



Illustration of the rose 'Rosa Mundi' by James Sagrauer. This artwork was used on the front cover of the first issue of *Rosa Mundi*, the journal of the HRF, in Autumn, 2005.

Heritage Rose Foundation Newsletter

December 2019

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Editor's Note: We want to apologize for the lateness of this letter. Life intervened, and it just was not possible to produce it earlier. We'll plan for a quicker turn-around on the next one.

I would like to thank Anita Clevenger and Stephen Scanniello for their great help in proof-reading and for editorial comments, for this letter.

Photos are compliments of the author of the article in which they are included, unless otherwise noted.

From our President Stephen Scanniello

It's the end of the season. While some areas of our country are already under snow and frozen, others are experiencing cooler temperatures that bring on bigger blooms with richer color. It's also the season when the noise of leaf blowing machines fills the air. Landscapers are manic about getting every leaf off the lawn and blowing valuable compost material out from under the hedges. What they aren't aware of is that they're giving the eriophyid mite, the mite that transmits the Rose Rosette Virus, a free ride to their next victim. Rose Rosette Disease is a fatal disease that affects all types of roses – heritage and modern alike. We all need to pay attention to this devastating disease.

Under my watch as the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden Curator, the first rose to succumb to the virus was 'Russell's Cottage Rose'. This was three years ago, during May, just before the plant was to come into bloom. As I watched the gardeners remove the twenty-foot-wide plant from the lattice, I initiated a ban on all leaf blowing machines from the rose garden. Now we

use rakes and brooms, a much healthier approach to gardening for both the gardener and the plants.

More outbreaks in random areas of the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden have been discovered, including a container planting of "Belfield," a specimen that I coddled for several years. The symptoms of the disease appeared at the end of last season, just as this Bermuda Mystery Rose was coming into a spectacular autumn bloom.

The occurrence of Rose Rosette Disease has been even more heartbreaking in West Hartford's Elizabeth Park, the oldest public rose garden in the United States. Several of the ramblers on the iconic arches, modern hybrids in the main rose garden, and antiques in the heritage garden have fallen victim to the disease in this Connecticut historic landmark.

This miniscule mite has proven difficult to control. It doesn't fly, it doesn't hop, but it floats. As it feeds on its current host its body becomes bloated giving the mite the ability to balloon or float to a new plant in the path of the latest breeze. Current miticides have had a very limited success in controlling the mite (this pest hides deep in leaf scales and growing points, out of reach of foliar applications of miticides); there are no roses proven to be resistant and no known predators. Perhaps the scariest aspect of this disease is that it can remain in some roses for very long time without ever showing symptoms. These asymptomatic plants then become the point of origin for the next outbreaks in the garden.

What one must watch for in the garden are the most common symptoms that are hard to miss – severe distortion of new canes and foliage (often mimicking damage from a weed killer) together with a freakish density of prickles. Very often, many canes densely packed with prickles emerge from a common point resulting in the resemblance to a broom. Hence the descriptive term "witch's broom" – the most common symptom of Rose Rosette Disease. In many cases, but not all, the foliage and canes take on a blood-red color, not to be confused with the normal red growth of many of our Asian roses and their hybrids. It's the massive density of prickles along with distorted foliage and canes that sets this disease apart from the normal red growth we're all familiar with.

Besides banning wind machines in both Elizabeth Park and the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden, we have implemented the following guidelines for controlling the outbreak of Rose Rosette Disease:

- Plant fewer roses in a bed to eliminate the "ladder effect" that allows mites and other critters to move easily from plant to plant.
- Monitor plants on a daily basis for any unusual growth. Daily monitoring in both NYBG and Elizabeth Park has brought the problem under control.
- Remove any plants with RRD and immediately bag into a black garbage bag. Some of the research has found that this bag left in the sun could kill the mites
- After removing an infected plant, closely monitor all plants in the immediate vicinity.
- The virus does not live in the soil. You can plant a new bush in the location where an infected plant once grew. There is no need to change the soil.
- Mites do not survive on canes removed from a plant. However, waving a branch around can scatter the mites to a new location. According to the ongoing studies out of the University of Tennessee, if there are mites still on the infected plant, the mite will leave the cuttings in search of a live host. But, be aware that there may still be mites on the plant you are disposing of. Due to this possibility, take great care not to launch the mites to a new host in your garden. The best way to do this is to keep black contractor bags (available from all box stores) on hand and put all of the cuttings of an infected plant into the bag. Leaving the sealed bag full of cuttings in full sunlight should kill the mites.

