THE VINTAGE ROSE
Summer/Fall 2018, Issue 19

THE FRIENDS OF VINTAGE ROSES
NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF VINTAGE ROSES
Summer/Fall 2018, Issue 19

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

To borrow the motto of the Norwegian group of rose preservationists, “Sharing is saving.” In our ongoing efforts to save the remarkable if not unique collection of roses, The Friends of Vintage Roses made the decision to search for other curators. One curator, Gregg Lowery, even with the help of volunteers once or twice a month, simply can not manage more than 4000 roses alone. Fortunately, given the love for the rose, several individuals and one or two organizations have stepped up to the task.

Pamela Temple a few years ago had agreed to to curate the climbing and rambling roses, and with her husband has done so beautifully. Now John Bagnasco and the California Coastal Rose Society in Southern California have agreed to be foster parents of Hybrid Teas and Floribundas. Sue Bunte, near Napa, California, is also caring for Floribundas. Susan Feichtmeir near Santa Rosa has agreed to curate the Shrubs and Hybrid Musks, while Daniel Nauman of Red Bluff has taken on the Pernetianas, and Bill Smith on the East Coast has chosen Old European roses. This issue of The Vintage Rose highlights the work of the foster parents of our roses.

Individuals here and there have also agreed to care for one or more roses. For instance, because I have such limited space, I am curating ‘Rev. H. D’Ombrain’ and ‘Heinrich Wendland’, both favorites. Consider doing likewise.

Sharing the work of curator is an act of saving these roses. We are utterly grateful to all those who do so. The future of TFoVR has begun to look rosy.

Mrs. Aaron Ward

Darrell g.h Schramm

For a short time, she studied rose culture under the expert tutelage of the Wizard of Lyon, rose breeder Joseph Pernet-Ducher. She had married the man who became Rear-Admiral Aaron Ward with whom she established a garden of more than 3000 roses at their Long Island estate Willowmere, which she had inherited from her grandmother. She was also the mother of six children, four of whom died in infancy, three of whom were remembered in roses bred by Pernet-Ducher: ‘Raymond’, ‘Franklin’, and ‘Constance’.

She was Mrs. Elizabeth Cairns (“Annie”) Ward.
In 1907 Pernet-Ducher introduced a lovely, gentle yellow (Indian or Nankeen yellow, some call it) Hybrid Tea, sometimes tinted with a bit of pink, and usually with a collar of white surrounding the yellow. He named it ‘Mrs. Aaron Ward’. It is a short plant, about two feet tall, good for a pot or the front of a flowerbed, holding its large, double flowers on strong stems with bright, healthy foliage. They emit a pleasant fragrance. For a few years after its debutante ball, it was the only dependable yellow rose. A climbing sport was introduced in 1922.

Of the roses named for Mrs. Ward’s husband and children, only ‘Contance’ to my knowledge remains a citizen in a few gardens in Australia. The rose ‘Willowmere’, named for her New York estate, is still grown in Austria and France and sold in the latter country by Pépinières Loubert.

With the Admiral, who retired in 1913 to devote his time to roses, Mrs. Ward exhibited their garden to raise money for charity, especially during World War I when they did so for the American Ambulance Fund in Paris. The Admiral also wrote a small book *One Year of Rose Work*, the proceeds of which were donated to the same cause.

Admiral Aaron Ward, a Mayflower descendant, belonged to the American Rose Society, exhibited his roses at shows, and associated with several of the great rosarians and breeders of the time: Pernet-Ducher, Joseph Pemberton, Sam McGredy II, E. G. Hill, Arthur William Paul, and Horace McFarland. He died in 1918. Though Mrs. Ward survived him, I have been unable to ascertain the year of her death.
Curator’s Report for
The Friends of Vintage Roses

July 2018

In this issue you will read of those who are helping us in our mission to secure the preservation and thus the future of historic roses in the Friends' collection that would otherwise disappear. We are very grateful to each of them.

To have many hands sharing the collection will ultimately save the roses. But for a moment let me recount the work that the Friends’
group must do for this process to succeed. In Sebastopol we con-
tinue to try to maintain 3000 to 4000 rose plants in nursery pots.
Those numbers are diminishing not only with each new adoption,
but also with each death of a plant we cannot provide adequate
maintenance for.

