THE *Vintage rose*

Winter 2019, Issue 22

THE FRIENDS OF VINTAGE ROSES

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NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF VINTAGE ROSES
Winter 2019, Issue 22

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THANKSGIVING

Our Thanksgiving this year brought to mind people like you, the readers and donors of our cause, the lovers of roses whether old or new. This year, because of annual donors and sustaining monthly donors and those who contributed to our Rosalia in May and our venue at the Heirloom Expo in September, we were able to raise about $10,000 more than last year. Thank you. Thank you. Even so, we were unable to provide even the smallest of salaries for the curator whose efforts are nothing short of heroic.

At the same time, mulch, fertilizers, water, tools, etc. are constantly renewable needs for any garden, let alone a rose collection of several thousand plants. And so we ask for your continued support. Also, please consider supporting us by volunteering for a Dirt Day. The work goes on.

December is an excellent time to donate to us, since it's a last opportunity to write off your contribution from your taxes for the year. Any small donation is helpful. And if you haven't done so yet, you can become a sustaining donor to The Friends of Vintage Roses. Just sign up at PayPal to give a little each month. Donating a small, recurrent sum is so easy you'll hardly miss it. You'll be sent a letter at the beginning of each year for the total amount you donated in the previous year. And. of course, you can cancel at any time.

And should you wish to donate in honor or in memory of someone, send us the name of the person or persons, and we'll publish the news in our next newsletter.

—Darrell g. h. Schramm, editor

'Arrillaga' (photo by D. Schramm)

Arrillaga

Darrell g.h. Schramm

Although I had often read and seen photos of it, I first saw the rose 'Arrillaga' in the floral flesh blooming during Memorial weekend of 2014. The huge, gorgeous roses were lavishly on parade in a garden of the old William Bourn, Jr. stone mansion at Empire Mine State Park near Nevada City, California. Well, I thought, if the rose is that beautiful, surely I ought to grow it as well. Perhaps it was time to dismiss McFarland's judgment.

In 1933 J. Horace McFarland, editor and publisher of the *American Rose* annual from 1916 through 1943, wrote of 'Arrillaga', "We threw

it out of Breeze Hill [his residence] long ago." He couldn't have given the rose much time to assert itself since the date he gives for its introduction is 1929. After all, the mantra for growth of perennial plants is "First year they sleep, second year creep, third year leap." However, since the breeder Father Schoener was selling it from his own catalogue and Santa Barbara garden in 1922, perhaps McFarland had obtained it earlier. It may be, too, that the rose did not favor the winters of Pennsylvania.

I bought 'Arrillaga' from Rosemary's Roses in January of 2015, just before Rosemary Sawyer gently closed the gates of her wonderful nursery, known especially for its antique roses. With high hope, I planted it near my front door. Then in spring of that year, I saw it blooming exuberantly in Brooks, Oregon, where Father Schoener had once lived and where a rose garden had been newly founded in his name.

In spring and summer of both 2016 and 2017, having climbed to six and a half feet, it did not disappoint me, offering the same lovely, large blooms I had seen before. In November of that year Gregg Lowery, having lost the one in the Vintage Rose Collection, asked me for cuttings from which to garner budwood, and so 'Arrillaga' will continue to tender its beauty through the years. This year 'Arrillaga' has continued its exuberant growth.

The rose was named in memory of Alta California's first governor, Jose Joaquin de Arrillaga. A Basque, he was born in Spain in 1750. By 1784 he had become Lt. Governor of Las Californias. He was appointed the seventh governor of the two Californias from 1792 to 1794, then served as the tenth governor from 1800 to 1804. When the two Californias were separated into Baja and Alta in 1804, he became (Alta) California's first governor, holding that post for ten years until he died. It was Arrillaga who permitted Padre Tápis to build Mission Santa Inés (now Santa Ynez). He died at Mission Soledad in 1814 where he lies buried. The rose does him justice. ■

left: Memorial Altar at Rosalia (photo by Ava Rose Killbourn); above: A young celebrant (photo by Sarah Tolson)

Rosalia—A Perspective

Alice Flores

I first met Gregg Lowery in 1991 at a conference that he and Virginia Hopper had organized in Santa Rosa, CA. I was immediately impressed by his depth of knowledge about roses as well as being charmed by his easy-going personality and open nature. Since that fortuitous meeting, I have been honored to continue a relationship with him as a colleague and a friend. Over the nearly 30 years we have interacted, I have exchanged roses and information with him regularly, as well as purchased roses from his former nursery Vintage

Rosalia celabrators Pamela and Michael Temple (photo by Andrea Donahue)

Gardens, and I have enjoyed his generosity, good humor, and willingness to share his ever-increasing encyclopedic knowledge about roses.

