

The Heritage Roses Groups

ROSE  
LETTER



February, 2011

# *The Rose Letter*

## **The Heritage Roses Group**

(ISSN#1526-8276)

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### **In This Issue:**

**Editor's Corner . . . Pg. 1**

**I Know Why They Wear Purple, Pt. III**

~ Darrell gh Schramm . . . Pg. 3

**Winter Hardiness In The Old Garden Roses**

~ Lily Shohan (1975) . . . Pg. 8

**G.R.O.W East . . . . Pg. 14**

**My Adventures Rose Rustling in  
My Own Back Yard**

~ Jackie Schmidt . . . . . Pg. 18

**Help For Help-Me-Find . . . . Pg., 22**

**Membership Information . . . Pg. 29-30**

Front Cover Photo

**'The Bishop'**

*Centifolia, Breeder Unknown/?Descemet?/Before 1790/1815*

Back Cover Photo

**"Single Cerise China"**

*?China Rose? — Origin Un-Recorded — San Jose Heritage Rose Garden  
Available Through Vintage Gardens Rose Nursery*

## THE HERITAGE ROSES GROUPS STUDY, PRESERVATION, FELLOWSHIP



As we march toward February, and I finish up this next-to-last issue as Editor of The *“Rose Letter,”* I am surrounded by brilliant winter sunshine, and the less-welcome sound of violent 60 mph wind gusts. This has been a dreadful winter for much of the country, and I’m sure many have lost roses. I’d love to hear from some of you, about winter damage and hopes for spring and summer.

With one more *“Rose Letter”* issue to go, I look forward to having more time for travel, including the search for lost and forgotten roses. To start things off, we will be in the Sacramento City Cemetery on April 16, for the annual Open Garden and Rose Sale. (No, I don’t yet know what roses will be available there. That catalog is a “pending” task.) I don’t know a more beautiful place to be on a spring morning, and I hope many of you can join me there.

Come May, our calendar is marked for the first Sunday following Mother’s Day — and the annual Celebration Of Old Roses. This wonderful day is one of the “rosiest” I know. The location, as always, will be the El Cerrito Community Center, in El Cerrito, on the East shore of San Francisco Bay. Look for more information about Celebration at the HRG Website:

**<http://www.theheritagerosesgroup.org/>**

We continue to lose rose nurseries (other sorts of nurseries, too, but rose nurseries concern me most deeply). As this happens, some cultivars are “picked up” by the remaining nurseries, but inevitably, some will be lost from commerce. For some — those we know now only under “study names” — this will be their second time lost.

Please support our remaining rose nurseries. Their path isn’t an easy one these days, and they need every order they can get.

*“Outside of a dog, a book is man’s best friend.  
Inside of a dog, it’s too dark to read.”*

— Attributed to Groucho Marx

I am alternating my reading between two absorbing new books. The first is **Inside Of A Dog: What Dogs See, Smell, and Know**, written by Alexan-

— Continued on Page 26



*'Tip-Top'*

*Polyantha, Lambert, Germany, 1909 Trier × Rosa foetida var. bicolor Willmott*

## Local Heritage Groups **NEWS** North Central Florida HRC

The North Central Florida Heritage Roses Group  
Is Proud To Announce A New Project  
For Early Spring, 2011:

**The Design, Installation, and Maintenance  
of a Memorial Rose Garden for Haven Hospice of Gainesville**

Local businesses will come together to donate materials such as compost, mulch, and roses. A groundbreaking ceremony will be held in March on a new sunny site graciously donated by Av Med, adjoining the existing shade gardens.

### **An April Gathering:**

The new North-Central Florida Heritage Roses Group will also host the **3rd annual Rose Lovers Gathering** at Angel Gardens on the weekend of April 30th with speakers Dr. T. Senn of Nature's Nog, John Starnes from Tampa, Stan Leacock from Atlanta, Stephen Hoy, Peggy Martin, and more.

For Further Information, contact Pam Greenewald for more information at : [gardenangel22@gmail.com](mailto:gardenangel22@gmail.com)

# I KNOW WHY THEY WEAR PURPLE,

## *Part III*

By Darrell g.h. Schramm

Royalty is invariably on exhibition. But just as certain roses never make it to the top, blooming either too early or too late, or fitting into no category of the court, so too did Eugene de Beauharnais, son of Empress Josephine from her first marriage, never make it all the way up the rungs of royalty. Yet he did have a rose named for him.

The rose was bred by Alexandre Hardy in 1838. Like the famous rose breeder Jean-Pierre Vibert, Hardy no doubt lamented the fall of the Napoleonic order and felt determined to honor those relevant to it. The flower appears to



*'Eugene de Beauharnais'*

be a bourbon-china hybrid, floriferous, with some fragrance, growing from two to three and a half feet tall and nearly as wide. It has been described as “wonderfully purple,” mauve, amaranth, “*amaranth-color approaching crimson,*” purple with a carmine red center, and “*rich cherry crimson with hints of purple.*” Clair G. Martin perhaps describes it best when he writes that the blossoms “*open a deep, rich carmine and darken in the sun to imperial purple, very double, cupped and fragrant.*” The first time I saw it, in a bed of old garden roses at a campus of Yuba College in Woodland, California, it was clearly and deeply royal purple. What startled me was not its profusion nor its purple

blossoms but its stature, so low to the earth—about eighteen inches high—that I thought it was a ground cover. A lovely rose. Unfortunately, it seems to have disappeared in Europe. But we still grow it and show it in our small gardens and shows.

The namesake was born Eugene Rose Beauharnais in 1781, the first of two children by Josephine de Beauharnais. (Rose was also part of Josephine’s first name: Marie-Josephe-Rose. Until she met Napoleon, she was usually called Rose.)

In her memoirs, Marie Avrillon, First Lady of the Chamber to Empress Josephine, wrote that Eugene was graceful, athletic, a mannerly gentleman, who was unaffected and kindhearted, “*neither vain nor presumptuous*” and “*sincere without being indiscreet.*” To this might be



*Eugene Rose Beauharnais  
Prince of the Empire, Arch-chancellor of State  
Prince of Leuchtenburg, Prince of Eichstadt*

added handsome, charming, and playful. He also enjoyed music and the theatre. However, others saw him in later life as arrogant and often uncircumspect.

