



Rose Letter

May, 2010

The Rose Letter

The Heritage Roses Group

(ISSN#1526-8276),

Editor: Jeri Jennings: heritageroses@gmail.com

22 Gypsy Lane, Camarillo, CA 93010-1320

IN THIS ISSUE:

Web Site News . . . Pg. 1

The Duc and Duchesse Are Not Cross-dressers

By Darell Schramm Pg. 2

Voices From HRG-Past, Lily Shohan Pg. 3

Coming Events Pg. 6

Rosa chinensis var. *spontanea* At Garden Valley Ranch . . . Pg. 8

Rose Seminar Past-Perfect . . . Pg. 11

Rose Seminar Future-Perfect . . . Pg. 13

A Celebration of Old Roses Pg. 14

Transition And The Heritage Roses Groups Pg. 16

Heritage Roses In Australia 10th National Conference Pg. 19

What's Happened There? Pg. 20

To My Surprise Pg. 21

A Virtual Tour Of Roseaie du Val-de-Marne

Margaret Nelson Pg. 22

Rare Budwood Preserved Pg. 24

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION Pg. 24

Front Cover Photos: *R. chinensis* var. *spontanea*

Jeri Jennings Photo



We're Back On The Web!

After almost a year, The Heritage Roses Groups is back on the Web, with a new Address, and a re-built Web Site.

Members can even collect the digital "*Rose Letter*" there, in glorious Full Color!

Our Domain Name has changed. Check us out at:

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

Drop by often to see what's new, as we'll continue to add content, and announcements will be posted frequently. Look for upcoming events, and if you know of events in your area, which we have not included, please let us know!

Check out photos of various gardens. You'll find many images of the Historic Rose Garden in the Sacramento City Cemetery.

Want to share YOUR garden? Send us up to 12 photo files — in jpg format — attached to an email message. Send to:

heritageroses@gmail.com

Include your name, the location of the garden, and other information your rosie friends will enjoy.

"Rose Letter" On Line

Members are welcome to access the current issue of the "*Rose Letter*" in a special, password-protected members-only area. Near the top of the page, click on: "Member Log-In." Then click on: "Enter The Member's Only Area."

Authentication will be required. Enter the current User Name and Password (See below), and click OK. Click on the Newsletter Thumbnail, and the file will open for you.

Current User Name: heritage Current Password: roses

The Duc and Duchesse Are Not Cross-dressers

— by Darrell g.h. Schramm

Over the years two old roses, bred fourteen years apart, have become confused with each other: ‘Duchesse de Rohan’, a pink rose of 1847, and ‘Duc de Rohan’, a red rose of 1861.

Most sources classify the Duchesse as a hybrid perpetual, with exceptions of Mary Moody and Peter Harkness considering the rose a centifolia, Peter Beales wavering between centifolia and hybrid perpetual, and Gregg Lowery listing it under damask perpetual or portland. All sources I’ve read classify the Duc as hybrid perpetual. But sometime during the 20th century the two roses became synonymous, their names used interchangeably. Moody and Harkness in their *Illustrated Encyclopedia of Roses* of 1968, Beales in his *Classic Roses* of 1997, and the *Heirloom Roses* from 1997 to 2000 conflate the two roses. But they are not one and the same.



In 2000 Brent Dickerson, without any description or reference, listed the two roses separately under their respective years, thus contradicting the above sources. Is he correct?

— Cont. on Pg. 4

Voices From Our Past . . .



“Rose Letter”

May, 1976

Vol. 2, No. 1

Lily Shohan, Editor

Quote From An Old File:

Novice: *“I have just experienced the joy of the first glorious spring display in my new Old Rose Garden. What I would like you to tell me is this: Was my pleasure just from novelty, or will the exhilaration, exultation even, return spring after spring.”*

Answer: *“Dear Sir, I can answer your question without fear or favor, having just seen the same miracle again for myself, as it has been all the springs of my long life. This day has Omei bloomed, — the ancient wondrous Rosa seracea pteracantha from Mt. Omei in northwest China — the great one with the translucent red winged thorns, the dainty ferny foliage and the fragrant little rose blooms with only four petals! I happened to be right beside it in the quiet sunny morning and actually heard the first bloom pop open. Another Chinese ancient, Hugonis (Father Hugo’s Rose) and Austrian Copper are credited with leading the Rose Parade; as a matter of fact, the first rose of spring here and the last still blooming before winter is Old Blush, in a back corner where she crawls through and over the fence to visit all the neighbors. It is Opening Season now, and each morning brings new delights. Yes, the miracle is repeated every spring — a hope for the earth, a renewal of life, and always thrilling, in a world made new.”*

Our thanks to Lily Shohan, who kindly made her collection of early “Rose Letters” available to us, so that we could share such gems.

