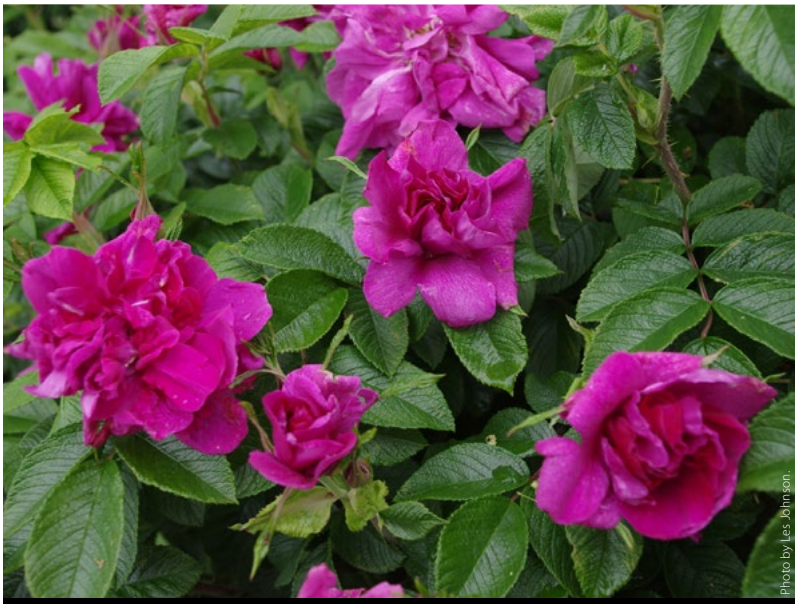


Photo by Les Johnson

'Roseraie de l'Hay'.

of winter injury. Trained along a fence or rail or onto an arch, 'Frühlingsgold' lavishes a mass of large, well-formed flowers. Sometimes it will bloom twice in a season.

'Roseraie de l'Hay', a Hybrid Rugosa, may die back to the ground in temperatures below minus 25 to 30 degrees, but it resurfaces in the spring. Because it blooms on both last year's canes and this year's new wood, its flowering may be only mildly affected. The blooms are robed in dark red with cream-colored staments, set on very prickly stems and wafting an extraordinary scent of cloves and honey. A very healthy rose, it will grow from six to twelve feet high. Oddly, it does not produce hips. Occasionally, it may rebloom later. 'Roseraie de l'Hay' will

stand admirable duty as a hedge or as an ostentacious specimen. Bred by Cochet-Cochet in 1901, it is probably the most popular of all Rugosas.

Rather similar in many respects is **'Rose a Parfum de l'Hay'.** Less deeply red, less tall, less healthy, for it may acquire fungus, this dense plant reaches only six feet or so. However, it is marvelously fragrant and, perhaps more significantly, can survive winters of 40 to 45 degrees below zero (Zone 2B). It was bred by Jules Gravereaux, also in 1901.

Photo by Les Johnson.

'Long John Silver'.

Incidentally, though not climbers, the following rugosa shrubs can also survive Zone 2b: **R. rugosa 'Alba', 'Jens Munk',** and **'Martin Frobisher'.**

Rosa setigera, a valued but scentless species, also called the Prairie Rose (among other names), flowers later than most other roses, showing off its strongly pink blossoms in mid-July. The flowers, two to three inches across, display themselves in clusters of three to fifteen roses. Its leaves show a quilted effect much like those in rugosas. Offering a lengthy flower display, its extensive, arching canes, to thirteen feet long, can be easily manipulated to climb. Indeed, it is the only American rose species that is a climber. Though its topography varies considerably, where it thrives at the edge of woods, its long canes often climb into trees. It can survive cold to 30 below zero with only cane tip damage, and to 40 below with perhaps more, but it will survive. Already in 1844, Robert Buist claimed that "it will bear without injury the icy breezes of the St. Lawrence."

Although found in many regions from southern Canada to Oklahoma, Michigan to Connecticut, Kentucky to Louisiana, and long familiar to Native Americans, R. setigera was not described until French botanist André Michaux did so in 1803 after he had observed it in the late 1700s in South Carolina. The plant soon was decorating gardens, and by the late 1830s was being used for breeding new roses, such as **'Queen of the Prairies'** (1838) and **'Baltimore Belle'** (1843).

One later rose breeder known to hybridize with R. setigera was Michael Horvath, who named his most famous roses for characters in Robert Louis Stevenson's novel *Treasure Island.* Bred in 1934, **'Long John Silver'** is such a rose. This silver-white rose is thickly double, appearing in large clusters with a pleasant scent. Long-lasting, it grows on vigorous, somewhat stiff canes that extend thirteen to eighteen feet. Not only is it shade tolerant, it occasionally repeats its bloom. The "arcticism" of this rose allows it to survive cold 40 to 45 degrees below zero Fahrenheit.

Here I offer a brief recommendation of a few other hardy climbers, introduced more recently: **'Marguerite Hilling'** (Zone 4), **'Prairie Dawn'** (Zones 4 to 3), **'Prairie Youth'** (Zone 4), and **'William Baffin'** (Zone 2B). 'William Baffin' belongs to the Explorer Series of roses bred in Canada; while few are climbers or ramblers, all are Zone 3 plants and require minimum winter protection other than good snow cover. Nearly all are disease resistant, require little pruning, and are easy to root from cuttings. See Dr. Felicitas Svejda under "breeders" on HelpMeFind.com/roses for those roses named for historical Canadian explorers. ❧

Glossary

Acclimation: the process that occurs to roses as daylight decreases and temperatures decline. The physiological and biochemical alterations in the plant result in cold tolerance.

Deacclimation: the hardiness of a plant decreasing when responding to warming temperatures in late winter and/or early spring.

Mid-winter hardiness: the lowest temperature at which a plant can survive without injury when it has attained it maximum hardiness level.

