



President Vigneti, Hybrid Tea by Pernet-Ducher, 1911, no longer sold in the U.S. but growing in the Editor's garden

# ROSE LETTER



November 2015 Vol. 39, No.4

Designed by *Kathryn Friedrich*, Adapted Original from  
The rose UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

# Rose Letter

## The Heritage Roses Groups

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**Please submit any articles or announcements by the 5th of the month preceding the publication of *Rose Letter*. The next deadline is January 5th.**

The following is taken from the chapter "Garden Culture" in Georgia Torrey Drennan's book *Everblooming Roses*, 1912.

### SOIL CULTIVATION

There are two opposite methods of cultivating the soil for roses. When rains are frequent or water otherwise plentiful, the soil is worked in a manner to keep it rough and uneven. Water easily penetrates such soil, and drenching the roots near the surface carries nutriment from the top-soil down to the roots. The ground is kept in this condition by frequent use of the hoe, and by application of rough compost to the surface. The other method is the dust mulch, which, under certain conditions is highly advisable. When water is scarce and the weather dry, the best method is to pulverise the soil by frequent use of the hoe and rake; this forms the dust mulch. Every day, without fail, the soil should be gone over, and never allowed to settle into a crust. If the surface soil gets thick and compact, the moisture from the subsoil will have difficulty rising up, and the conditions will be decidedly unfavorable to the roots of the plants. The finer the soil is pulverised the better. It facilitates capillary attraction.



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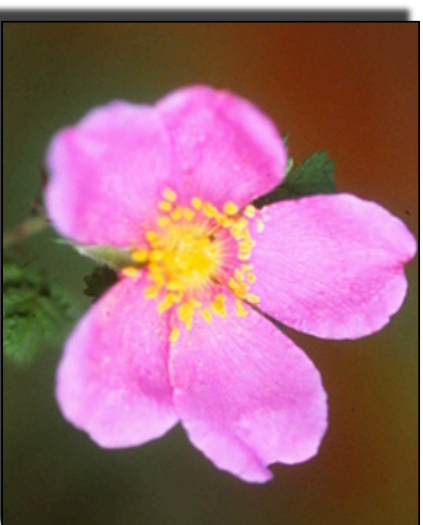
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**Rosa minutifolia--A Unique Rose  
Rediscovered [Part One]**

**Don Gers**

If you've ever read stories by Lewis Carroll, you're likely aware of the strange worlds of startling logic, matter-of-fact nonsense, fantastic or absurd characters and situations he creates. Hardly would you believe such a world might exist somewhere, but there's a place in Mexico called the Baja Peninsula that comes pretty close. A rugged sliver of land, it's approximately 70 miles wide and 800 miles long extending from San Diego to the Tropic of Cancer. Described by a Jesuit missionary in the 18th century as "a pathless, waterless, thornful rock sticking up between two oceans," it's also a wonderland of weird and fantastic plants. What the Galapagos Islands are to fauna, Baja probably is to flora with elephant trees, creeping

## HERITAGE ROSES GROUPS

Devils, towering Cardon, galloping cactus, Boojums and not least of them, one of the world's unique wild roses. Commonly called the Tiny-leaf Rose, its botanical name is *Rosa miniatifolia*, but behind that innocent name hides a wild west tale of controversy as intriguing as the rose itself.

Discovered over a hundred and thirty years ago, *miniatifolia* is probably the rarest rose species in cultivation. I remember the first time I saw a plant at the University of California's Berkeley Botanic Garden shortly after it had been collected in Baja by a Staff expedition. It was a "wondrous strange" sight with incredibly tiny leaves and beautiful light magenta flowers. I decided then and there I must see this rose in its native surroundings. The day came in February of 1990 when my partner Michael and I drove our little '78 Colt packed to the ceiling with camping gear across the International Border at San Diego to Tijuana, a Mexican border town on the Baja peninsula.

Soon we were on the coast highway headed south watching for wild roses. For many miles we saw lots of beautiful cactus and agave-covered coastal hillsides and lovely rocky beaches with jojoba, succulents and ice plants but no roses. We camped for the night on a dirt road off the main highway and explored the next morning on foot looking for *miniatifolia* but found none.

On the road again we soon reached Ensenada, a town on Todos Santos Bay where *miniatifolia* was first discovered in 1882, coincidentally the same year *Rosa gigantea* was discovered by Sir George Wait in Manipur between Burma and the present state of Assam, India.

