



# Newsletter

JANUARY 2024

*In This Issue:*

From Our President:  
Grant Awarded  
1

Roses in Hollywood  
Cemetery, 2023  
2

Roses on the Hill  
7

Review: "On the Origin of  
Cultivated Roses"  
10

In Memoriam:  
M. S. (Viru) Viraraghavan  
11

Anne Belovich Rambler  
Collection: Status of the Save  
the Rambler Initiative  
13

Meet Our New Treasurer:  
Art Wade  
17

Dear Members  
17

World Federation of  
Rose Societies Associate  
Membership Approved  
18

Letter to the Editor  
18

HRF Mission Statement  
& Contacts  
19

*The illustration above is of 'Rosa Mundi'  
by James Sagmiller. This artwork was used on  
the front cover of the first issue of Rosa Mundi,  
the journal of the HRF, in Autumn, 2005.*



View of the garden through the cross.

## From Our President: Grant Awarded

STEPHEN SCANNIELLO

The Heritage Rose Foundation awarded a \$5000 grant to the Remember Me Rose Garden located in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. This new rose garden was created as a living tribute to the crew and passengers who sacrificed their lives to overwhelm the hijackers of United flight 93 on 9/11. Located just ¼ mile east of the actual crash site, the rose garden is a compass design situated on a 13 acre site donated by the families of these heroes. The Remember Me Rose Garden continues to grow, becoming a destination garden with a significant collection of heritage roses.

The list of the heritage roses donated by Malcolm Manners and his horticulture students of Florida Southern College focuses on varieties hardy in horticultural zones 7, 6, and 5. The following varieties were planted in 2023:

'Baronne Prevost,' 'Old Town Novato,' 'Grandmother's Hat,' 'Autumn Damask,' 'Stanwell Perpetual,' 'Ethel Yount's White,' 'Marchesa Boccella,' 'Arnold,' 'Barbara's Pasture Rose,' 'Rose de Rescht,' 'Reine des Violettes,' 'Paul Neyron,' and "Maggie."

In addition to the display of roses, free workshops are offered in the garden twice a year with a focus on basic rose maintenance. These classes in 2024 will again involve planting and pruning roses. The next rose workshop will take place in the rose garden on May 11. All are welcome to join us as well as becoming a volunteer. Information for upcoming workshops will be posted on both the Heritage Rose Foundation website as well as that of the Remember Me Rose Garden. 🌹



Photo by Connie Hilker

'Shailer's Provence'

## Roses in Hollywood Cemetery, 2023

CONNIE HILKER

*Photographs accompanying this article are from the archives of the author, and do not depict roses in their present state.*

If rose lovers plan to make a trip to Richmond, Virginia, to visit Hollywood Cemetery to see the historic roses that they have heard about, they will have difficulty finding any. In 2012, when I volunteered to document and manage these roses, I noted 112 heritage-type roses. This number does not include Knock Out roses, newly planted modern roses, or volunteer plants of seedling multiflora. Today, 21 of these roses are in good condition, 18 are fair, 12 are poor, and 61 are dead.

When I first visited Hollywood in 2008, I saw glorious examples of spring-blooming roses which included Hybrid Chinas like 'Malton' on graves of the Valentine, Hazen, Branch, and Frommer families, 'Shailer's Provence' near Bettie Beckner's grave, a red moss rose

beside Nannie Pelouze's beautiful monument, and a statuesque 'Alba Maxima' towering over Sallie Doswell's grave. The famous 'Crenshaw Musk' stood proudly in its spot on the line between the Crenshaw and Grant lots in Section K. Fragrant Noisettes perfumed the graves of the Bolling, Talcott, Ritchie, Hall, and Lyons families. Ramblers were there, too, with multiple examples of 'Tausendschoen', 'Climbing American Beauty', Russeliana, 'Dr. W. Van Fleet', and an unidentified red Multiflora. There was even a rose that may prove to be a red sport of 'Tausendschoen'! Tea and China roses were most prevalent, represented by beautiful examples of 'Safrano', 'Isabella Sprunt', 'Duchesse de Brabant', 'Old Blush', 'Archduke Charles', 'Madame Lombard', and others. 'William R. Smith' stood like a giant monument on the Price and Howle lot at the corner of Oak and Hillside Avenues.