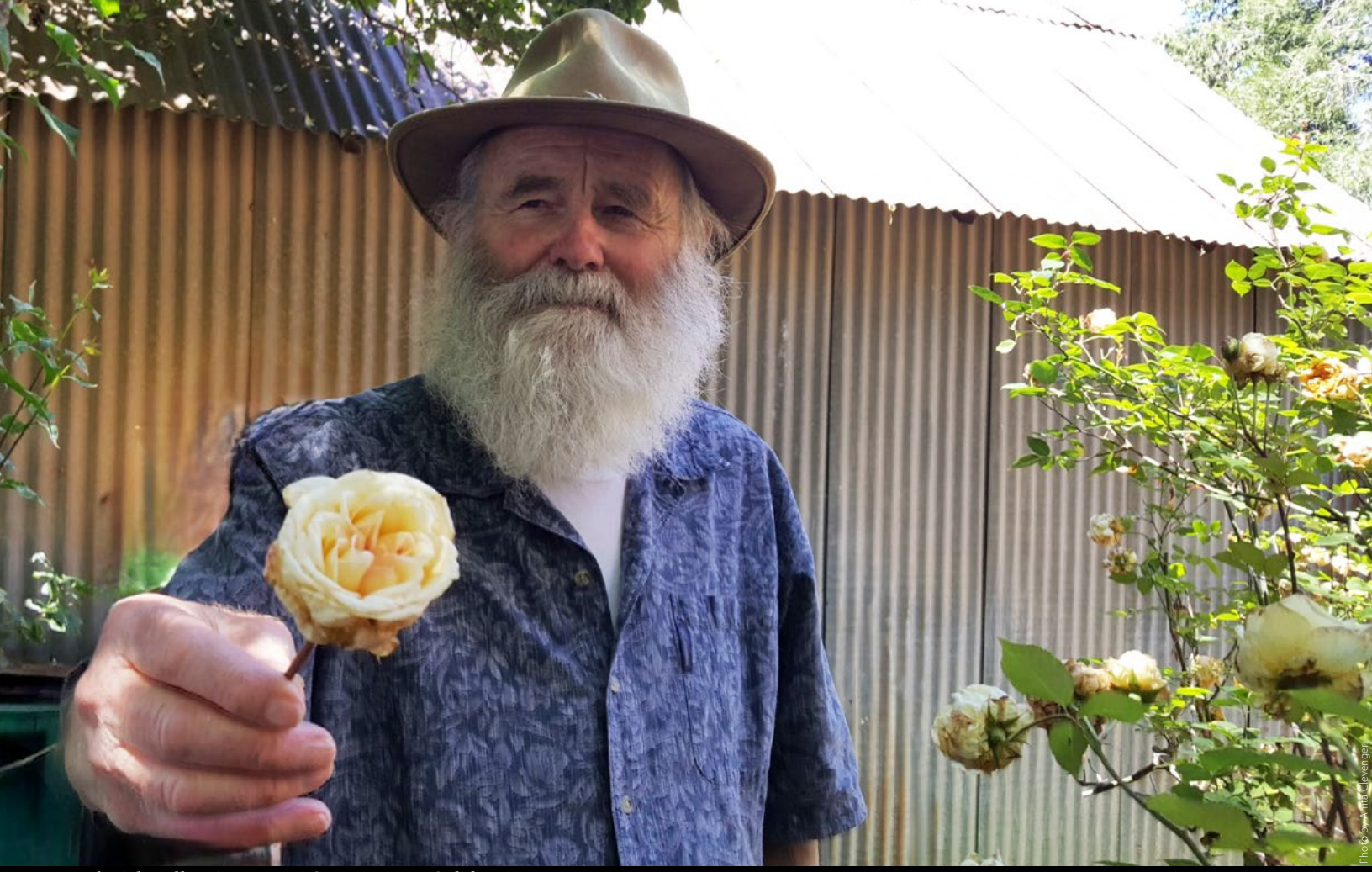


Photo by Anita Clevenger

Fred with Yellow Tea Rose, Georgetown, California.

Talking with the Roses: A Tribute to Fred Boutin

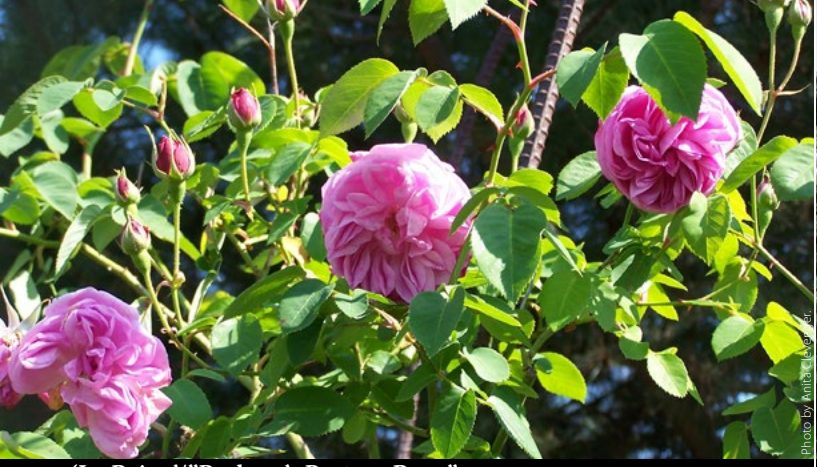
ANITA CLEVENGER

When Fred Boutin encountered an unfamiliar rose, he did more than just look at its botanical details. He listened to what it had to say. His wife, Dee, said "He thought that roses talked to him. He really did feel that they were his friends, and wanted to share their information with him." Fred was a botanist who studied every old rose book or catalog that he could find, learning about horticultural history and the roses described, and had an amazing ability to remember and integrate this knowledge. "Because of his background, he could understand what the roses were saying."

Fred first became interested in heritage roses when he found a rose in a hedge in 1965 while bicycling to botany classes at the University of California, Riverside. Admiring its beauty, unfamiliar cabbage-like form and toughness, he collected it. Later, while working as a botanist at the Huntington Botanical Gardens and studying rose catalogs and literature in its library, he and horticulturist John MacGregor identified the rose as 'La Reine', an 1842 Hybrid Perpetual which was thought to be extinct. "Barbara's Pasture Rose" and other apparent 'La Reine' roses were later collected under a variety of found names.

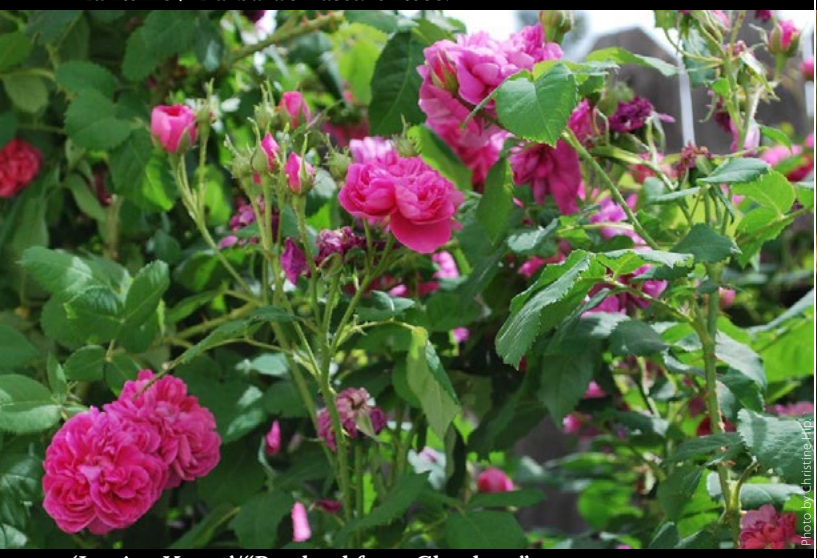
Fred and John established a study plot at the Huntington filled with roses found by Fred and other rose sleuths who continued to search for roses throughout the West. Fred studied them and, where possible, identified them. All of the roses were shared with collectors, nurseries and gardens. They also hosted conferences that drew rose experts from around the world.

One of Fred's early finds was "Portland from Glendora." It is a very distinctive rose, with quartered, deep pink, intensely fragrant flowers that often show a button eye. Years later, he found the same rose in Columbia, With, in the front yard of a woman known as "Aunt Sally." Australian heritage rose enthusiasts found this rose, too.



'La Reine'/"Barbara's Pasture Rose."

Carol Meyer with the cemetery's 'Le Pactole'.



'Joasine Hanet'/"Portland from Glendora."

'Le Pactole'.

Fred ultimately concluded that it is 'Joasine Hanet', an 1837 Damask Perpetual introduced by Vibert, an identity that has been widely, but not fully, accepted.

Fred did not rush to identify a found rose. He thought that many of them were seedlings which may have never been introduced into commerce, or closely-related cultivars that are nearly identical to their parents. Fred suggested that heritage rose lovers obtain a copy of E. B. Ellwanger's book, *The Rose,* which describes "types" or "families" of roses such as 'La Reine,' and to think of roses in that way rather than trying to distinguish between individual specimens. It could take years for Fred to identify a found rose. He was hopeful that DNA studies would help answer many questions about a rose's heritage and identity. He participated with University of California, Davis, scientists to analyze the DNA from six plants of 'Hermosa" which appeared to have varying growth habits. The results of the DNA analysis, which showed that all were indeed 'Hermosa' despite varying morphology, were published in an article by Sherri Berglund and Julie A. Matlin in the *American Rose* magazine, July/August 2015.