In early April, we were saddened to learn that Jackson & Perkins had filed for Ch. 11 bankruptcy protection as of the last days of March, 2010. It is reported that: ***“Representatives of the company assured reporters that customers would not be affected by the action. However, declines in sales of the company’s products had led to a cash flow crisis which required a re-organization of the company and its operations, in order to return to a profitable status.”***

Consider the color. Harkness and Moody describe ‘Duchesse de Rohan’ as “rich pink fading to lavender,” Beales as “rich, warm pink to lavender,” and Heirloom Roses as “deep, rich pink.” The photos of the latter two sources confirm the description, as do the Quest-Ritsons in the *ARS Encyclopedia of Roses*. Eleonore Cruse of France, who, echoing some doubts about classification, writes that its “cup-shaped blossoms are a deep pink.” Revealingly, after having dropped the rose from its selections for several years, Heirloom Roses began offering it again in 2009 but has dropped the Duc’s name from the de-



scription. (It also corrected the year 1860 to 1847.)

Adding some ambiguity to the color description, Lowery portrays the Duchesse as “deep rose-purple to crimson with a border of lilac to deep lavender.” Crimson and rose-purple are in the red category, not the pink. However, perhaps soil and weather conditions may account for that not-so-pink depiction. His view of the color seems like a hybrid of the two roses. On the other hand, his photo of the rose shows it as definitely pink, without any hints of red tones. Furthermore, his description of a two-toned rose—a deeper colored center, a lighter border—fits older accounts of the rose.

William Paul, for example, in his first edition of *The Rose Garden* (1848), a year after ‘Duchesse de Rohan’ was released, states that the blossoms are “rosy crimson, margined with lilac.” Cruse’s photo of 1997, taken in France, clearly shows the lighter edges of the rose. The other descriptions I cited can also be interpreted as a two-tone rose, that is, rich pink surrounded

by lavender or lilac-colored petals.

‘Duc de Rohan’ is deep red.

Ellwanger in 1914 registers the color of the Duc as vermillion. In 1906 Leon Simon and Pierre Cochet described the Duc as “rouge vif,” that is, a deep, vivid red. Friedrich Schneider, in his tri-lingual *Ranking of the Finest Roses* of 1883, lists the rose under “scarlet-vermillion.” And William Paul affirms all three in his third edition of *The Rose Garden* (1872), reporting it as “flowers red, shaded with vermillion.” (Oddly, in this edition he neglects to mention ‘Duchesse de Rohan’, which he had discussed in the first edition.)

And finally, nine years after ‘Duc de Rohan’ made his perhaps grand entrance, S. Reynolds Hole named and described several times this rose that he grew in his garden and considered excellent for exhibition. He writes that “to the darker varieties we have added Alfred Colomb, Charles Lefebvre, . . . Duc de Rohan.” At one point he refers to the “glowing scarlet” of that rose, at another to “the bright red Duc de Rohan.”

Red is not pink. None of the photos reveal ‘Duchesse de Rohan’ as anything but pink, and usually with a rim of lighter colored petals. The one photo I found of ‘Duc de Rohan’ (on Helpmefind/roses) shows a deep dark red rose.

One further bit of evidence demonstrates that the two roses are not interchangeable. Simon and Cochet in their *Nomenclature de les Noms des Roses* of 1906 catalogue both roses, separately. On page 51 ‘Duchesse de Rohan’ is described as a hybrid remontant (perpetual), no breeder given, the year 1847, the color “rose lilac.” On the facing page ‘Duc de Rohan’ is listed as bred by Leveque and Sons, 1861, a hybrid remontant, deep red.

At some point in the 20th century, ‘Duc de Rohan’ seems to have vanished. Yet, given the one contemporary photo of the Duc, if it indeed is ‘Duc de Rohan’, he may be living in someone’s garden. On the other hand, one may wonder why the name of the Duchesse was not mentioned in the latter part of the 19th century when the Duc was discussed. After all, she has survived the confusion of time. She hasn’t disappeared. But this much we do know: The Duc and Duchesse are not cross-dressers. They are not the same rose.

First Publication, American Rose Rambler, 2010

Please do not reprint without specific written permission of author: D. Schramm,

References

Beales, Peter. *Classic Roses*, NY: Henry Holt. 1997.

Cruse, Eleonore. *Roses: Old Roses and Species Roses*. Koln: Benedikt Taschen Verlag. 1997.

Dickerson, Brent. *The Old Rose Advisor II*, 2nd ed. San Jose, CA: Authors Choice Press. 2001.

“Duc de Rohan.” HelpMeFind/roses.com. January 2010.

— Concludes on Pg. 6

“Duc and Duchesse . . .” Conclusion

Ellwanger, Henry B. *The Rose*. NY: Dodd and Mead. 1914.

Heirloom Roses. St. Paul, OR. Catalogues 1997-2009.



‘Duc de Rohan’
(Photo by Etienne Bouret)

Hole, S. Reynolds. *A Book about Roses*. 3rd ed. Edinburgh: Wm Blackwood Sons. 1870.

Lowery, Gregg and Philip Robinson. *Vintage Gardens Book of Roses*. Sebastopol, CA. 2006.

Moody, Mary and Peter Harkness. *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Roses*. Portland, OR: Timber Press. 1968.

