# THE Vintage rose

Summer 2023, Issue 31

THE FRIENDS OF VINTAGE ROSES

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**NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF VINTAGE ROSES**
*Summer 2023, Issue 31*

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## FROM THE EDITOR

Gardens with roses don't just come and go. To create a garden takes time and trust, vigor and vision, and to maintain it takes effort and energy. And sometimes obsession. Yet in the end, a garden may not be in our final control—it can be gone in a day due to wildfire or flood (as you'll read about), or gone gradually when, in passing, we have surrendered our mastery of it. Yet while our vitality and vim remain, the garden can bring us joy, and for many of us it "keeps us going;" it imbues us with life. Like our past issues of the last few years, this issue of *The Vintage Rose* looks at gardens with roses, but the two here are more recent gardens that speak to hope, resolve and dream. But dream and determination are also true of those who have opened a nursery, as the Wades have here and as Louis-Xavier Granger, a nurseryman rather forgotten, did in the 19th century.

The love of roses keeps us going, and we keep roses going by our love and sharing of them. Do read on.

# 'Mme D'Arblay'

*'Mme D'Arblay' (photo by Les Johnson)*

*Darrell g.h. Schramm*

Before she became Mme D'Arblay, she was Fanny Burney, author of the novel *Evelina*. In 1793, she counted as friends the painter Sir Joshua Reynolds and lexicographer and critic Samuel Johnson, both of whom extolled her first novel. Reynolds praised her dialogue especially. Edmund Burke also spoke highly of it. And dramatist

Richard Sheridan (*The School for Scandal*) praised her book to her face and urged her to write for the stage, a task she unfortunately undertook to no success. When her second novel, *Cecilia*, was published, the honorable Edmund Burke wrote that those who read it would "find themselves better informed concerning human nature."

She could be quite obstinate. Once she had made a decision, no carriage-and-four could drag her from it. Apparently she was more virtuous than a nun. She also knew Countess de Genlis (1746–1830) whom she refused to believe did not lead an impeccable life.

In 1784, she sat at Samuel Johnson's deathbed.

In 1785 even the king and queen prevailed upon her to continue writing. Indeed, they remained loyal acquaintances for life. For five years she had been Queen Charlotte's Lady-in-Waiting..

When it was decided that her third novel, *Camilla*, was to be published by subscription, the then unknown Jane Austen subscribed to it. It has been said that Austen was influenced by the novels of Fanny Burney.

She married a Frenchman in 1793, a general who had fled the French Revolution.

In 1811, while they lived in Paris, Mme D'Arblay developed breast cancer. She chose to have the cancer removed; it was done without any anesthesia, a horrific 20 minute ordeal.

General D'Arblay died in 1818. Their only child, a son, died as a young man in 1837. Mme D'Arblay died January 6, 1840. ■

*'Butterscotch Climber' (photo by B. Hana)*

# Rose Story

*Beth Hana*

I've been growing roses for over 30 years. My obsession started when we lived in a mobile home park after my husband got out of the Navy in 1989. I became obsessed with collecting all sorts of roses. My favorites being the striped ones and what I call the

"oddball" roses—the browns, tans, greys, greens, and mixes of odd color combinations. By the time we were able to buy our own home and move out of the mobile home park in 1999, I had accumulated over 800 roses. They were all in pots, and it took many truckloads to get them to our new home.

*'Souvenir de Mme Leonie Viennot' (photo by D. Schramm)*

We moved to the town of Paradise, a little (formerly retirement) community nestled in the lower Sierra Nevada Mountains in Northern California. We got a corner lot with 1/3 acre that was very sloped. Over the years I collected hundreds of more roses from many places. I sort of made it my quest to find as many rare or unusual ones as I could. It took a few years to get most of them planted in the ground. I had nice color-themed beds all over the property, with a few areas with roses in fancy decorative pots. I had my all-time favorite rose, 'Butterscotch Climber' at the end of our front porch, climbing up the post. That bed was full of many of my favorite oddball roses like 'Julia's Rose', 'Spiced Coffee, 'Grey Dawn', 'Grey Pearl', 'Smoky', etc. In the backyard, I had a big aluminum pergola with hummingbird feeders hanging and roses all around it in beautiful ceramic pots. The corner posts had climbers going up and over like 'Chocolate Sundae', 'Salita', 'Night Light' and 'Souvenir de Mme Leonie Viennot'. The garden was looking really beautiful.