Another of Fred's discoveries of a rose once thought to be extinct is 'Le Pactole', a Tea-Noisette bred by Mielliez before 1837. Fred thought it was a miniature rose when he found it growing through a shrub, and dubbed it "Stewart Street Yellow Mini." In fact, this rose grew quite large. He studied it for years, observing how it resembled Teas, Chinas, and Musk roses, and bore its flowers in clusters similar to Noisettes. He also noted its unique flower form, and realized that this was a characteristic of 'Le Pactole', whose flowers were described historically as "resembling a fine yellow chrysanthemum." ("Yellow" heritage roses are usually buff-colored or lemon-white, not the chrome yellows introduced in the 20th century,)

Fred moved with many of his roses to Tuolumne in the late 1970s. It gave Fred a new part of California's Gold Rush (Mother Lode) communities in which to seek lost roses, and new people who brought them to his attention. He became acquainted with "Rusty" Rolleri, a Calaveras County rancher who was on the board of several cemeteries where old roses survived. Rusty wanted to ensure that the cemetery roses, and others found in

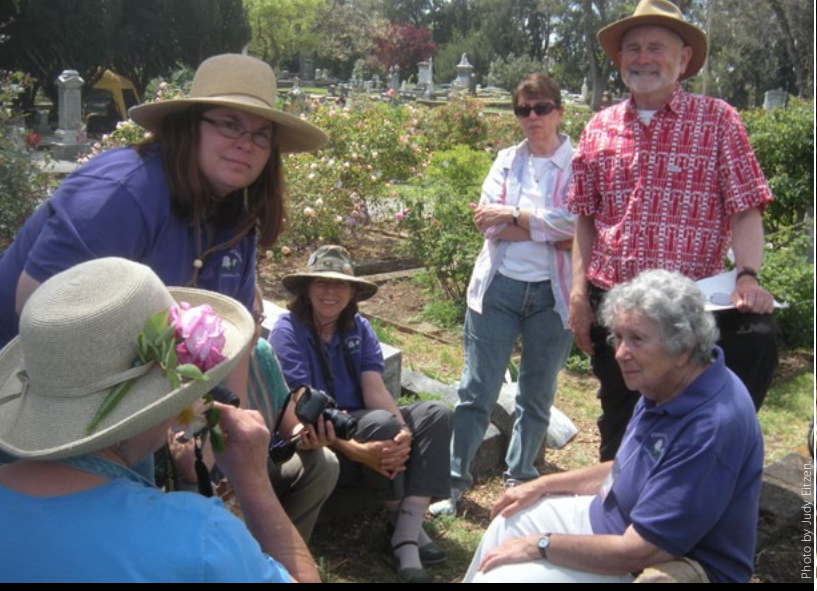


Photo by Judy Elizen.

Anita Clevenger with back to camera, Janelle Michel, Jill Perry, Bev Vierra, Barbara Oliva and Fred.

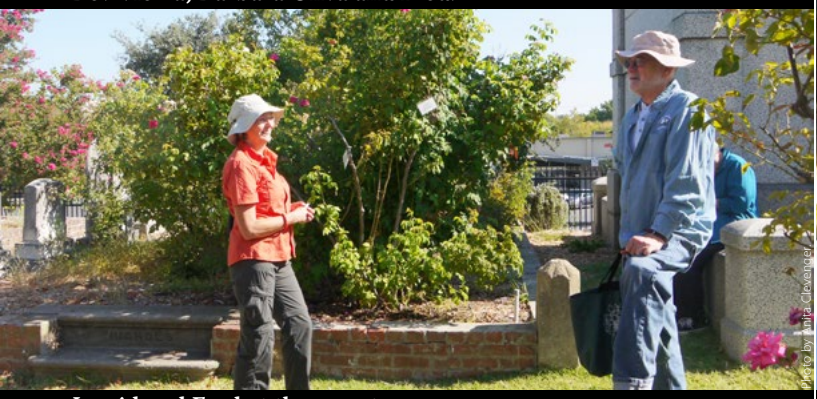


Photo by Anita Clevenger.

Ingrid and Fred at the cemetery.

Photo by unknown.

Fred Boutin.

historic sites throughout the area, were protected and passed on to others. Three Calaveras County Master Gardeners became interested, too. Judy Dean, Bev Vierra and Lynne Storm accompanied Fred to look for old roses and helped collect and study them.

Fred continued to visit old cemeteries whenever possible. In 1991, he visited the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery. There, he found that volunteers were being encouraged to adopt individual cemetery plots to beautify this 1849 pioneer cemetery. The plots were laid out in a numbered grid pattern, usually bordered by brick or stone surrounds. Fred was struck by how easily roses could be catalogued by location, and how suitable a collection of found pioneer roses would be, surrounded by funerary art of their time. He worked with city staff, who set aside three sections of the cemetery for the Historic Rose Garden and installed irrigation. He donated about 60 roses for the first planting, and continued to advise and donate roses over the next 25 years. Fred wanted to allow roses to grow "to their full potential" so that they could be studied and compared. This garden grew to over 500 roses, about 325 different cultivars, and received international acclaim and awards. It is no longer maintained by volunteers or managed as a collection. Fred mused, when told in 2016 of the city's plans to reduce the roses in size or remove many altogether, "Well, we had a good run."

Fred was known around the world for his low-key expertise. He participated with many rosarians as a member of the international Heritage Rose Round Robin founded by Bill Grant. India's Girija Viraraghavan recalls, "We soon learnt that Fred represented something exceptional in the rose world. He was manifestly one of the world's leading authorities on heritage roses, but unlike many so called 'experts', he never flaunted his knowledge. His erudition and expertise were there for the asking. His postings on the Round Robin were thoughtful, considered and full of information." Girija goes on to say, "Perhaps even more amazing was his readiness to say 'I do not know' rather than pretend to know every old rose." The Viraraghavans did not have an opportunity to meet Fred in person, but had a long discussion with him by telephone and "were honoured to have him call us his friends."

Photo by Jack Olson.

Fred describing old Ayrshire rose in Julian, California.

Photo by Jack Olson.

'Souvenir de Pierre Notting' at Louis York House, Julian, California.

Photos by Anita Clevenger.

Fred with Dr. Wang Guoliang.

Fred corresponded with many rosarians and often posted on HelpMeFind.com/roses. He accompanied Bill Grant on a tour of English rose gardens, but usually, the world came to him. Thomas Christopher's 1989 book, *In Search of Lost Roses,* includes "A Visit to the Mother Lode." England's Roger Phillips went with Fred to several Mother Lode cemeteries while filming his television series, *Quest for the Rose,* briefly featuring Fred and some of his rose discoveries in one film segment as well as in their 1991 book of that name. Belgium's Ingrid Verdegen, England's Andrew Hornung and China's Dr. Wang Guoliang all visited the Sacramento cemetery with Fred.

In later years, Fred led groups to look at the old roses in the mining towns of Julian and Coulterville, where local rosarians continued to care for and propagate their old rose survivors.

Fred was interested in many types of plants, not just roses. Salvia, native plants, ivies, palm trees, grasses and ferns also fascinated him. Girija says, "Fred was very generous with his gifts of seed of various ornamental plants. The very fragrant salvia 'Cinega del Oro' and microphylla hybrids which he sent us are growing profusely in our garden, flowering constantly and reminding us of him." The popular lavender, *Lavandula intermedia* 'Fred Boutin', grows in many American gardens, but Fred had no role in breeding or discovering it. He simply pointed it out to a nursery owner as an especially nice specimen, and was a bit embarrassed that it was given his name.

This tribute to Fred cannot begin to describe this unique, gentle man, whom Judy Dean calls "a dear soul." If you'd like to see him on film, the documentary *Cemetery Rose* is available on Youtube, www.youtube.com/watch?v=UNfgtKvdrsQ

Fred was born on November 19th, 1940 and died on October 23rd, 2022. In his last few years, he lost his energy and ability to communicate and do the things that he loved. Then, Dee says, he just "peacefully disappeared." He lives on in the memories of many, and in the roses that were his friends. ❧

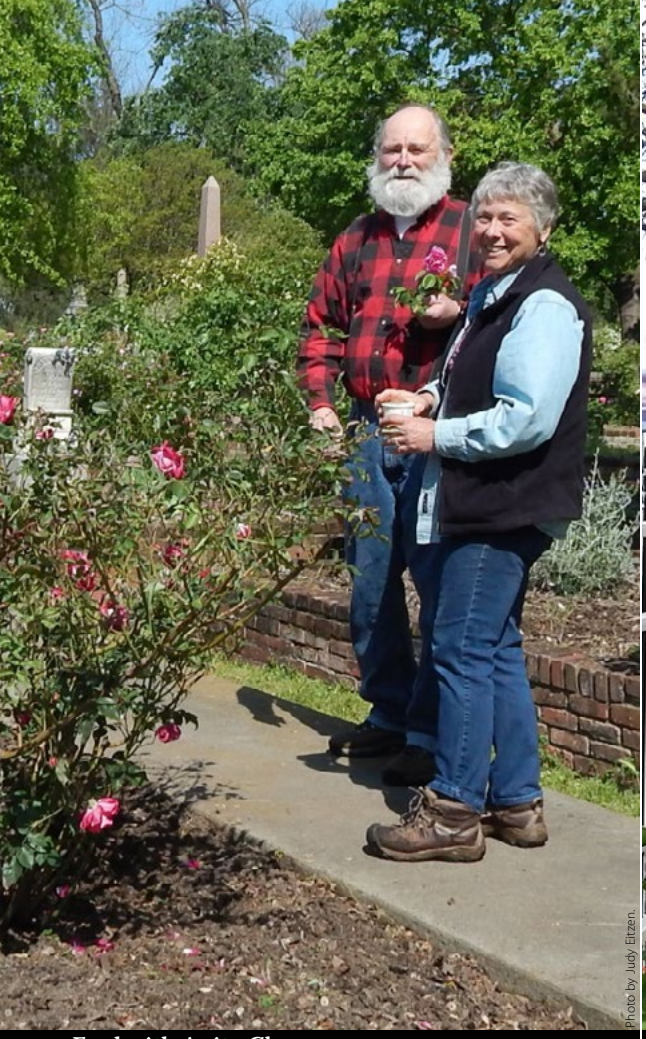


Photo by Judy Elizen.

