

The Heritage Roses Group
22 Gypsy LN.
Camarillo, CA 93010



The Heritage Roses Groups
**ROSE
LETTER**



November, 2010

The Rose Letter

The Heritage Roses Group

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Editor: Jeri Jennings: heritageroses@gmail.com

22 Gypsy Lane, Camarillo, CA 93010-1320

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Front & Rear Cover Photos:

“Benny Lopez”

Found Rose of Damask Perpetual Type; Santa Barbara, CA,

B. Lopez, I. Wapelhorst (*Jeri Jennings Photos*)

*“All June I bound the rose
in sheaves, Now, rose by
rose, I strip the leaves.”*

— Robert Browning Hamilton

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/>

(REQUIRES HIGH-SPEED CONNECTION)

Dues (*DIGITAL FORMAT*) are \$10.⁰⁰/year,

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(BASED ON THE SUBSCRIPTION STARTING DATE.)

Members may instead choose to receive “*Rose Letter*”

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Print Membership Dues are \$16.⁰⁰/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, Email:

ecjennings@gmail.com

*“You are responsible, forever,
for what you have tamed.
You are responsible for your rose.”*
— Antoine de Saint-Exupery

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

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“A rose is the visible result of an infinitude of complicated goings on in the bosom of the earth and in the air above, and similarly a work of art is the product of strange activities in the human mind.”

— Clive Bell, (1881-1964)

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
For Information, EMAIL: kmosborn@earthlink.net

THE HERITAGE ROSES GROUPS

STUDY, PRESERVATION, FELLOWSHIP



Cycles and Change

— Jeri Jennings, “Rose Letter” Editor



In our gardens, we cycle through the seasons. In our lives, we cycle through a series of changes. Your Editor now approaches the threshold of such a change.

The May, 2011, “Rose Letter” will complete 6 years of my editorship of this journal. (YIKES! I’d planned on doing one or two!) In that time, we’ve moved from an all-black-and-white, all-print publication to one that’s available (in digital format) in full color. HRG now offers a functioning Web Site, where digital Newsletters are “delivered,” and other information is available. We’ve moved from a system of Regional Coordinators, to Nationally-centered membership. A thoughtful Board directs our decisions. Many of you have become friends, and I hope I’ve brought you the information you were seeking.

Now, it’s time for a new voice and a new vision for “Rose Letter.” The editorial change will take place after completion of the May, 2011 “Rose Letter.”

In December, Mr. and Mrs. Editor take delivery of a new motorhome. We’ll be spending more time on the road, with our Dalmatian dogs. There’ll be time for writing and photography, for Dog Agility Trials, and DEFINITELY time for Rose Rustling.

I leave you with a wonderful new Editor. Enjoy, beginning on Page 8, “I Know Why They Wear Purple” (Part II) and you’ll feel confident about the direction of the “Rose Letter” under the Editorship of **Darrell g.h. Schramm**.

Reach me at: heritageroses@gmail.com and stop to visit at the website of our local Heritage Roses Group — Gold Coast HRG. (Mostly Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, but inclined to welcome all as friends.)

My Adventures Rose Rustling In My Own Back Yard

— Jackie Schmidt

Cont'd from the August 2010 Rose Letter

In case you didn't see the first part of this article, it is the story of how I found some old roses, not by going out on "rose rustles", but by noticing them in my own garden after my husband and I moved into a Victorian house in 1989. My husband's ancestors had been gardening there since 1905. The house had been a rental for decades when we moved in, and the garden was overgrown and neglected.

Many of the old roses had survived for decades in our benign climate. I knew nothing about roses when we moved in, but gradually noticed them, got interested, and eventually figured out who some of them were.

In the front garden were 'Cramoisi Superieur', 'Safrano', 'Madame Hardy', 'Dr. Joseph Schwartz', 'Marie Louise' (damask 1911) and several others still unidentified. The pink rose climbing way up the plum tree in the back was 'Cl La France.' The white once bloomer with lovely large flowers which cascaded 15 feet down from the Eugenia tree was most likely



'Le Vesuve'

'Fortuniana' – it was actually rooted in the old garden next door, but had climbed up into our tree. There was a row of them climbing over that same neighbor's fence into another neighbor's yard also – we speculated that there had once been a row of hybrid teas along their fence, and this was root stock which had survived. The tiny little peach colored rose lurking in the dark under the huge barberry bush was 'Margo Koster'. The dark pink cerise colored rose which was growing on the



'Duchesse de Brabant'
(Stockton, CA; Jeri Jennings Photo)

— Continued on Page 5

SUPPORT OUR ROSE NURSERIES! *Use 'Em, Or Lose 'Em!*

I knew an ARS Rose Judge and Consulting Rosarian who worked part-time in the nursery section of a Home Depot store.

