

ROSE LETTER

Heritage Roses Group



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ROSE LETTER

of

The Heritage Roses Groups

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In This Issue

My Pet Peeve: Modern Roses in Old Historic Gardens	3
Tea Roses on a Gravelly Soil	5
Odorata 44426	7
China in California: Dr. Wang at Quarryhill	8
Good-bye and Hello: The Return of Vintage Gardens	10
Prune the Once-Bloomers	11
The Rose as Herb	12
Report on the North Central Florida Heritage Group	17
Repeat or Once-Blooming?	19

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The Heritage Roses Groups is a non-profit association formed in 1975 as a fellowship of old rose lovers. Members receive four Rose Letters a year, in February, May, August, & November.

TO JOIN OR RENEW

Send \$16 for hard copy/print format or \$10 for a digital format (download at www.theheritagerosesgroup.org) to Clay Jennings, Membership Chair, 22 Gypsy Lane, Camarillo, CA 93010-1320 or contact him at e.c.jennings@gmail.com.

Print format for Overseas membership is \$26 in U.S. funds.

The following article by Linda Buzzell calls to mind an early section in Gwen Fagan's book Roses at the Cape of Good Hope. As a restoration architect, Gwen helped to restore Government House and arranged for old roses to be planted on its grounds, but "the horticulturist then in charge of Public Works gardens refused point blank" to plant the heritage roses, choosing to plant 20th century roses around the late 18th century building. Similarly, when she had heritage roses planted at the back of the early 19th century Court of the Magistrate, they were later removed in favor of modern roses.

My Pet Peeve: Modern Roses in Old Historic Gardens

Linda Buzzell

Imagine that you're walking through a beautifully preserved historic home, enjoying the elegant mahogany living room furniture, the color-saturated plush Oriental rugs, the heavy draperies... when a jarring sight confronts you: *a 1950s grey formica and aluminum kitchen table!*

The sight of modern roses in the gardens surrounding historic homes and public buildings (and in the heirloom vases inside these buildings) is equally upsetting to me. The sophisticated administrators of these properties would never stoop to placing that 1950s grey formica table in an antiques-filled Victorian or Federal room, yet they apparently think nothing of surrounding these rooms with historically absurd landscape plantings.

I've talked to managers and horticulturists at a number of historical sites about why they surround their precious properties with anachronistic plantings, and mostly they just don't see a problem. There are a million excuses for the presence of historically-inappropriate roses: David Austin roses look just like heritage roses (would they fill their historic building with reproduction furniture?); new roses are more disease-resistant and water-thrifty than the tough old survivor roses (really??); nice modern hybridizers donate the roses so they're obliged to accept them; the new roses are better for cutting bouquets for the interiors (and would Mrs. X the original owner of the Victorian home have put 'Tropicana' or Romantica bouquets on her table??); no money for replacement roses; and on and on.

Recently my husband and I visited Filoli, a beautiful heritage estate just south of San Francisco. The home was built in 1915 and features a well-publicized heirloom fruit tree orchard but in the rose garden among mostly

modern roses sits a meticulously curated and labeled 'Knock Out' rose.

That was a knock-out punch for me.

There is obviously a huge educational deficit among historians, landscapers and managers of historic public properties who don't yet seem to know that heirloom roses are (1) available -- but won't be for much longer as purveyors like Vintage Gardens close their doors, (2) beautiful in a way that is aesthetically appropriate for historic homes, (3) tough or they wouldn't have survived until now, (4) mostly extremely water-thrifty if grown properly, (5) mostly extremely disease resistant.

The only solution I can think of for this situation is that heritage rose experts need to *publicly shame and embarrass* the so-called historians who make these thoughtless choices -- and offer recommendations for beautiful, practical alternative plant choices. This campaign need cost us no money. Simple letters, letters to the editor, articles in landscape and historical property journals, etc. could have the necessary salutary effect.

Linda Buzzell is editor of *Santa Barbara Roses* of the Santa Barbara Rose Society.

To read the Current issue of the "Rose Letter" on line, or to download and print it, follow these instructions.