Fred with Anita Clevenger.

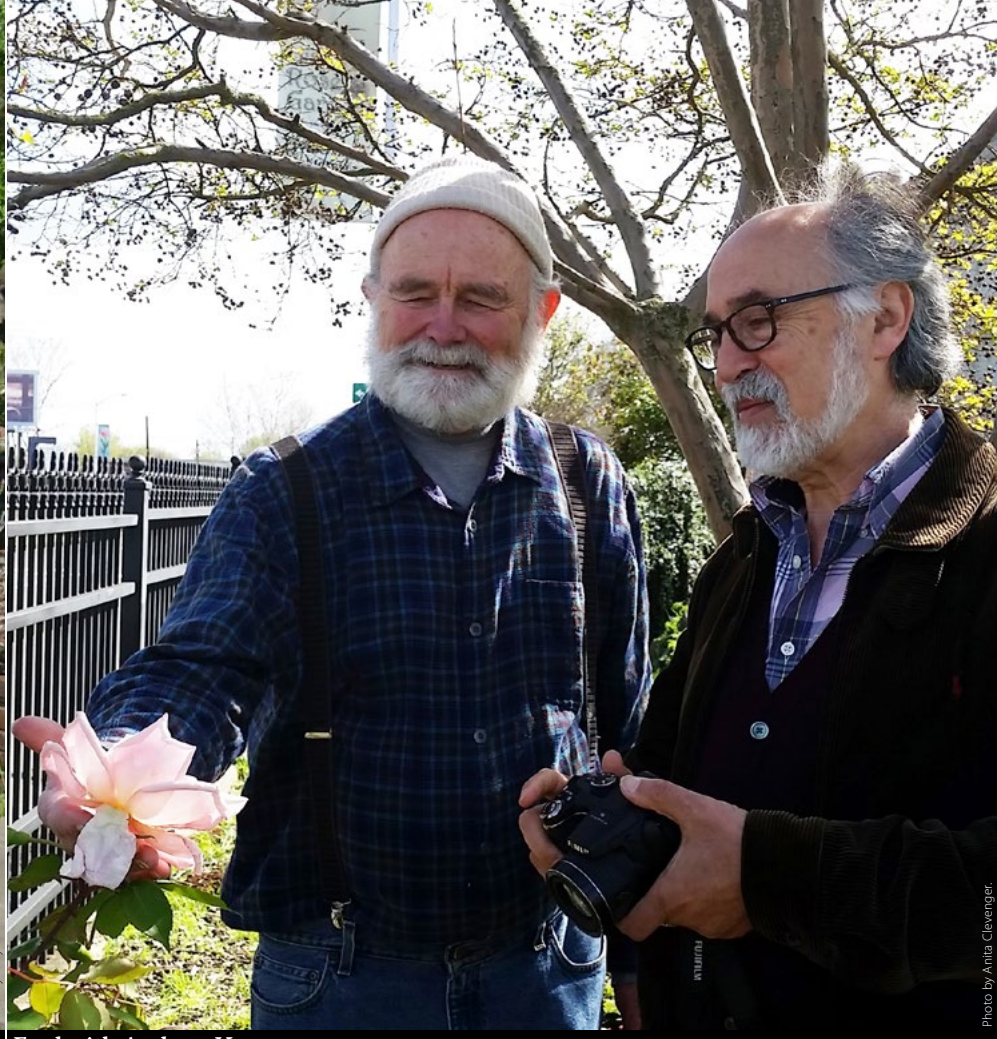


Photo by Anita Clevenger.

Fred with Andrew Hornung.

Preserving Fred Boutin's Rose Legacy

Fred continued to collect, study and breed roses throughout his life, often passing them on to others. He grew about 300 roses at his home, in addition to others in pots that have died.

Judy Dean is determined to save all of the roses at Fred's house and to propagate and grow them at her Mokelumne Hill, California, home. She has a process to keep them straight by numbering all the roses with two engraved aluminum tags. When she takes cuttings, she will remove one of the numbered tags and bundle it with them, leaving the other tag on the rose in the garden. If she needs to take more cuttings or to study the rose further, she will be readily able to find it.

Her immediate goal is to preserve the plant material so that nothing more is lost. These roses can then be studied, and possibly identified, by others.

At some point in the future, she would also like to track down roses that Fred collected or bred that are no longer in his garden. Fred was fascinated by miniature roses and bred them, but only one is listed in HelpMeFind.com: 'Petite Rosamund', a cross between 'The Burgundian Rose' and 'Ferdinand Pichard', which is described as a lavender or pink striped short centifolia. There are no photos or sources for this rose. Does it still exist?

Fred often talked about the note cards that he took on every rose that he collected and related information. He left papers that Judy plans to sort through and organize. These, too, will be of use for future study.

Thank you, Judy, for tackling these monumental tasks! ❧

Training and Pruning Ramblers: A Texas Perspective

CLAUDE GRAVES

When I started growing the roses in Ann Belovich's Rambler collection for Chambersville Tree Farms, I started with tiny, rooted cuttings sent to my home in November 2012, because Chambersville had no greenhouse facilities. Anne had arranged to send her cuttings to Florida Southern College for Malcolm Manners and his students to root the collection. The rooted plants were then shipped to me over three years with about a hundred varieties sent each year.

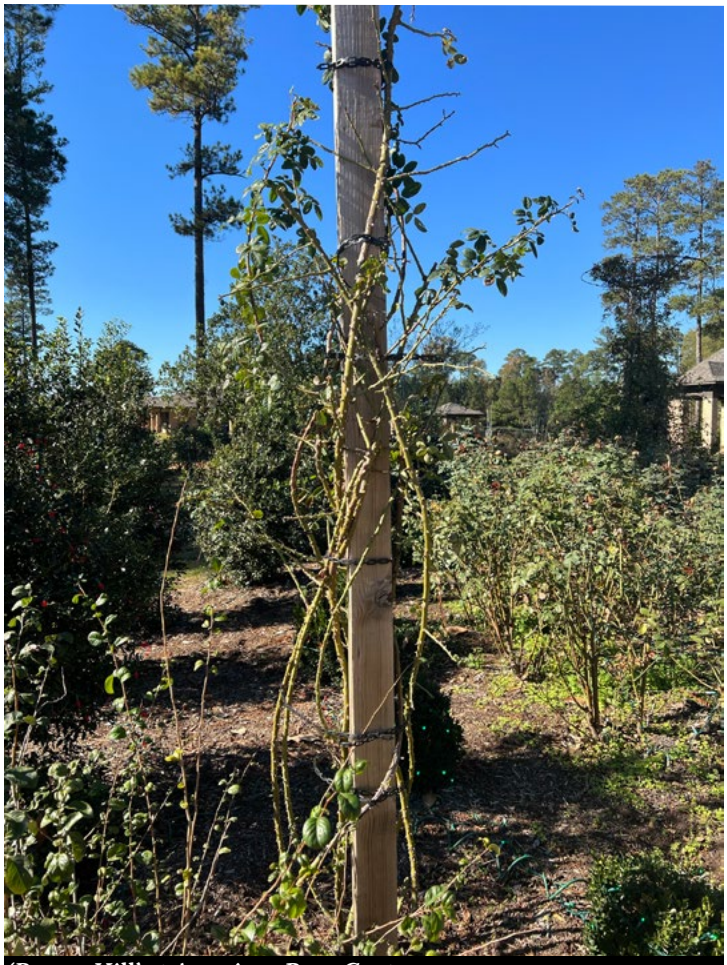
Although I had grown many climbing roses over many years, I had little experience with ramblers and their species-like rose growth habits. I quickly started getting an education in the wide variety of growth habits of the ramblers. As we continued to grow and observe the collection over the next few years, it was becoming obvious that many of the varieties had very aggressive growth characteristics. The question that posed itself was, "How do I prune these things?" I had grown and trained many reblooming climbers over the years, but I sensed that as these roses matured it was going to be a different ball game!