A few years ago Gregg realized that his days running a large mail-order nursery were numbered. As he considered closing his business, the question of the fate of his now-enormous and eclectic rose collection loomed. The collection is probably the largest, and most wide-ranging, in the country, and Gregg wasn't the only one concerned about its survival. He received some support from individual donors and rose organizations—enough to keep his head above water as he sought some permanent solutions. Some parts of the collection were "farmed out," often by class, to other rosarians with space to foster them. Ramblers found a home in the sprawling hillside gardens of Pamela Temple. Sherri Berglund and Daniel Nauman took on many of the Pernetianas, and so on. Eventually a core group of rose lovers and friends of Gregg formed a non-profit called The Friends of Vintage Roses with the goal of finding creative ways of preserving this treasured collection.

A dedicated part of this core group (particularly those living fairly near the gardens in Sebastopol) committed themselves to regular Dirt Days which they spent in such prosaic tasks as weeding, feeding, pruning, and general maintenance. Eventually, they began to learn propagation techniques, and some of the rarities in the collection could then be preserved and find homes in more gardens. However, the difficulties in maintaining an online or mail-order distribution service were more than these volunteers could take on. Fortunately, a few venues existed in Northern California where TFoVR could sell some of their young plants. The Celebration of Old Roses offered one outlet, and Gregg teamed up with the Heritage Roses Group to distribute some of his group's efforts at the National Heirloom Expo. It became clear that one good way to fund the ongoing needs

above: Part of Memorial Altar; below: Main hall floral display (photos by S. Tolson)

top: Selling Rosalia roses in the rain; above: Tallest rose bouquet at Rosalia (photos by S. Tolson)

of the collection would be to propagate and sell.

Thus, the concept of Rosalia was born. Gregg was inspired by his team's research about ancient Roman festivals held in the spring, and featuring roses in many aspects. One part of the festivities involved memorializing departed loved ones with altars featuring roses and memorabilia. The festivals also took on a Bacchic quality over the years and created a pretext for much celebration, revelry, along with introspection. The idea of a rose festival grew as Gregg discussed it with friends and colleagues, and it began to take shape as a way to showcase roses, memorialize beloved rose mentors, gather rosarians together for discussion and celebration, and also to offer sales of roses (and companion plants) from the collection as well as from other growers. Excitement grew and plans were laid.

A spacious hall was provided in Gregg's hometown of Sebastopol. The date was set for mid-May, when roses would be at their peak and the decorations were envisioned as lavish. The event was announced well in advance and various organizations and individuals agreed to tend information tables and help with the ambitious set up. I spoke with Pam Temple and Gregg two weeks before the big day and discussed last-minute details. Then … Mother Nature spoke.

A few days before Rosalia, California was struck by an unprecedented May storm. An "Atmospheric River" flowed powerfully across the state bringing heavy rains, high winds, hail and snow to the mountains, flooding and mudslides affecting many roadways. It continued for days, one wave after another, with predictions of it lasting through the weekend. Roses suffered serious damage everywhere and several planned "picking parties" were canceled as a result. There were some moments of serious dismay as the planners reconnoitered and made some last-minute decisions. Luckily, a few gardens in Marin and Sonoma County had roses that survived the rains, and people like Theresa Doss came with offerings on the Friday before the event. Pamela and Michael Temple plundered their gardens and found buckets of blooms that were in useable condition. Gregg did the same. People began gathering on Friday to festoon the hall with garlands and bouquets. The hanging chandeliers shaped like wagon wheels in the western-décor hall were transformed into rose wreaths. It began to come together!