When his mother, then the future Empress Josephine, was imprisoned in 1794 during the French Revolution, Eugene at age thirteen visited a prominent family friend, begging him to intercede on his mother’s behalf. But the man could do nothing. With his sister Hortense he tried to visit her in prison, but the children were refused. Meanwhile, during a time when over 14,000 people were guillotined over eighteen months, he and his sister resided safely with a governess and dressmaker until Josephine was freed. Mother and son remained close all their lives.

After his mother had married Napoleon, Eugene became a part of the great general's staff and accompanied him into Italy, Egypt, and Russia. He was soon named Prince of the Empire and Arch-chancellor of State. In military campaigns, he showed himself courageous and capable. And ambitious. It seems Eugene Rose felt himself, anachronistically, to be a '*Little White Pet*' but longed to be a '*Paul Neyron*'.

He was also close to Napoleon who, in 1806, officially adopted him. Napoleon appointed him Viceroy of Italy (1805-1814) to govern that country in his absence. There, surrounded by unprincipled courtiers, he was seen as competent but not necessarily wise. Eugene de Beauharnais was not brilliant; he was the little pet of a big man. Also in 1806 he married the beautiful Princess Augusta-Amalia of Bavaria, a marriage Napoleon arranged to accelerate part of his foreign policies and safeguard his empire. They had five—one source claims six—children. He named his first daughter Josephine. Though Napoleon divorced his mother because she was unable to bear another child, Eugene remained in the good graces of the emperor. And Eugene assumed the emperor would remain in the good graces of the world.

When in 1813 Napoleon's star was dipping into the West and many were forsaking him, the King of Bavaria, Eugene's father-in-law, offered to guarantee him the crown in Italy if he would desert Napoleon. Eugene, however, like a rose refusing to drop its faded petals, remained steadfastly loyal.

Events happened quickly. Paris capitulated to the enemy, but Eugene naively thought himself secure. Of course he had never heard of shovel-pruning. The populace, the army, and the senate, on the other hand, thought him unsafe, contemptuously regarding him as a puppet of Napoleon. In addition, he had not always paid his soldiery. The people weren't happy. Some sources state emphatically that he was now hated. With some help, he fled with his family to the Bavarian Court in Munich, promising the king he would no longer take up arms. Thus are the mighty brought low. 'Eugene de Beauharnais', the rose, seems symbolic. But one might hasten to add that when the man finally lay down his arms, surrendering his military ambitions and his castles in the air, he became himself, his own rose.

Shortly after taking up residence in Munich, he was summoned to France on the death of his mother. For a while he stayed with his sister near Lake Constance, but eventually retired in Bavaria where in 1817 he was made Prince of Leuchtenburg and Prince of Eichstadt. Beyond that time not much is known of his life. One would hope that, though he died at age 43, Eugene Rose was hale and hearty, disease-resistant, and humble and handsome as his namesake rose.

When Josephine died in May of 1814, she had left him the duchy and estate of Navarre and her glorious showplace manor Malmaison. Eugene de Beauharnais lived only another ten years, dying in Munich in 1824. He left two

surviving sons and three daughters, all who married into royalty of other countries. Five years later his heirs sold the Malmaison estate to Hagermann, a Swedish banker. His daughter Josephine became Empress of Brazil, his second daughter Queen of Sweden, and his son Auguste consort to Queen Maria II of Portugal. But it was his sister's son who would become Napoleon III.



## *'William Lobb'*

Of this next rose—its history and background—fairly much has been written, but perhaps I can add a fact or two to the familiar. *'William Lobb'* is a classic Victorian moss rose, rather lanky but quite purple and mauve. A low-growing Polyantha planted at its feet might conceal the naked shanks. Its buds are prolific, opening into long-lasting and strongly fragrant blooms. A tough plant, it generally lives into quite old age. Jean Laffay revealed it to the public in 1855.

The man for whom it was named lived from 1809 to 1864. An uncertified botanist and horticultural explorer, he traveled much of the world for the James Veitch, Sr., company of Exeter, England, sending back seeds and plants. Mostly he explored the less traveled regions of Oregon, California, Ecuador, Peru, and Chile for exotic flora. The accompanying information he sent with the plants and seeds was, of course, handwritten, but often—to the consternation of his employer—written almost illegibly. Naturally this matters naturally when identifying newly discovered nature.

In addition to the rose that bears his name, William Lobb is remembered for introducing to England in 1842 the monkey puzzle tree (*Araucaria araucana*) from Chile and for sending home about ten years later the seeds of the giant sequoia, so that the British were first to name it—*Wellingtonia gigantea*—trumping the Americans who had hoped to name it *Washingtonia gigantea*. In any case, the name it goes by today is *Sequoiadendron*. A sequoia is a sequoia and certainly not a rose.

Three years after Laffay introduced the rose, William Lobb retired to California, spending his final years in San Francisco. Unless he knew William C. Walker who was selling this very rose in 1858 or knew someone who purchased roses from Walker's Golden Gate Nursery in San Francisco, William Lobb may never have seen the rose named in his honor. But then again, he may have, and so went to his rest in comparative satisfaction and peace.