He told anyone he dealt with that Home Depot was a great place to buy mulches, potting soil, fertilizers . . . offering excellent prices on those mundane items. He thought "HD" wasn't bad on flats of color plants and the like.

But NOT ROSES. No no no — Home Depot, he said (and he was in a position to know) was NOT the place to buy roses. If asked, I'm sure he'd have included Lowe's and — certainly — Wal-Mart.

Roses should come from NURSERIES. From our wonderful specialty rose nurseries or knowledgeable local nurseries. Where roses are concerned, you really do get what you pay for — and you don't want to waste time and energy planting and caring for a second-rate, un-healthy rose.

Everyone likes to save money, but **an ill-grown virused rose from a cheap no-name grower is false economy.**

For modern roses, ask local independent nurseries for great-quality plants from recognized growers (such as Weeks). And if Modern Roses are your passion — **BUY WEEKS ROSES.**

For Old and Rare Roses, look to the wonderful Specialty Growers who remain in business out of love for roses.

To Find A Good Nursery, Visit HelpMeFind Roses, at:
<http://www.helpmefind.com/rose/nurseries.php>

There, do an alphabetical search of nurseries for one that meets your needs. Communicate with the folks there. Ask them questions. Ask for their advice.

You're never going to get this kind of service at Wally-World.

Remember — If we don't support good nurseries, they won't be there when we need them.

We will not have a meeting in November this year but we decided to have A Winter Holiday party at a restaurant (Ivy House) to get to know each other better. We will have a gift exchange. Date and time to be announced.

We discussed making a list of roses and descriptions that we think are easy to grow in our area to give to new rose growers.

We discussed creating one or more Memorial Rose Gardens at hospitals, schools, Kanapaha or in particular Haven Hospice. One member read a miracle story about a rose bush that bloomed prolifically after her mother's passing. We talked about having our own Rose Show (or Not!) We all agreed that we would make new members feel welcome and would not form cliques with each other within the group.

**For Information Re: North Central Florida Heritage Roses Group,
Contact Pam Greenewald**

P.O. BOX 1106, Alachua, FL 32616 Ph: 352-359-1133
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Eat Grits, Love Roses, Pray for Rain

Report on the ARS National Convention

-- Pamela Greenewald

I was fortunate to get to go to the National ARS Convention in Atlanta entitled ***“Great Roses in The South”*** (GRITS) the weekend of October the 8th. This was my second National, the first being Palm Springs last November. This time, because I was set up as a vendor, I was not able to do all of the activities, but I did sneak in to see a few great speakers. The event took place at the beautiful Marietta Hilton Hotel and Convention Center.

Friday started out with a Photo Workshop, a Newsletter Workshop, a Rose Lawn Tour, and several speakers. One program I had to miss was entitled ***“Austin Power, International Intrigue”*** presented by Connie Vierbicky from Sarasota who has been growing English roses for 20 years. On a trip to England in 2007, she was privileged to eat lunch with David Austin. I caught the tail end of her talk when she described how she keeps English roses at a size at which she can easily maintain them. I was glad to hear her say that she doesn't wish to cut flowers from up on a ladder and just because a rose will grow tall does not mean we have to let it do so (and I agree). I look forward to visiting her rose garden someday.

I caught a great talk by Bill Patterson of Roses Unlimited, entitled ***“Exciting Roses from Around the World”***. He described the great roses of the many international hybridizers that his Nursery promotes: Delbard of France, Kordes of Germany, Alister Clark's Australian roses, Meilland, Guillot, Harkness and Viru Viraraghavan from India. It was exciting to see the sample cuttings he brought, displayed in empty wine bottles.

Dr. Bobby Burns, of Georgia, spoke on ***“A Legacy of Southern Roses”***. His talk jumped around all over the place, zeroing in on a subject he has written about extensively, the roses and flowers of Eudora Welty's gardens.

Saturday saw all of the usual Rose show preparations, Judges' Breakfast, etc. They had a grits tasting for people who haven't eaten grits (not me, I grew up on a plate of grits every morning in Atlanta). Some went on tours to the Aquarium and Coca Cola, or the Marietta Trolley. There was a quilt display and a Silent Auction, and several talks.

I was able to catch Tom Carruth's talk: ***“Outstanding Roses Hybridized by Tom Carruth”***. As a licensed Weeks rose grower, I was very interested in hearing Tom's opinions of the roses he helped bring to market in the past few years. His focus at Weeks is to breed disease-resistant ***“flowering machines”***. I never tire of hearing about the trials and miracles of rose breeding. Tom started with J&P, and now heads up the hybridizing program at Weeks Roses as Director of Research and Marketing.