1. Go to the HRG Web Site, at: <http://www.theheritagerosesgroup.org/>

2. At the top of the page, in small red letters, find "Enter The Members Only Area" 3. Click on that.

4. You will next see: The Heritage Roses Group Member Portal

5. There, click on: [Enter the member's only area](#)

6. You will be prompted to enter a user name and password.

Enter the User Name:
heritage
and the Password: **garden**

7. Click on the current issue, and the file will download.

Questions? Please email Jeri Jennings: heritageroses@gmail.com

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The following article is reprinted from the English weekly publication, The Garden, of May 12, 1894.

TEA ROSES ON A GRAVELLY SOIL

J.C. Clarke

For six years I have grown Tea-scented Roses on a soil of this description, and during that time the plants were exposed to three severe winters in succession, yet I have had comparatively few plants die, and very little injury done to the branches. This experience is so favourable compared to that which I had gone through before where the soil was of a heavier character and badly drained, that I have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the hardy character of some of the Tea Roses when they are grown in warm and well-drained soils.

My plants do not cover a large area of ground, but I possess a good representative collection of the most suitable varieties for open-air culture, nor do they occupy a particularly sheltered position, and the only protection they get is a cone of coal ashes heaped up the stem six inches high. This has been the means of saving the life of such tender ones as 'Catherine Mermet', 'Ma Capucine', and 'Mme Kuster'. Under this treatment the majority have passed through the late winters with the loss of only a few of the late-made growths. It is unfortunate that in this western county the plants grow so late



CATHERINE MERMET

in the autumn, that the first early frost does them more harm than a greater degree of cold later.

In my case any protection of the branches is unnecessary in the case of such varieties as 'The Bride', 'Perle des Jardins', 'Princess of Wales', 'Narcisse', 'Marie van Houtte', 'Mme Charles', 'Viscountess Folkstone', 'Mme de Watteville', 'Grace Darling', 'Innocente Pirola', 'Jean Ducher', 'Mme Hoste', 'Mme Falcot', and 'Miss Ethel Brownlow'. I am very glad to be able to dispense with the protection of the branches above the cone of ashes, as unless it is substantially done it does not do much good. The plan I used to adopt was to draw the branches up into a bundle with a piece of tar cord at two or three different places, and then to wrap the bundle of shoots up with Bracken.

I am more than ever convinced that to succeed with Tea Roses where the clay soil is not far from the surface, the beds should be raised at least nine inches above the surrounded level.



In a Rosarie, 1897

ODORATA 44426

Darrell g.h. Schramm

In our last issue (November 2011), we published a photo with the caption ‘Fun Jwan Lo’ (perhaps more correctly, according to the Chinese botanist Ma Yan, ‘Fen Zhuang Lo’). However, that photo may not be of the rose it was reported to be. Not only did Dr. Wang Guoliang doubt that identification on his recent visit here, but I also uncovered early information that suggests otherwise as well.

This rose, also known as ‘Rosa Odorata 44426’, was obtained by Frank N. Meyer from a Presbyterian Mission in Pautung Fu. China, which had “procured it from a Chinese nurseryman.” Meyer, a plant explorer for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, sent it to the Plant Introduction Garden in Chico, California, in March of 1908. There it was initially given the Seed & Plant Introduction number 22449.

Meyer, who apparently had not seen this particular specimen in bloom, believed it to be the yellow Rambler he had seen in China. It was not. When the rose came into flower, the description sent did not match the actual bloom. According to the *Plant Inventory* description by the USDA in 1917, ‘Odorata’ produces “small, double, white flowers with pink centers,” and blooms quite freely. Its vigorous canes grow five to eight feet long. Consequently, a new description was written and a new S.P.I. number assigned: 44426.

Initially the plant was used as a pillar rose. Some observers mentioned that at times it would sucker badly in the field, though not in the greenhouse. In 1922, the American breeder E. Gurney Hill found the rose especially promising in the forcing of yellow roses in the winter months. Because ‘Manetti’ had not proven conducive as an understock for yellow roses, ‘Odorata 44426’ was tested. A three-year trial at the University of Illinois’ Agricultural Experiment Station demonstrated that it was at least as good as, and sometimes better than, ‘Manetti’ as an understock in general.