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Spring In California's Central Valley

**The Sacramento City Cemetery  
Historic Rose Garden**

**Annual Open Garden**

**And Sale Of Rare, Endangered, & Found Roses**

**Saturday, April 16**



**ALSO: Rose Classification Class, Pt. I: May 7**

**For Information On These *And Other* Events, Visit:**

**<http://www.cemeteryrose.org/Events/Events.html>**

**SUMMER CEMETERY HOURS: 7 A.M.—7 P.M., CLOSED THURS. & FRI.**



*'Rosa Mundi'*

*Photographed in Descanso Gardens, Southern California,  
On An Afternoon in January*

**“What roses will handle my cold winters?”** *This is one of the most common queries from those new to Old Roses — and clearly an important one — yet, finding writers to wrestle with the issue has proven to be difficult, at best.*

*I turn at last to the past, and to one of the rosarians most experienced in dealing with it. This article by Lily Shohan was featured in the “Rose Letter,” Vol. 1, No. 1, edited by Edith C. Schurr. It’s not a complete answer, perhaps, but is a signpost to point the way for the less-experienced rosarian.*

*No area is perfect for all roses, but almost any area is good for SOME roses. It is my personal belief that if you want badly to grow a specific rose, the best course is to TRY it in your garden. You have little to lose, and much to gain in terms of satisfaction and knowledge.*

## **Winter Hardiness In The Old Garden Roses**

≈ Lily Shohan (1975)

A number of the Old Garden Rose types are extremely hardy, and others only slightly less so. Rosebushes around colonial homes dating from the 1700’s are clear evidence of the survival abilities of our favorite flower. My own garden is in an area of winter low temperatures averaging 20° below 0, with an all-time winter low of -38°, and this report is based on experiences with such a climate.

**The most winter-hardy Old Roses are those belonging to the Gal-**

**lica group**, which has naturalized along roadsides throughout New England. They will survive -20° with little damage, though freezing back at -30°. In this group, *'Alain Blanchard'*, *R. gallica officianalis*, *'Alika'*, *'Charles de Mills'*, *'Rosa Mundi'* – all seem about equally hardy, though of course some are more vigorous than others.

**The next group in order of hardiness are the Albas.** Here, we get some freeze-back at -25°, but not much damage at -15° to -20°. *R. alba semi-plena*, *'Maxima'*, *'Maiden's Blush'*, *'Celeste'*, or *'Pompon Parfait'*, -- all seem to be about equal in their resistance to cold, and in my neighborhood, we have examples of bushes which must be about 150 years old, surviving long periods of cold temperatures and neglect. *'Koenigin von Danemarck'* has shown some winter damage at -20°, and seems slightly less-hardy than the rest. All these roses survived, unaided, our most recent winter low of -36°, which occurred 5 years ago<sup>1</sup>.

**The Damasks are almost as hardy as the Albas**, but less-so than the Gallicas. Here, we are considering the Summer Damasks – *'Celsiana'*, *'Belle Amour'*, *'St. Nicholas'*, *'La Ville de Bruxelles'*, and *'York and Lancaster'*. They show some winter damage at -20°, but very little at -15°.

When we come to the **Autumn Damasks and the Portland roses**, the situation is very different, since they have proven definitely more tender. *'Four Seasons'* will freeze back badly at -20°, and have quite a bit of black-



**'Autumn Damask'**  
*Ancient, Lovely, Well-Adapted To Many Climates — Photographed in Southern California*

ened wood at -15°. *'Jacques Cartier'* will also freeze back at -15, and in my garden gets protection from a cone every winter, since one bush was lost to an early October freeze a few years ago. The Fall Damasks do not go dormant early, but continue growing and blooming up to the first cold weather, and this undoubtedly accounts for the problem.

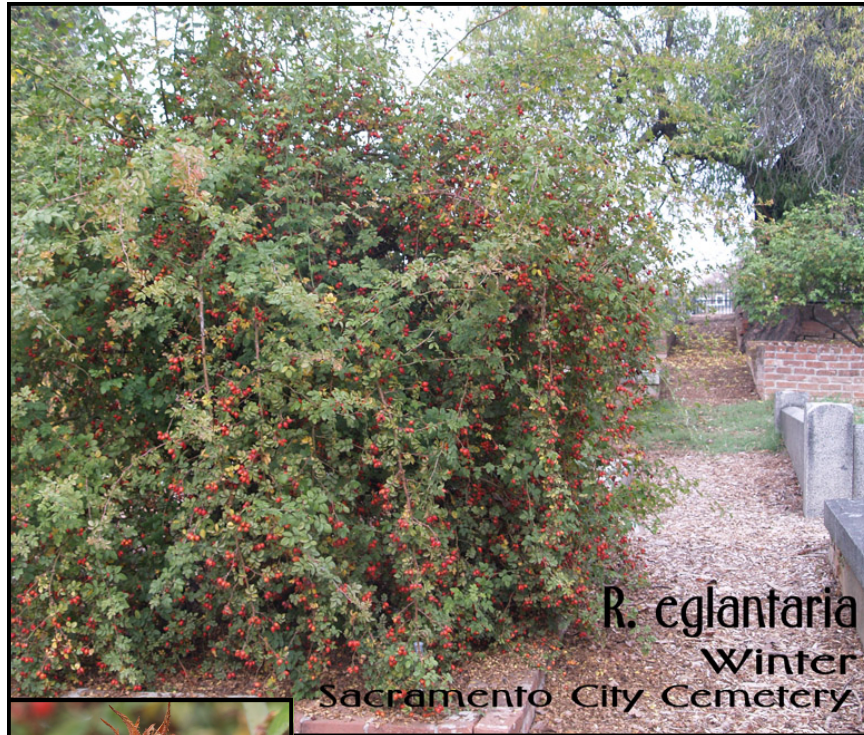
**The Centifolia Roses** will also be damaged in most seasons, but these are vigorous, long-lived bushes and usually make a quick comeback. In winter hardiness, these and the **Centifolia Mosses** can be lumped together, with some freezeback at -20°, and minor damage at -15°. **The Damask Mosses**, such as *'Deuil de Paul Fontaine'* seem slightly less hardy, and the **Hybrid Perpetual** types such as *'Gloire des Mousseux'* and *'Mme. Louis Leveque'* are even more subject to winter-kill. These benefit from a cone, since they are badly damaged at -20°, our average winter low.

**Bourbons and Hybrid Perpetuals** freeze back badly at -15, which makes them borderline in our area. **China Roses** are about as hardy as **Floribundas** and **Hybrid Teas**, which means down to -10°. I grow them, and cone them, and have been lucky the past few years, but they cannot be considered hardy without protection.