Rosalia altar (photo by S. Tolson)

If there is such a thing as karma, then Gregg Lowery's is pretty good. That Saturday in Sebastopol his chickens came home to roost, so to speak. Rosarians descended on the little town to participate in fulfilling his visions of Rosalia. They came from Southern California (Jeri and Clay Jennings, Kim Rupert, Burling Leong), the East Coast (Cydney Wade and Connie Hilker), Santa Cruz, the Bay Area, the Central Valley, Oregon. They helped set up long tables filled with books and art work for sale to benefit the Friends. They gathered to enjoy talks, ask questions, share knowledge, and (as my granddaughter put it) geek out. And they bought roses. They braved an all-day incessant downpour to peruse outdoor tables of interesting roses and other plants. It was a great gathering. The altar honoring some of our past mentors was beautiful, with six arrangements of roses and memorabilia displayed along one side of the room. I was pleased that Gregg asked me to create a presentation for Joyce Demits; that task gave me the opportunity to go through her old catalogues, some of her papers and photos, and remember long days in her garden. The entire table evoked poignant reminders of colleagues and friends. Seeing Barbara Oliva's hat, Miriam Wilkins' namesake rose, a bouquet in one of Barbara Worl's vases, the rose created to honor Mel Hulse by Paul Barden — these displays brought both smiles and sighs.

The socializing was also epic. Friends I hadn't seen for a while stopped at the HRG table to talk and catch up. Folks from the Sacramento City Cemetery tended a table anchored by Judy Eitzen and Anita Clevenger. Darrell Schramm was selling copies of his book "Rainbow" to benefit TFoVR. The Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery crew was there. Jill Perry had a table for the San Jose Heritage Rose Gardens and displayed several beautiful roses that had "volunteered" in that rich environment. Even my granddaughter, Ava Rose, drove up from the Bay Area in dismal conditions to share one more rose event with me.

Ava has been attending rose gatherings since she was four years old, knows many of my associates, and this will be the last of these spring events for her as she heads off to college next year. The Friends were there in force, Linda Perry, Pamela Temple Sue Bunte, the Temples. Michael filled the air with boisterous greetings and jokes as he carried buckets, set up tables and chairs, and pitched in where needed, while Pamela spent hours (some of them outside on a decidedly dank back porch) making rose crowns for all who wanted them.

At the end of the day, the bouquets were sold—in the vases that held them. Some beautiful, donated vases found delighted new owners who left thrilled with their lovely arrangements. The weather didn't dampen the spirits of the participants. Everyone pitched in at the end to clear the hall in a flurry of happy activity and camaraderie. I believe I can sum up the whole experience succinctly: It rained. A good time was had by all. ■

Gregg Lowery speaking at BAHA in August, 2019 (photo by L. Perry)

Roses and Architecture

Linda Perry

Returning to the scene of a very successful rose pruning demonstration last January, Gregg Lowery was once again invited by the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association (BAHA) to speak to their members about rose care and history, with particular focus on a mutual interest in preservation. Speaking in the lovely garden of a Victorian landmark, on Sunday, August 4, 2019, Gregg made a point of tying the mission of The Friends of Vintage Roses to that of his hosts. Gregg noted how both the design of a building and the creation of a rose cultivar gave irreplaceable insights into the lives and esthetics of those who are no longer here to remind us. He described the history of the rose in cultivation and then led the group on a practical tour of the garden's roses, describing best care practices and finally, how to successfully propagate at home. An interest in historic architecture and heirloom roses is such a happy and natural combination; we hope to continue our connection with BAHA on future occasions. ■

SOURCES FOR BUYING HEIRLOOM ROSES

Amity Heritage Roses: AmityHeritageRoses.com

Angel Gardens: angelgardens.com

Antique Rose Emporium: antiqueroseemporium.com

Burlington Rose Nursery: burlingtonroses.com

David Austin Roses Limited (USA): davidaustin.com/american

Greenmantle Nursery: greenmantlenursery.com

Heirloom Roses: heirloomroses.com

High Country Roses: highcountryroses.com

Hummingbird Roses: hummingbirdroses.com

A Reverence for Roses: areverenceforroses.com

Rogue Valley Roses: roguevalleyroses.com

Rose Petals Nursery: rosepetalsnursery.com

Roses Unlimited: rosesunlimitedsc.com

Waterwise Botanicals: waterwisebotanicals.com

Sacramento Historic City Cemetery Rose Garden: at its early April event; cemeteryrose.org

Celebration of Old Roses: its May event, week after Mother's Day; celebrationofoldroses.com

National Heirloom Expo: Santa Rosa fairgrounds; early September

Calf. Coastal Rose Society Annual Rare & Unusual Rose Auction: October; savetheroses.com

Above: Rosa multiflora (photo by D. Schramm); right: 'Paquerette' (photo by Judy Eitzen); far right: 'Mignonette' (photo by D. Schramm)

