

THE *Vintage rose*

July–September 2017, Issue 17



THE FRIENDS OF VINTAGE ROSES

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NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF VINTAGE ROSES

July–September 2017, Issue 17

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I was several times approached by a prospective buyer requesting, "Which rose here smells the best?" or "Please point out for me the roses with the strongest scents." I should have taken that opportunity to educate the public . . . *see page 16*

On the cover: 'Sutter's Gold' (photo by J. Jennings)

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The Friends of Vintage Roses is a small organization, barely hanging on to its roses. But we are dedicated and determined. Indeed, few rose collections are left in the United States. The photos of roses we exhibit in this newsletter are, mostly, roses few gardeners buy and few people know. They are forgotten or unloved roses. And yet many of them are outstanding! When guests view my garden, they show surprise—even excitement—when I mention that this or that rose is two centuries old or is no longer available in this country—except through special collections. Of course I add the fact that most of these old roses don't need the intense irrigation and care that modern roses require. In short, the Vintage collection—which supplies roses to other botanical gardens and collections—is essential to the preservation of old roses. If you love old roses, please support their welfare.

DIRT DAYS FOR 2017

7/9 – SUNDAY	9/10 – SUNDAY	11/4 – SATURDAY
7/22 – SATURDAY	9/23 – SATURDAY	11/19 – SUNDAY
8/12 – SATURDAY	10/7 – SATURDAY	
8/27 – SUNDAY	10/22 – SUNDAY	



'Sutter's Gold' (photo by J. Jennings)

Sutter's Gold

Darrell g.h. Schramm

Like the man John Sutter himself, the rose 'Sutter's Gold' has its advocates and enthusiasts but also its discreditors and discontents. A 1942 seedling of 'Charlotte Armstrong' crossed with 'Signora' (whose crosses by Herbert Swim transmitted a wide range of color to their offspring), it first bloomed in 1944, won the Bagatelle Gold Medal in 1948, and was introduced in 1950. The plant was named by John S. Armstrong's son Awbry for the gold discovered on Sutter's land and for the flower's color, a blend of gold, yellow, red, and orange. 'Sutter's Gold' barely won the All-American Rose Selection (AARS) Award and was, in Swim's words, "sufficiently

controversial that an amendment to the AARS rules was made the following year requiring a two-thirds majority of the Trustees 'present and voting.'" Later it was to win a medal for fragrance.

The discontents consider the color inconstant, compared to, say, 'Fortune's Double Yellow' or 'Golden Scepter'. Sometimes it is more orange-gold overall, sometimes more or less just yellow, but often—it must be said—a pleasant blend with a swatch of red. The shape of the petals, when the blossom has passed its peak of maturity, dismays others. The plant does have some susceptibility to rust. And Herb Swim himself acknowledged the plant habit was not all he had hoped.

Yet Swim considered it one of his half dozen best varieties, which includes 'Mister Lincoln', 'Angel Face', 'Brandy', 'Circus', and 'Double Delight'. This Hybrid Tea produces a slender bud which unfolds to a high-centered flower known to open swiftly in the heat of summer. An upright plant with a modicum of prickles, its abundant, deep green foliage is attractive. And I repeat, it is fragrant!

Well, what family—rose or human—doesn't have its ups and downs!

John Sutter, (1808–1880), a Swiss, is usually extolled for his hospitality and generosity, but those traits were not invariable. Having fled bankruptcy in Switzerland in the early 1830s, he left his wife and five children for the New World. However, he had not abandoned his family. His oldest son joined him in the late 1840s, and the rest of the family arrived in 1850—a long separation. He first settled in Missouri, then Kansas, then in New Mexico where he left without repaying a loan, then, finding himself in Ft. Vancouver, set out—via Hawaii—for California. Having acquired several letters of introduction, he was able to buy equipment and supplies and to take with him a small coterie to settle on the banks of the Sacramento and American Rivers. There he built a fort and lived with his "Hawaiian concubines" and hired workers. His land grant was approved in 1841. He named it New Helvetia.



