



# Old Garden Rose and Shrub Journal



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Maureen Reed Detweiler, Editor

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## IN MEMORIAM

### CLEO WARDLOW BARNWELL 1905-2005

by Maureen Reed Detweiler

Cleo Barnwell and her plant collecting friends, Ruth and Minnie, scoured the countryside of Louisiana, east Texas and southern Arkansas for decades before there was an organized society of "rose rustlers." And she let it be known that she preferred the term "rose rescuers" because she believed she was rescuing them from extinction.

A native of Texas who lived in Shreveport for more than 60 years, she served as a mentor to all who sought her counsel and as an inspiration to many who knew of her work. Charlotte Haring, curator of roses at the American Rose Center, remembers her first visit to Barnwell's home. She was especially impressed with her extensive library of plant books and publications. "Cleo encouraged me to read, read, read, and to join the Garden Book of the Month Club and the Southern Garden History Society which proved to be excellent advice," says Haring.

Barnwell befriended Caroline Dorman, the famous Louisiana naturalist, and was inspired and encouraged by her to document the plants she found and to pass them along to others to ensure their preservation. She did pass many of her roses on to Dr. William Welch at Texas A&M and to G. Michael Shoup of the Antique Rose Emporium, with her irises, lilies and perennials going to many other plant people. She traded plants with horticulturist Jose Marrero Torrada in Puerto Rico (see volume 2, number 1 of this publication), and with gardeners in other countries and throughout the United States.

This writer's special memories of Barnwell include being introduced by her to Georgia Torrey Drennan's wonderful book *Ever-blooming Roses*, being given cuttings of some of her favorite roses, and being shown her prized collection of items decorated with violets.

Barnwell was a trustee of the American Rose Center and the Caroline Dorman Nature Preserve. She was an authority on roses (and other plants) and was a member of many plant societies. She will be remembered and missed by all who knew her.



Maureen Detweiler and Cleo Barnwell  
in Cleo's Garden 1988



Charlotte & Pete Haring and Cleo Barnwell  
at a Heritage Rose Foundation Meeting 1989

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## HYBRID WICHURANA ROSES

### PART I - ONCE-BLOOMING LARGE-FLOWERED CLIMBERS

by Robert Berrien

*Editor's note: The terms remontant, repeat-blooming and recurrent are used interchangeably by many rosarians to indicate rose varieties which have more than one bloom period per year. Likewise, the opposites of these terms, non-remontant, once-blooming and non-recurrent indicate varieties with one major bloom per year.*

'*Rosa wichurana*' is a small-flowered, white, non-remontant climber which was discovered in Japan in 1861 by Dr. Max Ernst Wichura, the German botanist for whom it was named. It took several years before the hybridizers realized what a great improvement this rose would make in producing climbers greatly superior to the many hybrid multifloras which had been on the market since the early 1800s. The hybrid wichuranas had much more flexible canes and eventually were developed into color variations of surprising beauty. Also, the wichuranas had glossy dark green leaves which were much more attractive than the rather dull foliage on the multifloras. In short, the hybrid wichuranas represented a brilliant new age in the field of climbing roses.

In crossing '*Rosa wichurana*', the hybridizers usually used a tea, bourbon, hybrid perpetual or noisette rose as the other parent. Most of the resulting hybrids were large-flowered, as discussed in Parts I and II of this article, although a few were small-flowered and will be covered in part III. They flower only in the spring or early summer and thus are described as "once-bloomers." A few of my selections may produce two blossoms in September and three more in October, but that is not enough to call them true repeat bloomers.

Either directly or indirectly, '*Rosa wichurana*' is related to one parent of every rose described in this article, and they are all non-remontant and have waxy dark green foliage. So to avoid repetition, the description of each rose is usually confined to its

color and shape, the rose's hybridizer, and the name of the other parent. However, sometimes repetition of both parents is essential to a better understanding of the paragraph as a whole.

The significant fact about all the climbers in this article is that they all are once-bloomers and thus require very different pruning from that required for repeat bloomers. Once-bloomers flower mostly on wood produced in the previous year. It is best not to prune them for the first few years, and then, where necessary, prune them only after they have flowered in the early summer. Obviously in late winter you should remove the diseased wood and winterkill.

This article suggests a revision in classifying the climbers embraced in Parts I and II. Despite the fact that they are all large-flowered and all non-remontant, only about half of them are classified in *Modern Roses XI* as large-flowered climbers. The remainder are called hybrid wichuranas, which I believe is inconsistent and confusing. It would simplify matters if the term "large-flowered" applied only to repeat-blooming climbers. Then it could be generally understood that all roses classified as hybrid wichuranas are actually once-bloomers. The nurserymen selling hybrid wichuranas should inform their customers of this fact and supply written instructions of their special pruning requirements. I hope my readers will be patient with my frequent use of the line: This rose should be reclassified as a hybrid wichurana. When I use that line, it will be understood that rose is now classified as a large-flowered climber.

Most of my selections are currently available from at least one North American nursery. A few are available from only one or more European nurseries. However I have seen these climbers and enjoyed them, and I readily understand why a few European nurseries still sell them. It is no insult to these climbers that they are not currently available at any North American nursery. It is obvious that there is still some demand for them since they are still available in Europe, and some of

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those nurseries are willing to export. (See June 2005 issue of *American Rose*.) Finally, I have included three or four roses which are not available anywhere, according to Schneider's *Combined Rose List 2004*.