Paul, William. *The Rose Garden*. 1st ed. London: Sherwood, Gilbert and Piper. 1848.

Paul, William. *The Rose Garden*. 3rd ed. London: Kent and Co. 1872.

Quest-Ritson, Charles and Brigid. *The American Rose Society Encyclopedia of Roses*. London: DK Publishing. 2003.

Simon, Leon and Pierre Cochet. *Nomenclature de les Noms des Roses*. Paris: Librairie Horticole. 1906.

Schneider, Friedrich. *Ranking of the Finest Roses*. Berlin: Verlag von Paul Parey. 1883.

COMING EVENTS

April 21 (Weds. Eve.) 6:30-8:30 p.m. — Stephen Scanniello speaks at the meeting of the Manhattan Rose Society; Location: Offices of the Horticultural Society of New York, 148 W. 37th Street, NY, NY.

Wine & Cheese reception follows. Members free, Guests \$10. RSVP to 516-759-1435 or pshanley@aol.com

April 22 (Thurs. Eve.) 8:00 p.m. — **Earth Day concert** by NYCOutloud: *"For The Beauty of the Earth"* - Celebrates The Heritage Rose District of New York City and the return of roses to their roots in West Harlem and Washington Heights. Location, Sanctuary of the Church of The Intercession, 550 West 155th Street, New York, NY. (212-283-6200)

TO ACCESS “ROSE LETTER” ON LINE, IN DIGITAL FORMAT USE
VISIT THE WEBSITE AT: <http://www.theheritagerosesgroup.org/>
Current User Name: *heritage* Current Password: *roses*



*“Not-Parks-Yellow-Not-Humes-Blush”
This Fragrant, Vigorous, NON-Remontant Beauty Has Been Sold as
Both Parks Yellow Tea-Scented China and Humes Blush —
but is neither.
Photographed In The Sacramento City Cemetery*

COMING EVENTS, cont.

April 24 — N.Y. Rose Planting. To participate, contact Stephen Scanniello: steprose@mac.com. Also, check the website of Scott Stringer, Manhattan Borough President: www.mbpo.org. for a complete description of activities.

April 24 (Sat., 10 a.m.-3 p.m.) — San Jose Heritage Rose Garden OPEN GARDEN — Celebrate Guadalupe Gardens Day, Earth Day. Bet. Coleman Ave. & Taylor St. Call 408-298-7657. 40+ vendors selling plants, garden art, more. Free Compost — Bring Your Own Bucket! Free Parking along surface streets.

MAY 2-8, 2010 — Lynchburg Old City Cemetery Antique Rose Festival Week, AND 3rd Annual Garden Symposium. Four fabulous speakers discuss a variety of gardening topics, focused on a “before you buy” theme. Learn propagating, planting, pruning and troubleshooting perennials, grasses, boxwood, apples, and, of course, roses. \$40 per day, includes both presentations and boxed lunch. \$75 for both days (\$5 discount) — Visit the Cemetery’s website for a complete listing of events: www.gravegarden.org/events **Old City Cemetery Museums and Arboretum, Fourth & Taylor Streets, Lynchburg, VA**

4/30-May 7 Orangeburg Festival of Roses—Orangeburg, S.C. Edisto Memorial Gardens is the center of activities for this annual festival,

— *Continued on Page 23*

Rosa chinensis var. *spontanea*

At Garden Valley Ranch

In *The Quest For The Rose* (book and television show), 1993, Roger Phillips and Martyn Rix recounted their travels to China in search of *R. chinensis* var. *spontanea* documented for the West in the past 100 years by two botanists: Wilson and Henry. They went to China with the knowledge that, lost again, the rose had been re-discovered in May, 1983, by a Japanese botanist, Mikinori Ogisu.

Their principal quarry was this wild species ancestor of garden-bred China Roses, their Tea Rose cousins, and ultimately the modern roses of today. Those Hybrid Teas, Floribundas, Polyanthas, Miniatures, and the others — those Large-flowered Climbers, Portlands and Hybrid Perpetuals, Austins, Generosas, and the others — all trace their lineage back at least in part to *R. chinensis* var. *spontanea*.

While the story was riveting, and many roses of China's inland areas were documented, Phillips and Rix failed, on that trip, to find the pot of gold at the end of this particular rainbow. They did NOT find *R. chinensis* var. *spontanea* growing wild in China. Their book includes a good image of the rose, a photo made by Mikinori Ogisu where he found it growing in Leibo, south-west Sichuan, at about 5,500 ft. — a once-blooming climbing rose, sashaying through the trees.

When, more than ten years later, I heard that Quarryhill Botanical Garden, in Northern California, had *R. chinensis* var. *spontanea* in their collection, I was wild to see it. A couple of years ago, with a group of other members of



Gold Coast Heritage Roses Group, my husband and I visited Quarryhill, where we did, indeed, see a vigorous plant of *R. chinensis* var. *spontanea*.

Alas! We visited that great garden in mid-May — a good month too late for bloom from *R. chinensis* var. *spontanea*.

Another Chance!