'Sutter's Gold' (photo by B. Grant)

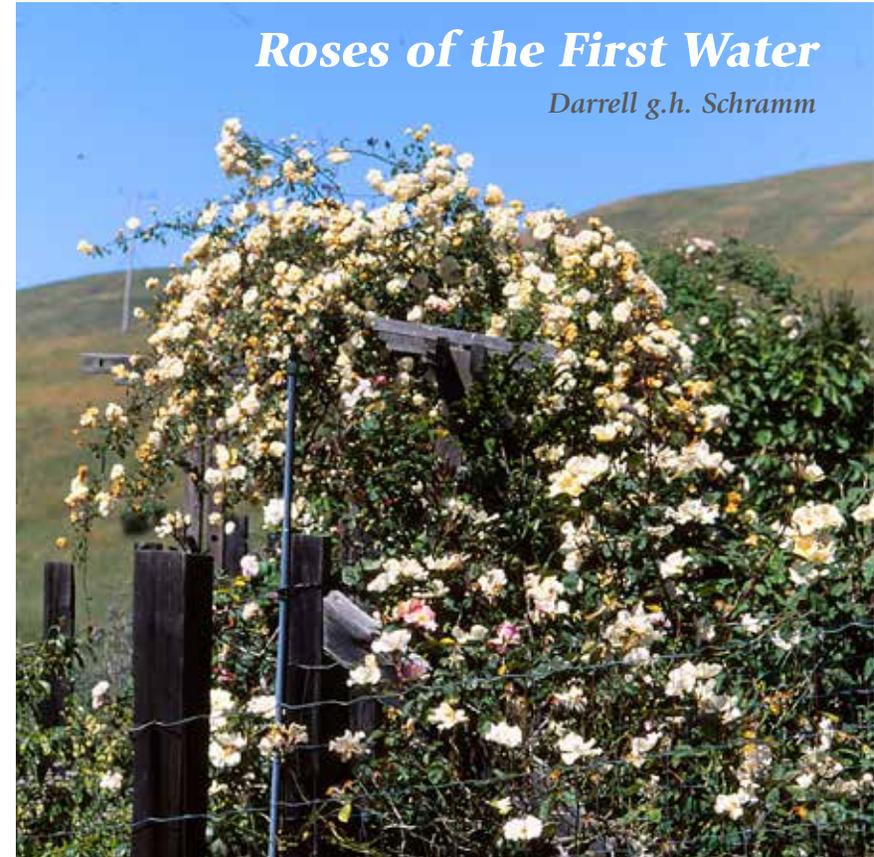
Although he was friendly to most Caucasians, Sutter was initially an agitator, given to paranoia that his fort might be attacked by American Indians and his land confiscated by the few English living in California. General M.G. Vallejo, George Simpson of the Hudson's Bay Company, and others found him "repellent." In 1845 Sutter tried to incite a rebellion against the Mexican governor of California, even going so far as to steal some of General Vallejo's horses and saddles for this purpose. Once he had gathered troops, he stole more horses and cattle from Vallejo's other ranchos to supply his men. With his band of about 150 brigands, he headed south, but by the time they reached Los Angeles, about a hundred men had deserted. On February 20, he and his men engaged in a bloodless battle in which Sutter was captured and the weak governor almost simultaneously surrendered. Sutter was released, and

both sides embraced over brandy. How civilized! And so Sutter returned to his fort rather shame-faced.

Apparently Sutter liked neither Native Americans nor native Californians such as Vallejo. He housed many aggressive Anglo-Americans who were hostile to both. Indeed, American malcontents tended to congregate at the fort. But not all arrivals were discriminatory. Many overland settlers considered New Helvetia a safe haven, Sutter's hospitality and offer of work making many glad to settle there. And Sutter was also happy to sell them land.

But with the Gold Rush, the tables turned. Gold seekers drove off his cattle, men deserted his fort and mills to look for gold, emigrants squatted on his land, even challenging his right to it in court. In 1849 he sold Sutter's Fort and moved to Hock Farm, his large acreage a few miles south of today's Yuba City on the Feather River. There he led a more peaceful life with his family, but one evening a drifter set fire to his Hock Farm mansion, destroying it. Shortly thereafter he, with his wife and three grandchildren, left for Washington D. C. Later they built a house in Pennsylvania. He died in 1880.

