



Old Garden Rose and Shrub Journal



An American Rose Society Publication

Volume 2 - Number 3

Maureen Reed Detweiler, Editor

Fall 2005

HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION GARDEN WILL BLOOM AT THE AMERICAN ROSE CENTER

by Maureen Reed Detweiler

In 2004, the American Rose Society and the Heritage Rose Foundation entered into an "Agreement of Mutual Interest." ARS President Marilyn Wellan and then HRF President Michael Shoup pledged, with approval of both boards of directors, "to work together in pursuit of the goals we share; to collaborate, complement and enjoy the pleasures and pursuits we enter into by mutual consent."

Now, the Heritage Rose Foundation, under the current president, Stephen Scanniello, has agreed to adopt the garden of species and old garden roses at the American Rose Center. The HRF, established in November 1986 as a non-profit group, is willing and able to offer the expertise and the means to develop and oversee the garden and promises to bring it to its greatest potential. Scanniello, noted author of books on roses, professional rose garden designer, and former director of the acclaimed Cranford Rose Gardens at Brooklyn Botanical Garden, will serve as garden advisor.

Goals that have been set for the garden are as follows:

- * The HRF Garden will become an excellent display garden, designed to provide a "tour through rose history";
- * it will include all classes of old garden roses which do well in the region;
- * the collection will be strengthened by the addition of important roses; and
- * an educational guide will be written to accompany a HRF Garden tour.

"We anticipate it will be the site of demonstrations, hands-on activities and study, all of which will be stimulating for American Rose Center visitors, the ARS and the HRF. An annual seminar at the garden might be held in the future, perhaps with a national awards program to honor contributions to the gardens and to the study of heritage roses," Wellan said.

Charlotte Haring, curator of roses at the ARC, expressed her joy upon hearing this news: "It's like a dream come true. I am confident that under the direction and guidance of the HRF the garden will flourish and become a showplace for old garden roses."

Claude Graves, Chairman of the ARS Old Garden Rose and Shrub Committee, also was very pleased. He said, "This is a great example of the symbiotic relationship that can result when like-minded organizations work together. We are all very grateful to Marilyn Wellan for her vision and leadership. She lead the way, and with great perseverance, brought it to fruition."

BANKSIAE HYBRIDS, A NEW BEGINNING

by Robert Neil Rippetoe

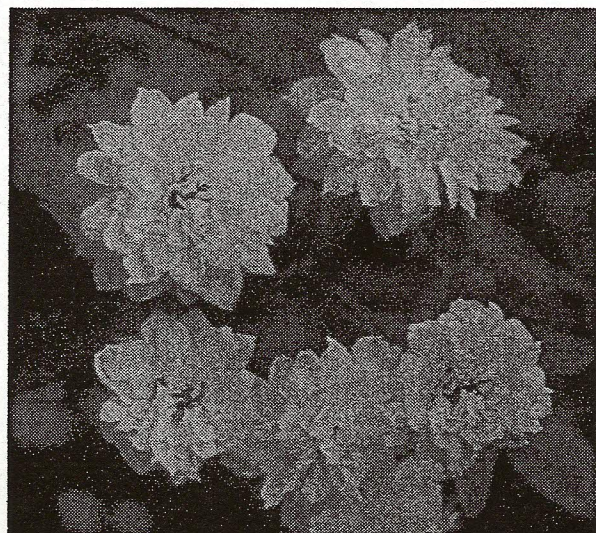
Editor's note: The banksiae roses consist of '*Rosa banksiae*' (white or yellow), '*Rosa banksiae banksiae*' (white, double), '*Rosa banksiae lutea*' (yellow, double), '*Rosa banksiae lutescens*' (yellow, single), and '*Rosa banksiae normalis*' (white, single).