Tom said that ***‘Julia Child’*** was the highlight of his career. He told the story of how her rose came to be named. He said that Weeks had approached her to put her name on a rose and she had humbly declined saying she wasn't worthy of such an honor. Sometime later, Julia was visiting a friend's Nursery in California where Tom had sent some new, unnamed roses for a trial run. Noticing a pretty yellow rose, she exclaimed that if she were ever to put her name on a rose, this one would do just fine. Word got back to Weeks and they christened the yellow rose after Ms. Child. The rest is history.

The highlight of my trip was meeting The Senn men, Dr. Tee Senn (a young 94) and his son David. They were set up next to me selling **Nature's Nog** – a Liquid



— *Eat Grits, Love Roses, Cont. from Previous Page*

Seaweed from Norway and an incredible humate harvested from Utah. Humate combined with *Ascophyllum nodosum* (kelp) extracts offer many advantages over either used alone. Their product is one of the best the organic world has to offer. I highly recommend visiting the website.¹

www.naturesnog.com

to learn more about this incredible product. Dr. Senn has been head of the Horticulture Department at Clemson, and has a lifetime of awards and credits to his name. He has traveled the world as a renowned speaker. I am thrilled that he has agreed to be the featured speaker at the 3rd Rose Lover's Gathering at Angel Gardens in the spring. I am using and selling Nature's Nog.

Sunday morning I attended the meeting of the Rose Hybridizer's Association, of which I am a member. Tom Carruth talked with us about the breeding program at Weeks and was happy to answer all our questions. One great tip he passed on to us is to put rose hips in a blender with water as an easy way to extract seeds.

I had a good vend and made some new friends. My other vending neighbor was Nancy Jean from Almost Heaven Roses. She was selling some of the latest mini-floras hybridized by her late husband Vern. I purchased her namesake rose: '*Nancy Jean*', as well as '*Mary Alice*', '*Eternity*', and a couple of others.

I will say that as Rose Shows go, I believe you see one, you've seen them all. There seemed to be the same 5 mini-floras repeated in all the categories and the same 5 Hybrid Teas throughout the show. I only saw ONE Old Garden Rose in the entire show, and this disappointed me.

¹ *ED. NOTE: We like this product a lot, too. "Mr. Editor" swears by it, for propagating cuttings.*

More News Of Local Heritage Groups

A Report on First meeting Of The North Central Florida Heritage Roses Group Formative Meeting — Sun., Oct. 24, 2010

Eleven Old Rose lovers or "rose buds" met for the first time to organize a new local Heritage Roses Group, for the purpose of learning about and celebrating Old Garden Roses.

This first organizational meeting was held at the home and Rose Nursery of Pam Greenwald (Angel Gardens) on Sunday, October 24th. At least 15 others expressed an interest in the group but could not make it on Sunday.

The club will be affiliated as a satellite group under the National Heritage Roses Group formed in 1975 by Miriam Wilkins. Members of the National Heritage Roses Group receive a booklet about old roses called the Rose letter 4 times a year. (Pam is currently serving on the Board of Directors of that group.)

The following decisions were made at the meeting.

A Mission Statement is to be developed and added to:

To meet for the purpose of sharing our common love for all roses especially Old Garden Roses. To meet together to learn and share experience and knowledge in the cultivation and care of roses and to reach out to the community to educate the public about the joys of growing Old Roses. To promote the preservation of Old Roses for generations to come.

We will meet at 11 a.m., on the 2nd Saturday of the month — for the three Fall months: October, November, and December) and three Spring months: (April, May, and June) (Field trips may alter this schedule.)

We will have a raffle each meeting, and Members are encouraged to bring raffle items.

We agreed to set dues of \$10 (but did not collect them at this initial meeting.)

— *North Central Florida HRG, Cont. from Pg. 21*

We formed committees: (Membership, Speakers and Field Trips, Outreach, Newsletter, Website,)

— *Continued on Pg. 22*



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Angel Gardens Pamela Greenwald 352-3591133

Our sincere condolences to Washington State Rosarian Anne Belovich, whose voice is familiar to long-time readers of this journal.

Anne's beloved husband, Max, passed away in the waning days of October. Max will be remembered for the many lovely structures that display Anne's remarkable collection of rare Rambler Roses.