There is work in it all. When foster parents like John Bagnasco’s
California Coastal Rose Society take on a group of potted roses, we
spend weeks, sometimes months, in preparing the plants to be sent
to them. This involves finding the plants, pulling them together into
a group, weeding and often repotting them, feeding and mulching,
observing them for accurate labeling, and then holding them in
good condition until they leave the Sebastopol garden. When the
plants do leave, we are relieved and delighted, and are able to move
on to the next group.

Whether we provide plants, budwood or cuttings of the roses to
be adopted, the work involved is great. This summer I have tried
to fulfill several requests to provide buds or cuttings to fostering
collections around the U.S. Some of those who adopt are able to
fund a part of the work to be done by hired workers needed to do
the heaviest of tasks. Our volunteers also chip in on Dirt Days, to
move cuttings from our mist tunnel and prep them to grow on to
maturity, to fertilize and mulch, and to weed some of the weediest
of pots.

When we created the nonprofit The Friends of Vintage Roses, we
were facing a choice: 1. plow half the roses under and hold onto the
other half, the number we thought we could maintain; or, 2. try to
save them all, and to find help in preserving them. We have opted
for the latter, and it has been working. But please make no mistake,
this work is NOT over, and we could still lose as much as half of the
original collection.

In the long term, as curator, my vision to preserve the roses is two-
fold. First we must spread the burden of maintenance around. Then
we can maintain a core collection that tells the story of old roses, eventually to share it with others in our Sebastopol garden. We will get there, but not without help.

We desperately need hired labor underwritten over the next two years. To be certain that varieties are put safely into the hands of others, we will need to make a push while roses CAN be rescued from neglect. Cleaning pots, repotting, gathering cuttings and rooting them, gathering budwood and cuttings and sending them on to foster gardens, will take many hours and days. Each variety we save in this way requires an investment of $35. So, yes, to save 1000 roses will cost us $35,000, a figure that we estimated at the start of this nonprofit to be a minimum requirement annually to fulfill our preservation goal.

We have been delighted with the generous assistance of donors, both large and small, many folks committing to a monthly donation of $25. And we’ve been graced by the volunteer help of dozens who come to Dirt Days. Each hour of their assistance reduces our financial needs by $18. But our needs are great, because this collection of old roses is great, and the world needs them alive, with their history and beauty intact.

I ask you please to spread the word: The Friends of Vintage Roses needs your help! Each day on our Facebook page we post an image of an historic rose from our collection. Each posting is liked by a hundred people or more. If each of those folks could contribute just $1 toward a repository of living roses, rather than photos of lost roses, we could reach our goal and spread this wealth around! Join me at Dirt Days, or volunteer to help with some of our computer-oriented work on website and database, if you live too far away to attend Dirt Days. Please join our team and join our effort.

—Gregg Lowery, Curator of The Friends of Vintage Roses

A GALLERY FROM OUR NEWLY RESTORED OLD EUROPEAN ROSE COLLECTION

(clockwise from top left:
About nine years ago our garden covered 2½ acres planted intensively with roses, trees and other plants. The perimeter fence, erected to protect the garden from deer, was planted every inch with rambling and climbing roses. We began to think about adding an area for Ramblers that we could view from the house. When we were asked to foster the Rambler rose collection that now belongs to The Friends of Vintage Roses, we were thrilled. We live on 38 acres. It is a wild, isolated, and dramatic landscape in Northern California. It looks toward ridge after ridge heading out to the misty Mendocino coast 20 miles to the west. To me it seemed an ideal place for huge rambling roses.

After fencing in an area where I could keep the many potted new Ramblers protected, my husband Michael fenced in a much larger area where most of them would be planted. We decided to call this “The Garden of the Gods”—I consider the Ramblers to be the Olympians among roses. It is a wonderful growing spot, a slope in
full sun with a road running through. The soil is clay but with good drainage. Our water comes from springs and a pond we had dug for irrigation. I water the Ramblers by hand during the long dry summer. They are fertilized with feather meal and compost in the spring and with another dose of feather meal in the summer.

We wanted to grow many of the Ramblers freestanding and untamed. We planted some of the roses with lax growth habits so that they would tumble down the hill to the road. Some more arching and upright ones we planted out in the field as haystacks and mountains. It is exciting to see a rose growing in this natural way.