What human being—or rose—doesn't have its ups and downs, its assets and flaws? Gold and possessions can consume us, tastes can be whimsical, perfection and peace temporary, and the way of the rose is the way of all flesh; so let us gather rosebuds and rose plants while we may. ■



Roses of the First Water

Darrell g.h. Schramm

'Alister Stella Gray' (photo by D. Schramm)

Often we are told that roses are not fond of keeping their feet wet, that roses sitting in unrelieved wetness will invite root-rot. To a large degree that is true. I have lost a few roses planted over—unknown to me at first—an underground spring: 'Gloire de Dijon', 'Guinee', and 'Fisher Holmes'. Yet I have learned that a few other roses are *not* adverse to severe moisture, at least to some extent. We might call them "roses of the first water."

After Hurricane Katrina in 2005 descended upon coastal Louisiana, especially on New Orleans, many roses lost their lives. Yet a few

of them survived. For example, among others, seven roses in New Orleans sat in or under five feet of water for two weeks. These astonishing roses were 'Alister Stella Gray', 'Louis Philippe', 'Napoleon' 'Fun Jwan Lo', *Rosa palustris*, 'Darlow's Enigma', and *Rosa roxburghii*. What, one might ask, do these roses have in common that accounts for their survival? Except for the American species rose *R. palustris*, known also as The Swamp Rose, the other six are from China or closely related to roses from China. The genes of *R. chinensis* are ancient, suggesting an unadulterated strength.

'Alister Stella Gray' is a fragrant Tea-Noisette, a rose with doubled *R. chinensis* in its genes. Bred by adventurer and rose lover Alexander Hill Gray in 1894 and named for his son, this pale golden rambler with silky, double flowers, quartered with a button eye, sometimes with muddled petals, produces scented blossoms. The centers exhibit rich apricot-gold center with wide pale yellow edges, fading to ivory. Actually, it displays a variety of yellows as the flowers age. They bloom in clusters. The long, flexible canes—as much as sixteen feet—are nearly without prickles, allowing the plant to decorate pillars and arches. Sometimes it blooms from spring to November, the autumn flowering being particularly fine. Clearly it navigates not only floods but also seasons.

'Louis Philippe' is a bright, crimson red China rose growing in panicles. Produced by Modeste Guerin in 1834, the flowers show a white or blush patch at the center, while a few petals may exhibit a white streak, telltale of 'Slater's Crimson China' in its immediate background. The edges of the petals are a somewhat lighter hue. The flowers exude a strong fragrance and darken with age. The shrub's stems appear wiry, jutting out at various angles, and disclose falcate prickles. The plant roots easily, growing from two to four and a half feet, even six if the soil is good. It tolerates neglect, drought, and—as we've learned—drought's opposite: flood.

'Louis Philippe' is often mistaken for 'Cramoisi Superieur', but



'Louis Philippe' (photo by D. Schramm)

'Louis' produces many falcate prickles with a wide base, whereas those few of 'Cramoisi' are fairly straight with a narrow base. In addition, the edges of 'Cramoisi Superieur's' petals are consistent in color with the rest of the flower.

The rose was named for Louis Philippe' (1773–1850), Duc d'Orleans, who, after his distant cousin Charles X, monarch of pomp and circumstance, abdicated, became king of France in 1830. Known as the Citizen

King, he was popular at first, but with wheat and potato crop failures stimulating an economic crisis, and with republicans demanding constitutional reform, he too abdicated after eighteen years in favor of the Second Republic in 1848.

Another China rose produced in France, this one by Laffay about 1835, and able to survive underwater for a fortnight is 'Napoleon'. Tangentially speaking, I find it odd that this rose was not named in the catalogues of Boitard (1836), Hardy (1837), or Gore (1838) (though the latter is merely a translated echo of Boitard). That is true of several other old catalogues. Neither William Paul nor William Prince (both 1848) give a date for the rose 'Napoleon' though each names it; likewise, Rivers (1854) and Max Singer (1885) name the rose but give no date for it. Only *Rosenlexikon* much later in 1936 and out of Germany gives the date of the rose as 1835. Surely there must be another source that verifies it.