In an excellent, detailed article published in *Aliso*, the journal of the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in 1982 on the 100th anniversary of the discovery of *Rosa miniatifolia*, Director Dr. Lee Lenz assembled the facts of the *miniatifolia* discovery and controversy. Dr. Lenz began: "Few stories have intrigued western American botanists more than those surrounding the discovery and naming of *Rosa miniatifolia*—not because of the rose itself although it is a rare and peculiar species, but because of the

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Washington, D.C., and three grandchildren. Her absence is already sorely felt. For more information on her life, please read Bob Sylva's beautiful article in *The Sacramento Bee's* March 1, 1997 issue or our May 2014 issue of *Rose Letter*.

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## TO JOIN OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP IN THE HERITAGE ROSES GROUP

Send \$16 for the print format of Rose Letter (4 issues a year)  
or \$10 for the digital online format  
to Clay Jennings, Membership Chair  
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allegations that one member of the party which discovered the rose threatened another with a gun and later accused still a third of stealing his rose."

It was Spring in 1882 when several American botanical explorers happened to be in San Diego, California, at the same time.

Dr. Charles C. Parry, 59 years old from Davenport, Iowa, was an old hand at botanical collecting in and around California. Many species had already been named for him. Parry was spending the winter at San Diego. A town of only 10,000 inhabitants in 1882, already San Diego had a flourishing Natural History Society where Dr. Parry met Charles Orcutt, a youth of 18 years who later emulated Parry and became a keen collector himself. At 20, Orcutt was publishing a monthly journal devoted to science and botany.



Charles C. Parry



Charles R. Orcutt

Arriving on a steamship from San Francisco was Marcus E. Jones, Jones, age 30, a mining consultant from Salt Lake City, Utah, was becoming a professional botanical collector who sold sets of Western America plants to Herbariums and botanists in Europe.

Meeting Jones, Dr. Parry proposed a joint expedition across the

International Border to the then botanically unexplored territory of Baja, Mexico. Renting a wagon and horses, the youth Charlie Orcutt was hired as teamster and camp cook.



**Marcus E. Jones**

Also in town was Cyrus Pringle, 44, a botanical collector working for the government and several other institutions. Having his own wagon and young assistant, Levi, his "pard," Pringle joined Parry's expedition to Baja. Traveling together to share expense and companionship, the party left San Diego on Wednesday, April 5th, 1882.

Walking alongside the wagons where there were plants to investigate and riding through the plantless desert areas, they travelled at a leisurely pace. Each collected and pressed his own plant specimens, including Orcutt who wrote in *The West American Scientist*, the journal he later published, that it was to the "personal instructions in the field received at this time from Dr. Parry and Mr. Pringle that he owes whatever skill he has as a botanical collector." Over oak-studded hills and across valleys of palms, they found many interesting new plants. On Sunday

Marcus Jones "stayed in camp." Jones let it be known he never travelled or collected on Sundays. Apparently not sharing his sentiments, Parry and Pringle and Pringle continued. On

Wednesday April 12th, they were just north of Ensenada on All Saints' Bay (Bahia



**Cyrus G. Pringle**



### **OBITUARY BARBARA OLIVA: THE BEST OF SACRAMENTO**

Retired teacher and ardent rosarian, Barbara Oliva, born in 1928, died on October 14, 2015. Renowned as the first curator of the Historic Rose Garden in Sacramento's Old City Cemetery, founded by Fred Boutin and Jean Travis, Barbara brought the garden itself to renown. On a rescue mission to save and preserve rare and historic roses, she planted and nurtured the roses, recruited volunteers, taught how to prune and care for the plants, putting in thousands of hours of her life in her happy pursuit in the Historic Rose Garden. A board member of the Old City Cemetery Committee, a trustee of the Heritage Rose Foundation, and a Board Member of the national Board of the Heritage Roses Group, she kept herself gladly busy and made friends the world over. The Sacramento City Council recognized her tireless service, the mayor pro-tem asserting in 2012 that she embodied "the best of Sacramento." Barbara is survived by her daughter Jean of Sacramento, her son Paul of

*continued from the previous page:*

**Pamela Temple:** Yes, she was a pillar of old roses. It is wonderful that she died in her garden. That is exactly what I would wish to do.