After over a decade, I began to get overwhelmed taking care of all the roses. I was working two jobs and helping take care of my elderly mom. I barely got the roses watered. I didn't check sprinklers like I should've, and many had been failing for months. I lost a lot of roses, many irreplaceable. The weeds, underplantings and native wild blackberries were taking over many of the beds. There also was a huge area engulfed by Bermuda grass. After I lost one of my jobs, and my mom passed away, it took a couple years for me to really feel like getting back into seriously taking care of the roses. And after losing so many to neglect, I decided I was going to start trying to propagate the rarest ones so I couldn't lose any more. I also started trying to root florist roses. Didn't have much luck at it though I did manage to root 'Versilia', 'Cherry Brandy' and 'Gelato' out of the dozens that I tried. In the meantime, my husband and I started the horrible task of trying to clean out the beds. Things were just getting good, and the yard was looking beautiful again, when along came the Camp Fire, the most deadly fire in California's recorded history.

It was November 8, 2018. The worst day of our lives. We were expecting extremely high winds, and the power was supposedly going to be shut down to prevent more fires, but so many

*left: after the fire; below: 'Rev. F. Page-Roberts'; right: 'Rusty' (photos by B. Hana)*

people complained that the power company decided not to do it. The fire started early that morning from an ill-maintained piece of equipment a couple of ridges away. The winds were picking up and the fire quickly jumped the canyons and sped up to Paradise. It was the "perfect storm" and there was no stopping it. It came in so fast and so hot that it literally vaporized almost anything in its path. Everybody fled out through massive smoke and flames, many thinking they were driving to their deaths, including myself and our younger son. Almost 80 people did die. The town was pretty much wiped off the map in just a few hours. Only about 10% of the homes and structures remained. After the fire was over, the town was deemed too toxic for us to return, plus the fact they were still looking for human remains. We weren't allowed back in to assess damage for about a month.

When we went back and saw the sheer devastation, it was shocking and heart-breaking. Our home and all our belongings were all gone. Oddly though, the house across the side road was untouched. There wasn't a speck of green on the property. All my approximately 1800 roses were torched to the ground. A handful of them were just charred twigs, but most were basically non-existent. It wasn't until a couple of months later that we found many were coming back. We decided we couldn't move back, as the town would never be the same again, and there was too much crime happening.

We settled on a location farther Northwest, about 45 minutes away. It was a point almost halfway between my husband's job in Chico and Red Bluff, where our older son and his family ended up. Los Molinos is located right in the valley on the corridor of Highway 99. The soil is supposedly the best in the state, and there are walnut and plum orchards all around the area. We found a nice semi-secluded nearly-three acre piece of property that has a dying walnut orchard. Lots of land to plant lots of roses on.

We spent over six months driving back and forth, digging up the surviving roses—'Rev. F. Page-Roberts' is one—and bringing them to our new location. We ended up saving around 800 out of the original 1800. It took a couple of years to ID many of them, and weed out the ones that ended up being rootstock. I lost so many

*left: the new garden;*
*above: 'Almondeen'; right: 'Quicksand'*
*(photos by B. Hana)*

wonderful roses like another oddball favorite, 'Rusty', which I haven't been able to replace, and others like 'Jessika', 'Fascination', 'Country Lady' and 'Modern Magic'. Two roses, 'Soutine' and 'Pacific Blue' appeared to have gotten dug out completely from the cleanup crews driving over the property. Thankfully though, there were many survivors—'Roedean', 'Zebra', 'Wanguafong', 'Freedom's Ring', etc., all very rare striped roses.

After four years since the fire, I am currently back up to over 1600 roses! I've added many more, trying to replace some I've lost and adding new ones. With the help of several "rose friends" I've been able to replace 'Almondeen', 'Kaleidoscope' and 'Terracotta', among others. So far we've only gotten a few dozen roses planted in the ground. We are both now retired, and have some medical issues. And adapting to the intense summer heat hasn't been easy. I may never get all the roses in the ground. Right now it looks more like a rose nursery! The area I have gotten planted so far is really interesting. It goes along the back of our house doing a sort of color fade, from orange to red, to dark pinks to medium pinks, light pinks and ending with peachy-apricot. Some include 'Veldfire', 'Cancun', 'Peggy Rockefeller', 'Miranda Lambert', 'Bridal Pink', 'Francis Meilland' and 'Cupid's Charm'. They love the soil and are growing much better than they ever did in Paradise. I'm currently working on planning a David Austin bed or two next.