And the rose in the photo of our last issue? Once again, apparently, we have found but not identified a mystery rose.

Sources:

“Seeds and Plants Imported, Jan. 1-Mar. 31, 1917.” *Plant Inventory*. U.S. Division of Botany, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1917.
Weinard, F. F. and H. B. Dorner. *Bulletin #290*. University of Illinois, Agricultural Experiment Station. Urbana, Ill. 1927.

CHINA IN CALIFORNIA: DR. WANG AT QUARRYHILL

Darrell g.h. Schramm

A standing-room-only crowd convened at Quarryhill Botanic Gardens near Glen Elen, California, on October 25, 2011 to hear Dr. Wang Guoliang, professor at the Forestry Academy of Jiangsu Province, China.

A rose searcher, researcher, and breeder, Dr. Wang believes at least 120 different rose species exist in China alone. The province of Xizan grows 20 species, Yunan grows 45, and Sichuan 53. Some of these species were identified as long ago as the North Song (960-1127 BCE) of the Song Dynasty.

Dr. Wang has found no evidence of *Rosa odorata v. erubescens*, a semi-double pink rose, growing indigenously in the West. The same is true for *R. odorata v. pseudindica*, a double yellow. (Incidentally, Gerd Krussmann speculated that *R. erubescens* might be the ancestor to both the yellow and the pink Tea roses.) China is home to three different forms of *R. chinensis spontanea*, the single red, the single pink, and a newly discovered double pink variety. Likewise in China, *R. laevigata* produces three varieties, a single, a semi-double, and a double, all three of which were illustrated in the *Famine Herbal* by Ch'iu Huang Peng Ts'ao in 1406 of the Ming Dynasty. Dr. Wang himself has discovered at a very high altitude a new form of the four-petaled *R. omeiensis*. He also noted that the Nuhjiang River Valley near Burma is replete with species and other old roses. *R. longicuspus* grows on both sides of the riverbanks there. And whereas we tend to think of rugosas as Japanese, he asserted that *R. rugosa rubra* is a long ago established Chinese rose.

Regarding several California roses, Dr. Wang pointed out several suppositions or facts. The *R. gigantea* in California, he said, seems to be the India form, not the China variety. Our white, single 'Lady Banks' rose, *R. banksiae v. normalis*, grows without prickles; in the wilds of China, according to Dr. Wang, the canes have "large thorns." And the 'Green Rose' or *R. viridiflora*, which Graham S. Thomas claimed originated as a mutation of *R. chinensis* in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1853 (but, according to Krussmann was already in cultivation ninety years earlier), is a rose known in China for centuries.

Translated rose names from the Chinese into English usually give factual or metaphorical characteristics of the rose, said Dr. Wang. As examples, he named 'Gold Wine Cup with Green Flower Center', 'Light Face Painting of Madame Guoguo', 'Golden Bird Flapping in the Water', 'Fragrant Butterfly' (a rose he bred himself), 'White Pearl in Red Dragon's Mouth'. This



WHITE PEARL IN RED DRAGON'S MOUTH

last rose, for instance, tells us that the rose is red with a white center and is a climber, “dragon” referring to a climbing rose. The rose by this name in America, he maintained, is misidentified, for ours is a shrub, not a climber. Still, one wonders if ours is not a sport of the original. Consider ‘White Pet’ (also known as ‘Little White Pet’), a dwarf sport of the climber ‘Felicite Perpetue’, itself an offspring of two China roses.

Dr. Wang aside, another Chinese rose we grow in California is ‘Fun Jwan Lo’ (modern spelling: ‘Fen Zhuang Lo’), also designated as ‘Odorata 44426’. According to the Chinese botanist Ma Yan, this old cultivar’s name means “The Women’s Dressing Building,” or, more romantically, “Milady’s Boudoir,” suggestive of “softly ruffled, silky pink blossoms.” One would like a long list of such translated names.

It seems fitting to conclude this report on Dr. Wang’s talk with the words that open his essay in the recently published book *Mystery Roses Around the World*: “China is an ancient birthplace of roses.” The enlightened crowd left slowly in the dusk, milling and buzzing like bees in rose pollen.