The earliest history of most of the roses is a mystery,



**'Climbing American Beauty'**

but we do know about some of them. Heritage Rose Foundation planted five roses at Presidents Circle near the graves of Presidents Monroe and Tyler as part of their visit during their 1994 conference. According to stories from families, we know that the pink Noisette on Imogen Bolling's grave was planted in about 1900, and it was cared for by three generations of her family. 'Safrano', beside Katie Waldrop's grave, was also planted about 1900, at the request of her grieving husband Thomas. There once was a second 'Safrano' on the opposite side of that lot, but it was moved to make space for a burial in the 1960's and it didn't survive. 'Climbing American Beauty', on the grave of Mary Boyd, was planted by her children shortly after her death in 1920.

The roses at the cemetery grow with rain as their only irrigation. From 2013 till 2020, they were attended to once per year during the annual rose maintenance day in



**'Safrano'**

Photos by Connie Hillier



'Archduke Charles'

March. Volunteers that day would disperse through the cemetery with a list of roses to work on and instructions for what to do to each one. By the end of the day, all of the cemetery's roses were prepared to go into the growing season in the best shape possible. Beginning in 2016, every year I noted fewer and fewer roses on the volunteers' lists because the mortality of Hollywood's roses reached an alarming level.

Sometimes the death and decline of the roses was a simple matter to deduce; other times it was attributed to combinations of multiple causes. 14 roses were removed during the past ten years when they showed symptoms of Rose Rosette Disease. Trees grow, and sites that were sunny become shady, which certainly contributed to the death of at least two of the roses. One rose died after it was transplanted by the family who owned the lot on which it grew. The stress of enduring repeated hot, dry summers and/or unseasonably cold winters was probably a factor in the death of 6 roses. Seventeen roses were damaged or destroyed by landscapers and contractors operating

lawn equipment. Three roses died from direct exposure to herbicide, and others were stunted by lesser exposure which certainly weakened them and contributed to their deaths later. I include these latter roses in the list of 18 which died of unknown causes. Most of the 12 roses that are listed in poor condition have also shown signs of herbicide exposure. All of Hollywood's roses, and many of the other shrubs and small trees, are often victims of browsing by the large deer herd that finds refuge and has thrived within the cemetery.

One of the responsibilities that I took on as manager of Hollywood's roses has been to collect cuttings and propagate as many of them as possible to insure that they don't disappear if the plant at the cemetery dies. To date, 47 of Hollywood's roses that were grown from rooted cuttings are planted in my garden and have been shared with others. Four additional roses were dug up from the cemetery in a drastic effort to save them because they had declined to the point where they were too small to offer cuttings and were in imminent danger of destruction.



“Oak Avenue Tea.”

and historical information that I find. I am encouraged by the fact that the ‘Crenshaw Musk’, Lucy Read’s red ‘Tausendschoen’ sport, Thomas Ritchie’s Noisette, and other roses are alive in their places at the cemetery. Roses like Bettie Beckner’s ‘Shailer’s Provence’, the Call-Watt ‘Isabella Sprunt’, Waldrop ‘Safrano’, Reuter ‘Archduke Charles’, and Wortham ‘Duchesse de Brabant’ are gone from the cemetery but were propagated and shared before they died. I am frustrated by the loss of roses like Grace Goodall’s ‘Radiance’ and Emmett Howle’s ‘William R. Smith’, both of which were large, healthy plants that died from herbicide exposure before I could propagate plants from them.

The cemetery is a garden, designed as such when it was established in 1847, with challenges that are like those of any other garden, and it evolves and responds to its environment. Damage from natural causes like weather, wildlife and disease are to be expected, and could be overcome if the garden faced fewer challenges from human causes.

We can no longer see Hollywood’s roses as they were in the past, but there are photos which capture the beauty that was once there. I have thousands of photos that I took of the cemetery and its roses beginning in 2008, and I kept

From the beginning, I planned to use the plants that were propagated from the roses at Hollywood as stock plants from which to produce replacement plants for the cemetery. Heritage Rose Foundation planted the first of these replacements as part of their visit to Hollywood during their 2017 conference. That replacement rose, ‘Safrano’, is still alive, slowly building size, but we may never see it as a monumental presence because the environment at the cemetery is not what it once was. Every year, the cemetery orders and installs new roses to replace ones that are lost. Each of these new plants is clearly marked with survey flags and a ring of cobblestones at their bases, but most of them have not survived because of deer browsing, human error, and the outright carelessness of contract lawn workers and the cemetery’s maintenance staff.