Our back yard looks like a rose nursery, with hundreds of pots in rows and sections. We have found we have to put up shadecloth from May through nearly October, due to the intense triple-digit temperatures. I lost quite a few the last couple of years because of the heat. With time, I hope to get more rose beds designed and planted. But for now, just keeping them thriving and enjoying their beauty keeps me going. In the meantime, I am propagating roses from trades with "Rose Friends" as well as rooting florist roses. I finally came up with a pretty good method to get them to root. I'm having fun with it, and of course always adding to my collection. I'm anxious to see some blooms on the florist roses I rooted last year, like 'Quicksand', 'Violet' 'Cezanne', 'Cherry Brandy' and 'Early Grey'. I'm also awaiting blooms on new roses I've ordered this year. The obsession never ends. ■

# New Sonoma County Garden

*Trang Bui*

*left: path to rosebed; above: 'Connie's Sandstorm'; right: Devoniensis (photos by T. Bui)*

I've loved roses since I was a young girl growing up in San Jose, CA. Our family moved to San Jose when I was ten, and shortly after settling into our new home, my parents planted five rose bushes they purchased from a local hardware store, in a single row along the driveway. I never knew the names of the roses, and I'm pretty sure my parents didn't bother to learn them, much less label them when they transplanted them into the ground, but they were my first introduction to roses. And I was hooked, hooked by their pointy buds, their elegant flowers and color and their fragrance. They were red, pink, yellow, coral and white and magnificent.

It was during a search for a Hybrid Tea some thirty years later that I met Jill Perry, the curator of the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden. By then, I had long moved out of my parents' home in San Jose; in fact, I got married, had kids, and moved to a five-acre property in Sebastopol in Sonoma County when our kids went away to school. I wanted a rose garden and now I had a lot of space to grow as many as I wanted. I emailed Jill asking for information on acquiring 'Oyster Pearl', a beautiful, iridescent pink rose by Ludwig that was seemingly unavailable anywhere. At the time, the San Jose Heritage occasionally held nursery sales and I wanted to know if 'Oyster Pearl' would ever be sold. She replied that she would notify me of future sales and that the garden could use more volunteers to make projects like nursery sales possible.

*left to right: 'Rosette Delizy (photo by B. Hana); 'James Galway'; 'Sugar Moon' (photos by T. Bui)*

Since then, I've become a regular volunteer at the rose garden, which I've come to appreciate as one of the most important public spaces in San Jose. The Heritage Rose Garden exposed me to roses of the past, and I've enjoyed learning about their history and diaspora, and these old garden roses' impact on our culture. I am still searching for 'Oyster Pearl', but I've become more passionate about finding Old Garden Roses to preserve.

Over the last several years, I've acquired over 500 roses, and many of the oldest cultivars in my garden were obtained from The Friends of Vintage Roses in Sebastopol. As of this writing, I have about 300 of my roses in the ground, organized by class and color. I planted my Hybrid Teas and Floribundas first in rows to optimize pruning in the winter. As you enter my rose garden from the front gate, the first roses lining the path are my red HT's including 'Black Cherry', 'Ingrid Bergman', 'Isabella Rosellini', 'Rouge Royale', followed by the russets or coffee-colored oddballs: ' Hot Chocolate'. 'Hot Cocoa', 'Black Tea', 'Coffee Country,' 'Cafe Ole' and 'Cafe Latte'. The apricot and lavender Hybrid Teas and Floribundas come next: 'Oceana', 'Just Joey' and 'Abbaye de Cluny' to 'Rosette Delizy', 'Koko Loko', 'Lagerfeld', 'Julia's Rose' and 'Connie's Sandstorm'. Further down the path, the David Austin roses are grown in rows in a circle. I took care to plant the DA roses according to each variety's expected height at maturity, with the tallest roses grown as climbers in the back: 'Bathsheba', 'James Galway' and 'Wollerton Old Hall'.

My white Hybrid Teas, which include 'Madame Anisette', 'Classic Woman' and 'Sugar Moon', are planted in a moon garden with white irises and silvery Dusty Miller meant to reflect the light of the moon. And my pink roses, which make up 75% of my collection, occupy a large open space in the easternmost corner of the existing apple orchard, at least those that are in the ground. Most of the pink roses are still in pots waiting to be put into the ground.

