



Old Garden Rose and Shrub Journal



An American Rose Society Publication

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Maureen Reed Detweiler, Editor

Summer 2006

THE "PEGGY MARTIN" ROSE

by Dr. William C. Welch

Peggy Martin has been a mainstay in the New Orleans Old Garden Rose Society for many years. She and her husband, M.J., lived in Plaquemines Parish of Louisiana, a few miles down the Mississippi River from the city of New Orleans. My wife, Diane, and I were her guests several years ago when I accepted a speaking engagement for the New Orleans Old Garden Rose Society.

Peggy graciously cared for us during our visit and entertained us in her home with a memorable

seafood boil harvested by hours before. included a wonderful collection of old roses as love and care. There were many wonderful specimens that appealed to me, but one rambler caught my eye. I am always interested in thornless roses, and Peggy was particularly enthusiastic about a large, healthy specimen she had collected in 1989 in New Orleans.



Louisiana style that had been her husband just Peggy's garden derful collection sembled with over the years. many wonderful appealed to me, in particular I am always in thornless roses, particularly en-

thusiastic about a large, healthy specimen she had collected in 1989 in New Orleans.

According to Peggy, "I was given cuttings of the thornless climber in 1989 by Ellen Dupriest who had gotten her rose cuttings from her mother-in-law, Faye Dupriest. Faye had gotten her cuttings from a relative's garden in New Orleans. When I first saw this rose it was in full bloom and smothered the 8 foot wooden fence in Ellen's back yard. It took my breath away! I had never seen a rose so lushly beautiful with thornless bright green foliage that was disease free. All along the canes there were clusters of roses that resembled perfect nosegays of blooms."

I departed from New Orleans in the late summer of 2003 with several cuttings of Peggy's thornless climbers. I was pleased that the cuttings rooted quickly and immediately set one on the fence that encloses the air conditioning equipment at Fragilee,

our weekend home in Washington County, Texas. I was a little dubious of the site I had selected because the soil was less than ideal. My concern soon disappeared as I saw the cutting quickly mature into a vigorous specimen that spans most of the 12 to 15 linear feet of 4 foot tall picket fencing.

I didn't allow myself to get overly excited about the plant because I assumed that it would be a "once bloomer" with a fairly short flowering season in the spring. On a subsequent visit with Peggy she indicated that my plant would re-bloom in the fall after it had been established for a couple of years. I must admit that I had some doubt about the re-bloom in our hot and sometimes very dry Texas climate. Last year Peggy's rose rewarded us with a nice bloom from September through November. Even being covered by ice for two days during mid-December, 2005, we had some scattered bloom all winter.

Katrina Takes its Toll

We fretted about many of our New Orleans friends during the "Katrina" storm. Getting information was not easy with so much of the communications system inoperative. We were uneasy about traveling to Birmingham for an annual meeting with the gardens staff for *Southern Living* magazine. We spent the night of September 7, 2005, at our home in Mangham, Louisiana. Mangham is in the northeastern part of the state and "Katrina" had only brushed by as it veered to the east and through Mississippi. We were relieved that our cotton and soybean crops received only minor damage and the old

pecan trees in our yard suffered little more than loss of most of this year's crop.

Upon arrival in Birmingham, we checked into the Marriott Courtyard located near the *Southern Living* headquarters. Early the next morning, we went to breakfast and were seated adjacent to two couples who sounded like they had New Orleans accents. After introducing ourselves, we learned that they were from Plaquemines Parish and had lost their homes. Birmingham was the first place they were able to find shelter. I asked them if they knew Peggy Martin and her family. They said they knew them well and asked if we were familiar with the tragedy of their losses. It seems that Peggy lost both her elderly parents in the flood that inundated nearly all of Plaquemines Parish. We were, of course, deeply saddened that Peggy had lost her parents, her home, and the commercial fishing boat that her husband used to supplement their income. An Inspirational Survivor

It took a couple of months for me to reestablish communication with Peggy. She and her family have moved to Gonzales, Louisiana, which is close to Baton Rouge on Interstate 10. I asked Peggy about her roses and home and she indicated that the house and garden were under about 20 feet of salt water for 2 weeks following the hurricane. When she was finally able to return to visit their property, she was hardened to see the lush growth of her climber, a testament to its toughness and status as a true survivor. This rose and one

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crinum were all that remained of a once beautiful garden.

I had already been convinced that this rose deserved to be widely available and enjoyed by gardeners in other locations. Its disease resistance, thornless stems, and colorful displays of bright pink flowers along with a graceful, vining form make it a logical choice for creating beautiful garden pictures. My specimen is literally covered from mid-March through May. It starts blooming again in late summer and repeats until a hard frost slows it down for the winter.