The banksiae roses were imported from China to England in the early 1800s. The commonly found garden forms are thought to be ancient Chinese selections of the species. They were named in honor of Lady Dorothea Banks, wife of Sir Joseph Banks, the scientist on Captain James Cook's expedition and the founder of Kew Gardens. (See "*Who was Sir Joseph Banks?*" on page 5.)

Banksiae roses are once-blooming, prickly-free, totally evergreen in temperate climates and possess elongated foliage. They are now quite common throughout warmer regions of the world. Individual specimens can grow to enormous size given the right weather and soil conditions. *The Guinness Book of World Records* lists a '*Rosa banksiae banksiae*' growing in Tombstone, AZ, as the world's largest rosebush. It covers more than 8,000 square feet and has a trunk approximately 12 feet in circumference.

Hybridizing banksiae roses is difficult. They are tender, bloom earlier than most species, and rarely accept pollen of any type, including their own. However, there has been documented use of '*Rosa banksiae*' in hybridizing:

Dr. Attilio Ragionieri in Italy noted that the forms he had occasionally set open pollinated hips and so offered an opportunity for hybridization. His efforts were detailed in an article published in *Gardeners' Chronicle*, Aug. 2, 1924, entitled, "'*Rosa banksiae*' Hybrid 'Di Castello' ". 'Di Castello', still in commerce, is a cross of ('*Rosa banksiae lutea*' x 'Lamarque'). It's interesting to note here that Ragionieri utilized the double yellow form of banksiae. First, there are those who theorize that '*Rosa banksiae lutea*' might be an an-



Rosa banksiae banksiae'

cient garden hybrid in its own right because of the yellow color. Second, double forms of species are more often less fertile than single-flowered forms. Those attempting to utilize this hybrid in breeding would hope for fertility as both parents being diploid should, according to theory, produce fertile offspring. This has not proven to be the case. No hybrids using this cultivar have been recorded.

Then Quinto Mansuino, of San Remo, Italy, detailed in an article in the *American Rose Annual* 45:15-18 (1960), entitled, "Breeding Miniatures in San Remo." Many fertile crosses were accomplished, as he states, "I had more interesting results from the cross ('*R. chinensis minima*' ('Tom Thumb' var.) x '*R. banksiae lutescens*') and its reciprocal. The series of hybrids obtained varies from the dwarf ones of about 8 inches to the big climbing ones; some thornless, all having good ornamental foliage. The blooms are white, in corymb, long lasting and very decorative."

At this time Mansuino was in contact with American rose hybridizer Ralph Moore. Conversations with Moore indicate that while Mansuino's hybrids were fertile, there were problems with propagation. Apparently these hybrids did not strike easily from cuttings and were not easily budded. This might

(continued on page 3)

have added to their lack of popularity.

I suspect they were not considered unique enough by the public to warrant wider distribution despite their unusual parentage. Photos indicate these hybrids were attractive but emphasis at the time these hybrids were created was on large-flowered hybrid teas. Mansuino created a very popular florist's rose, 'Bride's White', 1968. (It's been theorized by Kim Rupert that a banksiae rose might well lie in its undocumented ancestry). And he is best known for his creation 'The Pearl' ('Tom Thumb' x '*R. banksiae lutescens*'), a sterile hybrid.

My interest in hybridizing with banksiae began in the 1980s when I was a young horticulture student. My conversations with Ralph Moore on the subject led him to experiment for a time with use of banksiae roses. Later conversations revealed that he had abandoned the work due to lack of progress. Having learned that a hybridizer of Moore's stature abandoned attempts, I gave up hopes of working with banksiae roses on my own. After that I was doing very little hybridizing but continued to work in the horticulture industry and began to collect roses, primarily rare and old garden varieties.

Then, in the year 2000, I was contacted by a hobbyist rose hybridizer, A.C. Tunningley, in upstate New York, in regard to a source for 'Grey Pearl', a variety he had been seeking for several years. I advised him that I had it and he could get a specimen from Ralph Moore's Sequoia Nursery.