The Old Garden Roses are planted throughout the property as companion or understory plants for larger trees. 'Lady Hillingdon', one

*left to right: 'Lady Hillingdon'; 'Madame Alfred Carriere' (photo by T. Bui); 'Duchesse de Montebello' (photo by Les Johnson); below: 'Mistress Bosanquet' (photo by T. Bui)*

of my favorite Tea roses, grows under a large plum tree visible from the existing house. And three other favorites: 'Xiang Fen Lian', 'Catherine Mermet' and 'La France' grow beside a newly planted cherry tree, tall bearded irises and lavender lilacs. Then there are 'Devoniensis', 'Duchesse de Montebello', 'Mme Alfred Carriere', 'Mistress Bosanquet', 'Mme Berard', 'Mme Jules Bouché' and 'Rosa Mundi'.

A garden is a constant work in progress and thankfully it's work I truly enjoy. Like my parents, I have several roses without names in the garden, a reminder of a time when I grew roses solely for their beauty. Today, as someone passionate about the provenance and preservation of Old Garden Roses, I insist on different ways of keeping accurate IDs for my roses, one being markers and another, in case the markers fade or disappear, maintaining a map of my plantings. The third way is low effort but high reward, and that's sharing the rose with others. If organizations like The Friends of Vintage Roses are successful, these special roses will be passed onto future generations to continue the work. ■

# Granger's Red Roses

*Darrell g.h. Schramm*
*Dedicated to Vincent Derkenne*

It was the year 1866. Carpets of roses stretched toward the horizon in gold-toned vermilions, in bolts and ribbons of erubescence, crimson, garnet, carmine and coralline, fields and fields of roses offering delightful gusts of fragrance. In numbers, 214,400 of these roses grew just outside the towns of Grisy-Suisnes and Brie-Comte-Robert, France.

In the hamlet of Suisnes the first rose nursery of the region had been founded in 1799 by Christophe Cochet, the gardener of Admiral Bougainville of Chateau de Suisnes. (The admiral had sailed around the world, and a climbing flower and a Noisette rose had been named for him.) With the increase of rose growers, the Suisnes region began supplying the nobility with its roses. Forty years after Cochet had launched his nursery, Louis-Xavier Granger in 1839 opened his own.

*left: 'Bougainville' (photo by Les Johnson); above: 'Manetti' (photo by D. Schramm)*

Although he is rarely mentioned in rose history, not as a stranger did Granger breed and raise his roses. In fact, he knew and associated with many of the prominent rose breeders of his time: the Cochets, Eugene and Charles Verdier, Jacques-Julien Margottin, even William Paul and Henry Bennett of England, and others. A very active horticulturist, he became in 1850 a member of the Imperial Central Horticultural Society of France, served on the Head Council of the Congress of Rose Growers, and, in 1874 on the rose jury of the Horticulture Exposition in Lyon. In rose shows he competed with such luminaries as the Cochets, Hippolyte Jamain, Marest and Margottin, earning various medals and prizes. Meanwhile, between 1873 and 1879, disease and frost ruined much of the wine industry in the area, causing large numbers of nurserymen to turn to rose growing. This in turn also led to growing roses under glass and to rose festivals. Soon rose-packing houses established themselves nearby and not long afterward, a special railway line opened (in 1875 at Brie-Comte-Robert and in 1892 at Grisy-Suisnes) to deliver daily fresh roses to Las Halles, the fresh produce market of Paris.

*top: 'General Washington' (photo by D. Schramm); above: 'Maurice Bernardin' (photo by Werner Ruf)*

In addition to roses, Granger also hybridized a few other plants, among them lilies and a *viticella* clematis which he named 'Mme Granger'. In 1857 he also designed a new pruning shears.

More significantly, he became known for introducing 'Manetti' as a rootstock to this region of France. In 1862 he had grafted some of his roses onto 'Manetti'. When he exhibited his results to the Imperial Society, a few members were skeptical, but he showed that his grafts on other rootstock had not taken and that those on 'Manetti' not only took but suckered very little. Another member of the society spoke in Granger's defense, saying that breeder André Leroy had been grafting roses onto 'Manetti' successfully for ten years.