I spent some time in my collection of rose books but got little insight except the continually repeated cliché, "Don't prune once-blooming climbers until after they bloom."

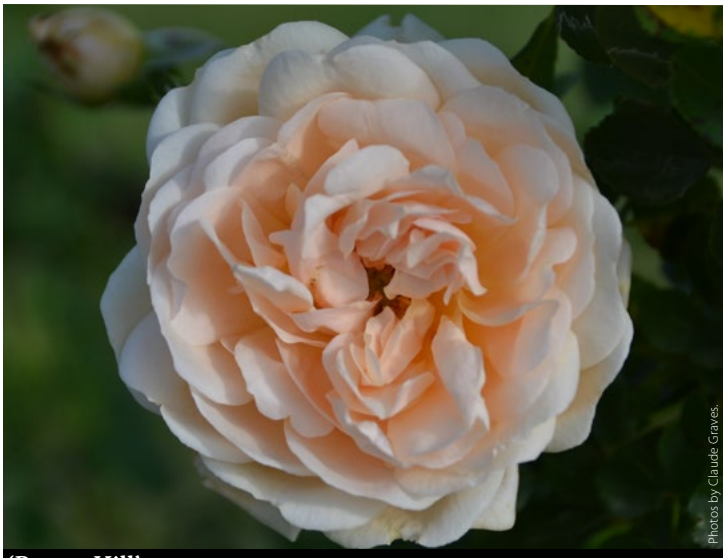
Consequently, I just had to dive in and start pruning them the best I could. Over ten years of trial and error (lots of error), I finally developed my own knowledge base of what worked and what didn't. Many of my techniques and procedures are contrary to what you may have heard or practiced, but they worked for me in my location.

My goals were perhaps different than an individual growing a few ramblers. We were growing 330 varieties on individual 12 foot (366 cm) pillars and 12 foot tall steel towers. My goals were to keep the roses looking beautiful, controlling their maximum size, and doing it at a minimal labor cost.

I offer this advice on pruning and training ramblers not as gospel, but only as tips as to what has worked for me in the hope they will also work for you, and make your experiences with ramblers less stressful and more enjoyable. This article is generalization of a very complex issue involving ramblers of greatly differing growth habits and plant structure and genetic ancestry. My comments



'Breeze Hill' at American Rose Center.



Photos by Claude Graves.

'Breeze Hill'.

apply for the majority of ramblers, but there are many specific varieties that need to be trained in different ways. I will discuss some of the various topics related to pruning ramblers, not listed in any specific sequence or importance.

"Don't Prune Once Blooming Climbers Until After They Bloom"

True, if your only goal is seeing a maximum amount of bloom.

False, if your goals include maintaining a specific form or shape of the plant. Also, not true if you intend to control the size and density of the plant and if you want to maintain the plant with the fewest hours of labor possible.

The best time to prune big ramblers is during the winter, because that is when you can see what you are doing! This is after all the massive new growth from the summer and fall. This new growth is next year's so called "old wood" that will bear next year's bloom. But, on a mature rambler there is way too much of it! This is the time to remove that excess growth and shape the plant to what you want it to look like when it does bloom next year. If done right, the plant will be beautiful with a full coverage of bloom, and it will be shaped like you wanted. Most all varieties will at least partially defoliate in the winter, even in Texas. Being able to see what you are doing speeds up the pruning time exponentially.

"Ramblers Bloom on Old Wood"

False. All blooms always appear on new growth, which by definition comes off of old wood. (There is nowhere else for new growth to come from except new basal growth.) The new growth can be very large canes or sprays or tiny twigs, all of which will bloom abundantly the first year. Many small ramblers from cuttings can have a small but beautiful first bloom, even though there is no "old wood" present on these less than one year old roses.

"You Need to Spiral the Cane Around the Structure to Promote Lateral Growth"

False. I fell for this one at first and created a lot of extra work and difficult pruning problems for us. Training in a spiral may be true for the newer reblooming climbers, even the Noisettes, but not so for the "near species" climbers. Most of the ramblers in Anne's collection will put out new lateral growth from the base of the plant to the tip even if trained straight up a perfectly vertical post. The canes of the roses on all of the Chambersville towers were tied straight up the legs of the towers with no intentional "spiraling" around the structure. This also makes pruning much faster and easier.

Some of the multiflora ramblers will develop "bare legs" as the rose gets older. However, they will usually continue to produce some new basal growth at ground level. Also, some of the small diameter, incredibly long canes of the Wichurana ramblers will produce little lateral growth but will bloom continuously along the canes regardless of whether they are growing up or hanging down. The abundance of the spaghetti-like canes can create a massive bloom effect.

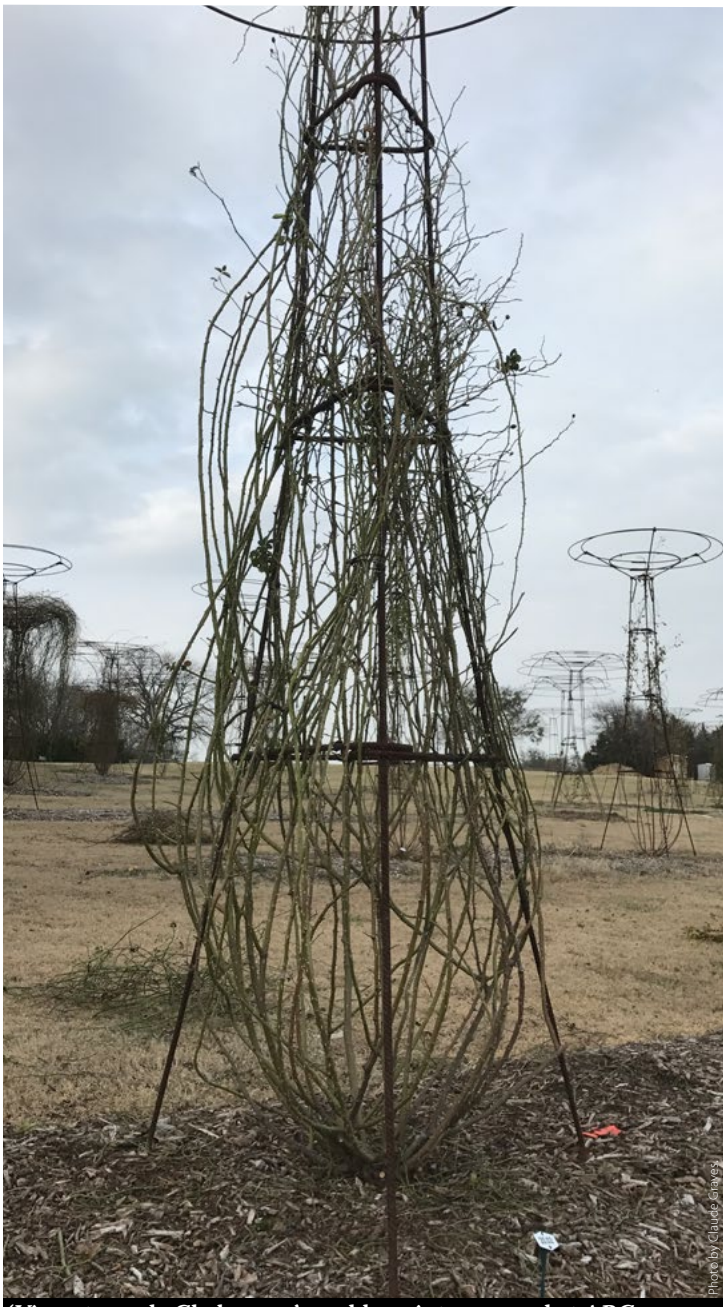


Photo by Claude Graves

'Vicomtesse de Chabannes' rambler winter pruned at ARC.