I still manage the roses at Hollywood, regularly evaluating the remaining roses, submitting maintenance requests and reporting problems to the cemetery staff, consulting on suggestions for replacement roses, taking cuttings, and continuing to search for any background



“Pink Noisette” at Bolling plot.

detailed notes about each rose from 2012 to the present. I also have some notes and photos shared by other people before me. All of this is being compiled into an online archive that will include an interactive map of each rose's location at the cemetery, along with photos, background information, and current status. I plan to have this archive up and running on the cemetery's web site by the end of 2024. 🌹

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *While it is no longer possible to experience most of the Hollywood Cemetery heritage roses in their original location, plants that were propagated from Hollywood's roses are featured in the garden at Hartwood Manor, Steve and Connie Hilker's home near Fredericksburg, Virginia. They host an Open Garden Day every May. This year, it will be on Sunday, May 19 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Everyone is welcome. Please email Connie for address and directions. [connie@hartwoodroses.com](mailto:connie@hartwoodroses.com)*



'Crenshaw Musk'



HRF planting of 'Safrano' at Hollywood Cemetery.



Photo by Maria Cristina Montanini.

## Roses on the Hill

SABRINA MASNATA

In previous Heritage Rose Foundation newsletters, I have written about the Murta Heritage Rose Garden and the Trail of Roses near Genoa, Italy. Through these projects, I have met people from different parts of Italy (and beyond) with whom I share my passion for heritage

roses: we love chatting about them in our long-distance conversations. Certainly, one of these friends in roses is Maria Cristina Montanini, who has created a wonderful garden in Guiglia near Sassi di Roccamalatina Regional Park (Modena, Italy). The garden hosts about 500 varieties of roses belonging to different species and classes: botanicals (species),

Albas, Gallicas, and Cabbage (Centifolia, Damask and moss) roses, and also Portlands, Noisettes, Bourbons and Chinas that add charm to a breathtaking hillside landscape.

The countryside is in Maria Cristina's blood: it's part of her roots. She has sweet memories of her childhood house surrounded by a beloved landscape that her family left to move to the city when she was a little girl. The call of the land became stronger in her when, as an adult, Maria Cristina bought a house with a little garden that she initially entrusted to some professional gardeners. One day, during a bicycle ride, she got to a farm with a green gate on which she read these magical words: "Heritage roses." Curiosity and instinct pushed her to enter the small nursery where she was enchanted by the beauty of the roses on display: it was love at first sight! From time to time, she returned there to talk with the owner and his wife, a great expert in roses. Thanks to this friendship,



Maria Cristina Montanini and her husband Stefano.

Maria Cristina began to buy plants, to learn about their history and about their needs: a lifelong passion had begun! She also enrolled in the school of agriculture to deepen her botanical and horticultural skills. She started to look for her ideal piece of land where to create the garden of her dreams that became true eleven years ago, when she purchased a magnificent hillside homestead that today hosts her stunning collection.

The roses are organized into beds according to their class. Once-flowering roses are next to repeating varieties to have touches of color throughout the season. Herbaceous plants with colored foliage have also been added in each bed to have focal points of interest even when roses are not in bloom. At the beginning of her project, Maria Cristina chose white as the dominant theme of the garden; however, over time, she fell in love with the delicate shades of pink that now dominate it.



**'Blanc Pur'**

The collection was created by purchasing plants from nurseries located all over Europe and it includes some rare ones that make it a place of great interest for collectors and a sanctuary of varieties that are difficult to find elsewhere, so much so that Maria Cristina is collaborating with a couple of nurseries to propagate and preserve the rarest plants.

The area of the garden that displays Albas includes: 'Cuisse de Nympe', 'Alba Maxima', 'Chloris', and 'Konigin von Danemark', among others. Albas hybridize easily with each other and bloom later in the season. When they are full of flowers, they seem to reflect the moonlight at dusk.

Among Maria Cristina's "cabbage roses" are: 'Blanche Fleur', 'Village Maid' and 'Juno', often considered to be one of the most beautiful heritage roses. Then there are



**'Andreaola Vettori'**

'Blanche Moreau', 'Marechal Davoust', 'Leda', 'Madame Hardy' (one of the oldest varieties that, according to Maria Cristina, is a must in a garden of heritage roses), 'A Fleur Double Violette' (with very dark flowers) and 'Duchesse de Rohan'. Other mosses include 'Shailer's White Moss', 'Soupert & Notting', and 'Alfred de Dalmas', all of which are great for cooler climates and half-shade. According to Maria Cristina, their beauty leaves you breathless.

