



'Cherry Vanilla' (top); 'Paul Bunyan' (above); (photos by J. Bagnasco)

Save the Roses!

John Bagnasco

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



'Tea Time' (left); 'Pink Intuition' (right); (photos by J. Bagnasco)

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. ■