When planning began for a HRG-Sponsored Northern California seminar on March 20, Garden Valley Ranch in Petaluma offered to host the event. I naturally asked what might be in bloom so early in that great privately-owned garden. Whether *ANYTHING* would! Owner Ron Robertson replied that while little would be open, we should be able to see *R. chinensis* var. *spontanea*. **BINGO!**

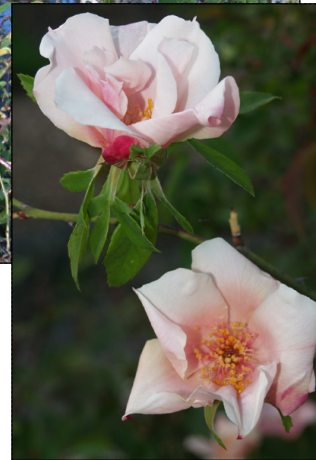
So, when we arrived at the Ranch on Friday, to help set up for the seminar, I immediately asked about the location of what had become MY quarry: *R. chinensis* var. *spontanea*. Why — right **THERE**, said Ron. And there it was, growing beside a quiet koi pond, arching bloom-laden canes out over the water. *R. chinensis* var. *spontanea* in all its glory. Delicate of bloom. Robust of growth.

I'd expected to see single blooms. They were single — but gently cupped, perhaps foreshadowing the globular form of some of its descendents. I'd expected to see red, but found instead a creamy pink, darkening to carmine in the



— *Cont. on Page 10*

— *R. chinensis* var. *spontanea*, cont. from Pg. 9 Conclusion



red, strong or blush pink, or cream.)

Expecting little or no fragrance, I was surprised to find a remarkably strong fragrance, evoking for me the spicy-fruity red candy on a carnival-visit candied apple. This was a fragrance so strong that I know another

contact with it will take me back to that garden, on that warm spring day, and that pond by the koi pond.

Roger Phillips and Martyn Rix made more than one trip to China, and they did eventually did collect and photograph *R. chinensis* var. *spontanea*. To see Martyn Rix description of *R. chinensis* var. *spontanea*, visit the Heritage Roses Groups web site, at:

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

(click on “ARTICLES”).

Our thanks to Martyn Rix, Roger Phillips, and Bill Grant for access to and permission to use this material.

Having seen it, and knowing the wonders that issued from it, I understand their fascination with the rose. Described as “*An evergreen climber or large shrub up to 5m, but usually around 2.5m*” it is certainly not a small plant, or one that would fit easily into the average garden. But I’m not going to be satisfied until I try.

— *jmj*, 3-2010

Rose Seminar Past-Perfect

Petaluma, Northern California, March 20, 2010

The successful event hosted last spring by Pam Greenwald in Alachua, Florida, reminded us in California that it was definitely time for an Old Rose seminar on our end of the country. Accordingly, Alice Flores, of the North Coast Heritage Roses Group, set out to put together a one-day seminar.

The North Coast folks have a rich history of wonderful Seminars, so Alice was no “*rookie*.” To start the process, Ron Roberts, of Garden Valley Ranch stepped forward to volunteer as a host, and the Seminar began to “*jell*.”

Garden Valley Ranch in Petaluma, with its roses and its Victorian structures provides a wonderful site for such an event, and is well worth a visit at any time of the year. Ron offered the use of this beautiful facility at no charge — which in turn allowed the Group to offer the Seminar at no charge.

Learn more about Garden Valley Ranch at:
www.gardenvalley.com

From the beginning, it was Alice’s aim to construct this seminar in a way that encouraged time for conversation and interaction between participants — and the site assured that some of that time was spent in exploration of the gardens and nursery.

One of the most popular spots in the Ranch lay right outside the doors of the century-old carriage house where the event took place. There *R. chinensis* var. *spontanea* arched gracefully across a pond, its still waters ruffled gently by large koi population.

A Raffle held to raise funds for The Heritage Roses Groups added extra enjoyment to the day. It also distributed among attendees a good many rare roses and other plants.

Two scheduled talks flowed smoothly from Jeri & Clay Jennings morning discussion of the collection and propagation of rare and lost roses to Cass Bernstein’s sparkling afternoon examination of the art and science of rose identification.

The afternoon ended on a wave of positive energy, that sent participants out filled with new enthusiasm for Old Roses.

The most commonly-heard comment was: “*We’ve GOT to do this again.*”

And we will!

www. **ANGELGARDENS** .com

OWN-ROOT
ORGANICALLY GROWN
OLD GARDEN ROSES

OVER 900
VARIETIES

ONLINE
CATALOG

365
YEAR-ROUND
SHIPPING

NURSERY & DISPLAY
GARDENS



VISITORS
WELCOME!