- A hot compost pile will kill the mites, but be very careful when transporting trimmings from the garden to the compost, not to scatter mites along the way.
- Remove any wild specimens of *Rosa multiflora* from your property
- Most important, if you find RRD in your garden, consult the following website <https://roserosette.org/> for current updates and detailed facts regarding Rose Rosette Disease. This includes the ongoing research that is under the umbrella of several universities including University of Tennessee, Texas A&M, University of Delaware, and Oklahoma State.

Recently, the Heritage Rose Foundation donated \$15,000 to Dr. Mark Windham of the University of Tennessee. On an off-campus site, Mark has created a garden where he exposes new roses to the disease. Hopefully, one day Mark will come across a hybrid or a species that is indeed resistant to RRD. In the meanwhile, he has created a very interesting garden showing all the different forms of RRD. A rosarian friend of mine from Dallas refers to this garden as “the rose garden from Hell.”

Funding the Cause

The mission of the Heritage Rose Foundation is to collect and preserve heritage roses and to promote their culture so that future generations of gardeners will continue to grow them. During recent times we've watched in dismay as rose gardens throughout the country have been decimated by RRD. In many of these scenarios, it was not the disease that was the problem but the lack of information available to the gardeners involved and mis-information being shared. One of the culprits of spreading RRD is *Rosa multiflora*, established by the ongoing research to be a carrier for the disease, because it has become naturalized over such a large portion of the eastern U.S., and those wild plants are not being monitored and removed when they become infected. For that reason alone, it is advisable that any wild *Rosa multiflora* in the vicinity of a garden be removed. In knee-jerk reactions to the threat of RRD, some gardeners in prominent collections began removing all roses that had *Rosa multiflora* in their ancestry. Many great ramblers were removed unnecessarily. This was the case with the rose garden of Elizabeth Park in Connecticut. Once I came on board, I immediately stopped this practice. Having *Rosa multiflora* as an ancestor does not mean the plant will become more prone to infection. At a recent RRD conference sponsored by the University of Tennessee and attended by me and fellow HRF board members Pam Smith and Dr. Malcolm Manners, we learned more about the details of this disease and what was being done on the front lines of the research. This disease is the single greatest threat to rose preservation in North America. This past year, funding to this valuable and necessary research was not renewed. Upon hearing this, the Heritage Rose Foundation has donated \$15,000 to Dr. Mark Windham's research at the University of Tennessee. This is an investment in the future of heritage roses in our country. It's one of the best things that we, as heritage rose lovers and preservationists, can do.

The HRF encourages each of our members to consider making a personal donation to Dr. Windham's research. Here is a letter from Dr. Windham, on the matter:

ROSE ROSETTE RESEARCH IN PERIL!

Due to technical issues, the Rose Rosette Grant was not submitted. An appeal to the USDA grant agency was denied. This shuts down most of the rose rosette research in the country until another grant can be submitted (1-2 years). Unfortunately, rosarians will continue to fight this disease during the same time frame and research is critical for prevention of rose rosette in your gardens. Money is needed for continuation of resistance screening, refinement of miticide applications to minimize chemical usage while maximizing protection from virus-carrying

mites, and looking for nonchemical methods for reducing the impact of this disease. The cost of rose rosette research at UT is in excess of \$150,000 each year. Each gift for rose rosette research, regardless of amount, is critical for continuing the fight against rose rosette disease and every dollar in your gift will be used to find solutions for the rose rosette menace — none of the gift goes toward university overhead. The donations are also tax deductible. If you are interested in supporting this research, please send your gift (made out to the University of Tennessee) to Dr. Mark Windham, 370 Plant Biotech Bldg., Dept. of Ent. and Plant Path - UT, 2505 E. J. Chapman Drive, Knoxville, TN 37996-4560. Please put "For Rose Rosette Research" in the memo line at the bottom left corner of your check. If you have questions or comments, please contact me at mwindham@utk.edu or call 865-974-0206. Thank you for your consideration. Together, we can beat this threat to our roses.

Mark Windham

Professor and Distinguished Chair in Ornamental Pathology
Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology
University of Tennessee



Symptoms of Rose Rosette Disease: reddish growth, distorted leaves, witch's broom branching, and abnormally many thorns for the variety

In Memory of Betty and Liz Stephen Scanniello



Two dear friends left us this spring.

I was driving to New London to give a program to the Connecticut Master Gardeners when I received the phone call that **Betty Vickers** had passed away. Betty had suffered a stroke the week before and was resting quietly in her home in Desoto, Texas with her closest friend Patty, her amazing library, and her temperamental kitten when she left us. That was March 16, 2019.

Betty was a really close friend to Dana and me. We loved her dearly. Betty was a frequent guest at our home in New Jersey. So comfortable with us that she didn't feel the least bit awkward when she showed up with her own set of bed linens. She instructed Dana to make sure that these sheets were ironed for her next visit. That was our Miss Vickers!