**Species and Species Hybrids vary widely.** *R. eglanteria* has proven to be completely hardy – the tips freeze at -35. *R. wichurana* failed to survive its first winter, though a sub-variant has survived either winters. *'Therese*



*R. eglanteria* at a historic site in Southern California



*Bugnet*<sup>1</sup>, listed as a Hybrid rugosa, is just as hardy as Eglantine. *Vanguard*, another rugosa hybrid, freezes almost to the ground most winters, though providing some bloom on wood below the snowline.

I would like to stress that this is an

unscientific report, based on general observations while growing these roses over 15 years in a climate usually considered unfriendly to both roses and rosarians. Hardiness depends upon other factors than cold temperatures – wind, humidity or lack of it, general culture. Some of you in mountainous areas or even further North will have more information on colder temperatures, and others may have discovered some individual idiosyncrasies in particular varieties. Let us hear from you.

*Lily Shohan, NE Area*  
 “Rose Letter”, Vol. 1, No. 1, May, 1975

<sup>1</sup> That would probably have been the winter of 1969, or 1970. Lower temperatures may (or may not) have occurred in the ensuing 36 years!

(Continue)



“Linsley Plot Quartered Pink,” A Found Rose Of The ‘Baronne Prévost’ Family

*WINTER HARDINESS, Cont. from Previous Page*

*For those to whom her name is not already familiar, Lily Shohan is a past Regional Coordinator of the Heritage Roses Group N.E. Region. Her home is the Taconic Mountains of upstate New York. It is thanks to Lily that we are fortunate enough to have these early issues of the “Rose Letter.”*



### ***Another Opinion:***

*Having read Lily’s lists of winter-hardy roses, I turned with some curiosity to George Ellwanger. An experienced 19th-Century nurseryman, Ellwanger’s pretty 1882 book is full of handy LISTS. Under “VARIETIES FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES,” Ellwanger provides a group of “THE MOST HARDY ROSES.” Looking at Ellwanger’s list, I would be more cautious with these selections than with those provided by Lily! However . . .*

#### ***George Ellwanger’s List From The Rose, Rochester, N.Y., 1882***

The Most Hardy Roses. – *(The kinds marked with an asterisk (\*) should be first chosen.)* Abel Grand, Anne de Diesbach, Baron de Bonstetten, \*Baronne Prévost, Baroness Rothschild, Boieldieu, Caroline de Sansal, Charles Margottin, Countess of Serenye, Edward Morren, Francois Michelon, General Jacqueminot, Jules Margottin, \*La Reine, Mabel Morrison, Madame Boll, Madame Joly, Marchioness of Exeter, Marguerite de St. Amande, Marquise de Castellane, Maurice Bernardin, Rev. J.B. Camm. All summer roses, with scarce any exception, are hardy, more so than any of the Hybrid Remon-

**Need Advice On  
Dealing With Ramblers?  
Need A Hint For Tying Up Rose Canes?**

Check:

<http://hartwoodroses.blogspot.com/2011/01/how-to-prune-and-train-ramblers.html>

And:

<http://hartwoodroses.blogspot.com/2009/06/coolest-tool-for-tying-climbing-roses.html>



*WINTER HARDINESS, Cont. from Previous Page*

tants. The most hardy of the Monthly Roses are Appolline, Edward Dés-fosses, Hermosa, Louise Odier, Aimée Vibert, Caroline Marniesse, Gloire de Dijon,

Reine Marie Henriette, Bougère, Gérard Desbois, Homer, Madame de Vatry, Marie Ducher, Sombreuil.



*Perhaps you, dear reader, can suggest other roses with good tolerance for cold winter conditions? Perhaps can suggest roses that do NOT handle cold winters well? We'd love to hear from you!*

*Please send your suggestions and amendments to Jeri Jennings, by email to: [heritageroses@gmail.com](mailto:heritageroses@gmail.com) — or by snailmail to 22 Gypsy Lane, Camarillo, CA 93010-1320.*

## **GREAT ROSARIANS *Of The* WORLD**

**GROW-West** went off without a hitch in January, at the Huntington Museum and Botanical Gardens, in San Marino, CA. Now, it's the East's turn to shine, as New York prepares for the . . .

## **GROW *EAST* COAST**

### **LECTURE SERIES<sup>TM</sup> XI**

*Currently Accepting Reservations For All Events.*

*Honoring*

# *Ruth Knopf!*



### **SCHEDULE of EVENTS:**

**Friday, June 10, 2011**

**6<sup>th</sup> Annual New York Metropolitan Rose Council Dinner -**  
Sponsored by The Conard-Pyle Company, Star@Roses.

**Guest of Honor:**

**Ruth Knopf**

**Great Rosarian of the World 2011 Recipient**

**6:00pm – Reception**

**7:00pm - Dinner immediately following the reception**

**Opia — 130 East 57<sup>th</sup> St., New York, NY**

**Members and Guests registering before April 30, 2011: \$100**

**Members and Guests registering after April 30, 2011: \$125**

**For reservations please contact PAT SHANLEY:**

**516-759-1435/ Email: pshanley@aol.com**

**Reservations and pre-payment required.**



## **Saturday, June 11, 2010**

**Queens Botanical Garden — 43-50 Main St., Flushing, NY 11355;**

**Registration required - Reservations at 718-886-3800 ext. 230,**

***Registration fee: \$75 - (includes parking) - for Members of Queens Botanical Garden, Heritage Rose Foundation, Manhattan Rose Society, or American Rose Society; \$85 - (includes parking) - for Non-Members.***

**Optional buffet lunch: \$18 with reservation; \$20 day of event**

**Morning Session: 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.**

### **The Sustainable Rose Garden!**

A panel of world renowned rosarians discuss topics covered in the new, revised and enlarged edition of ***The Sustainable Rose Garden - A Reader in Rose Culture.***

Hear Bill Radler, creator of the “Knock Out” family of roses; Karl McKoy, curator of the Rose Garden at Queens Botanical Garden; Peter Kukielski, curator of the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden, Clair Martin, Shannon Curator of Rose & Perennial Gardens at the Huntington Botanical Garden, San Marino, CA; Mike Shoup owner of The Antique Rose Emporium, Bill McNamarra, curator of Quarry Hill Botanical Garden, Glen Ellen, CA.

