



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

August, 2018

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## From our President:

Stephen Scanniello

Rose Rosette Disease is a virus that knows no boundaries, affecting old garden roses as well as modern hybrids. One of our native heritage roses, *Rosa setigera* (also known as the prairie rose), has become the focus of ongoing research conducted at Texas A&M. It appears that this species is resistant to this dreaded virus and

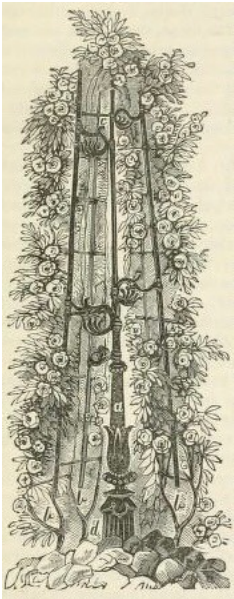
work is being conducted to create new hybrids resistant to Rose Rosette Disease by using *Rosa setigera* as a parent. This is not the first time the prairie rose was the focus of rose breeding. During the nineteenth century this heritage rose was responsible for our earliest American climbing roses.

Philadelphia rosarian Robert Buist, in his 1844 *The Rose Manual*, recommended putting the natural climbing habit of the North American native species *Rosa setigera* (also referred to as the Michigan Rose) to good use. "It is admirably adapted for covering rock work, old buildings, or any other object requiring to be hid...." This cold hardy species was used to obtain the first cold hardy climbing roses. The lead hybridizer of this movement was Samuel Feast of Baltimore.

Feast practiced open pollination — in his greenhouses he grew the prairie rose alongside of Tea, China, and Noisette roses, providing the perfect situation for open pollination. In 1839 Feast previewed his first seedling to select growers and garden correspondents. One author, identified simply by the nom du plume of "An Amateur," gave high praise and wrote a vivid description of Feast's new hybrid. Here are the exact words used by this author ("An Amateur") published in 1842, in *The Magazine of Horticulture, Botany, And All Useful Discoveries and Improvements in Rural Affairs*. "It is distinguished, like its parent, for luxuriance of growth, and, like it, produces its flowers in large clusters. The flower is very double, and of an exquisite form, being perfectly symmetrical and deeply cupped, with petals of a camellia-like appearance. Its

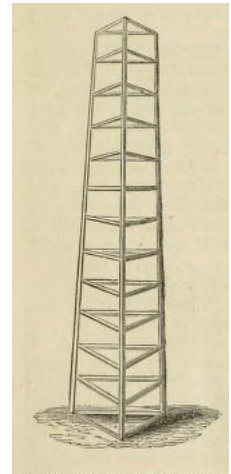
color is a fine pink, with slight variation of brilliancy in the flowers of the same cluster; and it possesses the property most unusual in a rose, of retaining its beauty unaffected by our scorching suns, for several days.....Mr. Feast calls it the Beauty of the Prairies." [sic]. Despite this detailed description, discrepancies appear as soon as 1844 in *The Rose Manual* by Robert Buist. Buist includes the following as synonyms, without explanation, for this rose: 'Queen of the Prairies', 'Mr. Feast No. 1', and 'Madame Caradori Allan'. He adds "white stripe in the center of each petal." In *Prince's Manual of Roses* published two years later, William Robert Prince uses 'Queen of the Prairies' as a synonym but disputes Buist for 'Madame Caradori Allan'. However, they both agree on the stripe. In *The Graham Stuart Thomas Rose Book* (1994) Mr. Thomas lists 'Beauty of the Prairies' and 'Queen of the Prairies' as separate hybrids.

In the January 1841, climbing roses were launched into the spotlight as subscribers to *The Magazine of Horticulture, Botany, And All Useful Discoveries and Improvements in*



*Rural Affairs* read that pyramids of roses, eight to eighteen feet in height were all the rage in Europe. Climbing roses were now in vogue stateside as Feast introduced 'Beauty of the Prairies' and other new setigera hybrids including 'Baltimore Belle', 'Perpetual Michigan', 'Superba', and 'Pallida'. To meet the demand for vertical roses Prince introduced over 200 new seedling climbers in his 1847 inventory.