Maria Cristina's collection also includes Bourbons, some of which were purchased in Austria and Germany. One that is rarely seen is 'Comtesse de Roquigny'. She has many Noisettes, Chinas and teas that she's particularly



**'Comtesse de Roquigny'**



fond of because they come from S'Orrosa nursery run by the late Sergio Mario Scudu, one of the world's foremost China rose experts who passed away a few years ago. Tea rose "Andreola Vettori" was found by Walter Branchi, while "Myra White" was discovered by his friends, the Ducrots, near the ruins of St. Nicholas Basilica in Myra, Turkey. Among the Noisettes hosted in Maria Cristina's garden is 'Alupka', a stunning and rare plant bred in Russia in 1838 that she was able to buy at Martin Weingart's nursery located in Germany. She also grows "Mt. Vernon Purple Noisette," which is thought to be identical to "Mrs. Woods' Lavender-Pink Noisette." This rose was found in the USA, and made its way to Italy.

Maria Cristina takes care of her magnificent garden with her husband Stefano and has recently decided to open a B&B on her homestead to share the beauty of her roses with as many people as possible. You can learn more on her website, <https://mcrism.wixsite.com/roseincollina>, or follow her on Instagram @roseincollina.



"Mount Vernon Purple Noisette."



## Review: “On the Origin of Cultivated Roses”

ANITA CLEVENGER

### “On the Origin of Cultivated Roses: DNA Authentication of the Bourbon Rose Founding Pedigree”

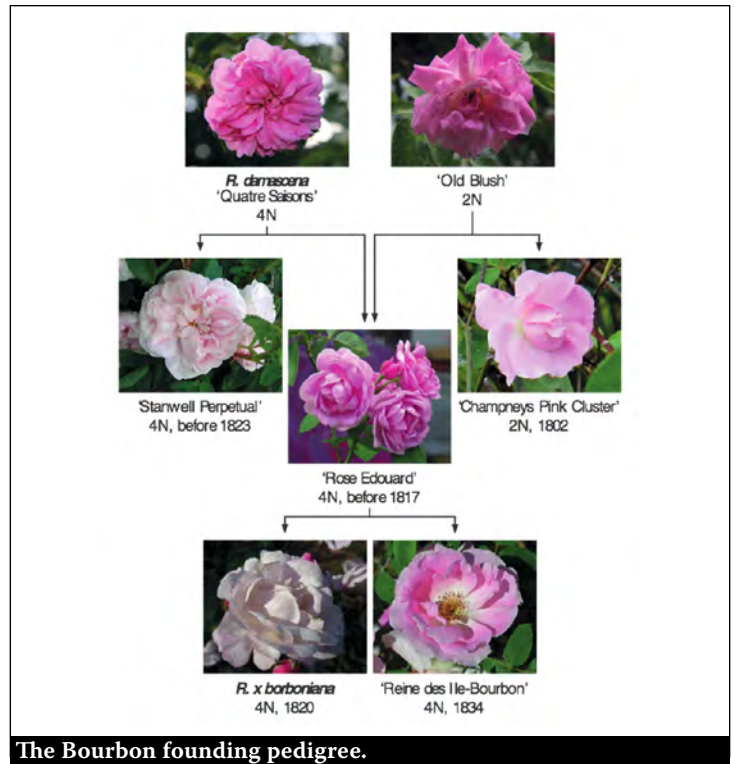
By Abdelmalek Alioua and Pascal Heitzler

This scientific paper was published December 1, 2023, in the *International Journal of Plant Biology*. It explores the genetics of ‘Rose Edouard’, allegedly a repeat-blooming hybrid found in 1817 on the island of Reunion by Jean-Nicolas Bréon, who sent seeds and cuttings to France, founding the Bourbon group of rose from which Hybrid Perpetuals, Hybrid Teas and most modern roses descended.

While the story of ‘Rose Edouard’ has been repeated often over the centuries, some debate has continued. Was this new hybrid the result of natural breeding between two roses interplanted in hedges on Reunion, or did it exist long before in India? Are the cultivars sold as ‘Rose Edouard’ the same in various locations? Were its parents the Damask rose, ‘Quatre Saisons’ and the China rose, ‘Old Blush’? Are repeat-blooming ‘Stanwell Perpetual’ and ‘Champney’s Pink Cluster’ half-sisters to ‘Rose Edouard’? Are historic first-generation Bourbon roses truly the descendants of ‘Rose Edouard’?