Letters and cards of sympathy will reach Anne at her home: 909 308th St, NE, Stanwood, WA 98292

*"Beauty is an ecstasy;
 it is as simple as hunger.
 There is really nothing to be said about it.
 It is like the perfume of a rose:
 you can smell it and that is all."*

— W. Somerset Maugham



'Safrano'
 (Sacramento City Cemetery; Jennings Photo)

— *"My Adventures Rose Rustling,"*
 Cont. from Page 2

garage was the same as the one which was growing along the side fence, and also in the front of the garden, (so far, it has no name). It does sucker – one year I found that it had made two new roses in a row next to the original, and just as big. In the side garden in a row in front of the stone wall were the huge old *'Le Vesuve'*, a *'Spray Cecile Brunner'*, and a *'Duchesse de Brabant'*. These had all merged into a giant hedge,

and it actually was a couple of years before I even noticed that the *'Duchesse de Brabant'* was a different rose from the other two, because only a few of its blooms were peeking out among the hundreds of *'Le Vesuve'* flowers.

I had planted a lot more roses – hybrid musks and noisettes and teas, large flowered climbers on the house, and ground cover roses out by the street. However, I really wanted to find out the identity of some of the old ones we had inherited that were still mysteries, especially the elegant buff/flesh colored rose that was growing inside of a dark thicket, under several trees, and still bloomed almost all summer. You could walk (or rather, climb through the bushes) under it, and the roses nodded down at you in the gloom. In 2005 I heard that the Heritage Rose Foundation was having a big meeting soon in Cupertino, and that you could bring cut flowers there and see if any of the old rose experts could tell you who they were. I was thrilled! What a wonderful thing! So, off I went with my buff rose and one other.

The buff colored rose remained nameless for what seemed like several hours. I was having a marvelous time looking at roses and listening to the speakers, and every once & a while I would go hopefully back and look at my rose on the "mystery" table. At about my fifth visit, a small slip of paper had appeared next to my rose – on it was written *"Anna Olivier"* – that was all.

I came back later, hoping to see someone to ask about it, to find my rose surrounded by 7-8 people who were discussing it! Several of them were the ladies from Australia who were writing the first book about tea roses that had been written in 100 years – I knew that because they all had on matching rose jackets, and had given one of the talks. Gregg Lowry was there too, along with a man I think was Phillip Robinson. Jill Perry, the curator of the SJHRG, tells me she was there too, although I didn't know it at the time. I heard enough of their discussion to realize that all of these people were experts, and that they were very interested in MY rose! Amazing!

The ladies from Australia gently repeated that they all thought it was a tea

— Continued on Page 6



Above Left & Below Right: "Schmidt's Buff Giant"
(Cass Bernstein Photos)

rose they were familiar with in Australia called 'Anna Olivier'. I distinctly heard one of the men, I don't know which, say "***I have never seen that rose before***". What I can only describe as a stunned silence fell after he said that.

The discussion continued, but no one changed their opinion. I was delighted. I had just assumed that someone knowledgeable about roses would look at my rose and recognize it as something old

but common. It had never occurred to me that it might be rare or really a "lost" rose. A few days later Cass Bernstein came by my house to take some cuttings of it for Vintage Gardens. She gave the rose the study name "***Schmidt's Buff Giant***".

I spoke to Gregg on the phone a few weeks later, and he told me that it was not in commerce in North America, and that he was rooting cuttings of it and sending them out to several other nurseries, "*so that we don't lose it*". Wow!

I have since rooted it myself, and now have 3 plants of it in my garden. One of the neatest things about it, I think, is its color variability. It is usually a buff/flesh color with a dark pink/terra cotta color on the back of the petals. However, depending on the weather the blooms can also be a solid pale pink, or a solid very pale yellow. When they do this, all of the flowers tend to come out the same color, so it doesn't look like the same rose bush at all. I think this is a delightful trait, which of course was intentionally bred out of modern roses by hybridizers who were after "*stability*" of color.

The other rose I took to the HRF meeting turned out to be the old HT '***Madame Caroline Testout***' (1890, climbing version 1901). It was immediate-



'Sunshine,' Polyantha, France, 1927 (Avail. Burlington Rose Nursery)

Ben Lomond Manor in Manassas. We have the original plot plan for the garden, which should make for a fairly straight-forward restoration, and I think this is a perfect project for us. We will meet soon to begin to confirm the identities of the roses currently in the garden, dig and divide the colonies of suckering OGRs (among the worst of which are Tuscany Superb and Tricolore de Flandres ... no surprise.) You'll hear more as this project develops. To view a slideshow of photos I took of this garden in May, 2009, click this link:

<http://s135.photobucket.com/albums/q157/HartwoodHoney/Rose%20Gallery/Slideshows/Ben%20Lomond%202009/?albumview=slideshow>

I am very excited that the formation of ODHRG has met with such an enthusiastic response. Our next general 'meeting' will be in spring, 2011, with bulletins and messages sent via email whenever there's something to tell members about. ODHRG is a gathering place for old rose lovers, and an official name and organization behind what many of us are already doing.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me. This is EVERYONE's organization, and all ideas are welcome.