This began a dialogue regarding roses and rose hybridizing that still continues. In one of our many conversations I was surprised to learn that he had done experiments with crosses of ('*Rosa banksiae banksiae*' x 'Old Blush') which had resulted in a handful of seedlings, most of which were sickly and eventually discarded. He had preserved one unusually vigorous seedling that was now taking up most of his 40-foot greenhouse space. His pet name for his creation was "The Monster." Note that the banksiae rose used here was of the same type listed as the "World's Largest Rose Bush."

This hybrid was a very vigorous, once-blooming, double, cerise rambler. Out of appreciation for my advice regarding 'Grey Pearl', he offered to send me pollen, even though he had very little to share due to the double nature of the blossoms. He had abandoned attempts at use of the pollen himself due to lack of success. I was a bit incredulous, but agreed to give it a try.

It was unfortunate that weather conditions in the Palm Springs area where I garden had already turned warm by the time I received pollen from "The Monster" via pollen transferred to a cotton swab. I now know higher temperatures sometimes aid in the creation of disparate hybrids though they can reduce overall fertility. I knew from my years of collecting and experimentation in the area that there was likely only one variety that would accept pollen under these conditions. It was fortunate that the californica hybrid 'Lilac Charm', though a tetraploid, was in flower at the time. I dutifully emasculated the blossoms and applied the pollen the next morning. There were only four blossoms at a stage for emasculation. So it was that these four were utilized and labeled. Hips formed and were allowed to mature, and seeds were sown un-chilled in September. From about 20 seeds only one seedling emerged. When it did flower, an unimpressive mauve single appeared. I pretty much ignored it further as it seemed hybridization was highly unlikely. I preserved the seedling only out of interest in its odd behavior.

As the weather began to cool that year, we began to experience a flush of growth as is normal for our climate. It was at that time while studying my seedlings one morning I came to the realization that this seedling was indeed a new banksiae hybrid. The cooler temperatures had initiated a flush of growth that bore an unmistakable resemblance to the elongated leaflets of banksiae roses. So it was that the cross ('Lilac Charm' x ('*Rosa banksiae banksiae*' x 'Old Blush')) was eventually given the study name and eventually registered as 'Lila Banks' with the American Rose Society. (continued on page 4)

Some five years later I can now attest to the fact that 'Lila Banks' is one of those horticultural anomalies that occasionally occurs, a fertile triploid. Not only is it a fertile triploid, but a repeat-blooming shrub about 3 feet tall and wide, a size derived from both 'Old Blush' and 'Lilac Charm'. It is hardly the offspring one would expect from "The World's Largest Rose." This cross could just as easily have created a giant sterile triploid rambler. In contrast to the hybrids created by Mansuino, this variety strikes easily from cuttings.

In reading about Mansuino's attempts I noted that he makes mention of the use of 'Ophelia', as he states, "I have the best results regarding the flower shape and the cut qualities using the true teas and hybrid teas of the 'Ophelia' offspring." I do not grow 'Ophelia', but I do grow and had grown seedlings of this rose's purported parent, 'Antoine Rivoire'. So it was that the cross ('Antoine Rivoire' x 'Lila Banks') was made and of the resulting seedlings one unmistakable hybrid was selected and given the name, 'Riverbanks', in 2005. This variety also strikes easily from cuttings.

In 2005, the first open pollinated seedlings of 'Lila Banks' were germinated. I had assumed from earlier attempts that this variety was seed sterile. Though hips do form on occasion, they seem to appear only sporadically under cooler conditions. No hips formed until approximately the third year of growth. I am studying one of these seedlings now. This does give one hope for future utilization as seed parent.

'*Rosa banksiae*', like most roses indigenous to temperate regions is diploid, that is possessing 14 chromosomes. Most modern roses are tetraploid, possessing 28 chromosomes like roses found in Europe before modern hybridization began to take place. Crosses between these ploidy (the number of chromosome sets in a cell) types usually result in sterile triploid offspring or those of limited fertility possessing 21 chromosomes.