Tying Materials for Structures of Steel or Other Material Less Than 1.5" in Diameter

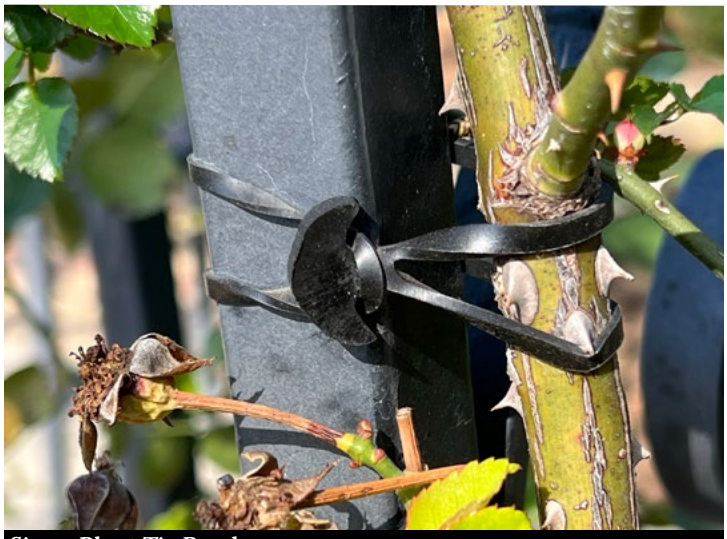
First, a word about structures in general. No matter what material is used for construction of the structures, they must be very strong and capable of remaining in place for a long time. Ramblers can live a long time and will get very big, which means heavy weight. More importantly, they present a large surface area which will result in very high horizontal loads in high winds. Over the years, many of our steel towers have blown down in the strong downburst winds from thunderstorms. It is important to note here that the towers that failed almost always had a rambler we had allowed to get too big (see comments about wind load above).

I have had lengthy discussions with great rosarians about tying materials used to attach the rose to a structure. (I am assuming that anyone reading this article knows that climbing roses don't climb in the classical sense like ivy climbs but must be either tied or otherwise secured to a structure. In the wild they will "climb" from some natural support like tree limbs.) Everyone has their preferred materials, usually jute or sisal twine, but I now use Simes Plant Tie Bands (rubber bands with a tab to self-lock around a structure) almost exclusively. (Remember our motivation to reduce labor cost.) Although a rubber tie costs much more than string, it more than pays for itself in labor cost savings because it is quick and easy, will stretch to accommodate growth and can be reused. One rubber tie on one cane of a new rambler may soon hold three canes and a year later five canes. Each added cane only requires you to quickly snap off the existing rubber tie, add the new cane to the bundle and then reinstall the same original tie. These rubber ties are very resistant to degrading from ultraviolet sunlight exposure. My experience is that most of them last at least 5 years without degrading. When used to tie ramblers, they will last even longer because they are in shade inside of the plant most the time. Rubber ties are worth the extra cost in ease of use and time savings.

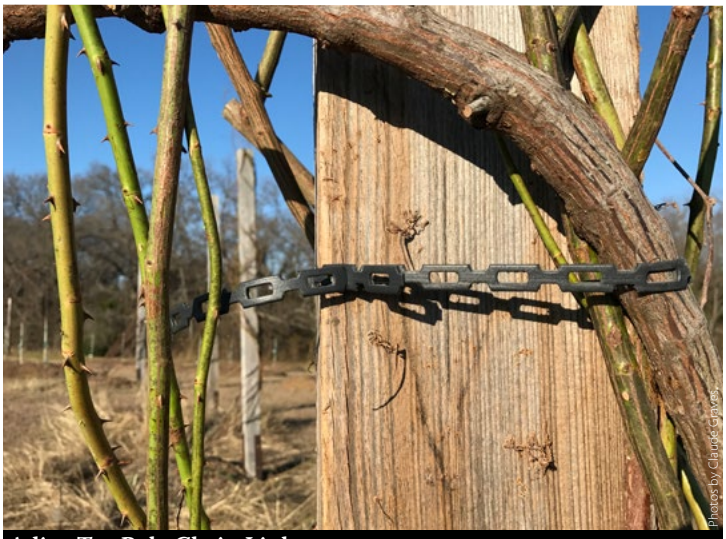
The purists among us decry the use of such a "commercial" device, particularly on heritage roses, but they are so unobtrusive that I have never had any guest in the garden (including at the Dallas Arboretum) notice them or ask me what the rubber bands are for. I standardize on two sizes, a number 10 (cm) and number a 7 (cm). These two sizes will be appropriate for most rambler tying but they are available in other sizes that might fit your needs better.

Tying Materials for Posts, Pillars or Columns

My tying material of choice for posts and pillars of 4" x 4" or larger is a product called Adj-a-Tye Poly Chain Link. After I discovered this plastic, interlocking product that can be cut to any length I have never used anything else! The photo of Adj-a-Tye on a pillar describes the product much better than any words I can write. The use of Adj-a-Tye offers all the same advantages as the use of rubber ties except for the ability to stretch with growth, the compensating factor here is that year to year growth in diameter of the large canes of a pillar rose is very slow. Because it is difficult to get the tie too tight at installation, it will be several years before strangulation of the cane



Simes Plant Tie Bands.



Photos by Claude Graves

Adj-a-Tye Poly Chain Link.

would be possible. Chances are that the Adj-a-Tye will be adjusted to add or remove canes from time to time so the tie will be readjusted at that time. Be sure when you install the tie you leave it a little too long to provide for growth and adding new canes in the future.

Equally important to increasing the ease and speed of tying of ramblers to columns is to use bungee cords to hold the canes temporarily while you apply the Adapt-A-Tie. The use of bungee cords similarly will help with tying roses on towers or other structures.

Soil Preparation

Ramblers, many of which are only one or two generations removed from a species rose, are extremely hardy roses able to survive with no human care whatsoever. They will thrive in our Texas native heavy alkaline black clay soil. The only reason for soil prep prior to planting is to loosen the soil to make water more available to the usually rootbound condition of a potted rambler. We also add about 10% compost to the hole to help establish the plant.

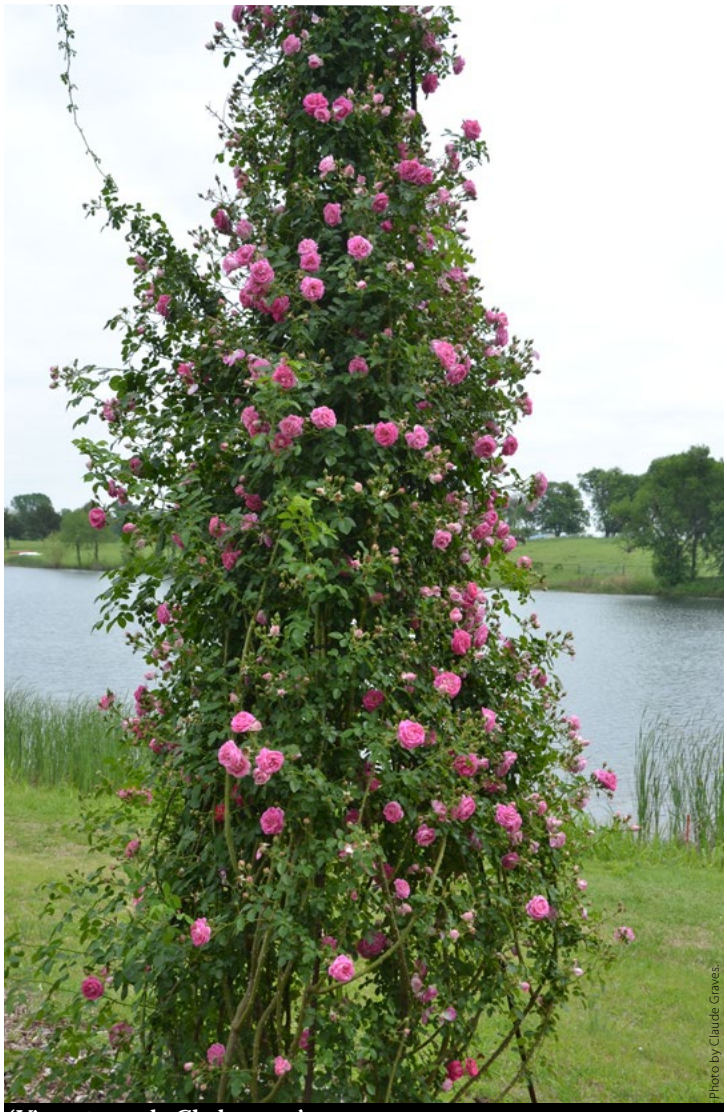


Photo by Claude Graves.