Sincerely, Connie Hilker,
Hartwood Roses, Old Dominion Heritage Roses Group

gested list:

I combined some classes, like Large Flowered Climbers, Climbing Floribundas and Hybrid Teas into 'Climbers' and all the Hybrid-whatevers (Wichurana, Multiflora, Segitera, etc.) into 'Ramblers'. I considered combining Damask and Centifolia into one category, but changed my mind. (opinions on this?) I also thought twice about including Hybrid China as a class. They're so similar to Gallicas, but their different growth habit led me to keep them separate. Maybe we can do like I do in the sale pages on my web site and group 'once-blooming OGRs' together?

Look over the list and let me know what you think. Once we agree on classes, we can begin to compile a list of cultivars to recommend.

Alba	Floribunda	Hybrid Tea	Rugosa
Bourbon	Gallica	Miniature	Shrub
Buck	Grandiflora	Miniflora	Species
Centifolia	Hybrid China	Moss	Tea
China	Hybrid Musk	Noisette	
Climber	Polyantha		
Damask	Hybrid Perpetua	Portland	
English	Rambler		

We also agreed that our first promotional project should be a tri-fold brochure that can be distributed to rose societies, nurseries, garden clubs, Master Gardener associations, and anyone else who could benefit from the rose-growing experience of ODHRG members. Please draw attention to our existence and our mission. If you have any thoughts about exactly what this brochure should contain, please speak up.

If we can come up with a format and a schedule of regular articles and content, we would love to produce an online newsletter. Do you have ideas for articles and/or regular features that you'd like to submit? Suggestions from yesterday included a favorite rose column, report on garden visits, endangered sites, question and answer column, calendar of old rose events, etc. With a general format in mind, I can solicit articles, schedule publication, and use this newsletter as another way to get 'get the word out'.

Eventually, we would like to have enough content to support a web site. Rather than developing a brand new, stand alone site, it was suggested that the ODHRG site be a sub-site of the Hartwood Roses web site. This reduces the workload of our web master (my dear husband), and our new site could ride the coat tails of the popularity the Hartwood Roses site already has. It could potentially help promote Hartwood Roses as a source of heritage roses, which is a good thing for all of us. The idea is for someone who puts something like 'Old Garden Roses Virginia' into a search engine to find ODHRG and a place to buy the roses we talk about.

Our first volunteer project will be to partner with Prince William Parks, and possibly the Potomac Rose Society, on the restoration of the rose garden at

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ly identified with no objections. It was evidently one of the most popular roses in its era. It is a medium pink, and the blooms are wonderful – very large, very double, with a globular shape. Reminds me of the old Dutch paintings. Despite being so double, does not ball. It made me think better of hybrid teas – I was only familiar with the more modern ones.



'Mme. Caroline Testout'

This rose was not found in my garden, but in a neighbor's.

My friend Irene and her husband bought a c. 1910 house near ours that had been vacant for 7 years. I was delighted (as was the whole neighborhood) to

I Know Why They Wear Purple

Part II

By Darrell g.h. Schramm

To reprint this article, please contact the author at schrammd@usfca.edu

To Be Continued In The February, 2011 "Rose Letter"



Another rose of royal hue is one of the first old garden roses I desired—and simply on reading a description of it in a 1939 *Old Fashioned Roses* Bobbink and Atkins catalogue: "Nuits de Young. This famous old Moss Rose is of dwarf compact growth, and bears relatively small flowers of an extraordinary brown, maroon, and purple which the old writers described in several different ways: purple shaded darker, velvety, almost black; purple-chestnut, almost violet; purple-maroon; purple-red, a sullied shade; deep velvety purple; deep purple.

Since colors do vary somewhat depending upon soil and climate, Bobbink and Atkins clearly wanted to be vaguely precise. Mine is purple maroon fading into the dark.

'Nuits de Young' is a very fragrant, three foot rose in my garden, with small leaves and numerous, numerous, numerous prickles of green-black, doing well in poor soil and, apparently, also in a pot. The roses themselves are like small, textured cut-outs of a deep purple night sky. Truly a rose of the night, of a mid-summer night's dream.