Somewhat like the famous old China 'Old Blush', this rose is mottled with pink, loosely semi-double and prolific flowers. Mine has on two occasions sported a single of only five petals. The rather formless bush grows low, about two to three feet high, generating some wide-spread prickles. It does very well in a large container. Some mild mildew or blackspot may occur, but neither fungus is troublesome. 'Napoleon', like its namesake, expresses itself exuberantly and proclaims itself a survivor.

'Fun Jwan Lo', also known as *Rosa indica major*, was discovered in China, south of Beijing by Frank N. Meyer in 1905. He sent it to the Plant Introduction Garden of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Chico, California in 1908. There it was assigned the number 22449. Meyer believed he had sent a yellow rambler, but after the rose



'Napoleon' (photo by D. Schramm)



'Fun Jwan Lo'? (photo by J. Perry)

arrived and flowered, it did not match his description, being of medium-sized double flowers, white with pink centers, growing on vigorous canes between five and eight feet long. Clearly not a yellow rambler. Why plant specialist Alfred Rehder identified it as a form of *R. odorata* is puzzling. But having assigned it the appellation *Odorata* 22449, the yellow was assigned 44426—though it is not clear to me whether or not it was considered an *odorata* also.

There seems to have been no *R. indica minor*. If, on the other hand, the single form, white with broadly smudged pink edges, grown by Jane Zammit in New South Wales, is actually the earlier form, then *R. indica minor* does exist.

Clearly 'Fun Jwan Lo' is not a species but a hybrid. And it is doubtful that it is a Tea rose. J. Horace McFarland asserted in 1932 that it did not "bear the remotest resemblance to the Tea roses which comprise the true species *R. odorata*."

Additionally, the large-flowered pink shrub growing in the Old Historic Sacramento Cemetery identified as 'Fun Jwan Lo' is not so, an observation strongly made by Dr. Wang Guoliang during his visit there in 2012. Furthermore, it does not comply to the original description of the flower. Which rose was it, then, that survived the flood of Hurricane Katrina? Supposedly 'Fun Jwan Lo' does well in both arid and damp places; and a flood—need I emphasize—is thoroughly damp. Perhaps the New Orleans plant was (is?) the real thing.

A rose most certainly unmindful of damp places is *Rosa palustris*, the Swamp Rose. Given its affinity for soggy and swampy places, its survival is not a surprise. This is an old rose, known in the U. S. colonies as early as 1726. Then it was often called *R. pennsylvanica* as well as *R. hudsoniana salicifolia*. No doubt the astute, sly and amoral Tallyrand himself saw the rose while wading swamps and becoming lost in sylvan wanderings during his Philadelphia stay between 1794 and 1796. The rose has startled other observers who have noticed it growing in streams and other flooded waters. Henry David Thoreau, for one, wrote of seeing *R. palustris* underwater, complete with hips, while out rowing one day.

In habit and appearance, it is somewhat like *R. canina*, the Dog Rose. It is vigorous, upright, somewhat sparse, producing bright but deep pink flowers in corymbs over an extended summer time. Though it proudly shows itself untroubled by wet or boggy conditions, it also flowers well in poor, dry or sandy soil. In dry places, however, it seldom grows two feet tall, but in its preferred habitat, the plant stretches from four to eight feet high. It produces curved, infrastipular prickles but few prickles elsewhere. An unarmed variety (*R. palustris inermis*) does exist, as does one with larger flowers that bloom later and into autumn (*R. palustris nuttaliana*). The indigenous Cherokee drank concoctions made from the roots of this rose to treat diarrhea.

'Darlow's Enigma' is a mystery rose, now accepted as a registered rose by the American Rose Society. Mike Darlow acquired this rambling climber from a woman living in the Willamette Valley of Oregon, apparently in the 1980s. Nurseryman John Hook has asserted he obtained the rose from Darlow in 1985. At any rate, Darlow began selling the plant at his Old Rose Garden nursery near Seattle around 1993, assuming at first that it was *R. moschata* 'Plena', which it is not, and so named it "Darlow's Enigma". Heirloom Roses began listing it in 1995.