The authors acknowledge that scientific analysis can’t prove or disprove the history of this rose’s origins, although they have some thoughts on this matter. However, the DNA analysis reported in this paper provides compelling answers to the other questions. The authors state “the clones of ‘Rose Edouard’ from Reunion, India and Metropolitan France correspond to a single rose.” They go on to strongly suggest that ‘Old Blush’ and ‘Quatre Saisons’ are its recorded parents. DNA analysis also confirms that ‘Stanwell Perpetual’ has ‘Quatre Saisons’ parentage, and ‘Champney’s Pink Cluster’ is descended from ‘Old Blush’, making them half-sisters of ‘Rose Edouard’. Finally, the authors present a rose family tree which also shows two confirmed first-generation descendants of ‘Rose Edouard’, ‘Reine des Ile-Bourbon’ and *R. x borboniana*.

The paper is well worth reading in its entirety, not only for the description of the scientific methodology and



results, but also for wide-ranging thoughts about how the most fragrant roses were grown for various uses, making them the starting point for varietal selections, and how ‘Rose Edouard’ was a tetraploid through a genetic accident, which “was more than providential, since, if the ‘Rose Edouard’ had been triploid, it would certainly never have had the fertility for the crucial and phenomenal offsprings that we know.”

As a side note, the authors state that ‘Rose Edouard’ is better suited for warmer climates and is replacing the Damask rose in India and Pakistan for “perfumery and cosmetics,” and it used on Reunion as “part of the local pharmacopoeia, primarily still used to combat eye septicemia.”

The authors also describe areas where research can continue.

The paper can be found at <https://www.mdpi.com/2037-0164/14/4/82>. It is an open access article, distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons.

Many thanks to Pascal Heitzer, who offered this paper for us to distribute widely. We will also be posting a link to it on the Heritage Rose Foundation website and Facebook page. 🌹

## In Memoriam: M. S. (Viru) Viraraghavan



Girija Viraraghavan, Malcolm Manners, and M. S. Viraraghavan.



Girija Viraraghavan, Stephen Scanniello, Wang Guoliang and M. S. Viraraghavan.

### MALCOLM MANNERS

With the passing of M. S. (Viru) Viraraghavan, the world of roses has lost a bright light. Always quiet and unassuming, he was one of those people to whom, when he did speak, other rosarians listened closely—one was about to receive some true wisdom or knowledge. Viru's knowledge of rose breeding was exceptional, and he incorporated numerous heritage roses, particularly Teas, into his breeding program, along with warm-weather Indian species, such as *Rosa gigantea* (the Indian form), and *R. clinophylla*. We have grown numerous of his introductions at Florida Southern College, and many of them have proven to be excellent roses for central Florida's hot, humid, rainy climate. Likely some of them will live on to become the heritage roses of the future. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Girija, a grande dame of roses in her own right. 🌹

### STEPHEN SCANNIELLO

Viru was more than a great rosarian but also an author, gardener and a friend. We shall continue to be reminded of his passion for new roses each spring as his many hybrids come into bloom. A favorite of mine is the beautiful tea rose 'Faith Whittlesey' one of the best white shrub roses ever created.

Thank you Viru for your all you and Girijia have done to spread the love of roses. 🌹



'Faith Whittlesey'

## Around the World with the Viraraghavans

ANITA CLEVENGER



Viru with Ralph Moore.



Giverny, France, 2007



WFRS Conference, Brussels, 2023.



David Ruston, Viru and Girija, Gregg Lowery, Anita Clevenger, Peter Boyd, Di Durston. Hakone, Japan, 2012.



Back row: Judy Eitzen, Burling Leong, Samantha Mooney, Viru Viraraghavan, Jill Perry, Clay Jennings, Cass Bernstein, Mel Hulse. Front row: Anita Clevenger, Karen Gubert, Grijja Viraraghavan, Ralph Moore, Jeri Jennings. Sequoia Nursery, January 2006.

Viru and Girija Viraraghavan first came to international attention when Helga Brichet, then-president of the World Federation of Rose Societies, invited them to speak at the WFRS conference in Houston, Texas, in 2000. Viru's groundbreaking hybridization efforts, using *R. gigantea* and *R. clinophylla*, with the goal of developing roses better suited for India's hot, humid climates, were very intriguing. Their warmth and humor and knowledge led people to quickly befriend them and invite them elsewhere. Around the world, they made friends, visited gardens, spoke at conferences, and journeyed in search of wild roses. This is detailed in their book, *Roses in the Fire of Spring*. (Reviewed in our September 2023 newsletter.)