**Optional buffet lunch available for an additional fee**



**Afternoon: 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

**Award Ceremony and Lecture by the  
Great Rosarians of the World 2011 Honoree**

## ***Ruth Knopf***

... best known for her work popularizing and preserving the Noisette roses she has discovered growing in her beloved American South.

Mrs. Knopf is being honored by GROW for her dogged persistence in searching out and preserving the roses of her region where her activities have insured the survival of many heretofore lost roses from the early days of the republic.

— Continue To Pg. 16

And On The WEST Coast . . .  
Highly-Acclaimed Botanical Watercolors & Drawings By  
***Maria Cecilia Freeman***

Are On Display  
Through April 30, 2011

At The Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture  
San Francisco Botanical Garden, Strybing Arboretum, Golden Gate Park  
1199 Ninth Ave., San Francisco, CA 94122  
[www.sfbotanicalgarden.org](http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.org)

*Sometimes, Carefully-Executed Works of Art Tell Us More About Plants  
Than The Language of Photography Can Express*

*Great Rosarians Of The World: EAST*  
Cont. from Pg. 15

**Reception 4:00 - 6:00pm**

**Reception in The Rose Garden immediately following.**

The day concludes with a reception in Ms. Knopf's honor  
in the beautiful **Rose Garden**.

**"Jazz & Roses"** music during the reception will be provided  
by *Parlor Entertainment*, a New York City based Jazz Trio.



**Sunday, June 12, 2011**

**The New York Botanical Garden,**

[www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org),

Bronx River Parkway at Fordham Road, Bronx, NY 10458 718.817.8700

presents

**A Book Signing**

Featuring Peter Kukielski and Other Authors Of

**The Sustainable Rose Garden:**

**A Reader in Rose Culture**



**3rd Annual  
Rose Lover's  
Gathering**

Sponsored By Angel Gardens & The  
North-Central Florida Heritage Roses Group

**April 30th — May 1st**

Saturday, 11 a.m. —5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 12:00 Noon—4:00 p.m.



ENJOY:

**Organic Rose Gardens**



**Speakers:**

- ◆ D. T. Senn (Nature's Nog): Seaweed
- ◆ John Starnes: Probiotics For Roses
- ◆ Stan Leacock: Natural Fertilizer
- ◆ Stephen Hoy: Being Single Is Beautiful



**Voluntary Potluck — Raffle — Rose Sale  
Workshops On Propagation & Pruning**

*Angel Gardens is located at: 14228 NW 222 Pl., Alachua, FL 32615*

*Phone: 352-359-1133, visit the website at:*

*<http://www.angelgardens.com/>*

*For Complete Information, Email: [gardenangel22@gmail.com](mailto:gardenangel22@gmail.com)*

# My Adventures Rose Rustling in My Own Back Yard

— Jackie Schmidt

*Cont'd from the Nov 2010 Rose Letter*

This is the third and final installment of the story of how, after moving into a home in 1989 which had been in my husband's family since 1905, I discovered many roses which had survived decades of neglect. They were planted by my husband's grand parents and great-grand parents, who were avid gardeners. In the first two installments I explained how I knew nothing whatever about roses when I moved in, and have been gradually learning about them by finding them in my garden, which is sort of backwards from how most people do it! I don't need to go out "rose rustling", as I am still trying to identify lovely roses already growing in my garden.



After noticing and trying to get identities for the really old teas, Noisettes, etc. that were in my garden, and learning how to take care of them, I turned to one area I had been ignoring. Along the side of our long driveway are many huge overgrown old garden bushes, trees, etc. However, right next to the driveway, mostly under the bushes & trees, were some pitiful green sticks with some thorns on them. There was one every 10 feet or so.

I had been ignoring them for at least 10 years when I finally decided to do something about them. They were, after all, clinging to life in dark shade, which was sort of intriguing. The only one that had ever bloomed was Peace.

It had evidently morphed into a climber, and climbed 10-12 feet up the large pomegranate bush it was under to get up to the sun. The rest had never bloomed, and most of them had only one cane at a time.

I had my husband dig one of the sticks up, and we moved it across the driveway to a bed that actually got some sun. When we planted it, it was one

small cane, maybe 2 feet high. WOW! It practically hit me in the back as I turned away, it grew so fast! Really, within a month it was a small bush, and within 2 months it was a medium sized bush covered with gorgeous tiny pink roses! It turned out to be the bush form of Cecile Brunner. Not a rare rose, of course, but I thought of this particular bush as a family heirloom which had survived for who knows how many decades in very bad circumstances, and then immediately come back to life like Sleeping Beauty.



*'Mlle. Cecile Brunner'*

That one instance did more to convince me about how vital sunlight was for roses than all of the articles & books I had read. I noticed something else - this one bush of Cecile Brunner blooms so much more, and is so much more healthy, than a couple of new bushes of the same rose that I bought from nurseries (and which are planted nearby) that I suspect that this very popular rose may have deteriorated in commerce. A sobering thought. I had had some success rooting roses by then, so I decided that if I wanted more of any of the old roses already growing in our garden, I would just root the old cultivar, so that I would get whatever benefit there might be from having a clone of a bush that was 50-100 years old.



*'Sutter's Gold'*

Eventually over the next few months I got my husband to dig up all of the rest of the rose sticks that were languishing in the dark alongside of the driveway. Having run out of anywhere with sun to plant them, we got a bunch of very large pots and half wine barrels, and put them on the brick patio at the back of the house, which gets 4-5 hours of sun. They weren't as fast as Cecile Brunner, but they did start growing, and bloomed the next Spring. One turned out to be *Sutter's Gold*, which I only found out when a lady from the local ARS society came by to do an article on my garden.