#### OBITUARY

**On August 2nd ANDRE EVE died, one of the true giants among French rose breeders whose passion for historic and species roses inspired generations of rosarians and rose lovers. Both his private garden as well as his nursery "Les Roses Anciennes André Eve" in central France, have been visited by countless thousands.**

#### OBITUARY: DOUG SEIDEL

Pastor Douglas Thorpe Seidel, 66, of Emmaus, PA, died October 3, 2015 at home surrounded by his family. He received his Master of Divinity from Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia in 1975. One of his avocations was rose gardening. He became a consultant for the Monticello Rose Collection in the mid-1990s, Barrtram's Garden in Philadelphia, and Wyck in Germantown.

He was a member of the Heritage Rose Foundation and served as a Board member for three years. A close friend of Leone Bell, who edited *Rose Letter* from 1989 to 1991, he and she often worked as a pair in search of lost roses and their identities. He was also a contributing writer to *Rose Letter*. We very much regret his passing.



de Todos Santos) all together again, riding in the wagons when the rose was spotted. As Dr. Parry later wrote, "It attracted the attention of all the members of the party . . . forming, as it did, a most conspicuous and agreeable feature in the arid landscape, with its finely divided foliage and showy pink or white flowers." They all got out and collected specimens of it.

Heading back toward San Diego on Saturday, Parry, Orcutt and Jones arrived at Tijuana on the International Border. Pringle having left them to continue botanizing on his own. On Sunday, Marcus Jones refused to travel again. Leaving Jones behind but promising to return, Dr. Parry and Orcutt rode on to San Diego. Monday Charles Orcutt and his brother returned to pick up Jones. What really happened that day remains conjecture since Jones and the Orcutts gave opposing stories. But we know that Jones pulled a gun, threatened to shoot the Orcutts if they didn't abandon the wagon and, leaving them to walk, drove himself the 20 miles to San Diego.

"A Pious Professor. He Objects to Riding on Sunday But Is Willing to Shoot a Man On Monday" was the headline of a story that appeared next day in *The Sun*, a San Diego newspaper. Very upset, the Orcutts considered pressing charges. Jones replied it was they who did the threatening and tried to force him to walk. Since it happened on foreign soil, no one was prosecuted. But at the heart of the matter was a dispute over whose right it was to name the new rose they had just discovered in Baja. Jones believed since he was the first to touch the rose, the right was his, and he wanted to name it *Rosa horrida*.

America's most prominent botanists got caught up and involved in behind-the-scenes intrigue, secretly blocking any opportunity Jones might have to publish his rose name, allowing Parry to come out on top and name the rose *mutifolia*. In the annals of American botany it was indeed a bizarre and odious affair.

So here we were 108 years later, Michael and I, at Esplanada searching for *R. mutifolia*, but we couldn't find it. The townspeople were celebrating Mardi Gras with a parade, fun to watch as the theme was Chinese.

Back on the road again now south of Ensenada, mile after mile we searched the roadsides for roses. I had read reports that it inhabited the tops of mesas and generally north-facing slopes. After camping for the night in some hills, we continued south the next morning. Anxious over our safety at night and distressed by uncomfortable camping conditions, with no luck finding the rose, I was beginning to despair.

North of the town of San Vicente we came out of the hills onto a gently sloping mesa of cultivated fields. Between the fields and the highway was a deeply eroded gully with curious rounded shrubs growing along the edge. We stopped to have a look and spotted immediately the tiny leaves and flowers of *minutifolia*. I could hardly believe my eyes.



*Rosa minutifolia* hips

The rose grew about two and one half feet tall, and the colony here was fairly large with many dead bushes, I don't know why. I made a few notes and we drove on looking for more colonies. Just a couple of miles further we found the rose again, on a steep rocky sun-baked hillside only one to one and one-half feet high, growing with cactus and another shrub called Chamise, which it closely resembled, with similar bright green leaves, lax fountain-like growth habit and grey stem color. Growing side by side, only by its thorns could the rose be distinguished. The graceful Shaw's agave grew among the rocks with fishhook

## OBITUARY

### Momento Mori Snippets for Muriel Humenick

Muriel Humenick, rosarian extraordinaire, died in her garden on July 15, 2015.

**Beverly Rose Hopper:** Muriel was a legend in the rose world. An expansive knowledge of roses that we may strive for but few will ever achieve. Feisty. Unafraid to speak her mind (at least you knew she was authentic). We can all take comfort that she died among the roses she loved so well.

**Trevor Nottle:** Muriel will be remembered by many old rosers as a person who rescued many glorious old roses. We all owe it to her memory to keep the flame of love for these beauties going strong.