For others of the more lax roses we have been busy building arches and small arbors out of long lengths of rebar. Two arched pieces are bound together to form what I have called “the wickets.” Three pieces are used to make pup tent-shaped supports that I call “bloody huts.”

In our rambling rose garden we now have a combination of large freestanding shrubs, loosely formal arches and arbors, and spreading mounds of roses tumbling down the banks to the road. A few tree-climbing varieties have begun their long, slow climb into old spreading oaks. Thanks to our dear friend and mentor Anne Belovich, who gave us many cuttings, the collection has expanded to around 350 roses.

It is hard for me to name favorites among roses. I simply love them all for their wonderful diversity. The wild exuberance of Ramblers makes them my favorite class. Many of them are also persistent survivors. It is amazing how a rose like ‘Queen of the Belgians’ can be such a delicate beauty and yet so tough. It is growing on a fence 15 feet in each direction. I haven’t watered it for years now because I can’t even find the base, and still it blooms in massive white clouds of blossoms. ‘Paul’s Himalayan Musk’ is in this category also, and fragrant. When our old motorhome White Bear died on the driveway, being loath to part with it, we planted ‘Paul’s’ on it. It has become a huge beautiful mountain.

Thanks to people who grew and collected Ramblers before me, I have roses from all over the world. Taking on the responsibility of preserving a collection of roses has changed my perspective on gardening. Previously I had focused on making a pretty garden. Now
the expansiveness of my garden provides a sanctuary. Having seen that such rose mountains want foothills to grow on, I began to believe we needed to do more. And I consider it my responsibility to provide for as many of these amazing rambling roses as I can on this hillside. As the world seems to grow smaller and smaller, finding a place for people to see these beautiful giants is very important to me. We all need these wild and exuberant beings.
The California Coastal Rose Society (in north San Diego County) has been involved with preserving the genetics of endangered rose varieties for the past 18 years. This mission has been the exclusive goal of the society for the last six years. We also believe that the best way to preserve varieties is to propagate and offer them back to the public. Rather than involving ourselves in commercial production, the society raises funds through a yearly auction that includes online bidding from around the U.S. The 2018 auction will be held in conjunction with the Annual Convention of the American Rose Society in San Diego in October.

We were thrilled to receive a small part of the Vintage Hybrid Tea and Floribunda collection. Last winter, 181 Hybrid Teas and 51 Floribundas were shipped from Sebastopol to Bonsall, CA. A permanent home for these plants is under construction, and they will eventually reside in Fallbrook, CA. Meantime, breeder Ping Lim has agreed to maintain the collection at his Bonsall facility, until their new home is ready. Ping has already made a number of crosses with the varieties that he felt had special attributes, and the seedlings from those crosses will be observed next spring. What a great tribute to hybridizers of yore to resurrect some of their genetics in modern breeding work!

We hope eventually to bring more plants from Vintage into the collection. I am especially keen on recreating the Pernetiana collection. The dry, mild climate of San Diego County, where blackspot is rarely a problem, is ideal for growing this class. We are also working closely with public gardens in Europe to bring varieties into the U.S. Hopefully, we can soon get some “lost” American roses like ‘Kate Smith’, ‘Grand Slam’, ‘Cape Coral’, ‘Castanet’ and ‘Seventeen’ back into U.S. gardens. Becky Hook at La Roseraie Du Désert has already secured the ‘Mrs. Miniver’ rose for us, and we’ll be able to offer that in a couple years. In addition, Becky has also shipped 60 varieties of Teas, Noisettes and Chinas that were not available in the U.S., and they are thriving under quarantine. We have planned to ship the plants to Jill Perry at San Jose Heritage Rose Garden when they are released by the Ag Dept.
Tissue Culture Roses

Bill Smith

I fell in love with old roses way back when I was a teenager with my first Sunset garden book on roses. There was only one small photograph of an old rose within its pages. It was labeled ‘Autumn Damask’. That photo hit some kind of nostalgic memory in me, and I fell in love with old garden roses then and there. I have been admiring them and learning about them ever since.