Feast continued producing new seedlings until the mid-1850s. Today his roses, sadly, have slipped into near oblivion. Thanks to the efforts of rose preservationists, a few of Feast's hybrids are back in commerce; 'Baltimore Belle' is a particular favorite of mine. There are several found roses with study names in today's gardens that appear to be setigera hybrids perhaps created by Feast. A few of the found roses that are highly suspect: "Moser House Shed Rose," "Arcata Pink Globe" (it's thought by some that these two may be



the same rose), "North Bloomfield Raspberry," and "Caldwell Pink." I'm sure that my



North Bloomfield Raspberry  
Photo by Anita Clevenger.

mentioning "Caldwell Pink" as a possible setigera hybrid might rattle some nerves. This rose is believed by many to be 'Pink Pet', a long lost polyantha. As I watch my specimen of "Caldwell Pink" wind its way up my 7 foot *Salix* fence I can't help but suspect that there is *Rosa setigera* in its background. [editor's note: Dr. Charles Walker, founder and first president of the HRF, also observed and surmised this in the early 1980s.] There is a rose currently sold by heritage rose nurseries as 'Queen of the Prairies' with a synonym 'Beauty of the Prairies'. This rose, like the roses described in Prince and Buist has a distinct stripe on some of the petals.

Where in the States can one go to see setigera hybrids? Elizabeth Park Rose Garden in West Hartford, Connecticut has a fence line that encloses this garden, planted thick with climbing roses, many of which have lost their labels over the last century. But we suspect that there could be setigera hybrids among this group. Other public

gardens to visit for heritage climbing roses: The Anne Belovich Rambler Garden, Chambersville, Texas; The Sacramento Historic Rose Garden, Sacramento, California; Cranford Rose Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Garden; Ruth's Rose Garden, Florida Southern College, Lakeland, Florida; The Huntington Botanical Garden, San Marino, California; the Woodland Public Library Rose Garden, Woodland, California; and the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden's collection of climbing roses on the Santa Clara University fence, Santa Clara, California.

During our next conference, to be held at the Antique Rose Emporium in Independence, Texas, one of the topics to be covered will be the latest updates on the progress using *Rosa setigera* to create rose-rosette-resistant roses. We will also be bringing in a wide variety of interesting speakers. And it's all free. Mike Shoup has graciously offered to share his annual Fall Festival with the Heritage Rose Foundation. There will be a pre-conference tour for a minimal fee and with limited space. Details on this event will be found in this newsletter with updates on our website and Facebook page.

I look forward to seeing everyone in November!

## **Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery**

### **A Peaceful Oasis in the Midst of a Difficult Situation**

**by Sandra Frary**

On the night of October 8, 2017, the unthinkable happened. Gale force winds, which roared throughout the night, fanned a firestorm that eventually laid waste to 245,000 acres across Northern California and killed 44 people. More than 10,000 firefighters battled the blaze, with crews arriving from as far away as Canada and Australia.

By October 31st, the relentless firestorm, which had ravaged the north end of the City of Santa Rosa and its outlying areas, was finally contained. But it had become the most destructive wildfire in California history with 6,600 structures destroyed, including 5,130 homes.

The devastation at the north end of Santa Rosa was appalling. Hotels, restaurants, businesses – burned to the ground. And only blackened ground remained where over five thousand homes once stood.

But while there were miles of devastation along many city streets and county roads, the street in front of Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery in the heart of Santa Rosa presented a sharp contrast to the destruction to the north. The long chain link fence, which borders the cemetery's Memorial Rose Grove, was covered with blooming roses. The fence shone as a bright spot in the midst of a community reeling from the loss and trauma of the firestorm.

Roses growing along the fence line included 'Laure Davoust' and the "Peggy Martin" climber, which grew side-by-side and competed for best of show with their pink cluster-flowered blooms. To the left of 'Laure Davoust' was 'Climbing Cecile Brunner' with softer hues of pink, and farther down, the Rambler, 'Francois Guillot', showed off its lovely white blooms.

To the left of the "Peggy Martin" climber were two pink climbers, which had been rustled off the side of an old building in the small historic town of Forestville, CA, and planted along the fence. One climber had small fragrant blooms, and the other had large blooms. Finishing the symphony of fence-line roses was the beautiful climbing Hybrid Tea, 'Vicomtesse Pierre de Fou', which showed off a blaze of orange/pink blooms.