I first met them when they were honored as Great Rosarians of the World in 2006 at Huntington Gardens and Library. The late Mel Hulse, director of the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden, traditionally invited the honorees to dinner with the Gold Coast Heritage Roses Group. Because of Viru's keen interest in meeting the late Ralph

Moore, the legendary rose breeder (sometimes called the Father of Miniature Roses), he, Girija, and the California group (or "gang" as Girija calls us) spent the next day together at Sequoia Nursery in Visalia, California.

I encountered them several more times, at WFRS conferences in Japan, France and Brussels, at the HRF Mottisfont conference, and in California. We also stayed in touch through rose forums and on Facebook. Whether listening to yet another brilliant lecture, hanging out in a garden, or communicating on-line, the laughter and camaraderie continued.

Many HRF members have met them at some of the same locales, or at others such as the 2014 Great Rosarians meeting in New York, or the WFRS Regional Conference in Kolkata. Viru and Girija made us all feel like special friends. And certainly, we considered them to be special friends as well.

How fortunate we are that the world of heritage roses introduces us to such wonderful people. Viru will be greatly missed. 🌹



'Miss Helyatt'

Photo by Claude Graves

## Anne Belovich Rambler Collection: Status of the Save the Rambler Initiative

CLAUDE GRAVES

The future is looking bright for the Collection of Anne Belovich's Ramblers growing at the American Rose Society's headquarters in Shreveport, Louisiana. 317 varieties are growing well in the two specialized rambler nurseries (funded, in part, by a \$10,000 donation from the Heritage Rose Foundation). The first 100+ varieties of a 3-year rotation have been rooted to provide replacements for varieties that grow too large to be maintained in the limited nursery area.

These giant, hardy, once blooming roses were the magnificent climbing roses that graced the pergolas, arbores, and walls of the world's greatest public and private gardens at the turn of the 20th century. With the advent of reblooming climbing roses in the 1930's the once blooming ramblers fell out of favor, and most varieties eventually disappeared from commerce in the United States. Over the next 50 years a complete ARS Classification of roses

essentially disappeared from America's gardens. A large percentage of the varieties in Anne's collection are no longer available in commerce in the United States, and only can be found sparsely in specialized nurseries and historic gardens primarily in Europe.

However, in recent years, heritage rose enthusiasts in the United States have been rediscovering the value of these majestic roses and the spectacular beauty of their late spring or early summer bloom. Not every garden has the space for a rambler, but those that do, would be hard pressed to find a more spectacular specimen plant, and there are varieties available that do not grow to huge, unmanageable sizes.

The ARS collection of Anne Belovich's ramblers at the ARC was duplicated from the collection at Chambersville Tree Farms in McKinney Texas and donated to the American Rose Society by Dean and Carol

Oswald prior to their closing the nursery and gardens in 2021. Over the 10 years at Chambersville about 40 varieties of the original 350 variety collection were lost, some from Rose Rosette Virus, but mostly due to the 100-year freeze in February of 2021 which devastated the container grown portion of the inventory.

The good news is that Teddie Mower (Anne Belovich's daughter-in-law) is conducting a heroic restoration effort in Anne's original garden in Washington State. Teddie has been able to supply me with cuttings of 17 of the lost varieties to fill in the ARS collection. Teddie is continuing the process of locating and confirming the identities of the ramblers still growing in Anne's gardens and is confident that she will also be able to supply cuttings of most the remaining missing ramblers over the next few years.

The American Rose Society recognizes the significance of these historic roses and true to its mission of rose education, rose preservation and promotion of roses for America's gardens, the American Rose Society



Cuttings from Teddie Mower.

is founding an initiative to re-introduce ramblers into American gardens. The ARS is creating a "Save the Ramblers Initiative" which will combine the assets of the American Rose Centers' extensive Rambler Collection and their Media and Publication capabilities with the efforts of participating own root nurseries, heritage rose organizations, public gardens, historic garden and historic plant preservation societies to re-introduce ramblers to American gardeners and back into America's gardens.