'Nuits de Young' takes its name from an author and his epic poem, *Night Thoughts* by Edward Young (1683-1765). Translated, the poem became quite popular in France in the middle of the 19th century when, in 1845, Laffay named the rose. Indeed, the poem stimulated a literary movement known as "The Graveyard School," producing fashionable writing in a lugubrious tone or setting or theme, which inspired considerable funeral verse.

Young himself was the son of the Dean of Salisbury and took religious orders in 1727, becoming a royal chaplain and Rector of Welwyn. Despite his fame as a poet and a playwright of two successful tragedies, the Church never advanced his position. Because some of his friends and colleagues considered this a deliberate ecclesiastical slight, one wonders if this disregard was cause for melancholy. Nonetheless, it is *Night Thoughts* for which he is remembered, a series of poems in blank verse on melancholy, sorrow, passion, death, immortality, and the sublime.

That the rose should be so dark a maroon as to appear nearly black is fitting for *Nuits*. That it was often referred to as 'Old Black Moss' is also in keeping with those night thoughts of Young.

I love this rose, its color, its scent, its thick but modest growth. Well, "modest" deserves a definition here. While it is modest in size, the plant is a profligate—which is to say that it splurges, it goes overboard. It's a restless rose, not content with knowing its place in the scheme of things. It

'Nuits de Young' — Paul Barden Photo

A New Local Group For The Pacific NorthWest

CASCADIA HRG

A NEW Community For Those Who Love & Grow Old Roses
In Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia

Pacific Northwestern North America, one of our most scenic areas, has long cried out for a Heritage Roses Group interested in exploring its rosie assets. Australian Rosarian Pat Toolan, who surveyed the rose prospects of the

PNW some years ago, tells us that the area is rich in un-explored cemeteries and older towns, with much to be found, preserved, and studied.

The area is large, though, and widespread, making "in person" meetings difficult. But times are changing, and there are other ways for rose lovers to "meet," and exchange both enthusiasm and information.

Thus, **Cascadia HRG** is born.

To overcome disadvantages of space and time—and even International Borders, Cascadia HRG will make use of a Yahoo on-line Discussion Group to conduct "meetings." Southern California's Gold Coast HRG has done this successfully for almost ten years, carrying on an almost-continuous, wide-ranging discussion about all facets of rare roses and their preservation. (Discussions have only occasionally strayed off to cover children, pets, and other happy issues.) This system has made Gold Coast an effective, friendly, and cohesive group. I suspect that Cascadia will be the same, so I plan to drop in regularly.

To make inquiries, and/or to join Cascadia Heritage Roses Group, **contact Convenors Clair Accord and Angelique Laskowski by email, at:**

cascadiaroses@gmail.com

Visit the Web Site:

<https://sites.google.com/site/cascadiahrg/>



News Of Local Heritage Groups

The HEART of HRG

The First Meeting Of The Old Dominion Heritage Roses Group A Report by Connie Hilker

Good Morning, Everyone!

What a wonderful time we had yesterday!! The weather was perfect, with good food and great company. Thank you, all of you, for coming and contributing to the organization of the new Old Dominion Heritage Roses Group ... that's a mouthful, for sure. Though there were only a few of us in attendance, I am thrilled by the show of enthusiasm.

For those of you who were unable to attend the meeting, here is a summary of some of the major points we discussed:

We agreed that the purpose of ODHRG is to promote old roses, to educate other gardeners and the public on the benefits of growing old roses, and to work to preserve old roses and gardens whenever we can. This idea will evolve into a mission statement, which will help us as we grow the organization.

According to my notes, we decided that one of our first educational projects should be producing a list of 'old' roses that are successful in our area, can be grown without super-human effort, and will be a good start for a gardener who is beginning to grow and learn about old garden roses. (We also agreed that we aren't limiting ourselves to the ARS's 1867 'line in the sand' with our definition of 'old' roses.)

The first step in producing a list of roses within each class is to agree on — **Old Dominion HRG, Cont. From Pg. 16**

the classes we will use. I went through my database and this is my sug-

seems to enjoy the dark underground for a time before seeking further light of day. In short, it sends up suckers outside its bed, though never far from home. Can one blame beauty for wishing to enlarge itself?

So, unless you have ample space and don't mind a short three-foot, stunning rose enlarging its girth, you may wish to grow it in a carefully circumscribed bed. Otherwise, undauntedly it will send up shoots through the hardest clay. Fortunately, cutting off the extraneous suckers does seem to lend more vim and vigor to the rose proper.

Of course, you may decide to cut off or dig out the upcropping runners and stems as gifts for friends—or even enemies. (Oh dear, that last suggestion is rather a dark thought, isn't it—night thoughts.)