Bouquet on a Bush: The Polyanthas

Darrell g.h. Schramm

One of its original parents is *Rosa multiflora,* a rose with trusses of very small, white (but sometimes pink), scented flowers on wiry branches of seven to nine leaflets, a telltale trait being its laciniate stipules. The single form of *R. multiflora* was introduced to Europe in 1784 by botanist Thunberg, the double form to England in 1804 by Thomas Evans, the single again (*alba simplex*) to France in 1824 by Flon, and another by Robert Fortune in 1865, which seems to have been the same as that of Thunberg. The other parent was thought to be a *R. chinensis,* but emerging studies suggest its rebloom quality may be the result of a mutation, not a parent. I am referring to the Polyantha class of roses.

Polyanthas serve small gardens and small spaces well because they are generally low, compact, and lush with flowers, virtual bouquets on a bush. And they require little labor: dead-heading is more important than early spring pruning. Later, in the 1930s, by crossing them with Hybrid Teas, they created the class of Floribundas.

The first Polyantha was bred by Jean-Baptiste André Guillot *fils* in 1872, sent out in 1875, which he named 'Paquerette'. This ground-hugging plant of white daisy-like roses (*Paquerette* means daisy) remains in commerce. 'Paquerette' was followed by 'Mignonette'. In 1876, the French gardener Carriere christened

above: 'Anne Marie de Montravel' (photo by Cliff Orent); right: 'Mlle Cecile Brunner' (photo by D. Schramm)

Guillot's new form of roses Polyanthas.

'Mignonette', of a soft rose color fading quickly to white, was bred between 1875 and 1880, then offered to commerce in 1881. The tiny double flowers cluster on a compact bush less than two feet high. Translated, its name means "little cutey" or "little sweety." It, too, is still available.

Bred and introduced between 'Paquerette' and 'Mignonette' was the world's second Polyantha, 'Anne Marie de Montravel'. A very double, ivory white rose, it blooms in profuse clusters, both large and small, offering a Lily-of-the-Valley scent. Very few prickles adorn the stems of this somewhat sprawling but dense plant. It was bred by Philippe Rambaux in 1876 and introduced by his widow in 1879. Unlike several other Polyanthas, it has never produced a sport.

Who Anne Marie de Montravel was is guesswork. If we look at only a few of her contemporaries, she may have been related to a Captain de Montravel of a warship in the Crimean War; she may have been related to the French admiral, explorer, and colonial administrator of French Guiana Louis-Marie François de Montravel who died in 1864; she may have been related to the viscount Antoine Jean Louis de Montravel, a writer, archeologist and botanist who died in 1910.

Certainly she had familial connections to the de Montravel wine makers of southwestern France.

'Mlle Cecile Brunner' in 1881 was the fourth Polyantha to be produced, this one containing a Tea rose in its parentage. Having come out as a rather thornless bush form of three to four feet, it has provided at least three sports to the rose industry. Its tall young canes display a dark green-purple color while the small, scrolled flowers wear the palest of pink. It can become a tall bush

if not pruned. For more than 130 years, it has remained the second most popular of Polyanthas, especially in its climbing form. The name honors the sister of Ulrich Brunner *fils*, for whom an extant, cerise Hybrid Perpetual was named.

'Perle d'Or' (photo by D. Schramm)

Among the many other Polyanthas—'Baby Alberic', 'Chatillon Rose', 'China Doll', 'Echo', 'Ellen Poulsen', 'Lady Ann Kidwell', 'Leonie Lamesch', 'Marie Brissonet', 'Papa Hemeray', 'Topaz', etc.—five more will round out this teaser of an article.

In 1883 F. Dubreuil introduced P. Rambaux's seedling of 1875, a fragrant, yellow rose, much like 'Cecile Brunner' but more vigorous and leafy, reaching measurements of eight by eight feet in warm climates, good for draping over an unsightly shed. The flowers, yellow tinged with pink, its central petals quite narrow, grow more numerous and larger than those of the previous four Polyanthas and emit a light fragrance. The leaves are glossy and small. Dubreuil called the rose 'Perle d'Or'—pearl of gold. Both 'Cecile Brunner' and 'Perle d'Or' have been designated Earth Kind roses, roses able to endure—with little loss of vigor—fierce southwestern climates in the U.S. and showing "superior pest tolerance" and "outstanding landscape performance."