The "Save the Ramblers" initiative to re-establish Ramblers back into frequent usage in Americas gardens will be a multi-faceted endeavor, requiring the participation of heritage rose enthusiasts and own root nurseries working together in coordination with a comprehensive promotional and marketing plan. The strategy is simple: re-educate gardeners (amateur and professional) on the many positive attributes of Ramblers as magnificent specimen plants which can add dramatic impact, a vertical element, and breathtaking color to a landscape. But, also to educate them on the fact that these roses are typically very disease tolerant, and require no spaying, and they are beautiful foliage plants when not in bloom. The 12-foot towers at Chambersville were strikingly beautiful even in the summer with the long trailing canes hanging down swaying in a gentle breeze. Ramblers are truly just beautiful, healthy large trailing plants that can be used in all manner of ways and then annually surprise you with an outrageous burst of colorful bloom.

The Save the Ramblers Initiative has been approved by the ARS Board of Directors; its form is being finalized at this writing. (See draft on page xx.) The final details are



"Minnehaha."



Rambler towers in Chambersville.

being negotiated with Heirloom Roses of St. Paul, Oregon regarding becoming the major partner with the ARS in the Save the Ramblers Initiative. Once the agreement is in place for a major partner, the Save the Rambler Initiative will be announced to the public and we will be seeking to establish additional partnerships with other own root nurseries wanting to participate in the project to re-introduce these amazing, rare roses. No one nursery can possibly introduce hundreds of varieties of roses into their catalogs, so many nurseries will be needed to introduce back into commerce a significant number of the many beautiful varieties in the collection.

Own root nurseries, large or small, interested in participating in the Save the Ramblers Initiative and wanting more information can contact me at the email address below. I will send out information on the Save the Ramblers Initiative as soon as it is finalized and released for implementation.

We hope a large part of the Old Garden Rose community, individual and corporate, will get behind the Save the Rambler Initiative and support the effort to preserve these wonderful giant roses. We have designed this initiative to conform to the widely recognized minimal criteria necessary to save an endangered plant:

- Grown in three nurseries.
- Displayed in three public gardens.
- Grown in 30 private gardens.

**CLAUDE GRAVES** is the Chair of the American Rose Center Committee. [claude.graves@twc.com](mailto:claude.graves@twc.com)

*Although not finalized at this point, the general concepts of the Save the Rambler initiative include:*

- The ARS will maintain a collection of approximately 350 varieties of Ramblers from the Anne Belovich Collection at the American Rose Center.
- The American Rose Society, a 501c3 not-for-profit educational corporation, will create a restricted account to assure all income from the Save the Ramblers Initiative will be restricted and applied only to maintaining the Rambler nurseries, promoting, and advertising the Initiative and administering the “Save the Ramblers” initiative.
- The ARS will make cuttings of the ramblers in the Anne Belovich Rambler Collection available to own root rose nurseries for them to propagate mother plants for roses to be sold in their catalog. The cuttings will be free, the only cost will be for packing and shipping the cuttings.
- Initially each nursery will receive different varieties of ramblers to introduce as many varieties of ramblers as possible into the market. Selection of varieties will be on a first come, first served basis (don't be concerned, there are 350 varieties to choose from). Many of the best you have probably never heard of.
- Participating nurseries will add a donation (amount to be confirmed) to the Save The Ramblers Initiative to the retail price of each Rambler sold.
- The nurseries' collected donations for the Save The Ramblers will be accumulated to be sent to the American Rose Society on an annual schedule.
- The ARS will create promotional materials and media for the participating nurseries and the public to promote the virtues of ramblers.
- Promotional materials (digital and printed) will be furnished by ARS to all participating own root nurseries for the nurseries to use in their advertising and catalogs.
- A “Register Your Rare Rose” plant tag with a QR code, furnished by ARS, will be attached to each Rambler shipped. Responses to the QR code will generate a database at the ARC recording the location of that specific variety in the event it might ever be needed in the future to preserve that variety.
- An important part of the Save the Ramblers Initiative will be to encourage public gardens to grow and display ramblers in their gardens so they can be seen by the public as part of the educational aspect of the Initiative.
- To entice public gardens to grow ramblers, ARS will offer public gardens free large ramblers for display in their gardens (the gardens would be responsible for shipping costs from Shreveport).
- Public gardens typically do not grow ramblers as there is no source for securing very large, mature plants which are preferred for new plantings. ARS is in a unique position to supply large ramblers as a by-product of the collection plants in the ARC nurseries growing too large to maintain, so they eventually will need to be removed and replaced with a new smaller plant of the same variety. The removed large ramblers can provide instant gratification for Public Gardens.
- ARS will hold an event at the American Rose Center during the Rambler bloom for personnel of public gardens to introduce the concept of ramblers in public gardens and to advise them of the availability of very large, mature plants for instant impact in their gardens. Large Ramblers will be available at that event from our first annual rotation of one third of the collection. •



## Meet Our New Treasurer: Art Wade



In November, the HRF trustees elected Art Wade as the new treasurer for the HRF after Peggy Martin made known her wish to retire from that job. Accordingly, he has joined the HRF board.