Antique and Modern easy-care Shrubs
Organic Amendments and Garden Gifts

Pamela Greenwald
(352) 359.1133
gardenangel22@gmail.com



10%
DISCOUNT
to MEMBERS of
HRG

PO BOX 1106 ALACHUA, FL 32616

Rose Seminar Future-Perfect



Presented By

SE Heritage Roses Group

hosted at

Angel Gardens Roses

Alachua, Florida

Saturday, May 22, 2010

11:00 Registration

11:30 Rose Garden Tour

1:00 Lunch and Raffle

2:30 Propagation Workshop

(Bring cuttings from your favorite Heritage Roses to trade with others!)

4:00 Big Rose Sale

Admission FREE

Raffle, Refreshments, Rose Seminars
(proceeds from the raffle to benefit SE HRG)

(\$12 to join Heritage Roses Group optional)

Desserts and Drinks Provided

Bring your own Box Lunch

www.angelgardens.com

Pamela Greenewald — gardenangel22@gmail.com

Phone: 352-359-1133

April Is Here . . . Can MAY Be Far Behind?

Mark Your Calendar Now

Sunday, May 16

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

It's The 2010

Celebration of Old Roses

El Cerrito Community Center
7007 Moeser Ln., El Cerrito, CA
Bay Area Chapter, Heritage Roses Groups

See Them! Smell Them! TOUCH Them!
The Roses You've Read About, But Never Seen
They're Here For *YOU* To Enjoy, And Learn About

Join Us In
A Room Full of Roses

LIGHT LUNCH AVAILABLE

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

Or Email: heritageroses@gmail.com

In The (East) San Francisco Bay Area,
Exit Hwy. 80 on CENTRAL AVENUE in EL CERRITO.
Go EAST, Up Central, to ASHBURY AVE.
Turn Left on Ashbury. Continue North on Ashbury
'Til It Ends at MOESER LANE

YOU'RE THERE!

Sunday

May 16



Celebration of Old Roses

The Celebration of Old Roses was Miriam Wilkins party
Help us carry on her tradition.
Join us for an especially joyous day among the roses

Shop 'Til You Drop For

Rose Plants

Companion Plants

Rose-Themed Jewelry

Exquisite Hand-Painted Porcelain,

Rose-Decked Hats

Shawls, Beads and Kickshaws

BOOKS! ROSE BOOKS! BOOKS!

Food Made of Roses!

In Short . . . In Short . . .

EVERYTHING

ROSIE!

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

Bay Area Chapter, Heritage Roses Groups

Transition And The Heritage Roses Groups

-- Alice Flores

North Central Group, South-West Region, Heritage Roses Groups
Jeri Jennings, "*Rose Letter*" Editor

In December of 2008 the HRG lost one of its long-time supporters -- Rae Steiner, the Regional Coordinator for the SE region. Rae's passing marked another transition for the group, and for Miriam personally, as she honored the memory of her old friend and early member of HRG. This was not a new situation for Miriam. As the original membership aged, it served as a reminder to her (as she approached her 90s) that she too must continue a process she had started a few years previously: delegating her myriad tasks to a dedicated group of younger members. Her hope was that in the future, inevitable transitions would be smooth, as the work of that one remarkable woman was shared and shouldered by several volunteers.

Rae's death, however, triggered one of the most significant transitions for the group – the necessity for a more formal structure than had existed previously. Early in 2009, Miriam was notified that Rae had left a small bequest to the HRG. This event reminded her that she needed to complete a piece of business that had been discussed for quite some time, but never pursued. That business was the creating of a legal entity for HRG that could receive a gift such as the one that was pending. Miriam met with Kristina Osborn, the current SW Regional Coordinator and the Convener for the Bay Area Chapter, which convenes the Celebration each year. Kristina agreed to initiate the task of finding a format for a non-profit corporation. She invited a few HRG members with a deep involvement in HRG to join Miriam and her in discussing the best way to proceed with this project.

In April of 2009, after a Celebration planning meeting, some of these people met, along with Miriam. They set up a plan to share the responsibilities of research and communication that would result in a legal organization which reflected the mission and the nature of the HRG. The planning committee met again in May, 2009, before the Celebration Of Old Roses. At that time various entities were explored and discussions took place about which were more appropriate for our unique organization. A simple filing with the state as a California Non-Profit Association offered us the most flexible format at the lowest cost and, after a consultation with a lawyer, that step was taken. As an Association we were capable of opening a bank account in the name of the HRG – another transition whose time had come. The Association retains the option of going through the process of incorporation if, and when, it chooses.

The committee, now a Board, continues to meet. Legal paperwork has been the easiest part of this process of transition. As the committee continued to meet, always consulting with Miriam in personal conversations and by phone, it was clear that the entire operation and basic functions of the group should be reviewed and (in some cases) changed so that the organization could continue to function efficiently without its figurehead.

Then, sadly, we also lost that figurehead when Miriam herself passed on in early November 2009. The Board formed prior to her passing is moving forward in accordance with the plan she helped to develop. The changes initiated in her lifetime are moving slowly toward fruition.

What's Been Done So Far?