'Vicomtesse de Chabannes.'

Water Requirements

For the same reasons as stated in "Soil Preparation" above, the ramblers are very forgiving about soil moisture fluctuations. We provide drip irrigation to the beds of ramblers to provide a continuous soil moisture level for the first year until the root system can grow to sufficiently to support the plant. After about a year the drip system can be turned off except in an extended summer drought. The drip system is also turned back on if a rambler in the bed needs to be replaced to provide moisture for the newly transplanted rose.

Fertilizing

Save your money, these plants will do well without fertilizing unless you have some unusual soil deficiency.

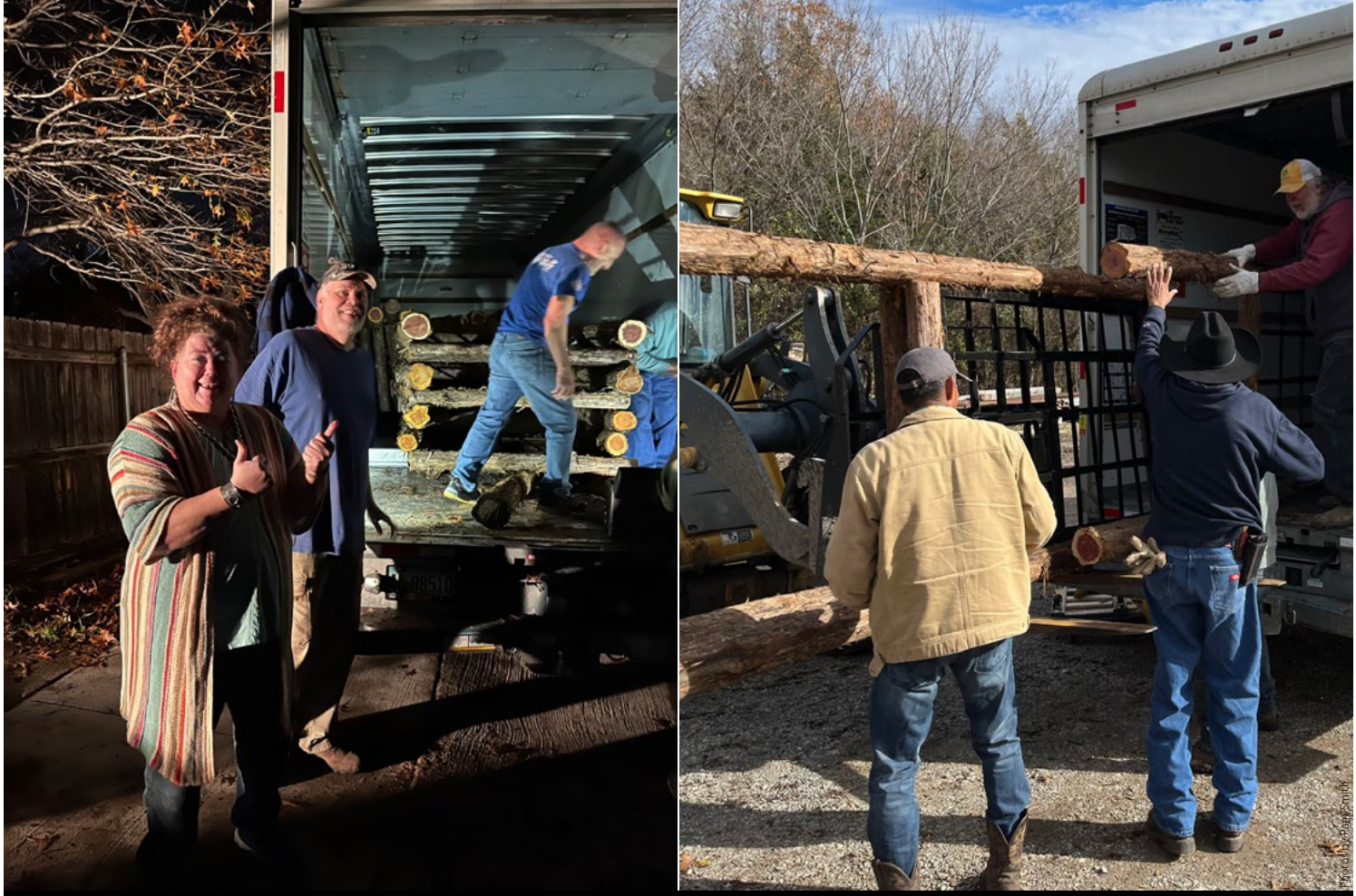
Spraying

Same answer as "Fertilizing," unless your area has Rose Rosette in which case you might want to spray to suppress the eriophyid mite population. If you live in an area with severe powdery mildew, you might want to spray some of the Hybrid Multiflora ramblers that do have a problem with powdery mildew.

I hope some of you reading this article find some information that will help you grow better ramblers with less work. The information on Simes Plant Tie Bands and Adj-a-Tye Poly Chain Link can be found at A. M. Leonard Tools: www.amleo.com. ❧

Claude Graves *is the Chair of the American Rose Center Committee. claude.graves@twc.com*

Editor's note: *Claude's recommendations are based on his experience growing ramblers in a climate that creates rapid growth and in soil that supports their healthy growth. Many people who grow roses in alkaline conditions find that Hybrid Multifloras will develop chlorosis as well as powdery mildew. Rather than fertilizing or spraying, you can choose other types of ramblers that stay healthy. What are your experiences with ramblers? We'd love to hear back from you!*



Sharrie Ely gives a thumbs up for trellis panels headed to the Franks Garden, December 2022.

Update on the Franks Garden (4th Circle)

PAM SMITH

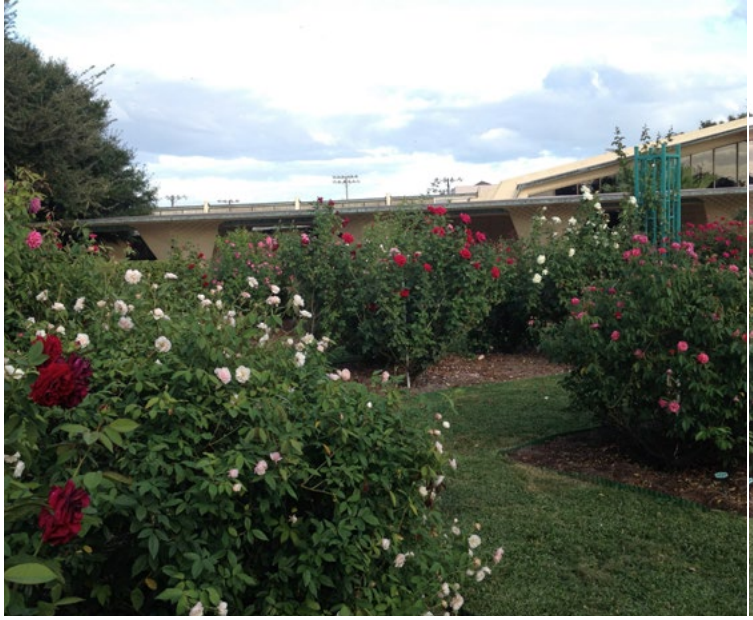
My last trip to the American Rose Center in Shreveport was to experience Christmas in Roseland. The heritage roses were growing in very nicely. Many had quadrupled in size. Seventeen more roses were delivered to help finish out the planting. The biggest news to share is that the trellis panels have been completed and transported to the garden! These panels will create seven substantial structures to be installed after the first of the year.