The small, white flowers, sometimes semi-double but most often single, grow in profuse clusters. The petals are often notched (emarginate) like those of *R. canina* and *R. eglantine*. By contrast, to my limited knowledge of its several forms, *R. moschata* petals are either obovate (having oval edges) or mucronate (tipped with a short or abrupt point). The slender, lanceolate leaves suggest *R. chinensis*. Is it related? The branches of 'Darlow's Enigma' are slender and wiry, hexed with nasty hooked prickles from the large canes to the smallest twig. This overly enthusiastic plant does not scorn shade.



Rosa palustris (photo by D. Schramm)



'Darlow's Enigma' (photo by D. Schramm)



Rosa roxburghii plena (photo by D. Schramm)

It will reach for the heavens, at least twenty feet—mine climbs into a magnolia tree and scampers over my garage. If you cut a spray of these lovely flowers just as they open, and set them into a vase, the scent will *flood* the entire room.

Rosa roxburghii, the Chestnut Rose, so called for its spiny, chestnut-like hips, also survived the floodwaters of Hurricane Katrina. Discovered and collected in both China and Japan by E. H. Wilson in the early 20th century, this plant thrived abundantly along Chinese roadsides and in semi-dry river valleys. Wilson also observed *R. roxburghii* commonly used as a hedge.

The double form of the rose, *R. roxburghii* 'Plena' was known about ninety years before the species was discovered. Initially named *R. microphylla* for its small leaves, supposedly known to the Chinese as *Hoi-tong-hong*, it was introduced from Canton to Calcutta Botanic Garden by Dr. D. Roxburgh.

Unusual for a rose, it might not be recognized as such in its deciduous state: stiff, angular branches in an open habit with flaking and peeling bark. In full foliage, fat prickles in pairs jut out just below the hairy leaves which contain seven to fifteen small leaflets. Even the flowers, a lilac pink, are sometimes concealed by the leaves. The hips are large and spiny. It's a rose of surprises—not the least surprise its survival under water for two weeks.

Other roses have survived prolonged inundations, the 'Cecile Brunner Spray' variety, for instance, and the now renowned rose 'Peggy Martin'. But I suggest that you do not entertain raising a pond of roses. Diamonds and pearls are considered "of the first water" when they are flawless or beyond all expectation. Aside from their acclaimed qualities, the roses discussed here, having endured a drowning, certainly surmount all expectation. They are roses of the first water. ■

Plant Parenthood A New Way Forward to Preserving our Roses

—Katie Watts & Gregg Lowery

There's a popular parable about a man walking on a beach littered with thousands of starfish washed up by a high tide. A young boy was throwing the starfish back into the ocean, one by one.

"Why are you doing that?" the man asked. "There are thousands of starfish and only one of you. What difference can you make?"

The boy picked up another starfish and threw it back into the sea, then turned and said, "I made a difference to that one."

We'll replace the starfish parable above with a similar parable about our roses.

The collection of The Friends of Vintage Roses has an estimated 4,000 potted rose plants in its stewardship. We are realizing, sadly and reluctantly, we do not have either the time or the labor to maintain all of them. We know we're losing potted plants daily because—apart from watering—we cannot keep them weed-free and thriving. As a result, we are making the bittersweet decision that some of them would be better off going home with someone who would love and nurture them.

So we'd like to make a proposal. We know plants can change people's lives. One reason gardening is popular is because nurturing—plants, pets, people—is good for all parts of us: body, mind and soul.

To that end, we're looking for permanent foster parents for roses from our collection. This is rose preservation, one plant at a time.

right, clockwise from top left: 'Ardoisee de Lyon', 'Benny Lopez', 'Pierre Notting', 'Mme Boll', 'Fisher Holmes', 'Comice de Tarn-et-Garonne'





We call this proposed program—what else?—Plant Parenthood.