Following confirmation that The Heritage Roses Group is a recognized Non-Profit Association, a bank account was established. Some funds have begun to flow into that account, which will receive all future HRG Membership and Renewal fees. (The recent Seminar in Petaluma brought \$325.00 to the account; a donation from the Ventura County Rose Society added an additional \$50.00.) Alice Flores (convener for the North Coast chapter) serves as Treasurer pro-tempore, pending a formal selection of officers and Board Members-at-large, to be made by the Board.

This change enabled the selection of a Membership Chairperson, who will coordinate memberships for the entire organization. The person selected (again, pro-tempore) is Clay Jennings, of Camarillo, California. Clay has served as a "bursar" for the local Gold Coast HRG and as Regional Coordinator for the South-Central Region.

Joanie Helgeson, of San Francisco, California, has agreed to serve pro-tempore as Secretary. Joanie, an active member of her own ARS Society, has been serving HRG as Editor of the South-West Regional bulletin, "*Old Roser's Digest*," picking up that commitment when Miriam Wilkins ended her tenure as Editor.

Other Board Members, to date, are Kristina Osborn (currently South-West Regional Coordinator), Sally Fee (also of the Bay Area Chapter), and Jeri Jennings – current Editor of the "*Rose Letter*." The other current Regional Coordinators, and a few others, will be invited to join this initial Board, providing a broad spectrum of experience, information and opinion.

Because this board is widely separated geographically, it has been decided that meetings must be conducted and decisions made via Internet communication, making it easy for all to participate.

This decision meshes well with an increased on-line presence for the Heritage

— *Cont. on Page 18*



'Jaune Desprez' (Noisette, Desprez, France, 1830)

*“And I will make thee beds of roses,
And a thousand fragrant posies.”*

— Christopher Marlowe (1564-1593)
From “A Passionate Shepherd To His Love”

“Transition And The Heritage Roses Groups” — concludes

Roses Groups. HRG members are a noted presence in Old-Rose-Oriented on-line forums.

The recently updated HRG Web Site at:

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

allows members and others to contact us easily and quickly. A “*Members-Only*” area here allows HRG members to read the “*Rose Letter*” on-line, in full color, and often with increased content.

Many of these changes will be barely noticeable to members. In the long term, however, they should all serve to enhance the ability of HRG to serve members better. And we’ll all benefit from that.



**2010 Heritage Roses In Australia
Tenth National Conference**

***'The Subtropics:
Rainforest to Roses'***

**Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
From Tuesday, 5 October
to Friday, 8 October 2010**

Visit the Website:

http://www.heritage.rose.org.au/2010_heritage_rose_conference.html

Scheduled guest speakers, Penny McKinlay and Maurice Wilson, and horticulturist, Noel Burdette, Wednesday 6 October, 2010.

Garden Tour

The gardens of the four day garden tour have been revealed in the Summer journal; some of the gardens have been showcased in the Australian Garden Scheme.

Accommodation

Accommodation has been set aside at Toowong Villas, Toowong Inn and Suites, Toowong Central Apartments and Benson Court Motel.

We hope the new Jephson Hotel which is under construction will be completed by June 2010.

The Queensland Rose Society in conjunction with the National Rose Society of Australia will hold their 2010 Australian Rose Championships in Brisbane 1 - 4 October, 2010. You may like to attend both programs. For more information contact www.queenslandrosesociety.org.au or write GPO Box 1866, Brisbane. Qld 4001

2010 Conference Garden Tour

Limit 200 people

Cost \$550 per person (early bird \$495)

Begins Monday, 4 October

Visit the Website for Details

What's Happened There?

Looking through older copies of "*Rose Letter*," I see mention of various gardens of Old Roses, planted almost 40 years ago, in various areas.

Do these gardens exist, today. Do you know? If so, please write and tell us.

North Carolina

In the area around Hillsborough, N.C., the Piedmont Heritage Rose Society was the first associate group formed under HRG. In the 1970's, this group planned a garden of historic roses on the grounds of the restored West Point Mill, on the Eno River. The beds were to be placed at the miller's home, McCowan House. *Was this garden planted? Does any of it remain?*

Vernon, TX

At about the same time, folks in Vernon, TX, planned to plant the town with yellow roses. The planting was intended to mark the bi-centennial. Many were planting '*Harison's Yellow*,' but ALL yellow roses were welcomed. Is Vernon still a "*hotbed*" of yellow roses?

The Nation's Capital

In 1976, the Herb Society of America was planting a "Rose And Fragrance Garden" at the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. The garden was to include Damask, Centifolia, and Provence Roses, Musks and Mosses, Eglantine, Gallicas, and Bourbons, in a garden of fragrant herbs and geraniums. A trellis, knot garden, brick walk, and armillary sphere were to be included. Was this garden completed? *Does it still bloom?*

At the same time, an initial budget of \$200,000. was set aside for the establishment of a garden of heritage roses near the Administration Building of the National Arboretum. Planting began in the Fall of 1976. *What of this garden?*

Towson, MD

In 1976, a group of rose lovers were involved in the restoration of a rose parterre at Hampton Mansion, in Towson. Armed with blueprints for the design of the newly-restored parterre (including a complete plant list) these folks were stymied by the unavailability of one particular rose: '*Cramoisi Superieur*.' Of course, today, most of us in mild-climate zones are more than familiar with this blood-red beauty. In 1976, it was apparently a rare find, and few nurseries offered such "*exotics*." *What of Towson House, and its gardens? Are they still there?*

DO YOU HAVE INFORMATION? Write or EMAIL:

*Jeri Jennings, Heritage Roses Groups, 22 Gypsy Lane, Camarillo, CA 93010-1320
heritageroses@gmail.com*

To My Surprise

Last year, when Gregg Lowery began to discuss some new approaches to rose care, there was, well, a LOT of talk.