But this festival of color didn't stop there. Just inside the cemetery gate and to the left of a cement-covered mass grave where victims of the 1906 Earthquake are buried, there is a path

leading to the Memorial Rose Grove where colorful Teas, Hybrid Teas, Portlands, Foribundas, Tea Noisettes, Chinas, Bourbons and Polyanthas have found a home.

The Memorial Rose Grove was designed by rosarian Gregg Lowery in 2010, as a gift to the City of Santa Rosa. He laid out an oval design in the center of a vacant meadow area in the cemetery for 70 new plantings of antique roses, with walking paths for close-up viewing. He donated many of the roses and even helped to plant them.

Gregg had a soft spot for the “Old Rural,” as I remember him calling Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery. He would often recount the story of how the Rural Cemetery had returned one of the loveliest tea roses – creamy white ‘Devoniensis’ – back to the world. The rose was bred in England, but he believed it had been lost to cultivation until, that is, he and Phillip Robinson found it growing 10-feet tall at a grave in Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery. He and Robinson took cuttings and sent the rose back to Europe.

Moving along beyond the Memorial Rose Grove, Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery becomes rolling hills lined with majestic oaks and old roses, which are now growing wild. The roses were planted decades ago, at graves in memory of departed loved ones. ‘Madame Plantier’, ‘Duchesse de Brabant’, ‘Russelliana’ the Damask, and *Rosa banksia* are some of these unbridled roses. *Rosa x odorata*, which grows at the grave of 13-year-old Joseph Vester Sergent who died in 1903, is always the first wild-growing cemetery rose to break into bloom each spring.

### The Survivor Rose Project

Out of a desire to help those who lost so much during the firestorm, an idea began to take shape in the form of a rose – the “Peggy Martin Rose.” This rose, which survived the ravages of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, has become a symbol of a tenacious plant associated with a spirit of renewal and recovery in the aftermath of the devastating blow of nature in the Gulf States.

The idea came to me of adopting the Peggy Martin rose as a living symbol of renewal and regrowth in the aftermath of the devastating Northern California wildfires, which caused so much destruction to the City of Santa Rosa and its outlying areas. And what better symbol for Santa Rosa, the City of Roses, than a rose, where even the City logo is a rose.

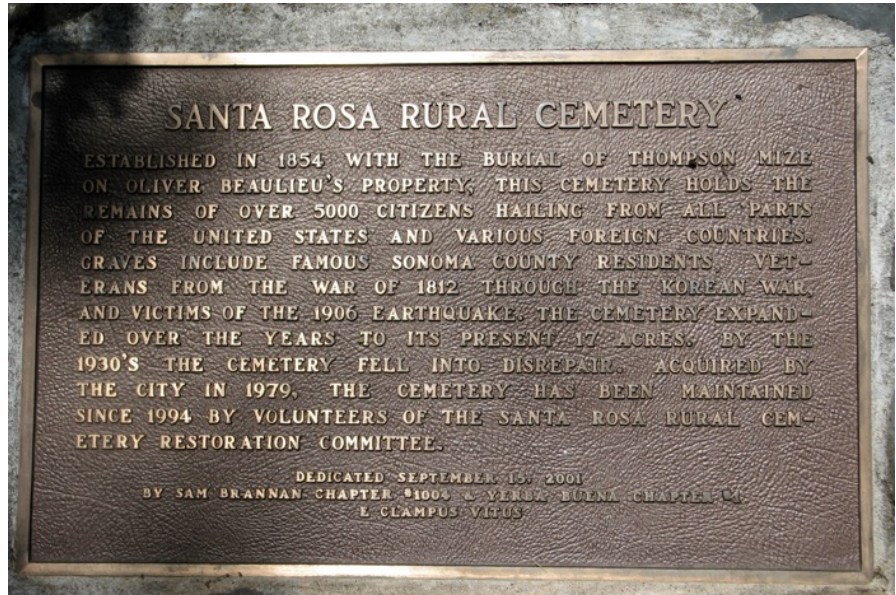


So with the approval and blessing of Peggy Martin herself, the “Peggy Martin” climber has been designated as the embodiment of Santa Rosa’s commitment to rise from the ashes and begin again. Moreover, with the assistance of Rural Cemetery rosarian, Judy Enochs, we have set up a fund-raiser we call *The Survivor Rose Project* from which the sale of propagated Peggy Martin Roses will generate funds to help with Santa Rosa’s recovery efforts.