Betty and I first met during the mid 90s when the HRF held a conference in Dallas, sponsored by the Dallas Area Historic Rose Society. Betty was on the garden tour committee and pulled strings to get some really fancy gardens opened for us. She was a generous, at times cantankerous, person who researched everything she was involved with in great detail – especially roses. Betty had a big heart and was always there to volunteer. She served as the secretary for the Heritage Rose Foundation and was, for many years, the editor of the *Yellow Rose* for Dallas Area Historic Rose Society. Betty helped to start the Heritage Rose District of New York City with her photo on the front page of the Metro section of the *New York Times* as we planted a rose and her momma's irises on Mr. Harison's grave in Harlem.

Betty was a dedicated volunteer at the American Rose Center. She was responsible for cataloging the immense collection of books in the new library in the Klima Center and pulled her fair share of weeds and planted bulbs in the Heritage Habitat Garden. We traveled to many wonderful gardens together. She served as a judge for the Bagatelle rose trials in Paris, explored Versailles, Lyon, numerous gardens in California, New Orleans, and taught homeless

children in Harlem how to plant a rose bush. If there were any questions of dates or HRF events in the past, Betty was our go-to person for the answers. Yet she managed to keep a few surprises up her sleeve. One in particular – her cousin Tom Uhr, the man who brought bluegrass to Texas. We all got to meet Tom as he performed at Betty’s memorial service giving her the send off she deserved! We miss you Betty; you take care darlin’.

On March 19, 2019, just three days after Betty’s passing, the Texas Rose Rustlers added **Liz Druitt** to “God’s Rose Garden,” a tribute they have on their website to honor deceased rustlers. Liz Druitt was a special friend to many of us. She was a charter member of the Heritage Rose Foundation, an accomplished author (her book *The Organic Rose Garden* became an instant classic and is always within reach in my library), and a true rose activist. Liz took me on my first rose rustle way back in 1986, during a Heritage Rose Conference at the Huntington Botanic Garden. I was very new to roses, with only 3 years of experience with a pair of pruners. I already knew Liz; we had met the year before at the Antique Rose Emporium, where she was employed. At the conference, Liz came up to me during a coffee break and invited me to go for a drive through the neighborhood of San Marino. Of course, she didn’t have a car. I did. So, we took off together and within 15 minutes I found myself parked in front of a long driveway of a private home, watching Liz clip (steal?!) cuttings of a white rose hanging over the stockade fence. I kept the engine running while she plundered this garden – I wasn’t really sure if what we were doing was legal. But, it was fun! A rush of adrenalin as Liz jumped back into my rental propelled us to our next “victim.” My first rose rustle was a successful baptism. Better yet, that’s when I fell in love with this crazy red head from Texas. Since that adventure we shared many great times together searching for roses, playing rose alphabet, or just hanging out thinking of really bad rose names. Her work at Peaceable Kingdom was amazing; her dogs were wonderful; and we managed to stay close right up to the very end. Liz, thank you for your vivacious spirit, your strong opinions, your laugh, your courage, and all the beauty you created. By the way, you never did tell me the name of that white rose....

Paula Larkin Hutton’s Tribute to Liz

Liz Druitt Passing. And now we've lost yet another champion of the old rose world. It hasn't been a good month, my friends. Liz Druitt was the author of *The Organic Rose Garden* and *Landscaping with Antique Roses*. She formerly worked at the Antique Rose Emporium, and after that was affiliated with Peaceable Kingdom Organic Gardens. She loved dogs, any dogs, but she trained and showed her two (three?) Rhodesian ridgebacks. But this really doesn't capture who she was. She was a brilliant writer – clever and funny and kind. We developed a Facebook friendship over many exchanges. Liz even wrote an obituary for my dog when Freya died, which I loved so much I included it in the photobook I made of Freya's life. We never actually met – just didn't happen to attend to the same rose events - but it felt like a true friendship to me. Near the end of her life, I once told her that she was the best friend I never met. I suspect I am not alone. She had many, many friends in the rose world, and in the dog world, and, I suspect, just about everywhere she took a step.