**Kim Rupert:** She was definitely one of a kind. Many wonderful roses have made the rounds which may well not have, had it not been for her connoisseur eye and wonderful generosity. Visiting her in her mountain-top rose hide-away was a dream! She grew so many odd, unusual and wonderful things: 'Pink Mermaid', 'Taischa', 'Twilight Mist', and a host of other fun roses passed through her hands out into the rose world. Many would have never traveled as far as they did had she not been such a dedicated, generous steward of them.

**Don Gers:** I got to visit her garden many years ago and remember the huge bush of *Rosa solheimana* so fragrant and covered with white flowers. . . . And it was just this summer at our local library book sale I was surprised and pleased to find a copy of her book, *Roses for Northern California*, published in 2007. I remember when we used to take roses to sell at the Celebration, Muriel would inspect them to insure they were healthy and pest free. I also bought a *Rosa Paulii* from her. I'm still growing.

for a strong and brilliant yellow rose that would not fade. Though a product of his 'Rayon d'Or' and a seedling, it was more hardy than 'Rayon d'Or'. Pernet-Ducher used it as one of the parents for his deepest yellow rose 'Souvenir de Claudius Pernet' (named for his own lost son). It was still marketed in 1980.

Two years after 'Constance' became available, Pernet-Ducher's penetiana rose 'Raymond' appeared (1917). A coral or peach-pink, very large flower with large prickles, a seedling of 'Rayon d'Or', it was named for a son the Wards lost in 1887 when the boy was one year and eleven months old. According to Walter Eastlea, its impediment was a weak flower stalk. The next year, 1918, Pernet-Ducher introduced another penetiana, the salmon-orange or coppery pink rose 'Franklin', somewhat similar to but larger than 'Raymond', with the disadvantage of having a weak neck. The Wards' son "Frankie" died at three and a half years in 1880.

Both Ward and Pernet-Ducher lost two sons. The hybridizer lost his to World War I. Pernet-Ducher did have a daughter, Angele, who survived him. Admiral Ward died in July 1918. He was survived by two daughters, Edna and Hilda, and his wife. Mrs. Ward died in 1926.

Mrs. Aaron Ward had studied roses in France with Joseph Pernet-Ducher, no doubt during one of the Admiral's voyages to the Mediterranean. It is not surprising, then, that the breeder's first Ward rose was named in her honor. She must have been as proud of that rose as she was of the Admiral for his Mayflower ancestry, for his award from Emperor Franz Joseph honoring his Red Cross aid to Austria-Hungary, for being on the ARS Executive Committee, and for his renowned garden. Most of all, I believe she would be proud that 'Mrs. Aaron Ward' in all its delicate yellow beauty has survived botanically and commercially for 107 years and is still going strong.

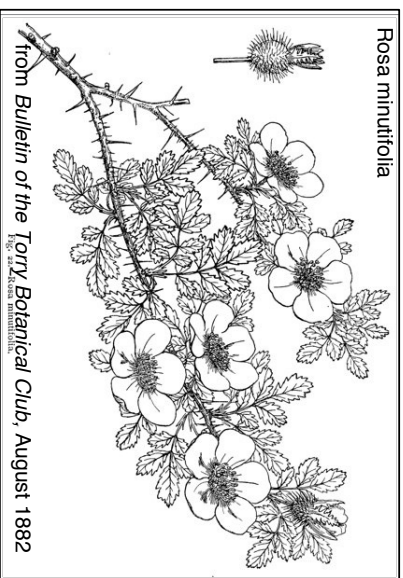
cactus, a pretty yellow-spined columnar cactus, euphorbias and prickly pear.

Leaving the paved highway we turned inland toward the San Pedro Marit mountains on a potholed, gravel road and found yet another hillside of roses, but it was getting late, so hurriedly collecting a few hips, we drove on looking for a place to camp.

Nearly dark, we followed a dirt road up an alluvial wash surrounded by tall shrubs and taller bloom spikes of agaves.

Finding a small clearing we stopped to camp and discovered with delight the "shrubs" around us were all *minutifolia*. Many were over five feet tall and twice as wide. Nearly a flock of birds sang and twittered in a rosebush while one of them at a lower pitch sang a solemn Gregorian counterpoint. I thought they must be Vesper sparrows, a fitting finish to Ash Wednesday and an exciting, exhausting day. Coyotes howled during the night and occasionally we heard braying of wild burros. The fog came in, which it seems to do every night on the Baja peninsula.

To be continued



*Rosa minutifolia*  
from Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club, August 1882

Fig. 34. *Rosa minutifolia*.