* * * * *

A few other poetic Chinese Rose Names: Pale Goose-Beak Yellow, Three Drunks of Yaoyang, Tiny Jade Shoulders, Three Rays of Dawn, Finest Red Cloth, Peach Lake Spring Morning, Red Ruby on Blue Ground, Apricot Blossom Time, Tungting Autumn Moon, and Drunk Green Lotus.

GOOD-BYE & HELLO: THE RETURN OF VINTAGE GARDENS

In our last issue, much to the distress of most of our readership, Gregg Lowery bid us "a long, sad goodbye." The dismay and outcry regarding the closing of Vintage Gardens spread far and wide, reaching the very ears of angels. Miracles do happen. Here are excerpts from Gregg's letter to the community of heritage rose lovers:

Dear Friends and Customers of Vintage Gardens,

Extraordinary things have been happening. Hope for a long-term preservation of our rose collection has leapt forward, thanks to the care and concern and generosity of a great many people.

I hope that it will give you faith that good things are at large in the world despite the bad.

I consulted with the Friends of Vintage Gardens who have helped with the garden and the roses for over a decade, and suggested we create a non-profit organization to help with the cost of keeping the roses and the garden going. Their enthusiasm was amazing. Now, after more than a year of work we finally had arrived at solutions we believed would work.

The bank had a very different idea and as I began to slip behind in payments and to apply for one loan modification after another, the noose began to tighten. After rejecting my last application, the bank, on December 5th, set an auction date for our garden on Pleasant Hill Road, to take place this past Thursday, December 22nd. My appeals were of course denied, and the time was too short to find the money to reinstate the loan.

It was a black week. As I walked through the garden in its winter weeping, 'Mme. Hardy' shed a bushel of yellow leaves, and 'Alain Blanchard' stared up brown and tired. And, I thought, this is the last. No one knows they will never see these glorious old roses again. They will not survive to touch us with their beauty again in May.

But angels do live among us---they are only people, so we don't recognize them in our daily rounds. And this week they appeared and worked their miracles.

Last Friday, one anonymous angel offered her nearby property as a holding place for our entire collection of roses. On Sunday, two more angels stepped in offering to buy the property at the Thursday auction, so that the roses could live on. And on Monday, a very ordinary angel, a lawyer, stepped up to the plate and began to work.

On Wednesday, in the eleventh hour, the angel lawyer Susan, beamed brightly as she shared the solution with me; a way out of the auction, out of foreclosure and on towards a road that will allow us to keep the roses going in their garden. --Gregg Lowery

PRUNE THE ONCE-BLOOMERS

Every expert tells us not to prune most roses for the first three years. By that time, the bush will have reached its inborn size and form. From then on, you will cut it back to accentuate those characteristics.

All rosebushes need to be renewed from time to time. Woody old canes produce little foliage and bloom. You can remove them at the base, whether own-root or budded, taking out the entire cane. Again, do this after the rosebush has bloomed; all live canes will produce some roses, but taking out tired ones will cause the bush to send new canes out to balance top and root systems.

All we have been able to do for years is to cut dead wood and dieback. If you can perform only one chore in the garden, at least do this. Dieback will continue down, and the whole cane will die. If down and into the bud union, you may lose the plant. . . .

Prune all once-bloomers after they finish blooming, unless they will have decorative heps. . . . Prune gallicas back as much as one third; take out old canes so new ones will emerge. . . . Albas, like the damasks, mainly bloom on older wood so do not over-prune. They are more gangly than the gallicas, so you can cut back side branches in addition to the main canes. . . . Damasks can attain some height. You may cut them back, particularly if bottom canes are becoming bare. By shortening canes, you will have a fuller bush, but they do not like to be pruned heavily. . . . The centifolias, including their mossed sports . . . do not need to be pruned much. If too tall, you can cut back one-third and trim side canes.

--from Miriam Wilkins, April 1999

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THE ROSE AS HERB

Darrell g.h. Schramm

While in 2011 the Herb of the Year has been the lowly horseradish, the International Herb Association has declared the Herb of the Year for 2012 to be the rose. The choice is made based on an herb's outstanding qualities in at least two of three categories: culinary, medicinal, and ornamental. And the choice is appropriate for another reason: 2012 marks the

400th anniversary of Gerard's death.