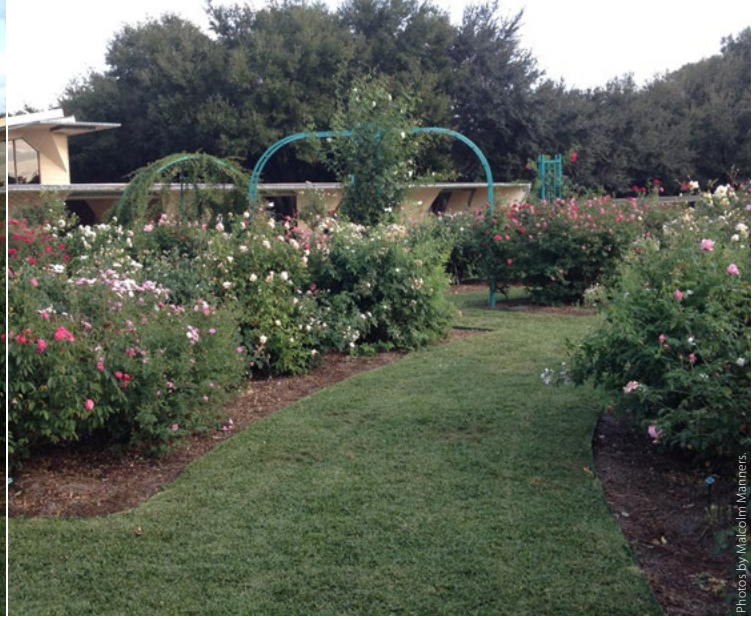
MAJOR kudos and thanks go out to Rick and Sharrie Ely for assembling the trellis panels. Their generous gift of time and talents has made this portion of the project possible. While the HRF donated the funds for the materials, someone had to assemble the structures. Rick and Sharrie stepped up and volunteered, converting their backyard to an assembly site for several months. And the best news is that we are still friends!

The next step was to rent a BIG truck and move the trellises across the Dallas-Ft. Worth Metroplex to Chambersville Tree Farm, 30 miles away. With a great crew and the use of spotlights, all 21 panels were hand loaded on the truck. The panels weighed 250–300 lbs. each. No one got hurt!

The next day, with moral support from our president, Stephen Scanniello, I drove the BIG truck up to Chambersville where another crew with a tractor made quick work of unloading the truck. Dean and Carol Oswald generously arranged and funded the transport of the trellises to the ARC.

It truly took a village to move this portion of the Franks Garden project along! Thanks to Tony Sansone for his help in transporting the cedar posts to our home driveway and sharing that driveway for months. Thanks to Rick and Sharrie for taking on the monumental task of assembling the panels. Thanks to Dean and Carol Oswald for getting the panels to the ARC. Thanks to the HRF for the $6,000 donation for materials. Can't wait to see them installed and covered with blooms. ❧





Photos by Malcolm Manners.

Pruning Day at Florida Southern College

MALCOLM MANNERS

Please consider joining us for a pruning workshop in Ruth's Rose Garden on the Florida Southern College Campus, Lakeland, Saturday, February 4. The garden features roses of many horticultural classes, of all ages—Chinas, teas, noisettes, hybrid perpetuals, damasks, species, "mysteries," and numerous more modern types. HRF President Stephen Scanniello and I will be leading the event. The goal is to do the spring pruning of that 300-bush garden, with tips and ideas on how best to prune old roses as we work. We'll plan to start around 9:00 a.m. and work until finished or exhausted. Experienced rosarians, as well as utter novices, are welcome!

You may bring your own tools, or we have quite a few to loan out, if you are not so well-equipped. Please let Malcolm know if you plan to attend (malcolmmanners@me.com). We can make suggestions for lodging, restaurants, etc. We hope to see you there! ❧

Rosa Belgica 2023

Registration is open for the World Federation of Rose Society's International Heritage Rose Conference in Brussels, Belgium. Dates are as follows: pre-conference tours from June 2–5, the main conference June 5–9, and a post-conference tour to Switzerland June 10–15.

Former HRF trustee Gregg Lowery will be one of the speakers at the conference. His topic is "A Time Capsule of Roses—Building a Future for Heritage Roses." He will be joined by speakers from around the world.

Several HRF trustees and members are planning to attend. It will be a chance to see old friends, meet new people, learn, and see some beautiful gardens. Please join us!

Detailed information and registration is at http://www.rosabelgica2023.com/. ❧

Rose Rosette Disease

Rose Rosette Disease continues to be a challenge for rose growers in many parts of North America. Research has been partially funded by donations from the Heritage Rose Foundation and private individuals. Scientists have identified a gene that provides some RRD resistance, which should be helpful in developing new varieties. Those of us who grow older varieties must stay vigilant in identifying and removing infected plants. Current information is at the following websites:

https://roserosette.org

https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/SP806.pdf

https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/rose-rosette-disease.html ❧

Time for Roses: ARS Convention, May 5–7

The Heritage Rose Foundation will be participating in the American Rose Society's "Time for Roses" convention on May 5–7 at the American Rose Center in Shreveport, Louisiana. The national rose show will include categories for heritage roses. There will also be many topics of interest for our members. On Saturday, May 6, Anita Clevenger will be speaking about the "Anne Belovich Ramblers—The Sky's the Limit" and Stephen Scanniello will present "The Rose Garden Chronicles." Stephen will preside over our annual HRF membership meeting, and will join HRF trustee and Franks Garden curator Pam Smith for a walking tour of the highlights of the 4th circle. You will also have an opportunity to bid on "Famous, Rare and Heritage" roses in an auction, and shop for roses and other merchandise from the vendors in attendance. Attendees will have the option to extend through Sunday for the "Roses & Steel Magnolias" tour.

Registration is due by April 4, 2023. You can find the registration form and conference details at https://www.dallasrosesociety.com/ars-national-convention ❧

Why Go to the Shreveport Convention?

PAM SMITH

The question was posed to me: "Why would an HRF member want to travel to Shreveport for an ARS National Convention?" Let me share my top ten reasons:

1. See if Lady Luck is with you at local casinos.
2. Shop with convention vendors.
3. Take a Sunday bus tour ending with a dinner in Marilyn Wellan's garden.
4. Exhibit your blooms in the National Rose show. Yes, there are categories for Heritage Roses.
5. Share your enthusiasm for Heritage Roses with others.
6. See how the establishment of the Anne Belovich rambler collection is progressing.
7. See first-hand the Great Garden Restoration and the Franks Garden which the HRF has supported with its resources.
8. Attend an HRF membership meeting in person!
9. Attend programs directed specifically to Heritage Roses.
10. Share time with other rose enthusiasts. There will be a garden filled with gardeners who see the rose in many different ways.

If your travels bring you in to the Dallas area before driving over to Shreveport, check out:

- The Dallas Arboretum
- George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum
- The Ft. Worth Botanical Gardens & Botanical Research Institute of Texas
- The Tyler Rose Gardens and Museum
- The Longfield Gardens (Tahoka, Texas)
- Many great museums along the way
- Great nurseries along the way ❧

Support HelpMeFind.com

HelpMeFind

Fred Boutin was one of many rose lovers who consider HelpMeFind.com/roses an invaluable resource. If you haven't joined as a Premium Member, please do!

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.

Officers & Trustees

PRESIDENT
Stephen Scanniello (New Jersey)
stephenscanniello@gmail.com

1ST VP, MEMBERSHIP & TREASURER
Peggy Martin (Louisiana)
peggyrosemartin@eatel.net

2ND VP, PUBLICATIONS
Anita Clevenger (California)
anitac5159@gmail.com

SECRETARY
Sharrie Ely (Texas)
s.ely@tx.rr.com

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Maureen Reed Detweiler (Louisiana)
mcrdetweiler@aol.com

DIRECTOR FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS, EUROPE
Etienne Bouret (France)
amiroses@hotmail.com

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Dr. Malcolm Manners (Florida)
malcolmmanners@me.com

Connie Hilker (Virginia)
connie@hartwoodroses.com

Marijke Peterich (Bermuda)
mgpeterich@gmail.com

Pam Smith (Texas)
smithpflower@verizon.net

Maurizio Usai (Italy)
ingmauriziousai@gmail.com

Cydney Wade (Florida)
ladyg8r@gmail.com

Newsletter Staff

EDITORS
Anita Clevenger, Chief Editor
Dr. Malcolm Manners
Stephen Scanniello

DESIGNER
Dennis Favello

Contact Us

MEMBERSHIP
Peggy Rose Martin
peggyrosemartin@eatel.net

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
Stephen Scanniello, President
stephenscanniello@gmail.com

MAILING ADDRESS
Heritage Rose Foundation
P.O. Box 1719
Gonzales, LA 70707