Half of all proceeds from this cemetery fundraiser will be donated to the Santa Rosa City Parks Foundation for rebuilding the park in the decimated Coffey Park neighborhood, which was the City’s most severely damaged park. We are pleased to report that our fundraiser will soon be on track. And to think – it all started with a rose.



Peggy Martin Rose  
Photo Sandra Frary



Cemetery Plaque  
Photo Anita Clevenger



Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery  
Photo Anita Clevenger



Found rose "Little Red Runaround"  
Photo Anita Clevenger



"Little Red Runaround in the Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery (Photos Anita Clevenger)



'Duchesse de Brabant' in the Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery. Photos Anita Clevenger.



Sandy Frary, Jami Collins, and Judy Enochs, in the cemetery.  
Photo by Anita Clevenger.

## Meet your Trustees



### Etienne Bouret

Etienne Bouret, from France, fell in love with old roses during a plant show in 2003, when he accidentally fell down the path, ending up with his nose in a Hybrid Rugosa, 'Roseraie de l'Haÿ'. Then, visiting the famous Roseraie of the same name, created in 1899 by Jules Gravereaux, he decided to photograph the forgotten beauties, and show a photo gallery on an Internet group, 'Roses Anciennes'. Trying to know more about the rose names and breeders, he made friends on Antique Rose forums and was in contact with Steve Lacouette, one of the creators of helpmefind.com, the famous database on plants, where he uploads most of his rose photos. Realizing that a lot of very rare varieties were dying without backups, Etienne decided to send a message in a bottle to save the remaining varieties, and was invited in 2005 to California by the Heritage Rose Foundation to show his portraits of very rare Hybrid Perpetuals, Rugosas and others. Taking cuttings in the roseraie, he started to send some to French nurseries who agreed to duplicate them, and put them back in commerce: Pépinières Ducher, Loubert, Hook and Sarraud took up the challenge and it worked! More than 1,000 varieties of forgotten roses are now saved and available to collectors. Etienne participated in several HRF conferences: Dallas in 2006, Hearst Castle in 2008 with a talk on Garden Architecture and Structures, Lakeland Fl. in 2013. In 2011, Etienne and Fabien Ducher organized the Heritage Rose Foundation conference in Lyon, with a garden tour at the Ducher Nursery, then at the cemetery full of roses where the Pernet-Ducher Family is buried, and at the Roseraie de St Galmier. In 2015, they gave another talk in Lyon at the WFRS conference about the Pernet-Ducher. Etienne has been a member of the association 'Les Amis de la Roseraie du Val-de-Marne' for a long time. He also judges at the New Roses Concours of Bagatelle in Paris when possible. Now, Etienne is managing the 'Vintage Roses - Roses Anciennes' Facebook page with a lot of his rose portraits. He also likes rose hunting and discovering hidden rose gardens in Loiret, Normandie or Ariège. He is actually working on a rose garden project for an old château. A former engineer at Sun Microsystems, Etienne is now starting an activity of market gardener in permaculture and agroforestry in Ariège, close to Spain and Andorra, but continues to collect and photograph roses from all over the world.



### Betty Ellen Vickers

My mother was a gardener. And, like a good child, I followed her around the garden and did as I was told. That was in south Texas, where the growing was easy – but the growing was not of roses, but of hibiscus, bougainvillea, and lemon trees, with poincianas peering into second-story windows...

While I learned many things from my mother and the poincianas, many years later the Dallas Area Historical Rose Society (DAHRS) introduced me to "Found" Roses and the fascinating stories that accompanied them to our gardens. That, in turn, led to Books! Roses plus History plus Books – a perfect storm of things to love. For 16 years

I had the pleasure of editing *The Yellow Rose*, the almost-monthly journal of the DAHRS, a worthwhile learning experience that required the actual reading of all those books.

During those years, the Heritage Rose Foundation (HRF) awoke from its long winter's nap and resurrected itself, to much rejoicing. For the past 13 years, I have served as its Secretary, an experience that has enabled me to be aware of the scope of its activities. The most enjoyable of these activities was the creation and development of the Historic Rose District of New York City and its planting of approximately 2000 heritage roses in Harlem and other northern districts of Manhattan; and – a close second – the work we did in the Heritage Habitat Garden at the American Rose Center in Shreveport, Louisiana.