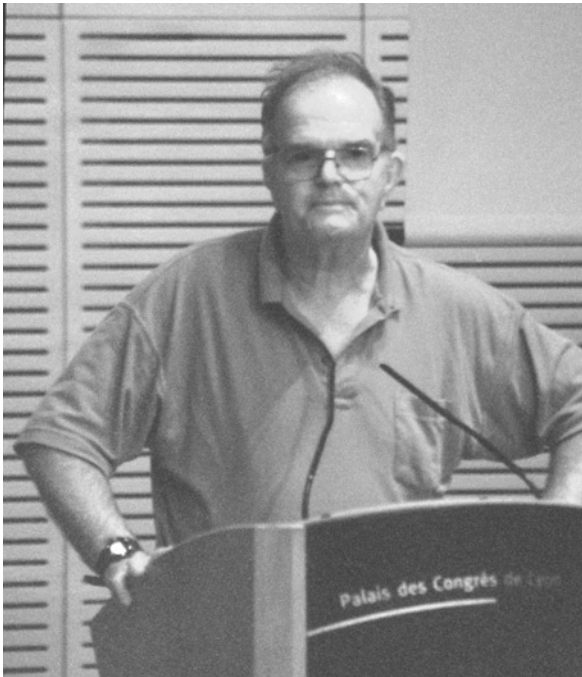
And yet another “great” in the old-rose world has left us. The following article is reprinted with permission of Heritage Roses in Australia:

Vale David Ruston OAM 6/3/1930 - 19/5/2019

Virginia Hawker

David Ruston OAM was known throughout the rose world and indeed, much of the horticultural and floricultural world for his great genius and generosity with everything associated with flowers and especially roses.

From his teenage years he was a passionate exponent of roses, beginning with extending his father’s rose plantings of 500 bushes to 3,000 bushes by 1968, and the eventual 50,000 bushes covering 11 hectares. This world acclaimed garden, the largest private collection of roses in the



David speaking in Lyon, 1999.
Photo Malcolm Manners

southern hemisphere, was officially recognised as “The National Collection of Roses”.

David lectured and skilfully demonstrated flower arranging at rose conferences for many years throughout the world - in Australia, United Kingdom, Canada, USA, Bermuda, South Africa, New Zealand and Europe. He was a talented artist when arranging flowers, specialising in flower arrangements in the style of the old Flemish, Dutch and French painters. His knowledge of the history of art was portrayed in his book *The Joy of Roses* written in conjunction with James Young in 2004.

He also performed unstintingly in many Australian cities and towns, donating his time and flowers for a variety of charities. His unique style of seemingly effortlessly arranging magnificent and unusual displays in memorable containers at breakneck speed while entertaining the audience with a continuous flow of knowledgeable comments, hilarious asides, contagious enthusiasm and repartee

made him a much sought after keynote speaker.

David created spectacular arrangements for a variety of celebrations and occasions throughout the world – amongst others for the opening of 'Carrick Hill' in Adelaide and 'Chateau Barrosa' in the Barossa Valley by HM Queen Elizabeth II; for the Sandringham Flower Show attended by the late Queen Mother; in the Great Hall at Sydney University for the Rose

Convention in 1988; for festivals in St Peter’s Cathedral, Adelaide; for National Trust demonstrations at 'Ayers House' in Adelaide; at David Jones in Melbourne; 'Hex Castle' in Belgium; a demonstration at the World Heritage Rose Conference in Cambridge; as well three demonstrations of his floral artistry for rose conferences in the Huntington Botanic Gardens in Los Angeles.

David was a member of many international rose societies and garden clubs and was highly esteemed by his peers for his almost encyclopaedic knowledge of roses and many other plants, and was in demand as a judge and lecturer. He joined his first rose society, the Rose Society of Victoria in 1948 at the age of 18, and began exhibiting roses at shows soon after this. He was the

president of Heritage Roses in Australia in 1992-3. David was president of the World Federation of Rose Societies from 1991 to 1994. His most recent position was chairman of the World Federation of Rose Societies Heritage Rose Committee.

He was granted life membership of the National Rose Society of Australia, the Rose Society of South Australia, the Royal National Rose Society, the American Rose Society, the Indian Rose Society, Heritage Roses in Australia, Garden Clubs of Australia, the Renmark Garden Club and the Renmark Agricultural and Horticultural Society.

David achieved worldwide recognition with rose awards including the T A Stewart Memorial Award (1966), the Australian Rose Award (1982), the World Federation of Rose Societies Gold Pin (1988) and Gold Medal (2004), the Deane Ross Memorial Award (1997) and the most prestigious rose award of all, the Dean Hole Medal (1994) from the Royal National Rose Society of England. At the World Federation of Rose Societies' World Rose Convention in 2009 he was bestowed its highest award with the President Emeritus Award - this award is held by only two living rosarians at any one time for life's duration. He was the first Australian president of the World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS). In 1984 David received an Order of Australia Medal for services to floriculture.

David was uniquely brilliant in his field, using his knowledge, skills, creativity and generosity to support local, national and international communities and organisations. His enthusiasm to impart his specialist knowledge without obligation was the hallmark of his life.



Decorative table place setting for the Central Florida Heritage Rose Society Christmas Luncheon. By Eleanor Ramage. The rose is 'Louis Philippe'.