Early in 2005 I contacted David Zlesak to see

if he would consider doing root tip squash analysis of both 'Lila Banks' and 'Riverbanks' to determine ploidy using visual evidence offered through scanning electron microscope images. 'Lila Banks' was determined to be triploid, possessing 21 chromosomes. As 'Antoine Rivoire' is tetraploid, the progeny of the offspring using 'Lila Banks' pollen would be uncertain depending upon what kind of pollen is being produced. 'Riverbanks' was also determined to be triploid. One can assume from these findings that at least in the case of 'Riverbanks', reduced diploid pollen from 'Lila Banks' was produced.

Further experimentation is warranted by use of diploid seed parents to determine if production of fully fertile diploid offspring is possible using pollen of 'Lila Banks'. It may well be the case that a variety of pollen ploidy types are being produced. David Zlesak has kindly offered to examine pollen of both 'Lila Banks' and 'Riverbanks' to make determination as to what pollen types are being produced.

In 2005 'Lila Banks' pollen was used in many crosses using several garden varieties as seed parent. Resulting seedlings will be screened for fertility and future use in reciprocal crosses using 'Riverbanks'. 'Riverbanks' shows promise as seed parent. Several open pollinated hips are maturing at this time. More experimentation using diploid seed parents is warranted. Crosses involving 'Lila Banks' and 'Riverbanks' as seed parent should be possible, a back cross using '*Rosa banksiae lutea*' or '*Rosa banksiae lutescens*' would be a future goal in order to gain a greater percentage of banksiae genes and extended color range in offspring.

Attempts to revive interest in Mansuino's work have begun in the United States by importation of some lesser known hybrids still preserved at the Fineschi Gardens in Italy. It is my hope that these creations will be taken up again by collectors and hybridizers. I recently received

(continued on page 5)

one of these hybrids, 'Letizia Bianca', for which documentation seems to have been lost. As open pollinated hips form on this variety, I hope to utilize it in the future.

Hybridizers I'd most like to emulate include Ralph Moore for his work with '*Rosa bracteata*', Alister Clarke for his work with '*Rosa gigantea*' and most notably Dr. Viru Viraraghavan for his work with '*Rosa clinophylla*'.

I was both surprised and pleased to discover that Dr. Viraraghavan and his wife, Girija, began breeding roses some 20 years ago with very similar goals in mind as mine. These goals include the production of heat and disease-resistant, evergreen, winter-blooming shrubs incorporating fragrance and, as much as possible, a prickle-free nature. Through information gathered from Fred Boutin, I now know that wild forms of banksiae are normally heavily armed with prickles. Some have theorized that prickle-free garden forms of banksiae are in fact ancient selections of probable somatic mutations so may not hold as much promise for breeding smooth roses as hoped.

It is my hope that other evergreen species hybrids can be utilized for crosses involving banksiae hybrids. Most notably crosses involving bracteata and clinophylla hybrids hold promise in producing disease-resistant, evergreen, winter-blooming varieties suited to warm winter climates.



WHO WAS SIR JOSEPH BANKS?

by Maureen Reed Detweiler

Sir Joseph Banks was an Englishman who was born in 1743. At Eaton he studied botany and began collecting plants. Later at Oxford he helped found the Botanical Club, the Fossil Club, and the Antiquarian's Club. He was passionately interested in the world around him.

At age 21, upon the death of his father, he inherited his title and great wealth. As one of the wealthiest men in England, he may simply have lived a life of leisure or even become a playboy. He was handsome. He was 6 feet tall, weighed 182 pounds, had dark liquid eyes, and a sensuous mouth. But instead he made great contributions to the world of science. His widowed mother kept a grand house in Chelsea on Paradise Row near the Society of Apothecaries Garden, a 4-acre medicinal herb research center. Here he would wander around and study the plants.