Another certain rose, not at all so dark, would like to be purple. It's not quite so. Roger Phillips and Martyn Rix describe it as "red shot with purple," Peter Beales as "red mottled purple"—Rayford Reddell agrees—and Max Singer in 1885 reported it as "carmine red with violet reflections." Most other sources recount it as simply bright red or crimson. The flower is 'Rose du Roi'.

The *roi* in question is the Bourbon king, Louis XVIII, the king of the Restoration after Napoleon's reign and his exile to the Isle of Elbe. Brother of Louis XVI, the guillotined monarch, he fled the Revolution in 1791, first to Belgium, then to Germany, then to Poland—wearing out his welcome time after time—then, finally, in 1807 to England. While residing in Blanquebourg, Germany, he supposedly attended a rose festival during which he was asked to crown an elected young woman with a chaplet of roses. When he crowned her, she is reputed to have said, "My lord, may God give it back to you." When it seemed certain that Napoleon would fall in 1814, he bargained with Talleyrand for that crown. In return he would sign a charter advocating certain principals of the Revolution, some of which he would later renege.

He ascended the throne, fat, passive, deceptive, and 59 years old. King Leopold I of Belgium described him as "a clever, hard-hearted man, shackled by no principle, very proud and false." The writer Chateaubriand called him "Louis XVIII, the legless," a reference to his gout and his difficulty in walking. When Napoleon escaped from exile and returned to the shores of France, the king fled Paris again. But about 100 days later, after Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo, Louis the Fat returned—under the protection of the Duke of Wellington. Thereafter he designated to his council most of those duties over which kings traditionally preside. Hardly a king.

About halfway through his somewhat unrestful rule, the citizenry became distrustful of the government. The turmoil among the Royalists, the non-Royalists, and the extremists was palpable. When the king's nephew, the Duc de Berri, was assassinated, one historian wrote, "Of the Duc de Berri it may be said that nothing in his life so well became him as his way of quitting it." No rose was named for him. While those on the side of the king saw the monarch as courageous (probably because, whatever the circumstance, he displayed a calm exterior), others saw him as weak. He could, however, pull rank when it came to naming a rose.

On the grounds of the royal palace Chateau de St. Cloud, just outside

— Cont. on Pg. 18

Paris, the Comte de Lelieur oversaw the attractive gardens. It was his gardener under Napoleon and Josephine, as one version has it, who had bred a crimson rose in 1812, which the count named for himself: ‘Rose Lelieur’. The rose made quite an impression even three or four years later when Louis XVIII sat upon his negotiated throne. Several fawners and flatterers of the king asked, then demanded, that the name be changed in honor of His Majesty. Count Lelieur refused. Royal decree, however, had the upper hand, and the rose was rechristened ‘Rose du Roi’, that is, Rose of the King.

That’s one version of the story. The other is that an old gardener by the name of Monsieur Ecoffay, who worked for a florist, Monsieur Souchet, raised the rose in 1815 or 1816. When Souchet observed its repeated bloom, he took it to Comte de Lelieur, who then named it for himself, only to have the king, who so admired the flower, pull rank on him.

If we read 19th and 20th century references to this rose, we find that the dates vary: 1812, 1815, 1816, and 1819. I would suggest the dates of the story proceed something like this: Whether through his own gardener or through Monsieur Souchet’s, the Count introduced the rose to the public as ‘Rose Lelieur’ in 1812. When the ignoble nobility appropriated it, it became ‘Rose du Roi’ in 1815 or 1816. When it was introduced in England as ‘Lee’s Crimson Perpetual’, the year was 1819. This would account for the various dates. But the commonly used name is ‘Rose du Roi’, and regardless of name changes, the rose was introduced in 1812.

This beautiful rose exudes a wonderfully strong damask fragrance. It exhibits the typical Portland rose growth of about three feet in height with blossoms nestling in the high shoulders of the leaves. While it has bristles, easy to the touch, it has no real prickles. And though there may be some purple cast to it, it is essentially a deep red rose. A whisper or a dash of purple does not royalty make. Like Louis XVIII, it’s the rose that would be—if it could be—king.

see the moving van pull up. What to my wondering eyes did appear coming out of it (along with beautiful antique furniture) but dozens and dozens of large pots of roses! Irene told me that they had just sold her grandmother’s Victorian house in San Francisco. It was to be torn down and replaced with condos, so she rescued as many of her grandmother’s roses as she could. A hah! I had not had any rose loving neighbors before. I waited about a week and went over there.