'Marie Pavie', called 'Marie Pavic' in *Journal des Roses* in 1888, the year it was launched, is a strong fragrant, profuse, and elegant

'Baptiste Lafaye' (photo by D. Schramm)

plant. The double roses show off their innocent whiteness on a rounded mound two to three feet high with such perfection that in times past the rose was often planted on the gravesite of a child. Large as Polyantha flowers go, the blossoms decorate nearly thornless stems. Like the previous two roses, 'Marie Pavie' also carries the Earth Kind designation.

The name Pavic, if it is the original name of the rose, can be found in Bosnia, Croatia, Montenegro, and Serbia. Yet the real Marie, assuming it was a woman, remains a lady of mystery. On the other hand, Auguste Jean-Marie Pavie (1847-1929) was a French diplomat and explorer, instrumental in bringing Laos under French control. He wrote a book, *Mission Pavie: Indochine 1879-1895*. Although Marie Pavic/Pavie is a rose seldom acknowledged by modern writers of roses, Alphonse Alégatière, the breeder, clearly meant to memorialize this spectacular, lovely Polyantha. It is not a rose that disappoints.

Named for a horticulturist from Gironde, France, 'Baptiste Lafaye' is a healthy plant whose flowers from a distance can appear rather blue but on closer proximity reveal themselves as vibrant purplish pink or deep lilac. Bred by Puyravaud in 1910, its yellow-green foliage display the flowers dramatically. The rounded bush grows about

thirty inches high. In my garden it snuggles beside a sunny bench, offset with deep orange daylilies. A rare Polyantha, it's worth growing, nestled into a small space for a bouquet effect.

'La Marne' (photo by D. Schramm)

The Battle of the Marne, for which a 1915 rose was named, was an Allied victory during WWI that saved Paris. Fought from September 5th to the 12th in 1914, during which Marechal Foch was instrumental and for whom another Polyantha was named (no longer available), the battle drove the Germans to retreat to a place north of the Aisne River. The conflict left 67,700 Germans, 80,000 Frenchmen, and 1,700 Englishmen dead. While the body count may not suggest a victory, German General von Moltke suffered a mental breakdown on the 9th and supposedly reported to the Kaiser, "We have lost the war." Unfortunately, both sides dug themselves in behind trenches and a virtual stalemate ensued until 1918.

The rose is 'La Marne'. Bred by Barbier, it exhibits pink ruffled petals that glow from the center, flowers massed in loose clusters. For a Polyantha, it can become quite tall. It, too, has earned the Earth Kind designation.

'Baby Faurax' is a fragrant Polyantha marketed in 1924. A dark violet-mauve with a white center, the flowers are clustered, according to Gregg Lowery, "like ripe purple grapes." Depending upon the weather and the iron content in the soil, the flowers can appear steel

'Baby Faurax' (photo by Kim Rupert)

blue or amethyst, or dark lavender. Prickles arm its little branches. Bred by Joseph Faurax-Lille and growing no more than fifteen inches high, 'Baby Faurax' is the dwarf of Polyanthas. Joseph Faurax had married Jeanne Lille in 1917 and, no doubt, like Joseph Pernet-Ducher, added his wife's surname to his own. The rose seems to be named for one of their two children.

'The Fairy' is not just the most popular of Polyanthas but also, as rose authority Jim Delahanty claimed in 2012, "one of the most popular roses in the world." Although it was introduced in 1932, it wasn't until WWII that it was significantly noticed by nurserymen and the gardening public. Bred by Anne Bentall using the Wichurana rambler 'Lady Gay' as a parent, it bears the telltale glossy foliage of its parentage. Blooming until November, even December, the small double flowers array themselves in shell pink. Lightly

'The Fairy' (photo by Kim Rupert)

fragrant, they grow on a somewhat prickly, dense and spreading bush of two to four feet high and as wide—good for borders and hedges only a fairy might wriggle through.

Like the other four roses mentioned, "The Fairy' also has received Earth Kind status. That five Polyanthas (and 'Marie Daly' is another) out of the small list of 21 roses are considered Earth Kind roses should surely prompt rose lovers to acquire plants from this class—if not also for their prolific bouquets of beauty. ■

Curator's Report—December 2019

Gregg Lowery

As I look back on all the Friends have accomplished this year, I am very proud. For eight years we have struggled to keep alive a huge collection of rose plants. At times it has seemed as though we fought a losing battle—many parts of the original garden that housed these roses are no longer recognizable as garden. Hundreds of roses survive, but hundreds have been lost.