Gregg proposed that conventional pruning was NOT necessary to roses, and that roses might in fact be healthier and more floriferous if left for the most part un-pruned. He proposed that meticulous removal of old leaves was un-necessary, as any fungal disease they carried perished with the dead leaves.

The argument will, I am sure, go on for some time. But I was interested to see that these “revolutionary” ideas are not new.

Lime Kiln

At the famous Lime Kiln gardens in Suffolk, England, as far back as the mid-1970's, Humphrey Brooke followed this program, in care of the acres of rare and unusual roses in that remarkable rosarium.

In the 1970's Brooke noted that “There is no spraying except against greenfly. Some blackspot (leaves NOT gathered up for burning, as recommended) and mildew are inevitable. Roses do not appear to deteriorate from either. . . . Feeding of roses is with manure, roughly in alternate years, but only given to those needing it. Others, e.g. the “Specie” roses along the edge of the old quarry, or inside the latter, have grown on nothing since planting or self-seeding, as many other varieties have. The special Lime Kiln R. moyesii, visible from the lawn and approached by steps, is one example. It now has a span of 26 feet, and conforms with fossils found in China c. 500,000 B.C. The vigorous buff Noisette ‘Jaune Desprez’, on the south-west corner of the house, is another. It did not bloom until feeding ceased. . . .

A controversial feature of the Claydon Rosarium is that, although every effort is made to extract dead or ineffective growth, there is no ‘pruning’ in the ordinary sense. The roses are left growing to a natural size. This means some pronounced variations from the dimensions given in catalogues, e.g. the Polyantha, ‘Perle d’Or’ (18”) has reached 7 feet 6 inches and the bush form of the Bourbon, ‘Souvenir de la Malmaison’ of 1843 (4’ 6”) is now over 18 feet. It is 55 years old and always in bloom until Christmas.”

Origins

It is unclear in popular accounts of the place when the tradition of laissez faire rose care began at Lime Kiln. The garden was planted originally be

— Continued , Pg. 22

A Virtual Tour Of *Roseraie du Val-de-Marne*

— Margaret Nelson

Take a virtual trip to the Roseraie du Val-de-Marne (Roseraie de l'Hay), Paris

“Heritage Roses, The Quarterly Rose Letter of the Heritage Roses Group”, (Vol.XX No.1, February 1996), included *“Visiting L’Hay-les-Roses, a Garden of 3300 Varieties”* and *“How to Find Roseraie de L’Hay”*, both by Bob Cromey. These articles inspired my daughter and myself to visit the garden, now called **Roseraie du Val-de Marne**, last summer. We spent hours there and were overwhelmed by the sheer number of old and historic roses, all in one place.

Lime Kiln Garden, Cont. from Pg. 21 — Conclusion

tween 1918 and 1928, by the Countess Sophie Benckendorff, widow of Count Alexander Benckendorff (1849-1917), the last Tsarist Russian Ambassador to the Court of St. James's, London. Following her death, the garden fell into a state of neglect.

Brooke, with his wife, Nathalie (a granddaughter of the Countess Benckendorff) did not acquire the property until 1954 — and it is unclear if there had ever been a period when the Lime Kiln roses were conventionally pruned. In any case, by the 1970's, a “pruning ban” was in effect, with many of the roses “left the their own devices.” As a result, many flowered as tall trees — an effect that we have seen in California gardens treated in a similar manner.

Following Brooke's death in 1988, the gardens certainly were neglected, and were closed to the public, and it seems that an attempt in the 1990's to rehabilitate the garden may have included a general pruning to remove some overgrown and dead material. The current owners have begun restoration, with the intent to re-opening the garden — which may now be open. It is also their stated intent to continue the ban on conventional pruning in the Lime Kiln garden.

In any case, it appears that there is ample precedent for a philosophy of rose growing that abjures pruning as un-necessary, and for gardens kept in that fashion which flourish.

The Roseraie is located southeast of Paris, about an hour bus-ride from central Paris. The Gallica and other old rose collections are lovely and quite large. One of the fun features is a collection of Gallicas that attempts to replicate Josephine's collection of the same at Malmaison. Last year we were fortunate enough to be able to go there and marveled at the variety of OGR, but now we can see parts of the garden from our own home!