Another turned out to be Chrysler Imperial. Both of these are old HTs. They both are amazingly fragrant. That made me think more highly of HTs. One was the Polyantha Margo Koster. A tiny rose, it had been languishing under a huge barberry bush. It sprouted into a small bush covered with peachy orange blossoms. This rose is how I learned about sports, as it soon produced a branch on

which all of the flowers were a dark cerise. ANOTHER thing I didn't know roses did! I was able to root the sport, and we now have a bush of that color. So far it is stable, although it occasionally puts out a peachy orange bloom.

There is one really lovely Hybrid Tea Rose of this bunch that is still a mystery.

It has large (4-6 inches) ruffled blooms, in the most beautiful dark pink/cerise. The back of the petals are a silvery pink. Looking and looking at pictures of roses, one it resembles is Bewitched. Bewitched was hybridized in 1967, which is right at the end of the time period in which my husband's grandfather was still gardening.

Another thing I learned from the roses in my garden was something about grafted roses. I had always read that, if a "sucker" emerged from the base of the rose, or under the dirt nearby, you had to immediately dig down to where it was growing out of the main stem, and cut it off. Otherwise it could supplant the rose growing above the graft, called the scion. I had read that what you would get was "a rose with seven leaves" instead of five, and that you didn't want it. In the front of our front garden there was a row of tree roses, three of which had survived. These are made up of three roses, one is the roots, one is the stem, and one is the one that blooms on the top. I am not very fond of modern roses, and I didn't like these. I didn't like their ridiculous shape, and I didn't like the colors – one was solid yellow (never identified), one was solid red (Mr. Lincoln) and one was a horrible vibrant orange (Tropicana). They clashed with the old teas that were growing in the same bed. However, my father-in-law was fond of them, and I was fond of him, so I dutifully pruned, fed, & tried to take care of them for about 10 years. By then he had passed away, and the roses were really not happy at all. Probably because I had no idea what I was doing, they were misshapen and even more ugly than before. So, one day I got my little hatchet and chopped all of them down! My husband dutifully dug out the roots for me, and that was that.

The next Spring, of course, new roses mysteriously emerged from the ground in the same places - ANOTHER thing I didn't know roses did (the number of things that my roses do that I didn't know they could do keeps growing exponentially, with no end in sight). One started putting out really long canes with nice light green leaves. I looked up pictures of "Dr. Huey" foliage, and it didn't look like it at all. This confused me, because I had some sort of idea that all rootstock was Dr. Huey. So, I decided to leave it and see what it did. For 3 years all it did was grow – it got about 6 feet tall and 3 feet wide, and was trying to eat some of the roses it was near. I decided to take it out if it didn't bloom the next Spring. It must have read my mind and gotten frightened, because the next Spring it was suddenly covered with very large, round buds. To my delight they opened into some of the most lovely rose blossoms I have ever seen – they were a very dark bright pink, had zillions of pet-

als, and the most amazing fragrance. Eventually I figured out that it was De la Grifferaie, a hybrid multiflora from 1845. Turns out that it was used as root stock around here in the 1920s. I liked it soooo much better than the boring yellow HT tree rose that used to be there! That is when I had an epiphany – root stock is really old roses! I know it sounds ridiculous, but it had never occurred to me that below every modern grafted rose is an old rose trying to get out! Not all of them are Dr. Huey, either.

My next door neighbor also had a plant of De la Grifferaie in the garden. I had seen it one year when it was allowed to bloom. The house was a rental, however, and the owner did not garden, but he did do “*yard work*”. The weed whacker was his favorite tool, and when he wasn’t weed whacking everything, he was spraying herbicide all over. A new tenant moved in, and she liked to garden. I told her about the De la Grifferaie, and she let it grow (after shooing her landlord permanently out of the garden) up onto a 6 foot high trellis, and now each Spring I have a view of it out of my kitchen window as it covers the trellis with its lovely blooms.

I have another rose that, from its position in the garden, I am assuming is also rootstock. It throws out long canes, and each Spring it covers itself with clusters of teeny tiny pale pink blooms – so many that you can only see the flowers, not the bush. The individual blooms are much tinier than any I have seen – they are even smaller than the blooms on my banksia lutea. It is one of my favorite roses. No idea what it is.

I keep learning things from the roses in my garden all of the time. I still have several really old ones that I have not been able to identify. One is an old “cabbage rose” – it has, I don’t know how many hundred petals on its pale pink flowers. Interestingly, it doesn’t ball, which most very double roses do around here. Then there is the dark red one that smells so good, and blooms 11 months of the year...then there is the dark pink one that blooms all of the time, and tip roots itself constantly, so that I have to watch out – one year it planted 3 new roses of itself (all as large as the parent, and smushing other plants) before I noticed!

Our neighborhood has lots of old houses, and I have over the years discovered old roses nearby. One little cottage that was to be torn down gave me Cl Crimson Glory – a dark, dark red, very fragrant rose, along with a yellow miniature which I have yet to identify. I got Niles Cochet, a sport of the famous Maman Cochet, from the back yard of a house a block away. The garden was to be covered with condominiums, and I got permission to take cuttings from the soon to be killed plant. I rooted what turned out to be Belle Portugaise from a nearby home – that rose is in several old gardens around here. As I described in a previous issue, I got the old HT Mme Caroline Testout from the back yard of a house that had been vacant for 7 years. I could see the rose blooming from my windows, and when new owners moved in we saved it.

— Concludes on Pg. 25

## **HELP FOR HELP-ME-FIND ROSES**

### **Once Upon A Time . . .**

Once upon a time, if we wanted basic information on a rose, we had to spend a few hours combing through stacks of large rose books, and looking for vendor catalogs.

NOW, there is HelpMeFind Roses.

If I want to know the color, growth habit, and origin of almost any obscure rose in the world, the place to start is HelpMeFind.

**<http://www.helpmefind.com/gardening/index.php>**

Starting at the HMF “Home” page, using the menu on the left side of the page, I select the sort of search I have in mind — say, a search for a specific plant. Within seconds, I am presented with the history, habit, bloom, and a partial pedigree of the rose I’m looking for.