HRF has taught me much and led me (by the nose, as it were) to many places around this world, containing many beautiful roses and – best of all, many enduring friendships. I highly recommend it.

### Special Auction Item for Our November Meeting

This past July, Anita Clevenger and Malcolm and Rosemary Manners visited South Africa, and had some great visits with expert on old roses and South African flora, Gwen Fagan. At our November meeting, we'll have an **autographed** copy of Gwen's beautiful tome, *Roses at the Cape of Good Hope*, donated by Anita Clevenger. It contains some of the best rose photography that we know of, and much information on old roses in South Africa, including many of the same roses as we grow in the U.S. and Europe.



Gwen with the rose Gwen Fagan ('Poulgewfa', Poulsen of Denmark, 1991), and her book.



**THE ANTIQUE ROSE EMPORIUM & THE HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION**

**NOVEMBER 1-4, 2018**

Dear Rose Friends,

While there isn't an official 2018 HRF Conference...There is an amazing opportunity together, see friends and talk roses. There will be a tour, some talks, good food, a bit of organization and a guaranteed good time.

**DETAILS**

**LODGING**

**BEST WESTERN BRENHAM**  
 1503 Hwy 290 E,  
 Brenham, TX 77833  
 (979) 251-7791  
 Block Name: Heritage Rose Foundation  
 Rate: 99.00 per night

**HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS**  
 2685 Schulte Blvd  
 Brenham, TX 77833  
 (979) 830-5331  
 Block Name: HRF  
 Rate: 139.00 per night

**Block of rooms will be held until September 30. Special rates are for the nights of October 31—November 3**

**TOUR**

7:30 A.M. Depart Holiday Inn Express Parking Lot  
 Visit the following:  
 - Peckerwood Garden Guided Tour  
 - Round Top Festival Institute Garden Tour and Lunch  
 - Peaceable Kingdom Organic Gardens Tour  
 - Dr. William Welch's Garden Tour  
 5:30 P.M. Arrive back at Hotel

**\$90.00 per person**

**NOVEMBER 1**  
 Includes seated lunch  
 Tickets available through  
<https://hrfgardentour.bpt.me>

**FESTIVAL**

Join us for 3 days of roses: free seminars with some of the who's who in the rose world, food, fragrance gallery, and of course shopping. Hope to see you all there!  
 More details:  
<http://www.aregardens.com/calendar.html>

**FREE—NO REGISTRATION**

**NOVEMBER 2-3**  
**PRESENTATIONS**  
**NOVEMBER 4**  
**TOUR OF OPERATIONS**

**MEALS**

Mike and Jean Shoup will host a dinner at their home on Friday November 2 after the presentations. Please bring a bottle of wine or a six pack of beer as a token of our appreciation. A complimentary dinner Saturday evening will be provided at the Antique Rose Emporium. Lunch on Friday and Saturday may be purchased on site.

## Other Upcoming Events:

From Anita Clevenger: The Sacramento Historic Rose Garden is conducting three fall events. Rose Propagation Class will be held on Sep 8 at 10 am, and will give people the opportunity to learn how to take and stick cuttings and to take home some of their own. Our "October Opulence" tour at 10 am on Oct 13 will celebrate the deep autumnal colors in the fall flush of many repeat-blooming old roses, including Teas, Chinas, Hybrid Perpetuals and Bourbons. Then, on Nov 17 at 10 am, we will have "Fall Color in the Rose Garden," looking at hips, late blossoms and fall foliage, and talking about how roses reproduce (in other words, rose sex). All of these events are open to the public.

Heritage Roses Group rosarians will be participating in the National Heirloom Expo in Santa Rosa on Sep 11-13, introducing a new generation interested in sustainable, heirloom agriculture to the scent, colors, shapes and romance of old roses. They also will give an opportunity for people to purchase plants. Learn more about the expo at <https://theheirloomexpo.com/>.

Editor's Note: I would like to thank Anita Clevenger, Stephen Scanniello, and Betty Vickers for their great help in proof-reading and for editorial comments, for this letter. Malcolm Manners

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

## 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

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