Remembering Betty Vickers Malcolm Manners

I probably don't need to say much more about Betty and Liz, after Stephen Scanniello's good tributes to both, but over the years, Betty and I seemed to turn up at the same places frequently, and often traveled together, sharing a rental car. So I thought I'd add some favorite photos of her here.



Spring clean-up at the American Rose Center Garden. At Greenwich, England, standing on the Prime Meridian.



In Paris, with Stephen Scanniello



Antique Rose Emporium's Fall Festival



Book shopping at the Huntington Library



A rainy day in Paris



Conducting a tour of old roses in Harlem



At an HRF Trustees meeting in Santa Rosa, California
(with Stephen Scanniello and Anne Belovich)

Betty was a big part of the Heritage Rose District of New York, often attending the Florida Southern College work days there. She sometimes even donated the hotel rooms for the students. She knew all of those gardens well, and was a great source of information. She and the students always took to each other immediately, and she became a favorite person of theirs.



Weeding at a garden at the Church of the Intercession Harlem, New York.



Yosemite National Park, before an HRF conference (with Malcolm Manners)



Paris on a rainy day



Lyon, France train station (with Anne Belovich)



Celebration of Old Roses, El Cerrito, California. (With Gregg Lowery and Victoria Irwin)



Judging at Bagatelle, France



With the first Florida Southern College Student group to work on the Heritage Rose District of New York City



Addo Elephant National Park, South Africa, with Rosemary Manners



Boulders Beach, South Africa, with Gwen Fagan, Malcolm and Rosemary Manners



André Eve's home garden, Chilleurs-aux-Bois France, with Stephen Scanniello, Mr. Eve, and Etienne Bouret



At the May, 2002 "Reinvigoration of the HRF" meeting, Antique Rose Emporium, Brenham, Texas. With Malcolm Manners, Pam and Claude Graves, Nancy Kohlman, Mike Shoup, and Belinda Pavageau



After judging at Bagatelle, 2012.

Remembering Liz Druitt Malcolm Manners

As with Betty Vickers, I'll add to Stephen's memories of Liz Druitt, here, with some photos taken over many years. One memory: At the Natchez City Cemetery, Liz shouted at me from the top of a hill, "Malcolm! Rose ID at 50 yards!" I shouted back "From here, I'd say 'Safrano'." She shouted, "That's what I was thinking from here, too!" I hope we did not disturb the dead.



At the Natches City Cemetery, with (among others) Stephen Scanniello, Terri Tillman, Charles Walker, and Philip Robinson



At Florida Southern College, at an HRF conference (Liz is 5th from the left -- look for the red hair)



At Peaceable Kingdom School, Washington, Texas. HRF Conference, November 2018. With Pam Smith, Stephen Scanniello, and Connie Hilker



Evening game of Rose Alphabet, HRF conference Natchez Mississippi

Liz was a great fan of the Rose Alphabet game. For those who don't know, it was always played in the evening (often in the bar) at a Foundation conference. The first person names a rose whose name starts with "A;" the second person does "B," etc. When one can no longer come up with a name, one drops out of the game. If Charles Walker or Gregg Lowery were playing, you knew you didn't have a chance of winning, but it was great fun. Cheating (always far too obvious and hilarious) was *de rigueur*, unless Charles was playing, in which case it was far more serious and cheating was strictly forbidden! It's a tradition we should probably renew. My contribution to the game was the naming of 'Xanadu', 'Xochimilco', 'Xuchitl', and 'Xiuhcoatl', since there were never enough "X" names. That gave us 4 more rounds.



Giving a tour of Peaceable Kingdom, Washington Texas, HRF conference 2018.



Dining with Philip Robinson and Malcolm Manners (when? where?)



Planting a rose at the Natchez City Cemetery (with Clois Williams, Terri Tillman, and Charles Walker)



HRF conference, 1991. Florida Southern College. Liz is 2nd from the left.

'Rosaleen' Returns Home Malcolm Manners

The Hybrid Musk class of roses was founded by Rev. Joseph H. Pemberton in the early Twentieth Century. When he died in 1930, that breeding work was taken over by his long-time assistant John A. Bentall. One of the less-well-known Hybrid Musks from Bentall is 'Rosaleen', introduced in 1933. The Vintage Gardens Book of Roses (2006) says of it, "A rare Hybrid Musk passed on to us by Muriel Humenick of Rose Acres. This is one of the Polyantha types, with small, very double flowers in large clusters, dusky rose-red, the flowers held somewhat apart, like dark stars in a green firmament."

In May, 2015, on a trip to northern California, I visited Vintage Gardens, and Gregg Lowery suggested that I should grow and propagate 'Rosaleen', since it was exceedingly rare – only a few plants known in the U.S., and apparently entirely disappeared from the U.K. The first cuttings, collected that day, did not survive for me, but Gregg later sent more and we got it going at Florida Southern College.