Though few people think of the rose as an herb, it has certainly been considered so for more than four centuries, and perhaps nowhere in the earlier history of the English do we find the plant so clearly categorized as in Gerard's Herbal.

John Gerard, an Elizabethan born in 1545, served as superintendent of at least two gardens, that of Lord Burleigh in the Strand (London) and of Theobald in Hertfordshire. In addition, he kept his own garden in Holborn, an aristocratic section of London. Missing by eight years the Pilgrim Fathers' momentous outset for the New World, Gerard died in 1612.

In 1597 Gerard published the original edition of his *Herball, A Historie of Plants*. Because this approximately 1,400 page work was found to be replete with flaws and dishonesty, the rosarian Norman Young considered him "an unscrupulous rogue." Fortunately, the section on The Rose seems to have escaped both dishonesty and flaws. After Gerard's death, Thomas Johnson corrected many of its errors in a second edition of 1633. In 1636 he published a further improved edition, which became a standard reference for years. Another version came out in 1927 by Marcus Woodward, and yet another in 2008. In this essay the book is referred to simply as the *Herbal*, and the quotations are taken from the 1636 edition. (continued)



Rosa eglanteria

“The Plant of Roses,” Gerard wrote, “though it be a shrub full of prickles, yet it had bin more fit and convenient to have placed it with the most glorious floures [flowers] of the world than to insert the same here among base and thorny shrubs.” Note that he glorifies the rose, suggesting its beauty of ornamentation, but also note that Gerard makes the correct distinction between prickles and thorns, ascribing correctly prickles to roses. He then goes on: “The Rose doth deserve the chief and prime place among all floures whatsoever; being not onely esteemed for his beauty, virtues, and his fragrant and odoriferous smell”—note here that though the rose is generally considered feminine in most Western languages, Gerard refers to it as masculine—“but also because it is the honor and ornament of our English Scepter . . . in the uniting of those two most Royall Houses of Lancaster and Yorke.” In other words, this herb has become royalty.

Gerard quotes the ancient Greek poet Anacreon who begins a poem in praise of the rose with the line “The rose is the honour and beauty of floures.” Gerard continues this admiration in referring to Augerius Busbequius, a Viennese ambassador to Turkey who apparently introduced the tulip to Europe, and who declared that “the Turks can by no means endure to see the leaves [i.e. petals] of Roses fall to the ground because some of them have dreamed that the first or most antient [sic] Rose did spring out of the bloud [blood] of Venus, and others of the Mahumetans [Mohammedans] say that it sprang of the sweat of Mahumet.” Thus we see that the rose is revered as an outstanding ornamental, worthy of worship.

Gerard informs his readers that “there are many kindes of Roses, differing in the bignesse of the floures or the plant it selfe, roughnesse or smoothnesse, or in the multitude or fewnesse of the flours”—note the inconsistent spelling of *flowers*; spelling during Shakespeare’s time had not yet been standardized—“or else in colour and smell; for divers of them are high and tall, others short and low, some have five leaves [petals], others very many.” Although Gerard mentions a dozen different roses in his work, one senses from the above sketch that he was certainly aware of more. After all, in his catalogue of 1596 he wrote of sixteen roses varieties.

The *Herbal* then describes roses as either red [think deep pink; red as we know it had not yet found its way to the West] or white, most of them fragrant. The author then gives the characteristics of a dozen roses. The white rose, possibly *Rosa alba* (one writer suggests *Rosa arvensis*, but that rose is more cream than white and is single, not double), has long, woody canes with many sharp prickles, and green leaves of mostly five leaflets that are “somewhat snipt [serrated] about the edges.” The flowers are double, very scented, with

“a few yellow threds or chives” in the center. Its green hips ripen to red. The description matches my *R. alba semi-plena*, also called ‘White Rose of York’.

The red rose, *R. gallica*, is a low grower with smoother, browner canes and stems, the flowers having many petals—double or very double—that sport hips turning red when ripe. This is likely the ‘Apothecary’s Rose’, a plant of which someone recently gave me.