What we're suggesting are Adoption Work Days. Those who volunteer to work at one of our monthly Dirt Days could take home a rose to care for and remain with it permanently. We see the potential of growing an army of people; giving them a rare rose to pass on to future rose lovers one day.

Several people have adopted entire classes of roses from our collection. We've written about Pamela Temple's ramblers, about the upcoming adoption and planting of our modern Shrub Rose class by Susan Feichtmeir. Not everyone has the room or passion to take on many plants, and in our second part of this curator's report, we spotlight a small private collection of Hybrid Perpetuals that is helping us to preserve this great old rose group.

But this is the first time we're reaching out to do something on a simpler scale.

Adoptive plant parents would never need to give the rose back, though we might need access to cuttings or budwood from the plants to replace needed roses in our collection or pass on to other preservationists in the world. We'd be available to help find a replacement if the rose was lost and offer information and advice on how to best care for your new rose.

We don't expect all our adopting parents to be serious rose growers—and I see that as a plus. The more people who know about—and grow—heritage roses, the better.

Pamela Temple, in her writings on her garden, says that when you feel you are helping one plant survive into the future, it gives new meaning to what you do in your garden. It does mean more work, but suddenly you're getting more, receiving the deep joy of knowing

left, clockwise from top left: 'Beales' Rose du Roi a Fleures Pourpres', 'Eugene Desgaches' (Bourbon), 'President Willermoz', 'Souvenir du Dr Jamain', 'Commandant Beaurepaire' (Bourbon), 'Hommage a Soupert et Notting' (Bourbon)

you are a link in a chain of human beings who keep these beautiful things alive.

Those of you who live with pets and plants probably already know a plant can also be a pet: you care for it, feed and water it, and it rewards you with healthy, beautiful, often fragrant blooms.

Won't you join us on this new adventure. Join us at Dirt Days and adopt a rose—help us to preserve the beauty of old roses. ■

opposite left: 'Miriam's Pink Powderpuff'; right: 'Reine des Violettes'



Plant Parenthood in a Nutshell

THE FRIENDS' ADOPT-A-ROSE

In our new effort to halt losses of rare roses in our collection, the Friends are embarking on a plan to share the wealth, and a bit of the responsibility, with individuals.

We are offering roses for volunteers to take home and adopt, permanently. These are roses currently in pots at our garden site in Sebastopol. At each Dirt Day we'll have a list of roses that have been cleaned and mulched but may be in poor condition and require TLC short term. At the end of the day volunteers will be welcome to take one or more home with them. Please note that we are not able to provide particular varieties not on our adoption lists; however, the more you volunteer to help us with this preservation effort, the more likely you will be to ultimately adopt a specific rose.

WHAT WE OFFER TO YOU

—These rose plants will be yours to keep, plant, or maintain in containers as you prefer.

- If you need advice on planting or caring for the roses, we'll do our best to answer your questions and guide you.
- If you should lose the plant, we're willing to assist you in finding a replacement or in making one from cuttings.

WHAT WE ASK OF YOU

- Volunteer to help with our clean up and maintenance of the rose collection, both in pots and in the ground. We can't offer adoptions until the cleanup work on pots is done.
- Provide us with access to a limited number of cuttings or budwood if we should need it in the future. We will continue our work to get varieties into many hands to preserve them.
- Add your rose garden collection to Help Me Find Roses on the internet. Private gardeners may set up their own rose collections anonymously on this largest database of roses in the world. You will need to join HMF at the base member rate if you are not a member already. www.helpmefind.com



CURATOR'S REPORT PART 2

A Special Haven for Hybrid Perpetuals

We have been fortunate to find support for the preservation of our Hybrid Perpetual collection by a gardener who has recently created a garden of old roses that showcases HPs. Larry Hinman's Sonoma County garden is a loving tribute to this group that was so favored by California's Victorians. The Friends have been given access to propagate from the garden for the purpose of preservation of individual varieties.