Go to:

<http://www.roseraieduvaldemarne.com>

When the screen words come up, look in the left-side column for "Visite virtuelle" and click. You will be sent to an article in French. Scroll down to the word "Printemps" (Spring), and click. You will see a map of the garden appear, along with photo points indicated by dots. When you put your cursor over a point, you can read what the photo at that actual location of the garden will portray. I was pleased as one of the shots is "a l'entrée de la collection des roses gallique", (the entrance of the Gallica rose collection) and I was able to see they are not yet in bloom.

As the site also has the words "Fin du printemps" (end of Spring) and "Automne" (Autumn), which are not yet activated, it appears we will be able to return and see how the garden changes.

The Roseraie's email-newsletters come out monthly, though the garden is not open all year. Every month features a different rose, and it is especially interesting when their choice that month is in your own garden.

Should you too wish to receive monthly newsletters from the garden, click on "Newsletter" on the homepage. A box for "Votre adresse email" will appear. Of course, this is for your email address. Make sure the box "abonnement" below is checked as that means "subscribe". There is no charge for this service and it will bring you great pleasure over the year.

Roseraie du Val-de-Marne, Cont.

Beside the monthly articles, annually you will also have the opportunity to download and print out a calendar illustrated with color photos of Roseraie blooms, and also be able to send e-Valentines, illustrated with more rose photos, to your special someone.

I hope you too enjoy this free trip to a world-class rose collection.

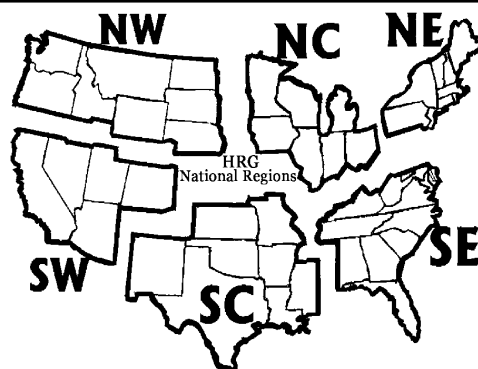
Margaret Nelson, the current President of Heritage Roses Northwest, lives in Federal Way, Washington State. She succeeds Sue Hopkins, who remains HRG's NW Regional Coordinator/Convenor.

COMING EVENTS, concludes

which celebrates the rose blooming season with arts and crafts, food vendors, entertainment, sporting events and more.

MAY 2010 VINTAGE GARDENS OPEN GARDEN Once again Vintage Gardens opens the gates of their private garden in Sebastopol this May. There is no charge for entry but they ask that you offer a \$10 donation to help to maintain this extraordinary collection of old and classic roses, and to benefit the Heritage Rose Foundation . . . **NOTE the event is Not At The Nursery.** The Garden is located at: 3003 Pleasant Hill Rd., Sebastopol, CA 95472 **NOTE: The Garden Is Open Every Day EXCEPT The Weekend Of The Celebration Of Old Roses, May 15 & 16**

May 22 Center for Historic Plants Open House Lecture "The China Syndrome: History and Influence of the China Rose" Between 1753 and 1824, five roses were brought by the British to Western nurseries that completely changed what Europeans and Americans would expect of their roses. In this PowerPoint illustrated talk Douglas Seidel will examine the original China roses and the eight classes that developed from them at the beginning of the 19th century in England, France, and the United States. Reservations required. CHP's Tufton Farm Nursery, 9:30 a.m. \$10. See: <http://www.monticello.org/calendar/saturdays.html>



HRG NATIONAL REGIONS

**For More Information
About HRG
Contact Your
REGIONAL
COORDINATOR**

North-Central — Dr. Henry Najat, M.D. W. 6365 Wald Rd., Monroe, WI 53566 beekeeper1@cppweb.com

South-East — Pam Greenewald PO Box 1106 Alachua, FL 32616
ph: 352-359-1133, fax: 386-462-4377
gardenangel22@gmail.com www.angelgardens.com

North-East & South-Central — Clay Jennings 22 Gypsy Lane, Camarillo, CA 93010-1320 e.c.jennings@gmail.com

South-West — Kristina Osborn 818 Adams St., Albany, CA 94706
kmosborn@earthlink.net

North-West — Sue Hopkins Barking Dogs Garden, 15005 132nd Ave SE Renton, WA 98058 suehopkins49@msn.com

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. Dues are \$12., for the United States. Overseas memberships vary with the rate of exchange.

TO JOIN *OR* RENEW

YOUR HERITAGE ROSES GROUPS MEMBERSHIP

***Print* Membership: SEND \$12./Year**

***Digital* Membership: SEND \$5./Year**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO
The Heritage Roses Groups**

MAIL TO:

Clay Jennings

HRG Membership Chairperson

22 Gypsy Lane, Camarillo, CA 93010

RARE BUDWOOD PRESERVED

The Heritage Rose **Foundation** reported in April that Trustees Etienne Bouret and Fabien Ducher, with others, have obtained for preservation budwood from "*a stunning number*" of endangered roses.

The collected cultivars, gleaned from a number of European sources, have been unavailable to the public. They will now be made available to commerce. Individuals or nurseries with import permits can obtain budwood. For more information, contact the Heritage Roses Foundation at:

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