The damask rose he compares to the white, similar in branching, arching canes with quite prickly stems. Its main differences are its pale red [pink] color and its fragrance, a rose used for medicinal and culinary purposes. This is probably the ‘Autumn Damask’ that I grow in my garden. To this one, Gerard adds another damask, a “lesser” or “minor” variety, also used to aid one’s health.

Medicinally, rose water and fresh roses themselves, so he claims, were good for heart palpitations, for calming and “refreshing” the spirit, for eye pain, and for inducing sleep. As a food ingredient, roses were used in junkets, cakes, sauces, conserves, “and many other pleasant things,” including the flavoring of sugar and other confections. The roses most likely to be used for these purposes were the *gallica*, the damask, and the *centifolia*. *R. centifolia*, “the Holland or Province Rose,” also known as the Cabbage Rose, is another Gerard describes in some detail.

Gerard continues by giving an account of a three-and-a-half to five-foot rose without prickles and with leaves shiny green above and both grey and “hairy” beneath, a medium pink, very fragrant rose. While I have not determined what this rose might be, my guess is that it may have been “The Agatha Rose.” In these little-known old roses, the agathes as they are sometimes called, some experts see both *centifolia* and damask influence. Suzanne Verrier lists them under *gallicas*. Edward Bunyard in the 1930s considered them to be smaller versions of *R. centifolia*, and Lesley Gordon in 1970 claimed “The Agatha Rose” was known in Provence, that area around Marseille, France, in 1435. Gerard’s description, such as it is, seems to fit ‘Agatha’. On the other hand, the rose he refers to might have altogether vanished.

In addition, Gerard mentions the Sweet Brier (*R. eglantheria*), the Dog Rose (*R. canina*), the Burnet Rose (*R. pimpinellifolia*), the “Austrian Yellow” (*R. foetida*) and its sport “Austrian Copper.” He also refers to the Musk Rose, (*R. moschata*), stating that it flowers in autumn. The hips of most of these species roses are good for making “most pleasant meats and banqueting dishes, as tarts and such like.”

Clearly, as Gerard has shown us and as the International Herb

Association has voted, the culinary, medicinal, and ornamental qualities of the rose are its virtue. Yet another virtue is its history. The roses that the early colonists on America's eastern shores brought with them are the roses named in the catalogue and the *Herbal* of Gerard. These were the roses known and grown at that time. And from the thirteen colonies, some of those roses moved westward, to Ohio, to Missouri, onto the Oregon Trail to Oregon Territory, to California. It is this long, historical connection that moves many an old rose lover to grow damasks, centifolias, species, and others. It is this connection that stimulates the old rose lover to explore and hunt and rustle lost roses. The rose as herb is a stimulant and a tonic, but perhaps more important it is a link to other rose lovers and a link to a sometimes intriguing, sometimes exciting past.

GREAT GARDENS OF BRITAIN – PART II

A TOUR led by Clair Martin

June 10 through June 19, 2010

(Fly into Heathrow Airport Monday, June 11; Depart June 19)

The list of gardens, still being negotiated, may include
Sissinghurst Castle Garden, Knole, Hever Castle & Garden, Leeds Castle,
Great Dixter House & Gardens, Nymans, RHS Garden Wisley, Chelsea
Physic Garden, Ecclestone Square Garden, Hatfield House, Mottisfont
Abbey
& Gardens, Woolerton Old Hall, Austin Rose Nursery, The Manor House
Upton Grey, HRH Highgrove Gardens.

The cost is being negotiated but will cover all hotels, all breakfasts, minimum of 6-8
dinners, venue entrance fees, and luxury coach transport between venues.

TOUR LIMITED TO 25-30 PERSONS

Contact Clair Martin at clairmartin@mac.com or call 626-241-2181

Report on October 5th, 2011 Meeting of the NCF Heritage Roses Group

Pam Greenewald

On October 5th, about 20 rose lovers got together at Angel Gardens to hear Pat Shanley speak about Sustainable Rose growing. The weather, food, and the Rose Buds were all there to please. This was an intimate but powerful gathering of “Like Minds” who enjoyed hearing someone who is in the forefront of ARS making clear and meaningful statements about the future of rose growing using no chemicals. It made our hearts glad to finally hear the words coming from such an honored spokeswoman.