The rose garden, centered in a landscape built by Permaculture Artisans in Sebastopol, sits beside a food forest—proving once and for all that healthy old roses can be grown under fully organic conditions. If anything the roses show how much better we might all succeed with roses by going organic. The garden of some 100 old roses was planted in soil inoculated with mycorrhizal fungi

and amended with organic composts that are renewed annually. It is drip irrigated, with occasional hand watering of individual plants. Once every 7 to 10 days the roses are sprayed with a fish emulsion/kelp meal combination. Following a winter with 44 inches of rain, and wet conditions this Spring, only minimal blackspot appeared. The roses are stripped of diseased leaves about every 6 weeks, and dead headed regularly to encourage quick new growth. As you will see in our photo gallery of roses in the garden, companion planting is very thorough so that all soil surfaces are prevented from lying bare, maintaining the natural balance of microorganisms in the earth. ■

An Uncertain Future: Heritage Roses in Australia Inc.

Margaret Furness

About 12 years ago, Australia's Mr Rose, David Ruston, retired and sold his property and business at Renmark, South Australia, to his niece Anne and her partner Richard Fewster. At the time it had over 4,000 different rose cultivars, many no longer in commerce elsewhere in the world, and was the major source of rose budwood and cut flowers (grown in the open) for the florist trade in Australia. Renmark has an arid zone 9b climate, and agriculture there is dependent on irrigation from the River Murray.

Around that time, flood irrigation had to change to the use of driplines, and Anne offered the use of the old irrigation channels, filled with new soil, to Heritage Roses in Australia Inc. (HRIAI). In August 2007 the first planting was made of what would become a collection of almost all the Teas, Noisettes and Chinas in Australia, including unidentified ones, with lesser collections of early HTs, early Polyanthas, and found 19th century roses. The Collections have showcased the roses to the many visitors to Ruston's and given the authors of the Tea Rose book an unrivaled opportunity to study the roses in the same growing conditions. Some significant identifications have been made, and some rarities have been returned to commerce; one example is 'Marquise de Vivens' (Dubreuil 1885), found in an Adelaide garden by Pat Toolan.



'Marquise de Vivens' (top); 'Beauté Inconstante' (above); (photos by M. Furness)



'Léonie Lamesch' (photo by M. Furness)

In the first years of the Collections there was a prolonged drought which saw the demise of the majority of independent nurseries across Australia. Changing economic conditions meant that the business, like many places with display gardens, became financially dependent on hosting weddings, etc. About three years ago the property was put up for sale, and Anne Ruston launched a political career (she is now a member of the Senate, Australia's Upper House).

Negotiations with a Chinese consortium willing to buy Ruston's, primarily to fly rose petals for food to China in its off-season

('Mr Lincoln' is apparently a favourite), has recently fallen through. A local distillery is producing rose-petal vodka. Other grand plans mentioned have been a tourism eco-village and an international horticultural university; time will tell. Meanwhile, staff numbers have been reduced to two; we fear that the owners may stop paying for irrigation.

We've been told that three bushes of each cultivar will be planted in a display garden on the property, and that the HRIAI Collections will stay where they are at least for the time being. Billy West and Pat have pointed out some plants outside the HRIAI area which they feel should be retained as background landscaping—the Tea rows planted by David in the 1980s, isolated large bushes of 'Léonie Lamesch' and 'Beauté Inconstante', the trees and bushes used by David for foliage for his floral arrangements. HRIAI members have been propagating the rarities for some years, and negotiating with public gardens for display sites. At present there is no prospect

of reproducing the entire Tea-Noisette-China Collection in one location. ■

The plant list, with our attempts to sort out the many misnamed Teas in Australia, can be seen on <http://heritage.rose.org.au/hriai-tea-noisette-china-collection>



'Baronne Prevost' (photo by D. Schramm)

Scented Roses

Darrell g.h. Schramm

At the Celebration of Old Roses in El Cerrito this year, where I helped sell roses for The Friends of Vintage Roses, I was several times approached by a prospective buyer requesting, "Which rose here smells the best?"

or "Please point out for me the roses with the strongest scents." In one instance I held a fragrant rose under the nose of a woman who declared she could barely smell it. "Really?" I replied. "Its scent is quite strong to me." I should have taken that opportunity to educate the public.