A Way to Help

In mid-January I was pleased to receive a notification that my friend, Nancy Godshall, a member of the Garden Club of Houston, and currently Zone IX Director of the Garden Club of America, had given a donation in my name to a recently established Zone IX Horticulture Restoration Fund. The fund was established for the purpose of restoring parks, gardens and green space in New Orleans, Louisiana, Laurel, Mississippi, and Beaumont, Texas, following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. I was pleased to learn that Nancy Thomas, also from Houston, and a former Garden Club of America President, was closely involved in selecting projects for the restoration fund.

An idea came to me several weeks ago "in the middle of the night" about growing the "Peggy Martin" rose as a fundraiser for Zone IX Horticulture Restoration Fund. First, I checked with Peggy to see if she would be in agree-

ment. Then I went to Mike Shoup, owner of the Antique Rose Emporium. Mike is enthusiastic and has already stuck the first small crop of cuttings we provided a couple of weeks ago. He is certain he can produce a good crop by fall, 2006, and has pledged a dollar per plant will go to the Fund. Jason and Shelley Powell, owners of Petals from the Past Nursery in Jemison, Alabama, were impressed with the rose while visiting here in late October, 2005, and took quite a few cuttings at that time. Jason reports that they already have sixty or seventy rooted cuttings. Jason received his Master's Degree from Texas A & M, and was an early recipient of my scholarship sponsored by Texas Garden Clubs, Inc.. Mark Chamblee, owner of Chamblee Rose Nursery in Tyler, Texas, has received a small stock of the plant, and is enthusiastic about marketing the rose. Aubrey King, owner of King's Nursery in Tenaha, Texas, will also market the rose. Addresses and phone numbers of these sources are included below.

A first crop from these growers should be available as early as fall, 2006, with larger numbers ready in 2007. Each of these growers has pledged a dollar per plant donation to the Garden Restoration Fund for each plant. Reduced or wholesale prices may be available for Garden Club Plant Sales, Master Gardener Events, etc. This would allow more opportunity for contributions.

This is going to be fun! A great rose and a great cause. This is a hard combination to beat! I am fully convinced that the resilience and fortitude of our celebration. *(continued on page 4)*

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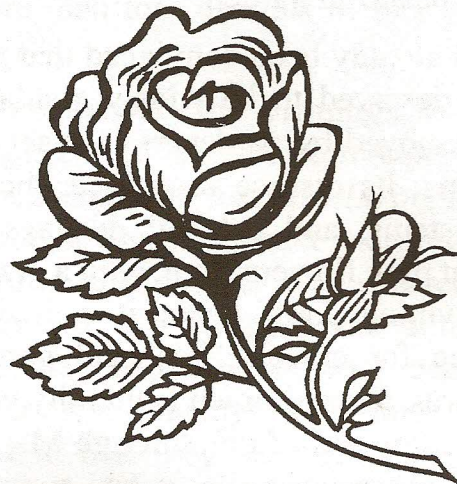
Editor's note: Dr. William C. Welch is the author of *Antique Roses for the South*, *Perennial Garden Color*, and *The Southern Heirloom Garden*.

List of Cooperating Growers for the "Peggy Martin" Rose:

Antique Rose Emporium
9300 Lueckmeyer Road
Brenham, TX 77833
(800)441-0002
<http://www.antiqueroseemporium.com>

Chamblee's Rose Nursery
10926 U.S. Hwy. 69 North
Tyler, TX 75706
(800)256-ROSE
<http://www.chambleeroses.com>
Petals from the Past Nursery
16034 County Rd. 29
Jemison, AL 35085
(205)646-0069
<http://www.petalsfromthepast.com>

King's Nursery
Hwy 84 East
Tenaha, TX 75974
(409)248-3811



Ooops!

A correction:

Volume 2 - Number 2, Summer 2005, edition of this publication contained the first part of a three-part article by Robert Berrien on hybrid wichurana roses, entitled *Hybrid Wichurana Roses, Part I - Once-blooming Large-Flowered Climbers*. Volume 3 - Number 1, Winter 2006, featured *Hybrid Wichurana Roses, Part II - Once-blooming Large-Flowered Climbers*, and the third part in Volume 3 - Number 2, Spring 2006, should have been entitled *Hybrid Wichurana Roses, Part III - Once-blooming Small-Flowered Climbers*. The editor apologizes for the error in the title of the third part.

We are grateful to Robert Berrien for this fine work. The research and documentation of his personal experience with this class make this article very important to all serious students and collectors of roses. Many glowing messages of praise and gratitude have been received from our subscribers.