In 2017, I corresponded with Laura Hill and Andy Bentall (great grandson of J.A.). They were very much interested in reintroducing the rose to Britain and were working at developing a collection of the Pemberton and Bentall Hybrid Musks. That led to somewhat of a nightmare of trying to work through the requirements of U.K./E.U./U.S. plant phytosanitary laws and permits. After many dead-ends and frustrations, I had pretty much given up any hope of being able to export the plant to Britain. But this past March (2019), I was planning a vacation in northern England, and on a whim, decided to look into whether plant import laws were any different for hand-carried luggage. I discovered a fascinating loophole in the rules. While they publish a 9-page document listing all the restrictions, which leads one to think, once again, that it's simply an impossibility, there is this statement: "Cut flowers and foliage. You are allowed to bring one bouquet of restricted cut flowers (up to 50 stems). Please note that not all cut flowers are restricted. For details of which flowers that are restricted, contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) – their details are on the back of this leaflet.... There is no need to declare any unrestricted material or any fruits, vegetables or plant products to which restrictions apply provided they are within the prescribed weight and quantity limits." Not quite believing what I thought I was reading, I phoned the APHA, as well as Her Majesty's Customs Service, and sure enough, the loophole exists. Both agencies assured me that it was absolutely fine to carry a bouquet of roses for Mr. Bentall, and no, I did not need to delare them in any way!

While such an exemption surely seems to have the potential to allow all kinds of exotic pests and diseases into the country, I was able to use it to the advantage of 'Rosaleen'. We made a "bouquet" of well fewer than 50 stems, were unusually scrupulous to kill every possible pest that they might have carried, and I hand-carried the bouquet to England. The next morning,



Malcolm Manners presenting a bag of 'Rosaleen' cuttings to Andy Bentall, in York, England.

Andy Bentall drove up to York (from near London, hundreds of miles away!) to collect the precious cuttings.



'Rosaleen' in the Florida Southern College greenhouse

But the story did not end there. Unfortunately, weather conditions were not good for the Bentalls to propagate the cuttings successfully, and none of them survived. However, I usually take a group of students to Scotland each October, and so for this trip, we again carried leafy cuttings as well as scionwood for budding. We can hope that this time, 'Rosaleen' will at last be reintroduced to her native home. [Note: As of December 2019, Andy says he has living plants from the last group of cuttings, and he's hopeful for their continued success.]

Meet your Trustees



This past year, the HRF trustees were joined by Sharrie Jerome Ely. Originally from Orlando, Oklahoma, she is currently serving as President of the Dallas Area Historical Rose Society. She and her family reside in Coppell, Texas.

There weren't many roses on the high plains of Oklahoma where she grew up, but oddly, a neighbor had one rose, Harrison's Yellow, that was a spindly, prickly, but amazingly fragrant rose. A one-room church, miles away, where her dad would sometimes preach, also had the same rose. Cemeteries in this area were more likely to have peonies than roses, so childhood visits to family plots did not yield any additional rose experiences.

Ely graduated from Oklahoma State University with a degree in English Literature and was employed by the Oklahoma Historical Society as their Education Director for "A Day at Rose

Hill School." After moving to Corpus Christi she volunteered at the Corpus Christi Museum of Science & History.

In 2012 she joined the Dallas Area Historical Rose Society and was elected to the board in 2013. She was elected President in 2018 and works on the organization's website, Facebook, and Instagram pages.

Ely completed the Denton County Master Gardener Association program in 2014. She served on the DCMGA board in 2015 and 2016 as Communications Director, working on Communications branding, social media, and promotions. She is Project Manager of the DCMGA Fall Garden Fest and the Rose Rosette Disease Team. She works closely with the Rose Sales group for the DCMGA Plant Sale and looks for every opportunity to promote Old Garden Roses.

Sharrie is the wife of Rick Ely and the mom of Erik, Alyssa, and Emily Ely. She mostly grows Old Garden Roses and many varieties of perennials in her (well... Rick's and hers) North Texas Garden.

Recap of our June HRF Conference in Connecticut

Leo Watermeier

Member Leo Watermeier (New Orleans) sent us this good photo essay on our last meeting held in historic Connecticut, and with his permission, some minor corrections and additions from Stephen Scanniello.

The Historic Elizabeth Park Rose Garden, West Hartford, CT



The Heritage Rose Foundation held its 2019 conference in West Hartford, CT, on June 21 and 22. Featured was the Elizabeth Park Rose Garden, the oldest public rose garden in the country. I was able to attend the second day of this event and had a chance to visit this remarkable rose garden.