Judy Eitzen, Sherri Berglund & Jeff Jennings at the Expo

## HRG AT THE HEIRLOOM EXPO

### Sherri Berglund

Each year for the past five years at the Santa Rosa, California fairgrounds, 300 vendors and organizations from all parts of the country have participated in this event. Reminiscent of a country fair, with live music, livestock displays featuring heirloom breeds, heritage seed vendors and exhibits of hundreds of different varieties of tomatoes, squash, pumpkins and melons, etc., it is a feast of all things food and garden-related. The food vendors feature every cuisine imaginable with fresh, local and organic ingredients, and we enjoy sampling as much as possible over the three-day event!

Our West Coast contingent of Heritage Roses Group members have participated in three of these expos, which works for an every-other-year meet-and-greet with fellow members.

also a friend of the Admiral, wrote mistakenly in 1937 that 'Willowmere' was the last of the series of Ward roses. Indeed, it was only the second.

The estate Willowmere had been inherited by Mrs. Aaron Cairns-Willis Ward from her parents. The mansion had been built about 1770. When she and the Admiral enlarged it in the 1890s, he went on to landscape the gardens, planting over 3000 roses on the estate. One list indicates he grew 111 different varieties. In 1915, they opened the gardens to the public to raise funds for the American Ambulance Hospital in France.



That year, 1915, Pernet-Ducher introduced two more roses in honor of the Wards: "Admiral Ward" was a floriferous, scarlet-crimson-purple hybrid tea, nearly thornless. The American Rose Society (ARS) annual of 1917 gives the date of the rose as 1913, though it corrected the error in *Modern Roses 1*. This deep red rose was still in commerce in the early 1980s but was no longer listed in *Modern Roses IX* of 1986. The other rose the Wizard of Lyon introduced in 1915 was "Constance", named for a daughter the Wards lost when she was seven years old in 1899. It was a golden yellow, sometimes canary yellow, with paler outer petals that are sometimes striped in pale red, part of the breeder's quest



the famous “Wizard of Lyon,” Joseph Pernet-Ducher. In all, he bred six different roses in honor of the Aaron Ward family. Pernet-Ducher and Admiral Aaron Ward were very close friends. The Admiral, commander of the U.S. Atlantic fleet, including the Red Cross ship that cared for the

wounded in World War I France, had made frequent visits to Pernet-Ducher both to fraternize and to study the rose-breeder’s progress in hybridizing with *Rosa foetida persiana*. His flagship just happened numerous times over the years to sail into French harbors within easy travel distance to Lyon where the breeder lived.

In 1913 Pernet-Ducher introduced a shrimp-pink (sometimes orange-pink) hybrid tea that he called “Willowmere” after the name of the Long Island estate owned by Admiral and Mrs. Aaron Ward. Supposedly the rose is nearly thornless, but the breeder Walter Eastla wrote in 1921 that it had a “tendency to have mildew on its thorns, thus marring the beauty of growth.” The rose had shown in the London Exhibition of 1912 and became quite popular. One nursery, that of Pepinieres Loubert in France, still sells it. J.H. Nicholas, an Americanized breeder,



About twelve members volunteered to work shifts during the three-day Expo this year.

We set up a booth with HRG membership information available and sold heritage roses as a fund raiser. Roses were donated this year by HRG members and by The Friends of Vintage Roses, Burlington Rose Nursery and Angel Garden Roses.

Burling Leong really deserves a special shout-out for not only donating most of the roses but driving up from Visalia with her brother and sister-in-law in order to work a shift at the booth, selling roses for the benefit of HRG! Alice Flores brought over forty roses planted in one gallon containers in the peak of health, grown from bands donated to HRG several months ago. Jeri and Clay Jennings drove up from Southern California, accompanied by their long-haired Dalmatian dogs. Their gentle dogs draw people to our booth, curious about the rare and friendly dogs. Before these folks leave, of course, we encourage them to check out the roses and talk with them about heritage roses.

Information and brochures are available at the booth for gardens, events and other organizations featuring heritage roses. This is a well-attended event, with an estimated 20,000 people enjoying the venue. The last day of the Expo is a special “Kid’s Day.” The event opens two hours early, and kids are given free entrance. Whole groups and school classes file through the gates for an early morning treat.

This year we offered a free rose to any child that painted a rock to look like a bug. Judy Eitzen came up with the inspired idea and brought the art supplies, including water-based paints, along with a few examples she had painted for inspiration to the kids. Jeri created a special sign for the day with “Rock Out with Bugs for Roses.” It was great fun and a good way to introduce young people to heritage roses. One very talented young girl decided that, instead of an insect, she would paint a Dalmatian dog on her rock! Creative minds are just amazing! Lady beetles were popular and even a tomato hornworm was painted.