He was invited to join the Royal Society. Soon after, at the urging of the Royal Society, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty ordered Lt. James Cook of the Royal Navy to take command of the 368-ton ship *Endeavour* and to sail the South Pacific. His mission was general exploration.

Sir Joseph Banks saw the botanical opportunity of a lifetime: a quarter of the globe, perhaps filled with plants unknown to him. He formed a team of 10 men to assist him in collecting plants and paid the 10,000 pounds to finance this portion of the expedition.

The trip began in 1768 when he was 25 years old and lasted three years. The wealth of plant material collected and brought back to England consisted of 3,600 species, 1,400 of which were entirely new to science of that time.

At age 29 Banks was elected president of the Royal Society. He went on to found the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew using his own money and influence with the King; thus providing a home and showplace for his plant collections. He served as director of the Gardens for many years, and he died in 1820 at age 77.

In addition to the banksiae roses, 75 other banksiae plant species have been named to honor him and to recognize his accomplishments.



'Peace'

PREPARING FOR THE PAST

by Maureen Reed Detweiler

For the Love of a Rose - Story of the creation of the famous Peace rose

by Antonia Ridge

First published in 1963 by Faber and Faber Limited

Several later editions

'Peace' was introduced 60 years ago on April 29, 1945. Its parentage is impressive: ((George Dickson x Souvenir de Claudia Pernet) x (Joanna Hill x Charles P. Kilham)) x Margaret McGreedy.

This is the story of the remarkable rose breeding families of Dubreuil, Paolino and Meilland which became united through marriage; and of the creation of the rose which celebrated the end of World War II.

Dorothy Armstrong states in the *1974 American Rose Annual*:

"Once in a while, you start to read a book which you hate to see end, and when it does, you want to start and read all over again. Recently, I received such a book...I warmly recommend *For the Love of a Rose* by Antonia Ridge.

"When the Nazis invaded France, Francis Meilland went to his friend the American Consul, who agreed to send a one-pound package, containing anything the Meilland family wanted, to the United States. What Francis sent was not jewels or art, but a bundle of bushes of a rose known only as 3-35-40. Two other one-pound packages of the rose were sent to other countries under similar arrangements, but were confiscated en route by the Nazis. For six years the Meillands had no idea if the package sent to Robert Pyle (Pyle-Conrad) in the U.S. had arrived.

"In fact, the bundle did, and Robert Pyle wasted no time in planting out 3-35-40, propagating it, and testing it in his own trial beds. 'My eyes are fixed in fascinated admiration on a glorious rose, its pale gold, cream, and ivory petals blending to a lightly ruffled edge of delicate carmine,' he wrote. Although this was war-time, 3-35-40 was sent for tests on all sorts of American soil in all sorts of American weather.

"The American Rose Society studied the test reports and agreed with Robert Pyle: this was indeed a glorious rose. Indeed the ARS decided to pay the warmest of tributes to this outstanding new rose which had literally arrived out of the blue from a desolate, enemy occupied France. They agreed to organize a 'name Giving Ceremony' for it at the Pacific Rose Society's Exhibition at Pasadena California, on Sunday, April 29, 1945. This date, of course, had to be decided upon many months in advance.

"The war was still raging in Europe, communications were still out, and there was no way of knowing if Papa Meilland and Francis were still alive, or if their rose gardens at Tassin still existed. Robert Pyle, therefore, consulted other eminent professional rose growers, and between them they drew up this moving statement: 'We are persuaded that this greatest new rose of our time should be named for the world's greatest desire - PEACE.'

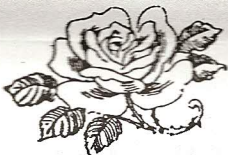
(continued on page 7)

“Call it singular coincident, if you will, but on that day, fixed so long in advance, Berlin fell.