Most of the potted roses are now thriving. We focus on duplicating the collection and passing sections of it into the hands of others to preserve. We revive mother plants in pots with a soil-replacement effort aimed to get them viable to plant. With a community of curators managing smaller pieces of the whole we are succeeding in our mission. We aim now to revive mother plants in the garden in Sebastopol. Read more about our co-curators in the pages following.

2019: A TURNING POINT FOR THE FRIENDS OF VINTAGE ROSES

We have succeeded thanks to donors who ensure that we have the minimal support of hired workers and materials like mulch and water. A year ago we set a goal of raising $45,000—our objective; to halt the loss of rare roses. In one year we raised $44,000. Donations accounted for 45%. The work of volunteers earned us 55% of what we brought in, through plant and book sales. Thanks to volunteers we can today say to our donors,

'We matched your gifts!
We ask your support in continuing our work.'

ABOUT OUR WORK IN 2019

We share our checklist of Events and Accomplishments

- ✔ Pot collection re-potted with fresh soil & compost (only 10% remain to rescue!)
- ✔ Old Rose garden weeded, mulched, inventoried and labeled
- ✔ Mother plants in pots inventoried & labeled (only 15% remain to do)
- ✔ Obtained non-profit software & trained volunteers to manage rose database
- ✔ Mounted 'Rosalia: an Ancient Rose Festival' to share old roses with everyone
- ✔ Propagated, maintained and sold rose plants at Rosalia and the National Heirloom Expo
- ✔ Volunteers developed reusable, recyclable information labels for roses.
- ✔ 2000 new cuttings raised for sale for 2020
- ✔ 3000 mother plant roses maintained by volunteer and paid workers
- ✔ 350 Floribunda mother plants bare-rooted by volunteers for shipping to Florida

WHAT'S UP IN 2020 (CHECK OUR EVENTS PAGE ON THE WEB FOR DETAILS)

- ✔ **LATE JAN/EARLY FEB:** Rose gathering at Wischemann Hall, Sebastopol—Pruning demo, Rose history presentation by our curator, pot luck lunch.
- ✔ **MID- LATE FEB:** Label and load 400 Hybrid Tea mother plants for CCRS adoption
- ✔ **MAY 9:** Sale & Tour, Santa Rosa, CA Rare rose sale & Tour of Feichtmeir garden
- ✔ **MAY 17:** Celebration of Old Roses, Albany CA Rare rose sale
- ✔ **LATE MAY/EARLY JUNE:** Rambler photography day, Red Rose Ridge, Willits CA
- ✔ **MARCH THRU NOV:** Dirt Days at the Garden—propagation of plants for 2021 sales—Year of preparation for budding roses begins with rooting of virus free root stocks
- ✔ **EARLY SEPTEMBER:** ?Heirloom Expo display and sale?

above left: a Dirt Days crew; top: Gregg Lowery demonstrating proper cleaning of pruning shears; above: Judith Ashley making the cut

right: 'Marie Brissonet' (photo by D. Schramm)

MODERN SHRUB ROSES SHARE THEIR SPACE WITH POLYANTHAS ROSES

This year Susan Feichtmeir will take our Polyanthas rose collection to plant together with the Modern Shrub Rose collection she has created a large new space for in her Santa Rosa garden. Susan's garden will be on a special tour to benefit the Friends May 9th, 2020. The Friends will have a large rose sale that day at the entrance to the ranch.

MORE HYBRID TEAS FROM THE VINTAGE ROSES COLLECTION WILL TRAVEL TO SAN DIEGO COUNTY IN FEBRUARY

John Bagnasco and the California Coastal Rose Society will transport several hundred or our Hybrid Tea roses to Fallbrook near San Diego, as they rebuild and maintain our original collection and share the propagation material with many others. No doubt many of these rare old varieties will find their way into the CCRS Rare Rose Auction in years to come.

THE JOYS OF ROSE FOSTERING

'Cymbaline', one of Austin's great older varieties

It has been years now since I welcomed The Friends of Vintage's Rambler collection to my garden. Caring for them and preserving their legacy has brought meaning and purpose to my garden. It has been fascinating to watch them mature and become familiar with a very interesting group of roses. I am hoping to see our volunteers in late May when we plan to document the Ramblers with photos.