So a quick word about the scent of these flowers. The strength of a rose's fragrance often depends upon the time of day, the weather, the soil, and your own nose. Some roses release their scent in the morning, others in bright sunlight—'Arrillaga', for instance, seems to have no scent unless in full sun; some roses are more fragrant in one type of soil than another; some are more fragrant on the bush than in a vase and vice versa—'Darlow's Enigma', for example, seems only weakly scented until brought indoors where its fragrance can fill a room; and some people have a more sensitive nose than others. But there is general agreement about roses that have a strong perfume.

As I searched through the more-or-less 300 roses for sale, I noticed that most of those known for their perfume had already been sold. Quite likely some of those were the first to go because they had been bought by people who knew of those roses. Here, then, for those unfamiliar with these beauties of the garden, are the names of old roses bearing or even wafting a perfume.

American Beauty
 Barcelona
 Baron Girod de l'Ain
 Baronne Prevost
 Belle Amour
 Belle de Crecy
 Belle Poitevine
 Catherine Mermet
 Cecile Brunner
 Celsiana
 Chloris
 Comte de Chambord
 Comtesse de Murinais
 Constance Spry
 Crimson Glory
 Dainty Bess
 De Meaux
 Etoile de Hollande
 Felicite Parmentier
 Ferdinand Pichard
 Francois Juranville
 Gloire des Rosomanes
 Gruss an Aachen
 Gruss an Coburg
 Hadley
 Hansa
 Jacques Cartier
 Joasine Hanet
 Kathleen
 La France
 La Reine Victoria
 Louise Odier
 Maman Cochet
 Marechal Niel

Marie Louise
 Marie Pavie
 Mme Alfred Carriere
 Mme Isaac Pereire
 Mme Pierre Oger
 Mme Plantier
 Mme Scipion Cochet
 Moonlight
 Nastarana
 Papa Gontier
 Papa Meilland
 Penelope
 Prince Camille de Rohan
 Roger Lambelin
 Rosa Centifolia Muscosa
 Rose a Parfum de l'Hay
 Rose de Rescht
 Rose du Roi
 Rugosa Alba
 Rugosa Rubra
 Shot Silk
 Sombreuil
 Souvenir de la Malmaison
 Souvenir du Dr. Jamain
 Stanwell Perpetual
 Ulrich Brunner, fils



'Comtesse de Murinais' (photo by D. Schramm)

Support The Friends of Vintage Roses

How to Save Roses from Extinction

Few rose collections in the world contain such a wide cross-section of old and modern roses—our goal to disseminate these roses to public gardens and growers offers hope to rose lovers world-wide.

Our collection of nearly 4000 roses will disappear without your support! Among them are many of the rarest and oldest varieties and species that still survive. Together they tell a story of the hundreds of years that their beauty has touched humankind.

The Friends maintain about 4,000 rose plants in containers and more than 2,000 plants in the demonstration gardens. One by one they will go extinct unless we act. Volunteers do what they can twice a month, but maintenance must be ongoing if the roses are to survive. Your yearly membership donation of \$35 or more helps to provide the care that these plants desperately need—keeping them healthy and free of both invasive blackberry vines and weeds.

As a Guardian of the Roses you can provide steady support with monthly contributions of \$10 or more. Please consider joining in that capacity. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed under our 501(c)3 non-profit status. Help pass on this irreplaceable resource to future generations!

Joyce Demits died on July 25th. An early member of the Heritage Roses Group, she and her sister Virginia established their nursery in Fort Bragg called Heritage Rose Gardens. They were also instrumental in founding a historic rose garden at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens at Fort Bragg. When their nursery property was sold, Joyce opened a new nursery called Tanglewood Farms. Her own gardens were lush with old and found roses. A memorial will be held on August 26 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Botanical Gardens.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Friends of Vintage Roses exists to preserve and enhance the unique and extensive collection of historic roses developed by Gregg Lowery and Phillip Robinson, to establish the collection in a garden, and to share the collection with other public rose preservation efforts, all for the purpose of educating the public about the importance of the rose to human history, cultures, technology, and science.

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