Many of you know Art from HRF conferences and other national or regional rose society meetings. He and his wife Cydney are long time members of the HRF and active with heritage rose societies and corporations.

Since his retirement, Art has been very active in many projects, primarily the heritage rose nursery Cydney and he owns, plus working with a not-for-profit corporation which supports a historical state park.

Having a great interest in history, Art has focused much of his research on heritage roses, collecting books and papers, old stories and of course roses. Locating out of

commerce and rare varieties are of particular importance.

Using materials and information he has collected, Art gives talks to garden clubs, rose societies and civic organizations on various topics relating to heritage roses. These presentations also cover such topics as caring for and growing roses; stories about some of these usual roses; and uses of roses in the past.

In addition to serving as the president of a not-for-profit he is on the boards of other such corporations dealing with many of the issues unique to such organizations.

Thank you, Art, for accepting this new role! 🌹

## Dear Members

PAM SMITH



With the beginning of the new year, I am happy to say that I have taken on the role of 1st Vice President in charge of membership.

I extend a heartfelt thank you to Peggy Martin for her many years in this role. She has taken great care of us all and is deserving of well-earned rest from this duty. Peggy, I hope that your future includes many hours in your own garden tending the roses and time spent enjoying your family and friends.

In response to member requests, it is my goal to update our electronic platforms to allow for automatic membership renewals. Included will be the opportunity to use credit cards in addition to Paypal. Currently memberships renew on annually based on the date you joined and you should receive an email notifying you that it is that time for you to renew. *Very important to keep your email information current.* If you are not receiving this reminder, please contact me. As always you may renew by mailing in your dues. An updated form has been included in the newsletter and is included on the website. Please feel free to make copies and take to your next rose gathering. Rose friends always need more roses friends.

As we are a group of volunteer heritage rose enthusiasts, patience is appreciated as I attempt to follow in Peggy's shoe steps. Translation—we are better in the garden than with technology but enthusiastic about the task!

I am available via email [smithpflower@verizon.net](mailto:smithpflower@verizon.net) or 972-989-6582 to assist in anyway I can. Fresh ideas are always welcomed.

Looking forward to a year of growth and hope to cross paths in a garden along the way. 🌹

## World Federation of Rose Societies Associate Membership Approved

ANITA CLEVENGER



The national rose societies of forty countries comprise the membership of the World Federation of Rose Societies. Additional independent organizations may join as “Associate Members.” The WFRS hosts a variety of international and regional rose conferences, including ones devoted to heritage roses. (Last June, board members Malcolm Manners and Anita Clevenger attended the 15th International Heritage Rose conference Brussels.) The WFRS also produces an outstanding Heritage Rose Journal, *By Any Other Name*, affectionately called “BAON.”

While the HRF is an international association in our own right, our board sees some potential benefit in forming a formal relationship with the WFRS to further the cause of heritage roses. Malcolm shared the following takeaways from the recent conference:

- Lots of people who we don't know and of whom we've never heard are studying and growing heritage roses with just as much passion as ours.
- There are some amazing collections of old roses in Europe that most of us never hear about and have not visited.
- Working with people and groups together tends to be better than working in parallel, without cross-communication.

Accordingly, we applied for Associate Membership, which was recently approved by the WFRS. HRF members are now able to access the members-only portion of the WFRS website, <https://www.worldrose.org/>. Current and past editions of BAON are posted there.

This is an annual membership, at a cost of about one hundred dollars. We will review whether to continue this membership each year before renewal. We are hopeful that we find that it is worth it! 🌹

### Letter to the Editor

October 5, 2023

To the Editorial Staff,

Just a note to say how much I enjoy the newsletters.

You incorporate stories of roses and the people who love and care for them...roses and humanity, from around the world; *saving the world with beauty*, saving the beautiful roses. Very inspirational.

The *HRF Newsletters* are indeed unique.

I miss the paper journals but do look forward to receiving each uplifting PDF via the inbox.

Kind Regards,  
Diane Lynch in New Jersey

## Mission Statement

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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