PREPARING FOR THE PAST

by Maureen Reed Detweiler

Heritage Rose Foundation Conference

October 11-13, 2006

Hotel Intercontinental Dallas

15201 Dallas Parkway

Addison, Texas 75001

(888)424-6853

(972)386-6000



Tuesday, October 10, 2006

3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Early registration at hotel

Wednesday, October 11, 2006

8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Registration / bookstore open

9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Continental breakfast / HRF annual Meeting

10:00 - 11:45 a.m. Welcome / speaker(s)

12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Lunch at hotel

1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Speaker(s)

3:30 p.m. Board bus for White Rock Lake (Dreyfuss Club)

4:30 p.m. Silent Auction and first bucket raffle begins

5:00 - 7:30 p.m. Texas wine seminar and tasting -

Story of industry and grapes in Texas

Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served

7:30 p.m. Winners of silent action announced

8:00 p.m. Board bus for hotel

Thursday, October 12, 2006

8:00 - 10:00 a.m. Registration

Continental breakfast / bookstore open

9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Speaker

10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Panel discussion and/or speakers

12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Lunch at hotel

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Final speaker

3:00 p.m. Board bus for Oswald Farm/Garden

4:30 p.m. Plant sale and garden tour with docents

5:30 p.m. Dedication of the garden

6:00 p.m. Catered dinner and announcements - Place TBA

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Friday, October 13, 2006

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. All day tour in country - lunch at Watson Ranch

Bucket raffle at lunch - mini plant sale

8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Garden tour in town - box lunch

6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Joint reception with ARS - cash bar

Tickets will be sold at conference

7:30 p.m. Dinner on your own - free shuttles to area restaurants

Speakers will include the following:

Dr. William C. Welch, Professor and Extension Horticulturist, Texas A & M University. Author of *Antique Roses for the South*, *Perennial Garden Color*, and *The Southern Heirloom Garden*.

Thomas Christopher, horticulturist and author of *In Search of Lost Roses*. His articles have appeared in *Horticulture*, *Natural History*, *Omni*, *House and Garden*, and *The Garden* magazines, *The New York Times* and *The Journal of the Royal Horticulture Society*.

G. Michael Shoup, owner of The Antique Rose Emporium in Brenham, Texas, since 1983. He is the author of *Landscaping With Antique Roses* and *Roses in the Southern Garden*. He will speak to us about where we have been.

Dr. Stephen George, Director of Research for EarthKind Roses at Texas A & M University will speak to us about where we are going.

Mark Chamblee, owner of Chamblee's Rose Nursery in Tyler, Texas, and an expert on EarthKind and Griffith Buck Roses, will speak to us about some of the surprises along the way.

Paul Zimmerman and Marily Young of Ashdown Roses in Campobello, South

Carolina, will speak to us about the Finischi gardens of Italy and about the WFRS.

Charles Mann, a world-wide photographer of roses (*Secret Gardens of Santa Fe*), may not speak to us at all, but his photographs will remind why we are doing this.

The program and the schedule are subject to change.

Cost:

Complete conference - All activities, both days.....\$250.00
Day one only (includes wine tasting and transportation).....\$130.00
Wine tasting and transportation only.....\$45.00
Day two only (includes dinner and transportation).....\$130.00
Dinner and transportation only.....\$60.00
Friday all day bus tour and lunch.....\$75.00
Friday half day bus tour and lunch.....\$40.00

Registration information:

www.heritagerosefoundation.org

Or contact Nancy Kohlman

(817)473-3542

nskohlman@gmail.com

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BOOK REVIEW

The Makers of Heavenly Roses by Jack Harkness

1985 by Souvenir Press, London

Most of us who grow roses in our gardens know something of their history, but how much do we know of the men and women who created them? What kind of people were they who chose to spend their lives working with nature in an unending quest for the perfect rose?

The author, himself a rose breeder of international repute, had many of the great rose men as intimate friends. Here in a lavishly illustrated book that is rich in anecdote and characterization, he acquaints us with generations of the families whose names adorn our best loved roses. He explores the nature of a passion which has driven such men as Henry Bennet, farmer turned rose grower, the gentle bachelor curate Joseph Pemberton, and the north German, Wilhelm Kordes.

Some of the other breeders presented are the Frenchman, Jean-Baptist Guillot, who raised the first hybrid tea, 'La France', founders of the mammoth corporation of the American firm Jackson & Perkins, the Dicksons, McGredys, Poulsons, the Pernet-Ducher family, Ralph Moore, and many more.

Illustrated with photographs of the breeders and 24 pages of color plates of their roses, this book is fascinating, and one which a rose lover will want to return to time and time again.



FROM THE EDITOR

The Old Garden Rose and Shrub Journal is a quarterly publication of the American Rose Society. The purpose of the publication is to provide original articles and information which are of special interest to those who love old roses.

Original articles and information relating to old roses and their patrons throughout history are welcome. Please submit the articles to the editor by electronic or regular mail.

All articles submitted will be subject to editing. Care will be taken to preserve the meaning of the writing. Information published will be true and accurate at the date of publication. The American Rose Society, the author and editor, acting in good faith, will not accept any legal responsibility for error, knowing or unknowing omissions or commissions.

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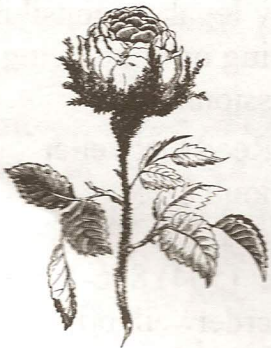
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