I’ve wanted to start an old rose company for decades now, and we’re finally at the point in our lives that we can do just that. I approached the curator of The Friends of Vintage Roses (TfOVR), Gregg Lowery, with just a simple request to get a few cuttings to experiment with propagation through plant tissue culture. That propagation experience was part of my PhD work in the Plant Science department at the University of Connecticut. Roses can be pretty easy to propagate through tissue culture, but I had experience only with miniature roses at the time. While at the University, I was teaching assistant for three semesters for the Plant Tissue Culture Lab, and we propagated miniature roses as an easy lab for the students to learn shoot multiplication. For available

'Souvenir du Dr Jamain’ (left) (photo by D. Schramm); buds in Petri dishes (top) are ‘Souvenir du Dr Jamain’; the self-dividing plantlet ‘Erinnerung an Brod’ (center); red and blue lights in grow room (above) (photos by B. Smith)
space I have just a spare bedroom in an old Victorian, so tissue culture is really the only way I could start a collection.

After getting to know Gregg more and discussing that we ultimately wanted to get these old garden roses into commerce again, he surprised me and gave us access to the entire old rose collection. Gregg said that TFoVR believes that getting them back into commerce is the best way to preserve these old roses. I couldn’t believe it! All these wonderful old Albas, Gallicas, Damasks, Centifolias, Mosses, Portlands, Bourbons and Hybrid Perpetuals were within our reach. What an amazing company that could make. So I spoke with my old college buddy and the two of us decided to go for it. We’re starting an antique rose company in Connecticut, and we’ll be propagating them through plant tissue culture. We would be able to establish a collection here in the Northeast, assist in any propagation needs of TFoVR and get all these beautiful old roses back into commerce. We may even be able to assist in getting additional collections going in the historic old homes and cemeteries throughout New England.

Gregg has been wonderful in sending us cuttings during the growing season. Once received, these bud cuttings are sterilized and plated out to petri dishes containing nutrient media to get the buds to break. After a few weeks, the healthy young shoots are transferred to culture tubes, then later to baby food jars as they multiply. We are still working on developing the best cultural conditions for such a diverse collection. When everything goes right, the little shoots multiply by about seven times over 6–8 weeks. The media promotes bud break. So from one shoot in six weeks we’ll have seven shoots that will then get separated and transferred to fresh baby food jars. Then after another six weeks, we’ll have forty-nine little shoots to transfer and so on. Once we have enough, we then transfer the individual little shoots to rooting media. Once rooted, we’ll pot them up and grow them.

I’ve noticed that some of these old cultivars aren’t multiplying very well, and the foliage looks odd in tissue culture. I’m guessing that they must be internally contaminated with something that is holding them back. That may make sense with such old cultivars. It does, however, appear that we can clear these plantlets with an antibiotic treatment. After treatment they appear to be much healthier and normal in appearance. It will be interesting to see if the treated plantlets grow better than the source plant they were collected from. It’s a possibility.

Our next step is to find more suitable laboratory and greenhouse space so that we can expand production beyond my spare bedroom. We are currently exploring farm land in Connecticut. Hopefully, we’ll have production in full swing by next summer. Be watching for us over the next couple years as we begin selling mail order online.
A Second Chance

Sue Bunte

About 30 years ago I decided since nobody had ever promised me a rose garden, I would plant one myself. And I did. At the end I had 90+ plants, but over a period of several years I lost all but 16. Six years of drought and a very healthy population of gophers can devastate a rose garden in no time at all. Most of the survivors were old roses, so when I decided a few years ago to start over again, I sought out nurseries who specialize in vintage roses, discovered TFoVR and showed up at the garden the day they were cutting flowers for the Celebration of Old Roses. Of course I had an ulterior motive. I was “shopping” for varieties I couldn’t live without and hoping to be able to purchase some of them the next day at the Celebration. My plan was to help with the cutting, buy plants the next day, and go on about my business. It didn’t quite work out that way. I ended up joining TFoVR, and I made an almost weekly trip to the garden to help with maintenance of the plants.

Last Spring I agreed to become the curator of the Floribunda Collection

'Sheila MacQueen' (photo by S. Bunte)
and began the process of moving 281 plants to my property in Napa. We have since shared about 50 duplicate plants with the California Coastal Rose Society for their permanent collection and are actively trying to replace the varieties that have been lost to gophers and drought. Pamela and Mike Temple have shared cuttings from their collection, and we now have ‘Rodhatte’ (Little Red Ridinghood), ‘Jillian McGredy’, ‘Gracie Allen’ and ‘Mazurka’ back in the collection. With our reciprocal agreement to share cuttings and plants with the San Jose Historic Rose Garden, we were able to obtain cuttings of 75 varieties several weeks ago, most of which have now taken root. I have also purchased young plants from Greenmantle and Burlington Rose Nursery this year. Those plants are thriving, some have bloomed already, and since I’m not familiar with all of the varieties and photos never do them justice, it’s been like Christmas.