Recently I have become one of two curators of the English Rose collection. The early creations of David Austin—the core of the Friends' collection—have become rare now. They are roses of great character that deserve to be cared for and not lost to time. Some have already been lost and I hope to find replacements. I pledge to do my best by these beauties. They will be an elegant addition to my garden.

—Pamela Temple

AT THE NATIONAL HEIRLOOM EXPO THE FRIENDS OFFERED AN EXCITING DISPLAY AND VERY RARE OLD ROSES TO PURCHASE.

The Ninth Annual National Heirloom Exposition, the "'World's Fair' of the heirloom industry" was held in Santa Rosa, on September 10, 11, and 12, 2019. As we have before, The Friends of Vintage Roses joined the Heritage Roses Group to create booths offering education and advice about the roses we love. The display was a rosy tour de force. We brought plants to sell, to support our conservation efforts. The many pots of rare, old roses sold contributed their own information with all their colorful labels telling each plant's story. A fine band of volunteers helped pull everything together, guided interested folks through the exhibits and purchases and finally, put everything away until next chance to make some new rose friends.

It's not too early to think about volunteering to come help us at next year's festival, a fascinating world of heirloom plants and seeds, music and food. It will be another great chance to get involved in the fragrant world of old roses with the Friends. We'd love to have your company!

Julia Macdonald, Joan Olson & Justin Klenow

left: Sibyl Bugarin and husband Ross Radrup at the Nationals Heirloom Expo; below: a plethora of squash

BAREROOTING 350 FLORIBUNDAS TO SHIP TO FLORIDA

Sue Bunte has moved the collection of Floribundas to Rose Petals Nursery in North Florida where Cyd and Art Wade will care for them short term, and put them into commerce through their nursery. In November over two weekends volunteers gathered in Carneros to help Floribunda curator Sue Bunte to bare-root 350 plus plants.

above: the Floribunda crew; left: Dirt Days volunteer Kristina Osborn

above: Rosalia volunteers Jennifer McClendon, Darrell Schramm, and Julia Macdonald; right: Dirt Days volunteer Tim Perry

HOW AND WHERE YOU CAN GIVE TO PRESERVE THE ROSES

—On our website at www.thefriendsofvintageroses.org/donate

—Join our Crowd Fund for 2020 which we'll announce on our Facebook page after Christmas and in an email directly to you.

—On Facebook in January, watch for our special postings each week.

—To give 100% of your gift to the roses. Send checks to The Friends of Vintage Roses, 3003 Pleasant Hill Rd., Sebastopol, CA.

—Email us if you need any assistance with your donation: info@thefriendsofvintageroses.org

The Mysterious Erlkönig

'Erlkönig' (photo by P. Temple)

Pamela Temple

Among the many Ramblers that we received from Anne Belovich as additons to our collection, a number of roses were imports we had never heard of or seen growing. Watching them mature has been fascinating. One of the loveliest is 'Erlkönig'. It is a Geschwind Multiflora Rambler. Unfortunately, most of these Geschwind roses are suspected of being mislabeled. We must accept it for what it is named in commerce, supposedly introduced pre-1884. Under any name it is a beautiful climber with deep pink blooms borne in profusion in the spring.

I have wondered about the name, what it could mean and was surprised one day listening to my favorite classical music station playing a piece by Franz Schubert entitled "Erlkönig". It is a composition related to a poem by Goethe. The story is unfortunately dark and disturbing. It concerns a child riding home with his father who is assailed by a supernatural being, Erlkönig, the Fairy King. The father tries to assuage his fears and tells him he is hallucinating, but in the end, before they reach home, the child dies. Such a name for a rose. I am hoping that the name Fairy King was seen as something more pleasant to the breeder. ■

THE FRIENDS' COMMUNITY OF CURATORS

JOIN US IN PRESERVING A SINGLE ROSE OR A COLLECTION

The Friends have a plan to share the wealth . . . and a bit of the responsibility, with individuals.

We offer roses for volunteers to take home and adopt, permanently, on Dirt Days. These are roses currently in pots at our garden site in Sebastopol. At any Dirt Day volunteers may take home a rose to revive and bring back to beauty. 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.

We work with individuals and entities to duplicate and preserve larger collections, like Hybrid Tea roses. Each of these larger collections we hope to see placed in the hands of at least two curators.

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 and with other curators, so that we can all continue to help preserve that variety.

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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Pamela Temple, Rambler and Austin Rose Curator

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