Of the 35 roses Granger produced, six are still in commerce, though some barely so. And all six were placed onto the market during America's Civil War. All are red. While he did create roses in other colors, clearly the reds were his preference. Incidentally, some of his roses were sold by Charles Lee of Hammersmith, London. Moreover, a few of his roses have been incorrectly assigned to his son Theophile.

The Hybrid Perpetual rose 'General Washington' was released in 1860. Of a dark crimson leaning into amaranth, this rose bears very large, full blossoms of as many as 150 petals. The flowers flourish profusely, but a few may be malformed. Arching and low, the bush grows to three feet or so but has been known to reach five feet. While not prolific, the autumn blooms are best. The plant does well in zones 9 through 5. It was named, of course, for the Father of His Country, General and President George Washington (1732–1799).

In the following year, 1861, Granger introduced the Hybrid Perpetual 'Maurice Bernardin'. Depending on location and the intensity of sunlight and shade, the colors of this rose manifest lavender, cerise-purple, or bright crimson. The flowers, full, imbricated, and globular, grow abundantly in small clusters and emit a very strong, pleasant fragrance. Vigorous and recurrent in bloom, it attains a height of four feet in zones 10 to 5. It is, however, somewhat prone to mildew. Ellwanger in 1914 cautioned that the roots are quite delicate and easily broken. Maurice Bernardin may have been the son of Camille Bernardin who served as Editor-in-Chief

*above: 'Lord Raglan', L'Horticulteur français, 1856; right: 'Duc de Wellington' (courtesy of the Loubert Nursery)*

of *Journal des Roses* for many years.

In1862 Granger sent out into the public two more red Hybrid Perpetuals. One of these was 'President Lincoln', named for the sixteenth President of the United States—which at that time were scarcely united. Obviously Granger admired the man for his leadership during the Civil War. A seedling of the red rose 'Lord Raglan' (still in commerce abroad), its flowers are similar to those of 'General Washington', though the color is somewhat more vermilion. The blossoms are large and full with overlapping petals on a typically vigorous Hybrid Perpetual plant. By the way, this rose should not be confused with the 1865 Bourbon 'Souvenir du President Lincoln' nor the 1964 Hybrid Tea 'Mister Lincoln'.

The second rose Granger put on the market in 1862 was 'Comtesse de Polignac'. Brilliant crimson or poppy red with purple nuances or sometimes purple flecks, the full flowers reach a medium size on a vigorous bush, doing well in zones 9 to 6b. The rose may have been named for the original Countess of Polignac (indeed, there were many so titled afterward), Yolande de Polastron (1749–1793), close friend of Marie Antoinette and governess to her children. At the onset of the French Revolution, she exiled herself in Austria where she died.

But just as likely Granger named the rose for the current socialite of the Paris of his day who wed a Count Joseph de Gontaut, a decorated officer of the Franco-Prussian War who later resigned from military service. While the countess worshipped him, he did not reciprocate her feelings but was happy to spend freely from her dowry and to enjoy affairs with other women. At some point he ran off with an American Mrs. Winthrop and in a letter announced she was the love of his life. After several years, however, the lovers, unable to survive without the wealth of their spouses, parted ways and returned. Unlike Mr. Winthrop who now rejected his wife, Comtesse de Polignac gladly welcomed her prodigal husband's return. Unfortunately, he remained no truer to her than previously.

In 1864 Granger announced his Hybrid Perpetual rose 'Duc de Wellington', a bright velvety crimson flower with hints of blackish maroon, fiery red in the center. Strongly scented, large and full, with only a modicum of prickles, and fairly resistant to fungus and rain, it reblooms well. Growing to four feet, it does best in partial shade in zones 4b and warmer.

*'Exposition de Brie' (courtesy of the Loubert Nursery)*

The rose was named for Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington (1769–1852), who defeated Napoleon at Waterloo in 1815. He had been made a duke the year before and was created Prince of Waterloo in the Netherlands the year after. Other titles followed. In 1827 he was appointed prime minister but soon brought about the fall of his government and his popularity. Though he sired two sons, his behavior demonstrated little love for his wife. At his death he was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral, London.