Elizabeth Park was a gift from Charles and Elizabeth Pond who donated the land to the city of Hartford in 1894. Elizabeth loved roses so it was only natural that the rose garden was the first garden opened to the public in 1904.

The section of the park that features the rose garden is actually in West Hartford. Today, the entire park includes Hartford and West Hartford. Originally a rectangular design of 130 rose beds surrounding a rustic gazebo that is on a slight rise. Over the years the garden has grown to 2.5 acres with 246 beds and 67 arches constructed from native cedar and iron making it one of the largest rose gardens in North America. The arches span 8 wide grass pathways, each arch is

covered in early American ramblers. 'Excelsa' and 'Dorothy Perkins' are two of the varieties featured. In 2005, the center pavilion, or "Rustic Summer House", was restored and is now covered in Virginia Creeper.



The conference was held during the peak blooming season. The two and half acre garden was filled with visitors enjoying the beautiful roses.





The annual budget to maintain the garden is \$100,000 which is raised by a nonprofit support group the Elizabeth Park Conservancy. The Conservancy was established in the mid-1970's just as the city of Hartford was preparing to bulldoze the entire garden. In 2015, HRF President Stephen Scanniello was hired by the Conservancy to help revitalize the garden. A recent addition to the property during his tenure is the Heritage Rose Garden, a garden of antique roses suitable for the tricky New England climate.

This important and historic garden is relatively unknown outside the Northeast and it was a real treat to visit. Open to visitors every day of the year from dawn to dusk and never an admission fee - it should not be missed!



Follow this link to see a YouTube video with a drone's view of the garden: <https://youtu.be/EmM-LN0RWK0>

The Sunken Garden at Hill-Stead

Another part of the HRF conference was a visit to Hill-Stead estate, a house museum with a Beatrix Farrand influenced sunken garden.



The garden contains a number of old roses that were included in Farrand’s plans, including this rugosa.

A marker explains Farrand’s influence on the garden.

Beatrix Farrand and the Sunken Garden

During the restoration of the Sunken Garden, research uncovered an undated planting plan for “Mrs. J. W. Riddle,” c. 1920, by Beatrix Farrand (1872–1959) at the University of California, Berkeley. Farrand is considered by some to be the finest female landscape architect of her generation.

Theodate and Beatrix Farrand likely met through American author Henry James (1843–1916), an occasional guest at Hill-Stead and friend of Farrand. They formed a connection, perhaps because they both pursued careers in fields largely dominated by men. Along with the Hill-Stead plan, Farrand created a garden plan for another of Theodate’s architectural projects, Westover School in Middlebury, CT, although the Farrand garden there is no longer in existence.

Hill-Stead’s Sunken Garden was ultimately restored according to a modern interpretation of Farrand’s original planting plan. While historians do not know whether the plan was ever carried out in Theodate’s time, today, the garden adheres to this design as closely as possible.

Care was taken to use heirloom varieties of the plants specified by Farrand, rather than those found in modern gardens. This heirloom heliotrope—in a lighter lavender than present-day heliotrope—is grown for Hill-Stead at the Beatrix Farrand-designed gardens in Harkness State Park, Waterford, CT, using cuttings from plants that date back to the 1920s.

Farrand incorporated the stone walls and hedges from Theodate’s original garden into her design, adding her signature upright evergreens—in this instance, yews pruned into bullet shapes—to serve as exclamation points that stop the eye at desired spots in the garden.

Many of Farrand’s design choices are still reflected

Beatrix Farrand was known for her use of color, often interplanting two different types of plants to create a tapestry or brocade of perennials in shifting hues. Here, she used heuchera and scabiosa.

The Sunken Garden Today

The naturalistic plantings in this octagonal garden are formally arranged in thirty-six beds, and bloom from April through October with over ninety varieties of perennials and annuals.

In **spring** tulips abound, followed by columbine, forget-me-nots, candytuft and Solomon’s seal.

Peonies, irises and roses fill the **summer** air with fragrant blooms.

In late summer and **fall**, the annuals—in shades of purple, blue and white—are still in full flower.

The **winter** season reveals the beautiful bones of the garden’s geometric structure.

The estate’s home was modeled on Mt. Vernon. No photos were allowed inside.



Time to Renew?

If you received this newsletter it's because you're on our membership mailing list. We have kept some names on our list whose membership has lapsed, but are preparing to remove everybody except current or recently expired members. If you have a question regarding the status of your membership please contact either Peggy Martin or Stephen Scanniello. Meanwhile, we appreciate your continued support. Enjoy our latest newsletter!