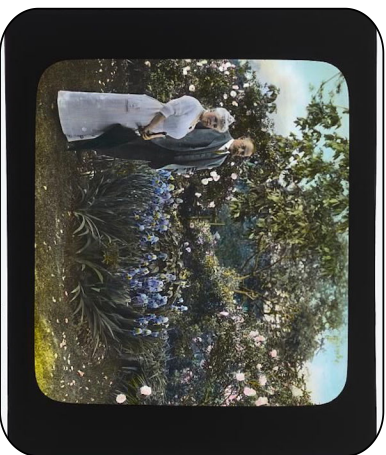
The HRG benefits by participating in this event. Many people are introduced to our non-profit organization, as we sell rare and heritage roses, getting them back into gardens. Our volunteers are rewarded with an enjoyable time at the unique National Heirloom Expo.



Königin von Dänemark

### ALBA ROSES AT THE EXPO?

How thrilled I was when a man in his sixties walked up to our Heritage Rose booth at the Heirloom Expo to ask if we had any Albas for sale. Albas? Who these days wants Albas? Someone did—and does. As I myself do. In fact, I grow ‘Alba Semi-plena’, ‘Alba Maxima’, and ‘Königin von Dänemark’. I know a few gardeners who grow an Alba or two as well, but that class of rose is not commonly seen in most private gardens these days. How I wished I could have offered the man any of the three named above, or ‘Felicite Plumetier’ (which I wish I grew), ‘Great Maiden’s Blush’, ‘Jeanne d’Arc’, ‘Chloris’ or ‘Mme Legras de St. Germain’ (which is likely hybrid with a noisette and my favorite of all Albas but too huge for my



Admiral and Mrs. Aaron Ward in their garden at Willowmere

### Joseph Pernet-Ducher’s Wards

Darrell g.h. Schramm

My gardens provide a home for a number of roses in varying shades of yellow. Some, like ‘Alberic Barbier’, ‘Kaiserin Augusta Victoria’ and ‘Sally Holmes’ are white with a hint or tint of yellow in the center; ‘Alliance Franco-Russe’, ‘Le Pactole’, ‘Mrs. Oakley Fisher’, and ‘Jude the Obscure’ exhibit a soft or pale yellow; and among them grow the odd golden yellows of ‘Angèle Pernet’, ‘Della Balfour’, and ‘President Plumecocq’ and the intense yellows of ‘Graham Thomas’ and ‘Morning Has Broken’.

With the exception of ‘Le Pactole’ and ‘Kaiserin Augusta Victoria’, however, none seems to me more lovely and endearing than ‘Mrs. Aaron Ward’. ‘Mrs. Aaron Ward’, a short hybrid tea of 1907, is one of the Ward family of roses bred by



Arthur de Sansal

up among your peonies or hydrangeas or other plants, you may wish to bud them—onto healthy rootstock, one conducive to your region.

And finally, with the sad exception of the lovely 'Marchal Niel', the Noisettes are fairly easy to propagate by cuttings. As for the Rambles, only 'American Pillar' remains difficult. If, then, you would wish to propagate own-root cuttings rather than graft them to an understock, the little knowledge offered here is *not* a dangerous thing.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Great Rosarians of the World Lecture Series announces our next honoree, Dr. Guoliang Wang. The event will be held in San Marino CA and New York City in June 2016.*

<https://greatrosarians.wordpress.com/2015/08/11/dr-guoliang-wang-to-be-honored-as-the-next-great-rosarian-of-the-world-in-june-2016/>

### Round Robin

Years ago Miriam initiated a Species Roses Round Robin in an early issue of *The Rose Letter*. We wrote about our species roses and included any photos or other material of related interest. The only cost was postage to mail the packet on to the next member on the SRRL list. We old-fashioned folk who like getting letters in the mail have enjoyed these exchanges over the years. We now call it the MRRR (Miriam's Rosy Round Robin) in her memory and it's open to all rose discussion now, not just the species. We have room for a few new members. If you are interested, write to me: Don Giers, 6950 St. Helena Rd., Santa Rosa, CA 95404. We only ask you be responsible and not delay the packet.

small garden). Nonetheless, not to be deterred, the man did buy three other old roses. I am so glad we were a presence at the Expo. Next year, you come too.

The Editor



*Chapel Gardens presents*

## The 6th Annual Rose Lover's Gathering Celebrating The Sweetest Day

Calling all Rosebuds!