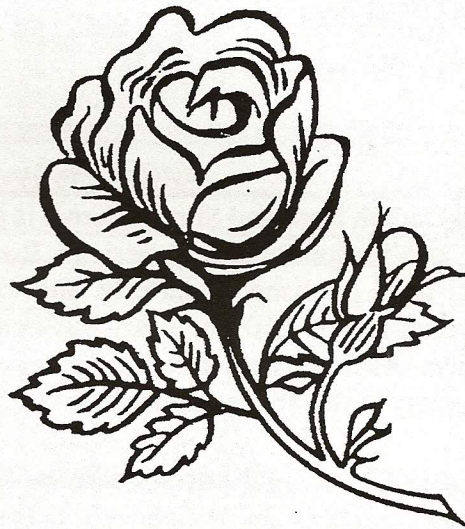
“Then came another memorable day, when the most critical and discerning of American judges of roses gave the All-America Award to the new rose ‘Peace’. On that day the war in Japan came to an end. A month later, for the very first time in its history, the American Rose Society gave its most supreme award, its gold medal, to the rose ‘Peace’. On that day, a peace treaty was signed with Japan.

“Superb American timing? Impossible; for the dates of all famous rose shows are always fixed months in advance.”

Antonia Ridge, the author of this heart-warming story brings all the characters to life and endears them to her readers. And, best of all, it has a very happy ending.



The Antique Rose Emporium 18th Annual Fall Festival of Roses in Brenham, TX, will be held November 4, 5, & 6, 2005. Featured speakers include Glen Schroeter “Grow Your Own! Propagating Old Garden Roses”; Gaye Hammond “Making Magic - Gardening with Children”; Bruce Dueley “Recipes that Betty Crocker Never Gave You - The Soil Web Exposed”; Frances Brandes “Cemeteries Revisited - The Early Rose Rustlers”; Heidi Sheesly “Fall into Spring Bloom”; Carlton Colementes “Hibiscus, Not Just Another Pretty Flower”; Lois Sutton “Herbs - A culinary Lifestyle”; Maureen Detweiler “Cleo Barnwell 1905 - 2005 - A Lifetime of Rescuing Roses”; Barbara Oehlbeck “I Give You a Rose - I give you a rose, it is my love for life, it is for you”; and P. Allen Smith. For additional information please visit the website www.weAREroses.com or call 800-441-0002.



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.

Maureen Reed Detweiler
2418 Calhoun Street
New Orleans, LA 70118
Telephone: (504) 866-5466
e-mail: mcrdetweiler@aol.com

OGR & SHRUB JOURNAL
American Rose Society
P.O. Box 30,000
Shreveport, LA 71130-0030

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SHREVEPORT, LA
PERMIT NO. 3

The Old Garden Rose and Shrub Journal is an official publication of the American Rose Society. It is published quarterly and the subscription rate is \$10 per year. Subscription orders should be mailed to the American Rose Society at the above address.

Any comments or questions should be addressed to:

Maureen Reed Detweiler, Editor
2418 Calhoun Street
New Orleans, LA 70118
E-mail: mcrdetweiler@aol.com

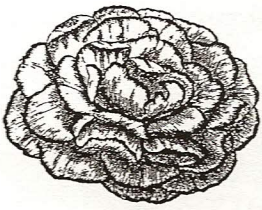
FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:

Heritage Rose Foundation Garden Will Bloom at American Rose Center
by Maureen Reed Detweiler..... 1

Banksia Hybrids, A New Beginning
by Robert Neil Rippetoe..... 2

Who Was Sir Joseph Banks?
by Maureen Reed Detweiler.....5

Preparing for the Past
by Maureen Reed Detweiler.....6



Graphic Design by Jeannie C. Detweiler

- AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY**
- Marilyn Wellan, President
- Steve Jones, Vice President
- Clifton B. "Cliff" Jeter Jr., Treasurer
- Benny Ellerbe, Executive Director
- Claude Graves, Chairman
OGR & Shrub Committee
- 