Pat began her talk by telling the story of her beloved dog Winston who died within an hour of a toxic chemical being sprayed on her roses. That was the end of her use of chemicals. Within the next 5 years she had lost her husband and her mother to cancer. The rest is history.

Pat Shanley is President of the Manhattan Rose Society. She is Director of Marketing and Membership for the ARS and holds many other positions, too numerous to name. She is running for VP of the ARS which will mean Presidency after 3 years. I believe that I speak for all of us represented by the Jacksonville Rose Society (Gene Waering Pres. in attendance), the Marion County Rose Society (Chris McMillan, President in attendance) and the North Central FL Heritage Roses Group when I say that we all want to endorse this great lady in her efforts to reach the highest office in the ARS.

(continued on next page)



PAM GREENEWALD & PAT SHANLEY

After Pat's talk, we presented some gifts to her and we gave a special gift to Frank and Deedee for their extra help to get the place ready. Pat signed books (The Sustainable Rose Garden) with Gene Waering who is also an editor of the book.

We had a wonderful potluck lunch followed by a raffle. Then everyone drove down to Gainesville to see the Hospice Memorial Garden where we shared some wine, conversation, and enjoyed showing off the new garden. The deer had been nibbling only the outer edge of roses and the rest of them were looking just fine. We all agreed it had been a great day. The local rose community was well represented. I want to personally thank all those who were able to come, help, and share in this event.



**Fortune's Double Yellow
in Historic Sacramento Cemetery**

For good rose reading, read the Hartwood blog. It provides behind the scenes information on the garden, the nursery, the building at Hartwood, and on roses in general, their planting, problems, and maintenance. Check it out at

<http://hartwoodroses.blogspot.com/>

Repeat or Once Blooming? Or *All China Roses Aren't the Same*

Anita Clevenger

Old Garden Roses have the reputation of blooming only once, usually in late spring or early summer. That's true for roses with European ancestry, such as Damasks, Gallicas and Albas, with rare exceptions such as 'Autumn Damask' and other Damask Perpetuals.

Everything changed suddenly in the European rose scene, when the first continuously blooming China roses were introduced at the end of the 18th century. These very different roses became the ancestors of a group of repeat-blooming classes of Old Garden Roses, including Teas, Chinas, Bourbons, Hybrid Perpetuals, and Noisettes. Our familiar repeat-blooming modern classes, including Hybrid Teas, Polyanthas, Hybrid Musks and Floribundas, also descend from repeat-blooming China roses.

Not every Asian rose is repeat-blooming. Asian species such as *R. gigantea* and *R. chinensis spontanea* bloom once. So do garden hybrids, particularly climbing forms such as the famous 'Fortune's Double Yellow,' 'Fortuneana,' and "Phillips and Rix Pink China Climber." Most bush forms of Chinese garden hybrids, however, are nearly constantly in bloom. Crosses of repeat-blooming China hybrids with European roses may or may not repeat.

The once-blooming gene is dominant. The gene for repeat-bloom is recessive. Mendel's Laws of Inheritance state that if you cross a repeat-blooming rose with another repeat-bloomer, the offspring will repeat. If you cross a once-blooming rose with a repeat bloomer, however, the results depend on whether or not the once-bloomer has that wonderful, recessive remontancy gene. If it does, Mendel's work shows us that half of the offspring will repeat, and half will not. If the once-blooming parent has no repeat-blooming gene, none of the offspring will repeat. Second or later generational crosses increase the chance that a rose will inherit two repeat-blooming genes, one from both parents.

Roses haven't studied Mendel, and sometimes they behave unpredictably. It's possible that more than one gene causes remontancy, or that other factors can suppress or prompt repeat bloom. Sports of repeat blooming roses, such as 'Climbing Queen Elizabeth', can be once-bloomers. One hundred fifty years ago, William Paul noted that some crosses of remontant Hybrid Perpetuals bloomed only once. Much about rose genetics

remains unknown.