Upcoming Events

January 9 Rose lecture by Stephen Scanniello. Sacramento Rose Society, Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, CA. Contact: Cindy Phipps acura9797@yahoo.com

January 10 Rose pruning workshop by Stephen Scanniello. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Woodland Library Rose Club, Woodland Library, 250 1st Street, Woodland, CA. Contact: Maryellen Mackenzie dmimackenzie@sbglobal.net

January 11 Rose Pruning Workshop in **Sacramento Historic Rose Garden**, Sacramento Historic Rose Garden, 1000 Broadway, Sacramento. Two workshops will be held, at 9 am (climbing roses) and 1 pm (shrub roses). This is a hands-on event conducted by Stephen Scanniello. Pre-registration, with a donation of \$10 per class, is requested. Details at cemeteryrose.org.

February 15 Annual pruning and clean-up of the HRF Heritage Rose Garden at the **American Rose Center**, Shreveport Louisiana. Contact: pam.smith@farmersbranchtx.gov

February 22 Annual pruning workshop in Ruth's Rose Garden at **Florida Southern College**, Lakeland, led by Stephen Scanniello and Malcolm Manners. 9:00 a.m. start, and running until we are finished or whooped. Contact: malcolmmanners@me.com

Multiple spring dates:

Sacramento Historic City Cemetery's Historic Rose Garden will be hosting a number of spring events. Roses in this internationally-recognized collection of heritage roses, many of which were found at historic sites throughout California and beyond, begin blooming in mid-March and peak in April.

The "Spring Beauties Awaken" tour on Saturday, Mar 31, at 10 am will feature many early-blooming rose varieties, including banksiae, Teas and Chinas.

The annual Open Garden and rose sale will be Saturday, April 18, from 930 am - 2 pm, and Sunday, Apr 19, 11 am - 2 pm. Over 400 rare and historic roses have been propagated by volunteers and will be offered for sale. A catalog of roses will be posted on the garden website, www.cemeteryrose.org, by April 1. This event will also feature tours, sales of rose merchandise, and a chance to mingle with rose enthusiasts from far and near.

An evening fundraiser, Romance & Roses, will be held the evening of Saturday, April 25. As they walk through walkways surrounded by roses, guests will hear love stories of people buried in the cemetery and how roses have figured in romantic legends and tales throughout history. Time(s) and ticket prices of tours are not yet finalized.

Rose Walks and Talks are scheduled for Apr 19 and 26 at 1 pm, discussing the various classes of heritage roses and examining how they grow and bloom.

With the exception of Romance & Roses, entrance is free, although donations are gratefully accepted. The address is 1000 Broadway, Sacramento, 95818. Parking is limited on-site but available on surrounding city streets.

Volunteers are invited to these events! (Submitted by Anita Clevenger, Curator)

June 8-12 The 15th International Heritage Rose Conference will be held in Brussels, Belgium. This conference is under the auspices of the World Federation of Rose Societies. In addition to the main conference, there are with pre- and post-conference tours available. Details are at rosabelgica2020.com. Registration is being accepted now, with Early Bird signup ending Jan 31, 2020. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-15th-international-heritage-rose-conference-registration-70248343687>

The Heritage Rose Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit foundation with this mission:

- To collect and preserve heritage roses and promote their culture
- To establish one or more gardens where heritage roses may be grown and displayed
- To conduct and contract to conduct investigations and research in heritage

roses

- To publish and disseminate information and research about heritage roses
- to establish and maintain a library to facilitate investigations and research in heritage roses
- To foster public knowledge and appreciation of heritage roses and their preservation

Officers and Trustees Of the Heritage Rose Foundation

President:

Stephen Scanniello
stephenscanniello@gmail.com

1st VP, Membership and Treasurer:

Peggy Martin
peggyrosemartin@eatel.net

2nd VP, Publications:

Anita Clevenger
anitac5159@gmail.com

Secretary:

Corresponding Secretary:

Maureen Reed Detweiler
mcrdetweiler@aol.com

Director for Public Relations, Europe

Etienne Bouret (FRANCE)
amiroses@hotmail.com

Parliamentarian and Newsletter Editor

Dr. Malcolm Manners
malcolmmanners@me.com

Trustees:

Pam Smith
pam.smith@farmersbranchtx.gov

Marijke Peterich (BERMUDA)
mgpeterich@gmail.com

Sharrie Ely
s.ely@tx.rr.com

Alicia Whidden
ajwhidden@msn.com

Connie Hilker
connie@hartwoodroses.com

Wayne Myers
wayneiacroses@gmail.com

Maurizio Usai (ITALY)
mauri.usai@tiscali.it

Cydney Wade
ladyg8r@gmail.com

HRF addresses:

Membership:

Peggy Rose Martin
1st VP, Membership
peggyrosemartin@eatel.net

General Correspondence:

Stephen Scanniello
President
stephenscanniello@gmail.com

General Business correspondence:

Heritage Rose Foundation
P.O. Box 1719
Gonzales, LA 70707