'Exposition de Brie', a Hybrid Perpetual or Bourbon, also goes by the longer names of 'L'Exposition de Brie-Comte-Robert' and "Souvenir de l'Exposition de Brie'. This rose is not, however, as has been claimed, the same as 'Maurice Bernardin'. True, in color and form the two roses look alike at first glance, but careful observation, side by side, show them to be different and distinct. France's *Journal of Horticulture* in 1874 lists the two roses as separate and distinct as does *Journal des Roses* in 1882. The flower is colored light, bright red with some violet shading. It is named for the plain of Brie and its town Brie-Comte-Robert, which in turn takes its name from Count Robert who was brother to King Louis VII and once owned the town and countryside where Granger and the Cochets grew their roses.

Louis-Xavier Granger seems to have introduced his first roses in 1850. (It was in the 1850s that Baron Jacques Noirmont bought the Chateau de Suisnes. Granger would go on to name a pink Bourbon rose for him in 1861, a rose that has disappeared.) Most of his roses were released in the 1860s, many of them dark red—though his last rose, a Tea which appeared on the market in 1877, was a mauve blend. The year previous, 1876, the same year *Journal des Roses* was founded, he had been honored for his 25 years of service to the Imperial Central Horticultural Society. He died the same year as the great rose men Hippolyte Jamain, François Lacharme, Joseph Schwartz, and Henry Ellwanger, in 1883.

Since then, the colorful fields of roses kept the townsfolk of Grisy-Suisnes employed until the 1970s. And though the Chateau de Suisnes and parkland were abandoned and fell into ruin and neglect, in 2006 they were gradually restored. Today two or three miles from Grisy-Suisnes, pedestrians and cyclists can enjoy a five-mile trail on the outskirts of Brie-Comte-Robert named The Path of Roses. ■

*left to right: 'Louis Philippe' (photo by D. Schramm); 'Viridiflora' (photo by Judy Eitzen); 'Champney's Pink Cluster' (photo by Elaine Sedlack)*

# Rose Petals Nursery: Curating A Rose Collection

*Art & Cydney Wade*

We recently were asked what it means to be curators of roses. For us the response includes more than the basic definition of the word as someone who oversees or manages a collection. What we are doing as stewards of our existing rose collection will carry over as curators with The Friends of Vintage Roses. Besides caring for our collection we are continually looking for, and adding, unique varieties, such as ones lost to commerce. We give talks and presentations to diverse groups, including histories or stories about old roses, along with how to care for and grow old roses.

Adopting the Chinas, Teas and Noisettes as curators is a real honor. For these are some of our most favorite classes grown at our nursery in North Central Florida. As repeat blooming roses, with our longer growing season, these roses continually show off the many colors and bloom shapes.

Two examples of the Chinas we talk about often are 'Louis Philippe' and the 'Green Rose'. Here 'Louis Philippe' is referred to as "The Florida Rose" by many. It is a constant bloomer well into the winter. We often have bouquets of it on our Christmas table. Strongly fragrant, with dark green foliage, 'Louis Philippe' is a very hardy, easy-care rose.

While the 'Green Rose' or 'Viridiflora' is a contrast to 'Louis Philippe' in many ways, its uniqueness has made it popular. The story of the origins of this rose in South Carolina, the wildly

*top: 'Blush Noisette' (photo by D. Schramm); above: 'Mrs. B. R. Cant' (photo by Bill Grant)*

divergent opinions about its beauty (or lack thereof), and the stories about its uses over the years all contribute to the interest shown in this rose.

The Noisettes having their origins in South Carolina and many subsequent varieties introduced and found make this class popular to rose growers. The earliest Noisettes 'Champneys' Pink Cluster' and 'Blush Noisette' are important to the history of this class. Both are very popular, providing fragrant clusters of flowers throughout the growing season.

Three great Tea roses which do well in our area provide examples of the many bloom colors and shapes seen

with this class: 'Mrs. B. R. Cant', 'Safrano' and 'Ducher'. Teas generally, and these three in particular, are very popular with our local customers. ■

*top left: 'Safrano' (photo by Elaine Sedlack); lower left: 'Ducher' (photo by Jeri Jennings)*

# A Place Called Floret

Erin and Chris Benzakein agreed last year to become curators of the old European roses in the Friends' rose collection. Their flower farm in the Skaggit Valley north of Seattle has become a beacon for flower lovers around the world. Beginning as a small, five acre farm growing and selling cut flowers, it grew quickly into an experiment in imagining the possibilities. Erin's astonishing and brilliant grasp of cut flowers led her to become a breeder, selecting and creating remarkable seed strains and offering seeds to passionate flower growers.