In the Historic Rose Garden of Sacramento's Old Historic Cemetery, we have a number of once-blooming roses that are born from crosses of European and China roses. Hybrid China and Hybrid Bourbon roses have vigorous, arching growth, thick, rather matte foliage, considerable hardiness and disease resistance. They bear fragrant, full, complex flowers in tones of pink and purple. "Little (or Old) Red Runaround" is one example of a Hybrid China. Others include 'Cardinal de Richelieu,' and 'Paul Ricault.' 'Coupe de Hebe' and 'Gipsy Boy' are once-blooming Hybrid Bourbons. These roses display more European characteristics than Asian, but you'll usually find a tell-tale red streak on their stipules, and they often have the ability to bloom and thrive in milder climates.



Gypsy Boy (Zigeunerknabe)

Hybrid Chinas and Hybrid Bourbons are very unlike the tender China roses. While the China roses may have a sweet fragrance, they don't bear the heady Damask fragrance found in roses of European origin. They have much thinner, glossier foliage, red new growth, and a twiggy growth habit. Despite these distinct differences, for a brief period of time the American Rose

Society (which establishes approved horticultural classifications for roses) eliminated the distinctions between China and Hybrid China roses. In *Modern Roses 11*, all China roses were considered Hybrid Chinas. Even roses such as 'Mutabilis' and 'Archduke Charles' were so classified. While this recognized that the China roses are indeed hybrids, it created an annoying state of confusion. *Modern Roses 12* re-introduced the China class of roses as separate and distinct from Hybrid China.

For years, Damask Perpetual roses such as 'The Portland Rose' were also thought to be the result of crosses between China and Damask roses. Recent DNA analysis, though, finds that these roses have no Tea or China genes, and are most likely the result of crosses between Damask and Gallica roses. DNA analysis also demonstrated, to our surprise, that 'Autumn Damask' owes its remontancy to *R. fedtschenkoana* and *R. moschata*.

Someday, DNA analysis may answer all of our questions about rose genetics and breeding. Until that happens, rose lovers have plenty to speculate (and argue) about.

Many thanks to Cass Bernstein, whose usual cogent comments led to a more nuanced approach to this subject, and to Jeri Jennings, who improved its readability.

**Great Rosarians *Of The World*
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Information & Registration: contact Clair Martin:

clairmartin@mac.com or call [626.241.2181](tel:626.241.2181)

Sacramento City Cemetery

Historic Rose Garden

**In Celebration Of The
Sacramento Historic Rose Garden's**

20th Anniversary

**A “Very Special” Spring
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Is Planned For

April 21, 2012

**Bloom should be at its peak for this Spring
Event. The Cemetery’s Spring Open Garden
is always special. An Event Not To Be Missed!**



*A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO KRISTINA
OSBORN, FORMER CONVERNER, AND TO
JOANIE HELGESON, FORMER SECRETARY FOR
ALL THEIR SERVICES AND DEVOTION ON THE
BOARD OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE ROSES
GROUPS. WE WILL MISS YOU.*

Historic Rose Garden

Celebrating The Sacramento Historic Rose Garden's

20th Anniversary

A Symposium Has Been Scheduled For

Oct 12-14, 2012

Details Are Still "In The Works," But The Schedule Will Include

Rose Sales!

A Friday Night Reception & Cemetery "*Lantern Tours*,"

Speakers, Lunch & Dinner

**Saturday, in The California Auto Museum, and Sunday Morning
Tours in the Rose Garden--with "*Time To Schmooze*," and Visit the
Roses**

Co-sponsored by the Heritage Rose Foundation, Heritage Rose Group
and local chapters of the American Rose Society.

Teas, Chinas, Noisettes, Polyanthas & Hybrid Perpetuals should be in
magnificent fall bloom, with hips ripening on many once-bloomers.
Weather is usually perfect!

Within an hour to a 90 minute drive, visit Gold Rush-era cemeteries,
some of which are having roses restored - Empire Mine State Park,
Quarry Hill Botanical Garden, Berkeley Botanical Garden, Oakland's
Morcom Rose Garden, the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden and the San
Jose Municipal Rose Garden! **More Details Available Soon.**



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