Across the country, on the third Saturday of each October, **Sweetest Day** is celebrated by people of all ages. This holiday has been described as "an occasion which offers all of us an opportunity to remember the sick, aged and orphaned, but also friends, relatives and associates whose helpfulness and kindness we have enjoyed".

To celebrate **Sweetest Day** people give small presents, to show others that they are thought of, cared about and loved. We are asking our friends and supporters to share with us in the tradition of this holiday by bringing a sweet dessert dish to share at our 6th Annual Rose Lover's Gathering.

Each person will leave with cut roses to take home for themselves and also to give to someone special in their lives.



All veteran guests will take home a complimentary organic rose plant grown by a veteran.

### *Save the Date*

- Light lunch and drinks provided included Rose Petal Tea
- Optional dessert portluck

October 17th, Saturday 12-4

14228 NW 222 Place,  
Alicha, Florida  
directions on website at  
[www.AMBERLEA.RDPBS.COM](http://www.AMBERLEA.RDPBS.COM)

- Stop by and smell the roses! Door Prize! Discounts!
- Sponsored by the **North Central Florida Heritage Roses Group**



for more info: email Pam at [gardenange22@gmail.com](mailto:gardenange22@gmail.com)

## VETS & ROSES

### Pam Greenewald

Rose Garden Angels, Inc. is a new not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation whose mission is to use horticultural therapy for mental, physical and spiritual healing to combat anxiety and to build social skills. We are growing roses primarily with veterans suffering from Post

Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), but we also work with at-risk youth at our local library. Our program began on March 3 this year at Angel Gardens Rose Nursery with five veterans, sponsored by the Wounded Warrior Project headquartered in Jacksonville, Florida.

The participants in

our programs are able to bring half of their roses home where they continue to grow and care for them with supplies provided by the Old Garden Rose Company which sells the remainder of the roses.

All profits from the sales of these easy-care, hard-to-find roses go back into the non-profit Rose Garden Angels, Inc. in order to insure the sustainability of our programs. We raise funds for the non-profit through donations and grants, but primarily through this wholesale rose company.

Our programs are designed to improve functional independence in the participants by developing or enhancing stress



Jeffrey Buchanan\*

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and quite often on the rose variety itself. Albas, for instance, are the slowest roses to take root and Mosses the hardest to root. 'Mime Planter' of the former class roots the best, as does 'William Lobb' of the latter class.

Bourbons, however, take root swiftly but grow at a snail's pace, though 'Coupe d'Hebe' is the least languid while 'Commandant Beaurepaire' is unlikely to do much at all. Its namesake did, after all, commit suicide—not a good omen.

All Centifolias, but especially the striped 'Unique Panachee', root well except 'The Bishop', if indeed it is a true Centifolia. The same is true for the Chinas, easy to root (except 'Sanguine'), and the Hybrid Musks. Of Tea roses Georgia Torrey Drennan found only 'Perle des Jardins' reluctant to root and bloom from cuttings.



Coupe d'Hebe

Most Damask cuttings can be induced or seduced into rooting, although 'Trigintepetal' is stubborn while in the next room 'Mime Hardy' is almost eager. Damask Repercul /Portlands give in easily except for the virginal white flowers of the class. These Portlands would include 'Arthur de Sansal', 'Comte de Chambord', 'Indigo', 'Jacques Cartier', and my favorite, 'Rose du Roi', among others.

Gallias and Rugosas are "a mixed bag." Some root well, others simply refuse. 'Tuscany' and 'Agnès', for example, will proliferate by suckering, digging up a sucker with roots and potting it in a large container would be an easier method to propagate them. Of course, not wishing suckering roses to show



William Lobb

*The following article is derived largely from a speech given by Mike Lowe at the Heritage Rose Conference held at Cambridge, England, in 1997.*

## THE CUTTINGS & ROOTING OF OLD GARDNE ROSES

Darrell g.h. Schramm

About 140 years ago in the late 1870s, Dingee & Conard Nursery of Pennsylvania and the Walsh nursery in Massachusetts were growing and shipping millions of roses on their own roots, Dingee & Conard shipping as many as four to six million of them. Dingee & Conard grew their plants in glass greenhouses, Walsh in open fields. With the advent of a national grading standard after World War II, however, pushed by several large commercial growers, the production of roses on their own roots was greatly diminished. By 1978 Mike Lowe was the only nurseryman in the U.S. who grew heritage roses on their own roots.