But the miracle of Floret is so much more. Erin, her husband Chris, and the crew at the farm are making room for a new generation of farmers and flower-lovers around the world. They connect with the land, respect the relationship that human beings create with nature, and try to share their understandings with a wide audience, in fact a world-wide audience. They take pains to expand their audience and become inclusive, sponsoring flower farms world-wide by offering scholarships to attend their superb courses online.

Floret leaves me in awe—feeling grateful that such talented people choose to slow down, join an effort to preserve plants of great value to human life, and recognize the legacy we strive to preserve.

*—Gregg Lowery*

Floret's interviews with The Friends of Vintage Roses appear in their Season 2 presentation. Take a look here:

*https://www.floretflowers.com/growing-floret/*

# In Memoriam

*top: Rosa minutifolia; above: Rosa gallica 'Officinalis' (photo by D. Schramm)*

Mary Ann and Jack Olson formed a chapter of the Heritage Roses Group in the San Diego area. Soon a garden was planted in Old Town San Diego which led to an enhancement of the state park that helped to tell the story of the first roses brought to California. The Olsons were steadfast in guiding and encouraging the new gathering of old rose lovers and until recent years continued to lead and encourage the group. Their group was instrumental in helping to move the last American stand of the wild rose, *Rosa minutifolia* from a wild land threatened with development to a protected reserve near San Diego

Mary Ann was inspired by the old roses that grew in her childhood home in the far northern part of Minnesota. In time and with the help of those who were inspired by her, those roses found their names; the ancient Apothecary's rose, *Rosa gallica* 'Officinalis', and the old American hybrid "Banshee" rose, a cross between old European roses and a North American species. These two roses are among a very small number of rose hybrids that tolerate extreme cold.

Mary Ann is remembered by her friends as a wise and vibrant soul who brought joy. She will be missed—yet she will continue to inspire us with her love of old roses, her passion for life and the loving leadership she offered.

Jack Olson has asked their friends and family to remember Mary Ann through gifts to The Friends of Vintage Roses. We thank Mary Ann's friends and family for their support.

*—Gregg Lowery*

**THANK YOU**

*Gail Buchanan of Arizona*
*Betty Crow of Oklahoma*
*Gertrude Fletcher of California*
*Richard and Sandra Hilt of Colorado*
*George and Janet Kennedy of California*
*Mary Schwab of Idaho*
*Susan Stuart of Virginia*

## 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.

## YOUR DONATIONS

Hi, this is Gregg Lowery asking you to join our Guardians of the Rose—supporters who make monthly donations of $10 per month. As you know we are building a community of ardent rose conservationists. With hours of volunteer work we root several thousand roses each year from our mother collection. From these we can provide our curators with plants to preserve. The extra plants we produce are made available to the public to purchase in one of our sales each year. Guardians are given a head start in placing orders: Guardians are next to Curators in keeping our mission on track. Join us! Take the leap and become a part of our Time Capsule of Roses, sending beauty into the future! Thank you!

## OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Gregg Lowery, Curator & President
Darrell g.h. Schramm, Editor-in-Chief
Joan Olson, Layout Design Editor & Secretary
Steve Dunatov, Business Manager
Pamela Temple, Facebook Editor
Andrea Donahue, Treasurer
Susan Feichtmeir, Fundraiser
Trang Bui, Volunteer Coordinator
Jody Doss, Volunteer Coordinator

## ROSE COLLECTIONS CURATORS

John Bagnasco, Hybrid Teas, Pernetianas & Floribundas
Erin Benzakein, Old European roses & Hybrid Musk Roses
Trang Bui, English roses
Sue Bunte, Floribundas
Susan Feichtmeir, Modern Shrubs & Polyanthas
Beth Hana, Pernetianas
Julie Matlin, Damask Perpetuals (Portlands)
Mark Mason Taylor, Bourbons & Gene Boerner Hybrids
Pamela Temple, Ramblers & English roses
Ralph Tran, Hybrid Perpetuals & Damask Perpetuals (Portlands)
Cydney and Art Wade, Chinas, Teas & Noisettes

## CONTACT INFORMATION

General questions: *info@thefriendsofvintageroses.org*
Re: the rose collection: *curator@thefriendsofvintageroses.org*
Re: donations: *treasurer@thefriendsofvintageroses.org*
Volunteering: *volunteercoordinator@thefriendsofvintageroses.org*
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