For the most part . . .

There are thousands upon thousands of roses, and some are relatively unknown, so it sometimes happens that while HMF has the NAME of that rose, they may have little information regarding it. And that’s where we come in.

See, HelpMeFind is for the most part “Wiki.” That is to say, it depends on US to supply all of that information on every rose listed there. And if WE don’t take the trouble to share what we know, the usefulness of the site is diminished for all of us.

The remedy? **Tell HMF everything you know.**

I know, I know . . . we’re all really busy. But surely we can spend a few moments every day to help make this wonderful tool even more useful.

*“At every step the child should be  
allowed to meet the real  
experience of life;  
the thorns should never be plucked  
from his roses”*

— Ellen Key  
(Swedish Writer)



Visit the HMF site. Look up the roses YOU grow. Somewhere along the line, you will find that they have incomplete information on a rose YOU grow. That makes YOU the ideal person to remedy the lack.

**Here's the information HMF needs —  
on EVERY rose:**

**In the HABIT section,  
click one of the following:**

- Short
- Medium
- Tall

**Then click one or more of  
the following:**

- Arching
- Armed with thorns
- Bristly
- Bushy
- Climbing
- Compact
- Dense
- Lax
- Mounded
- Narrow
- Sends out runners
- Spreading
- Suckers on its own roots
- Thornless (or almost)
- Upright
- Well branched

**In the USES section,  
click one or more of the following:**

- Beds and borders
- Container Rose
- Cut Flower
- Exhibition
- Garden
- Ground cover
- Hanging basket
- Hedge
- Landscape
- Pillar

- Rock garden
- Shrub
- Specimen
- Understock

**In The DISEASE Section,  
Select any one of these boxes:**

- Susceptible to disease
- Disease resistant
- Very disease resistant
  
- Susceptible to blackspot
- Blackspot resistant
- Very blackspot resistant
  
- Susceptible to mildew
- Mildew resistant
- Very mildew resistant
  
- Susceptible to rust
- Rust resistant
- Very rust resistant

**In The GROWING Section,  
Click One Or More Of The Following:**

- A good subject for pegging
- Benefits from winter protection in colder climates
- Blooms tend to ball in wet weather
- Can be grown as a shrub
- Can be trained as a climber
- Does not do well in warmer climates
- Drought resistant
- Flowers drop off cleanly
- Heat tolerant
- Plant in partial shade for best color
- Prefers cool sites

— *Continue*

- Prefers dry climates
- Prefers full sun
- Prefers warmer sites
- Produces decorative hips
- Rain tolerant
- Requires full sun for best color
- Shade tolerant
- Suitable for a pillar

**In The CARE Section,  
Click One Or More Of These:**

- Protect tender new spring growth from hard freezes that may cause canker, die-back and death of the plant
- Remove spent blooms to encourage re-bloom
- Spring Pruning: Remove old canes and dead or diseased wood and cut back canes that cross. In warmer climates, cut back the remaining canes by about one-third. In colder areas, you'll probably have to prune a little more than that.
- Remove old canes and dead or diseased wood
- Requires spring freeze protection (see glossary – Spring freeze protection)

- Can be grown as a climber in mild climates
- Can be grown in the ground or in a container (container requires winter protection)
- Can be pruned to a shorter habit
- Cut back one-half every year
- Do not dead head
- Do not prune
- Do not spray
- Feed this rose well
- Needs little care; relatively disease-free and quite hardy
- Prune dead wood
- Prune lightly or not at all
- Prune lightly until this rose gets established (about two years), then prune it back by about a third
- Prune right after flowering is finished
- Remove spent blooms only
- Remove unproductive wood every third year or so
- Requires good cultivation if it is to perform its best
- Resist the urge to prune this rose too heavily – it doesn't like it !
- This rose blooms on old wood

You get the idea — This is the information that YOU'D like study, if you were interested in adding an unfamiliar rose to your own garden. FINALLY, if you have any photos, upload those. Photos of the entire plant, as well as the bloom.

Now you're part of a world-wide chain of information. Isn't that **GREAT?**

**Feel free to reprint and share this article!**

— Jeri Jennings [heritageroses@gmail.com](mailto:heritageroses@gmail.com)

*"Footfalls echo in the memory, Down the passage which we did not take, Towards the door we never opened Into the rose-garden."*

-- T.S. Eliot

— Rose Rustling In My Own Back Yard, (from Pg, 21)

— CONCLUDES:



So, I have moved from “*rose rustling in my own back yard*” to include my near neighborhood.

Look around in your town – especially in old neighborhoods. The old neglected gardens are the ones where you might discover a treasure – if the rose has survived lack of care for years & years, and is still blooming and is beautiful, it is a GOOD ROSE!

●*Jackie Schmidt, 1-2011*

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**Contact Jeri Jennings at: [heritageroses@gmail.com](mailto:heritageroses@gmail.com)**

Jill Perry (Curator of Roses, San Jose Heritage Rose Garden, San Jose, CA) passes along a tip about using the Calif. Digital Newspaper Collection:

<http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cdnc>

Enter a search term (such as, “*roses*” or a specific rose name). You’ll get a list of newspaper articles containing the term.

You can be more specific, choosing one newspaper for instance, or choosing only Articles for the resulting list. When you click on an article in the list, the page appears. You can clip the article by clicking on it, then save the page to a folder on your computer.

Jill noticed an ad for Dingee and Conard roses in an 1883 California newspaper. That tells us that, by 1883, you could pretty much get any rose in “frontier” California that you could get in the more settled Eastern states. This is important information for those who “rose rustle” — to be considered when trying to identify found roses.

Several of the papers are from the foothills, and may have useful stuff about roses there. Also they’re a good source of fillers for newsletters.

— *Continued from Page 1*

dra Horowitz, an ethnologist, professor of psychology, and dog owner. If you love, or have loved a dog, this book will fascinate you, educate you, and make you laugh. I like this book very much (you can find it at Costco!) and recommend it as a diversion through what remains of winter.