Admittedly when I agreed to bring the Floribunda Collection home and care for them, I didn’t think it through very well. The area
where I put the pots was very uneven and needed some serious work to get it prepared. It didn’t take long for weeds to take over between the pots, for pots to fall over because of unlevel ground, so I moved the whole collection to another area and let the goats in to clean out the weeds.

To save myself a lot of work, I called my neighbor who has a backhoe and asked him to come down to fix my problem. He donated about two hours of backhoe work and scraped the area. I now have a nice flat weed-free plot to return the plants to. Next week chips will arrive and I will cover the area with wood chips to help keep the weeds down.

I love my Flori’s. The range of colors and blossom types is simply amazing. And then there is ‘Shelia McQueen’. If you don’t like the color when she first blooms, wait a day or two. She starts out pink, turns yellow and then turns green before she fades away. I was stunned the first time she bloomed as I watched the process.

The Floribundas are so easy even I can keep them going. I have started using mycorrhizae on the roots when I repot and Dr Earth’s Rose and Flower Food for regular feeding. It seems to be working. The plants are doing great and making me smile a lot! It has been one of the most rewarding undertakings I have been involved with, not just the Flori’s, but helping to save this amazing collection. The older I get the more appreciative I become of things that have stood the test of time. Some of the roses in the TFoVR collection can’t be found anywhere else in the country, and some are so rare they can’t be found anywhere in the world. If this collection is lost, that may very well be the end of many of these roses, and that would be a tragedy. Last year when we were hit by wild fires, it became horribly clear just how fragile the existence of the TFoVR collection is. “Fostering” them and sharing cuttings and plants with other dedicated individuals and organizations is an excellent method of insuring these wonderful plants continue.

The Pernetianas

Daniel Nauman

The Vintage Roses Collection of Pernetianas has been relocated to Red Bluff, California—just a couple hundred feet from the Sacramento River. Our large front lawn was already doomed due to years of neglect before we bought the property and to an infestation of Dallas grass—not to mention that I already have about a quarter acre of riverside lawn that requires twice weekly mowing in the summer. Gregg Lowery got wind of the impending lawn removal
and thought Red Bluff, with its dry climate supplemented by a relatively wet dormant season, would be ideal for Pernetianas.

A third of the front lawn had already been removed for sundry uses, such as vegetables, etc. The soil was found to be reasonably malleable, silty clay, low in calcium and nitrogen. The larger section turned out to be much more intractable, due to compaction of the top foot of soil. The top layer has been exhaustively loosened by hand, and hopefully heavy mulch and the proliferation of earthworms will cure its structural woes.

The Pernetianas are fed every other week, rotating between alfalfa pellets and chicken compost. Most of them also get fish emulsion in between these applications due to their feeble condition when planted. It took several months, but most have responded with new basal canes.

Irrigation is overhead during the wee hours for the time being. This is not ideal in this climate because blossoms literally steam in the hot morning sun. I plan to switch to drip, with occasional overhead, irrigation during dry evenings.

The Pernetianas are planted in a large U-pattern to be walked around, with the center filled with floriferous desert plants in a pallet toward grays, lavender and purple to offset the Pernetianas’ predominance of coral, gold and orange.

Due to the extreme summer heat and ultraviolet index in Red Bluff, I’m always on the lookout for Pernetianas that can take such abuse. Some varieties go from bud to exhaustion in but a few morning hours, but a number do stand out by lasting for days: ‘Heinrich Wendland’ is the champion in this department, but ‘Lady Belper’, ‘Herbert Hoover’ and ‘Portadown Fragrance’ have unusual durability. The latter also has a novel form—it reminds me of a ‘Debutante’ camellia—and great scent, making it an ideal candidate for commercial revival.

Be sure to follow me on Facebook for near-daily postings of Pernetiana blossoms, and hopefully a beautiful garden once it starts filling in. ■
As family and friends will surely say, I have a problem with roses. My garden already holds about 475 different roses, and I am always looking for more. Originally, when Gregg Lowery proposed that I house the Shrub collection, I thought I would just tuck them in here and there in the garden. But when he told me how many roses there were in the group, I realized that would not be possible and that I would have to create a new section for them.