Own-root roses became ever more significant when it was learned that the rootstock 'Dr. Huey' had developed rose mosaic virus: Though the virus is not infectious—does not spread from plant to plant by itself—it can be spread through propagation. Even so, many nurseries were slow to abandon propagation by grafting, let alone abandon their virused roses on the market. Some still sell them.

For the everyday small gardener who wishes to propagate cuttings from healthy plants, Mike Lowe recommended the simple method of taking a cutting from a rose promptly after the bloom of a flower is spent, inserting it into sandy soil under dappled shade, and covering it with a clear glass jar. (This same method was advocated by Georgia Torrey Drennan in her 1912 book *Everblooming Roses*.) The success rate, Lowe said, varies between 10% and 100%. Ten percent is too low for many a gardener, but a number of other methods can be followed. Clay Jennings, Kim Rupert, and other well-known rosarians each have their own fairly successful technique of propagating roses from cuttings.

Less familiar to most propagators is how much the success of rooting one's cuttings depends on the classification of the rose

management techniques, emotional balance and psychological well-being through working with nature in group settings and interacting with peers. They may also achieve a sense of empowerment through supplemental income opportunities.

Another exciting activity in our rose program is hybridizing (breeding). This involves such tasks as taking pollen, keeping records, harvesting seeds from the rose hips, refrigerating them and finally planting them. Any of the new seedlings that show promise may be grown and named after one's friend or loved one. Use of open-pollinated seeds also speeds along the process.

The third activity of the Rose Garden Angels involves taking care of roses in rose gardens, which we help to install and maintain with the clients on the premises. This provides cuttings and hips (seeds) as well as training in the care of roses with an added bonus being physical therapy.

The use of organic fertilizers ensures not only the safety and health of all concerned including the roses, but also makes the activity more enjoyable. Many varieties do not have thorns. These are used when treating diabetic patients and others who cannot be around thorns due to blood issues.

The healing powers of the rose are well-known throughout history, and we have many years of experience growing all types of roses on their own roots—most importantly through organic methods. Taking a piece of a rose, making a clone of the mother plant by sticking it into a proper medium, keeping it moist, watching over it daily, until three to six weeks later baby rootlets appear is breathtaking. To see life continue with a new plant, passed down from the same plant originating in the 1800s is nothing short of a miracle. Then within a few short weeks to experience the first bloom on this new child of nature we have nurtured from the beginning reconnects us to Mother Nature.

Horticultural therapy is the purposeful use of plants and gardens to promote individual mental, emotional, physical, spiritual and intellectual well-being. While the therapeutic use of plants is an ancient art, horticultural therapy as a named profession was established in the United States in 1973 by the American

Horticulture Therapy Association. Again, benefits of horticultural therapy include body, mind and spirit by utilizing physical activity, relaxation and enjoyment, skill development, creative expression, sensory stimulation, intellectual and personal growth, social interaction, a sense of productivity and self-satisfaction and a spiritual connection with life.

The rose gives off healing vibrations of the highest electrical frequency known in the plant kingdom (320MHz). This is a scientific fact. The one needing nurture thus becomes the nurturer as well in a mutually beneficial relationship. The work of caring for a rose garden or roses in containers once the client is back home promotes continued ongoing therapy. Thus the activity of horticultural therapy—when used properly without stress and in a relaxing and loving environment—nurtures the human being as well as the plants.

There are many reasons to conclude that gardening may be therapeutic — there is evidence for physical, cognitive and social benefits. However, there may be something in gardening associated with providing hope for those who may have little else to hope for. This might ultimately be the most beneficial aspect of gardening therapy, which is based upon a sense of personal competence, coping ability, psychological well-being, purpose and meaning in life as well as a sense of “the possible.” There appears to be an intrinsic relationship between gardening and hope. The very action of planting a seed in the soil requires hope. Our motto says it all: “We’re Rooting For You!”

**\*Jeffrey Buchanan** (see p. 13) was on active duty in the USAF four years and air traffic controller stationed first in the Philippines almost two years then in North Carolina. He now owns an adult family care home. He houses veterans with a variety of issues requiring supervised living. He enjoys working quietly and caring for roses. “It helps out a great deal with anxiety and quality of life,” he says. “This is a great program.”



Lance Corporal Lane Harris, former machine gunner, 2nd battalion, 7th Marines Echo Company, has great success rooting roses and is in awe of all the incredible varieties. He finds work with roses at Rose Garden Angels Inc. relaxing and helpful for his PTSD.

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