My alternative reading in this season is a new book edited by Pat Shanley, Peter Kukielski, and Gene Waering, beautifully illustrated by botanical artist, Maria Cecilia Freeman.

**The Sustainable Rose Garden: A Reader In Rose Culture** opens with a memory from Pat Shanley, of the loss of a beloved dog, which set her on the path to growing roses without chemical intervention. This rang true for me. The chemicals we once used on our roses triggered violent seizures in our own dog. Like Pat, we subsequently transitioned our garden to “*no-spray*.” Some roses didn’t “make the cut” without spray, but we have had no regrets.

I’ll tell you up front that I’m one of forty-five writers who contributed to this book. I am privileged to know many of them, and would like to know the rest of them. I’m finding the book as entertaining and varied as it is informative, and I’m very glad to have it on my bookshelf. You won’t find this one at Costco, unfortunately, but you can order it through Amazon.com — I hope you do.



Speaking as much for the incoming “*Rose Letter*” editor as I do for myself, I remind you, gentle readers, that this is **YOUR** newsletter. Send us news of upcoming events! Tell us about roses you’ve searched for, but cannot find. Ask us questions. Tell us about newly-formed Heritage Rose Groups, or ask how to form one. We want to hear from you.

Send queries or announcements to [heritageroses@gmail.com](mailto:heritageroses@gmail.com) or mail to **Jeri Jennings, Editor, 22 Gypsy Lane, Camarillo, CA 93010-1320**



*'Catherine Mermet'*

*Tea Rose (Guillot, fils, France, 1869)*

# Local Heritage Groups NEWS CASCADIA HRG



We're delighted to watch the progress of Cascadia HRG — the newest local Heritage Group, lighting up discussion in the Pacific Northwest. Meeting on-line, their discussions are accessible to members at their convenience, and without travel to a central site.

Their area is rich in Old Roses, and Cascadia members are finding, propagating, and working toward identification.

We love this beautiful white Moss, found and propagated in Washington State, by Cascadia Member Sheri Moore-Smith.

For information about Cascadia, contact Clair Acord at: [cacord@gmail.com](mailto:cacord@gmail.com)

*“A true poet does not bother  
to be poetical. Nor does a nursery  
gardener scent his roses.”*

— Jean Cocteau

## **Advertise In The Rose Letter**

**Rose and Garden Related Ads Are Welcomed**

**The Following Per-Issue Rates Apply:**

**FULL PAGE: 7.5-INS HIGH X 4.5-INS. WIDE: \$40.**

**HALF-PAGE: 3.75-INS. HIGH X 4.5 INS. WIDE: \$20.**

**QUARTER-PAGE: 3.75-INS. HIGH X 2.25-INS. WIDE: \$10.**

**For Complete Information, Contact Jeri Jennings, Editor,  
[heritageroses@gmail.com](mailto:heritageroses@gmail.com)**

## California Gardening History Talk

Word reached us in late February of a “*likely*” presentation which would take place on March 14, at the **Museum of Ventura County**, located at 100 E. Main St., in the City of Ventura, California, near the historic Mission Buenaventura.

Author **Michael Hardwick** will speak on his book: *Changes in Landscape: The Beginnings of Horticulture in the California Missions\** — detailing the story of the introduction of domesticated plants to Alta California by the Spanish — and the beginnings of California horticulture.

The subject is timely.

As we watch our overall climate grow drier, it is helpful to us to know more about California’s gardening past, and the plants which brought us to the present.

This talk is not, at our publication date, formally scheduled. I hope you will check the website of the Museum periodically. Its somewhat awkward calendar of events is to be found at:

[http://www.venturamuseum.org/AboutTheMuseum/  
EventCalendar/tabid/116/Default.aspx](http://www.venturamuseum.org/AboutTheMuseum/EventCalendar/tabid/116/Default.aspx)

\*Originally published by the Santa Barbara Mission in 2002, the book is available from Paragon Agency, Orange, CA.

*“How did it happen that their lips came together?  
How does it happen that birds sing, that snow melts,  
that the rose unfolds,  
that the dawn whitens behind the  
stark shapes of trees  
on the quivering summit of the hill?  
A kiss, and all was said.”*

-- Victor Hugo



*“Single Cerise China”*

*Probable China Rose, Origin Un-Recorded, San Jose Heritage Rose Garden, San Jose, CA*

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## **A Special Offering For South-Western Rosarians:**

A Regional newsletter, *The Old Roser's Digest*, was founded by Miriam Wilkins, and is now Edited written by Joanie Helgeson. *The Old Roser's Digest* is available for **\$5./year** (for 2 issues).

To subscribe, send check to Kristina Osborn, 818 Adams St., Albany, CA 94706  
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The Heritage Roses Group, A California-registered Non-Profit Association, was formed in 1975 as a fellowship of those who care about Old Roses. Members receive four "*Rose Letters*" annually, in February, May, August, and November.

## **TO JOIN *OR* RENEW YOUR HRG MEMBERSHIP**

The HRG "*Rose Letter*" is available

*IN FULL COLOR*

In Digital (*pdf*) Format

Downloadable At:

<http://www.theheritagerosesgroup.org/>

**Dues** (*DIGITAL FORMAT*) are **\$10.<sup>00</sup>/year,**

**RENEWABLE ON AN ANNUAL BASIS**  
(BASED ON THE SUBSCRIPTION STARTING DATE.)

Members may instead choose to receive "*Rose Letter*"

In Printed form, with very limited color.

**Print Membership Dues are \$16.<sup>00</sup>/year,**

Print-format Overseas memberships, (served by First Class Mail),  
are **\$26.00** for the year, (U.S. funds.)

***SEND DUES TO:***

**CLAY JENNINGS**

**Membership Chairman:**

**22 Gypsy Lane, Camarillo, CA 93010-1320**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO HRG**

**To Contact Clay Jennings,**

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*“De la Vina Mystery”*

*“There is nothing more difficult for a truly  
creative painter than to paint a rose,  
because before he can do so  
he has first to forget  
all the roses that were ever painted.”*

— Henri Matisse