For some reason, I am completely delusional about any garden project. I never seem to realize the scope of the things I envision—how much work it will entail or how long it will take to complete. It is only once I have seriously embarked on the project that I can get practical and think through all the steps it will require to complete.

The first thing I usually think about is design. My garden originated with beds in concentric circles and as I outgrew that, I used curving paths on slopes where circular paths were impossible. I have used the arc motif as a design element throughout the garden, including a large domed gazebo in the center and arching rebar supports for climbers in other places.

The area that I decided to develop is a fairly steep slope between our house and the rose garden, facing southwest. I had to consider not only the design of the area, but also the more practical problems of fire danger, irrigation water sourcing, danger of erosion, suitability of the soil, and so forth. In the end, I decided to go with a very simple design of beds alternating with paths extending across the slope. Part of the reason for this was to prevent erosion—the beds are set crosswise to the slope, so low retaining walls would be the most stable design. The gentle arcs of the paths would echo the more complex circular or sinuous paths in other parts of the garden without being visually confusing.

Until now, that area had been a grassy hill, which we weed-whacked every year to create a good fire barrier. Although I had carefully considered fire danger in my initial design, last year’s fires graphically demonstrated what did and
did not work in fire prevention. The first night of the fires, we watched how the houses around us that did have a fire barrier were left unscathed, while those with no barrier burned. One of the main things I learned is that shredded redwood bark (AKA gorilla hair) will hold moisture like a wet wool blanket and act as a great fire barrier. It does burn fast when not wet, but I decided to add emergency sprinklers to my irrigation system. When there is danger of fire, I can just open a few valves, go to my irrigation controllers, fire up my preprogramed emergency system and water the whole area down in a short time.

Another plan that changed was a planned large, wooden, arbor-covered staircase down the middle of the beds, extending from just below the house to the rose garden. However, after last year’s fires, that idea went out the window. If there were to be a fire, that arbor would act as a fire path directed straight at the house.

Having decided on the band-across-the-hill shaped beds, I began to calculate how many I could fit in the space. Since many of the Shrub roses are quite large, I decided on 12’ wide beds with 5’ wide paths between each bed. If I ever acquire an ATV, we could use it on those paths. I ended up with 10 successively shorter beds descending the hill.

Last summer, the grading contractor cut the beds, and last fall we built the retaining walls and installed the main pipes for irrigation. My carpenter friend and I came up with the idea of retaining walls made of pressure-treated lumber stacked in varying heights and contoured to fit the curve of the bed going across the hill. (This was harder to do than I thought.) This worked very well and looks much tidier than railroad ties would have done.

For water, we have capacity on two different irrigation controllers, but not sufficient capacity for the whole hill on either one. I decided to water the lower beds from the controller used for the east side of the garden. The water pressure is very good from this controller, easily sufficient to push the water halfway up the hill for the five lowest beds. The upper beds will be watered from the top coming off a different controller which already has two extra valves.

We have included a separate pipe for a fruit tree irrigation system. I have some fruit trees in an “orchard” area, but they are not doing well due to the heavy soil and poor drainage. Planting fruit trees along the tops of the beds will give them much better drainage and soil. We will keep them pruned small for manageability and fire safety. However, they have very different water requirements from roses; hence the separate pipe. ■
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.

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD
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Sue Bunte, Floribunda Curator
Susan Feichtmeier, Shrub & Hybrid Musk Curator
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Daniel Nauman, Pernetiana Curator
Bill Smith, Old European Rose Curator

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THE FRIENDS’ ADOPT-A-ROSE PRESERVATION PROJECT
JOIN US IN PRESERVING A SINGLE ROSE
The Friends have 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 volunteers may take home a rose to revive and bring back to beauty. In a quick survey of the 4000 or so pots we care for you’ll notice a big bunch that are barely visible in the weeds that choke their pots. These are most in need of a foster parent, and we hope you will consider being one. Please note that we are not able to provide a specific rose variety you may wish to own; we do try to propagate roses from the collection to put in the hands of those who commit to preserving.

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 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.
— Share cuttings back with us so that we can continue to help preserve that variety.