I told her that there was at least one surviving rose in her tangle/jungle of a back garden. She said no, there were not any roses there except the ones she had brought. We walked into the back garden to look. On one side of the garden there was a blackberry thicket, about 8 feet high by 20 feet long. Scattered at intervals peeking out of the thicket were large globular pink roses! I helped her clear out the blackberries, and there were not one but two plants of the rose that turned out to be ‘*Mme Caroline Testout*’. It had survived by climbing up a plum tree to the light, and I had seen it from my kitchen window. So, I rooted it and acquired another “*survivor*” rose.

If they can live by themselves with no care for years & years I figure even I can grow them! Mme. Carline Testout is now climbing 15 feet up our chimney, and blooms every Spring and again every Fall.

To be continued.....

- *Finding old Hybrid Teas in the Garden*
- *Modern tree roses die, up come gorgeous old roses!*
- *Finding more old roses in the neighborhood*

WANT TO ENJOY THESE PHOTOS IN FULL COLOR?

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Great Rosarians of the World
“G.R.O.W. EAST”

is now held with its own unique flair,
each June, in New York City.

G.R.O.W. East Events include the Great Rosarian lecture,
garden tours, and recognition of the
Great Rosarians Hall of Fame Gardens.

Look For Details In The February 2011 Issue of
HRG *“Rose Letter”*

We Heard It Through The Grapevine . . .

A second Folio of Komlosy prints, published last week, is ready to ship from Limberlost Rose Books. Visually-expressed rose history.

This Folio includes: Tormenteux, listed as a 1573 Damask, Nandine Taye, listed as Hybrid Bourbon, La Boule d'Or, listed as a Tea, and Reine de Iles Bourbon, listed as a Bourbon. A great holiday gift!

Price is \$34.95, plus \$5.00 packing & shipping, for a total of \$39.95.

Contact bob@oldroses.com

NOISETTE ROSES

Anniversary Celebration Scheduled

Edisto Memorial Gardens (Orangeburg, S.C.) will host a gala celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the Noisette Rose. The event will take place on August 20, 2011. Details are forthcoming, but we do know that a 7th-Generation descendant of Philippe Noisette will attend and speak.

The Anniversary Celebration for the only American-Originated class of roses will center around “Project Noisette” a new Noisette Rose display garden within the Edisto Memorial Garden. As noted in an article in the July/August (2010) issue of the American Rose Magazine, 110 roses have been planted to date in the garden.



(Above) ‘Nuits de Young’

(Below) ‘Rose du Roi’

(Paul Barden Photos)



Great Rosarians *Of The World*

Announces The 2011 G.R.O.W. Honoree:

Ruth Knopf

Dedicated Collector and Conservator *Of*
Tea & Noisette Roses

G.R.O.W. West Will Be Held On

Sat. & Sun., Jan. 22 & 23, 2011

AT THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY, ART COLLECTIONS,
AND BOTANICAL GARDENS
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108

To Register: Send \$50./Person.

For more information, see the GROW-WEST Page, at:
<http://www.greatrosarians.com/growwest.html>

Or Contact Clair Martin: Phone 626.405.3507

Or Email cmartin@huntington.org

SEE THE WEEKEND SCHEDULE
ON PAGE 13

MARK THE DATE NOW

And Register!

MONITOR THE GROW WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

<http://www.greatrosarians.com/>

YES! We're *ALL* Going!

GREAT ROSARIANS *OF THE WORLD VI (WEST)*

COMPLETE WEEKEND SCHEDULE

SAT., JAN. 22:

TEACHING GREENHOUSE, THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY,
ART COLLECTIONS, & BOTANICAL GARDENS

12:00 P.M. WORKSHOP 1: COMPOSTING & MULCH

2:00 PM WORKSHOP 2:

TRANSITIONING TO A SUSTAINABLE ROSE GARDEN:
GIVING UP THE CHEMICALS

6:00 P.M.: GREAT ROSARIANS *OF THE WORLD VI*
BANQUET

SUN., JAN. 23:

FRIENDS HALL, THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY,
ART COLLECTIONS, & BOTANICAL GARDENS

9:00 A.M. REGISTRATION, FRIENDS' HALL

9:30 A.M. PROGRAM: GREGG LOWERY,
PROPRIETOR VINTAGE GARDENS, SEBASTOPOL, CA

10:30 A.M. PROGRAM: PETER KUKIELSKI,
THE PEGGY ROCKEFELLER ROSE GARDEN,
THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

11:45 AM LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:15 PM: BOOK SIGNING:

THE SUSTAINABLE ROSE GARDEN: A READER IN ROSE CULTURE
GENE WAERING, EDITOR

2:00 P.M. PROGRAM RUTH KNOPF

3:30 P.M. — RECEPTION