Now let's consider these fascinating climbers in the chronological order of their introduction. The more recently introduced ones are described in Part II which will be published subsequently. Once-blooming small-flowered wichuranas will be considered eventually in Part III. Every rose presented in these articles is registered in *Modern Roses XI*.

'Paul's Carmine Pillar' (1895) is one of three roses which simultaneously are the first roses to blossom in the south of England, according to the late Graham Stuart Thomas. That makes it an appropriate climber to introduce this article. Its brilliant carmine single blossoms begin with impressive, long, pointed buds. The rose is classified in *Modern Roses XI* as a climbing hybrid tea, but another reliable text calls it a hybrid wichurana. Its specific parentage is unknown. Its single non-remontant flowers are quite typical of '*Rosa wichurana*' and totally unlike a hybrid tea. I would classify it as a hybrid wichurana.

'May Queen' (1898), by Walter Van Fleet, has semi-double, pink flowers which have the fragrance of fresh apples. The bush grows about 20 feet and may be used very successfully as a ground cover. The birth of this rose marks the beginning of the very successful career of Dr. Walter Van Fleet of Little Silver, NJ. He was a medical doctor who gave up his practice to pursue his favorite hobby, rose hybridization.

'May Queen' (1898) was created by Michael Horvath, the famous hybridizer of Pitcher and Manda Nursery of South Orange, NJ. It certainly deserves its title in my opinion. It has very double, quartered blossoms which are medium pink. Its pollen parent was a hybrid perpetual rose called 'Champion of the World' (1894). My reasons for preferring this 'May Queen' over the 'May Queen' introduced by Walter Van Fleet are difficult to explain. It's really just a matter of personal preference.

'Gardenia' (1899) was created by Michael Horvath, although *Modern Roses XI* merely lists the introducer, W.A. Manda. Its very double flowers are creamy white with yellow centers. This impressive climber grew a good 20 feet in my old garden. Its pollen parent was a tea rose named 'Perle des Jardins' (1874).

'Jersey Beauty' (1899) was introduced by W.A. Manda, but it is not clear whether the actual hybridizer was Michael Horvath. This rose has the same parentage as 'Gardenia' (see above), but it has single blossoms which are much more fragrant than those of 'Gardenia.' Its light yellow flowers usually come in tight clusters in contrast to the loose sprays of 'Gardenia'.

'Alberic Barbier' (1900), by Rene Barbier, seems to be the first French introduction into this long line of once-blooming large-flowered wichurana climbers. I first saw it during my 1980 tour of French gardens and nurseries. Its creamy white flowers have a lemon tint when fully open. These blossoms come on long, pliable stems which may explain this climber's continuing popularity. Its pollen parent was a tea rose called 'Shirley Hibberd' (1873).

'Paul Transon' (1900), by Barbier, is a great favorite of mine for several reasons, especially its color. Its salmon flowers with coppery overtones are truly unique, and so are the pleated petals on each double blossom. A cross between '*Rosa wichurana*' and the famous old noisette 'L'Ideal,' it has only slight fragrance. In my opinion, it should be reclassified as a hybrid wichurana.

'Rene Andre' (1901), again by Barbier, is an interesting rose because Barbier used the same parentage as for 'Paul Transon' (see above), but with quite different results. 'Rene Andre' is much more fragrant and grows much taller. Its saffron-yellow flowers always come in clusters and have a pinkish tint.

'Elisa Robichon' (1901), by Barbier, is included here because its lovely blossoms are my idea of a true salmon pink. I first saw this

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charmer at the French Chateau Chenonceaux in 1980 and was greatly impressed. This was one of several climbers which Barbier produced by crossing *'Rosa wichurana'* with 'L'Ideal', some of which are large-flowered. 'Elsa Robichon' is not especially fragrant, but its clusters of salmon pink flowers are outstanding.

'Valentin Beaulieu' (1902), by Barbier, is listed here because it is the only mauve rose I know in this line of large-flowered wichurana climbers. I love lilac-colored blossoms, so of course this one attracted me at the Roseraie de l'Hay. It is unfortunate that this charming Barbier rose is not available at any North American or European nursery.

'Francois Poisson' (1902) is a fascinating climber, whose light yellow flowers have orange centers. I first saw this rose in France at the Chateau Amboise, where it made an excellent pillar rose. It had a mild fragrance. The pollen parent of 'Francois Poisson' was a noisette named 'William Allen Richardson' (1878). In my opinion, this rose should be reclassified as a hybrid wichurana.

'Leontine Gervais' (1903) is a beautiful salmon colored rose which has a rare advantage. It does acceptably well growing in a northerly exposure. Rene Barbier used the tea rose 'Catherine de Guillot' (1895) as the pollen parent, and in my opinion, it should be reclassified as a hybrid wichurana.

'Gerbe Rose' (1904) was introduced by the firm of Fauque-Laurent in Orleans, France. It appears that its hybridizer was Jacques Vigneron. It makes a fine pillar rose, and its medium pink flowers are unusual because they have the same fragrance as white peonies. 'Gerbe Rose' has the same parentage as 'Debutante' (1902), by Walshe, but has larger blossoms and thus belongs in this list rather than with the once-blooming, small-flowered climbers to be discussed in Part III. Its pollen parent was the well known hybrid perpetual 'Baroness Rothchild' (1868). It should be reclassified as a hybrid wichurana.

'La perle' (1905) introduced by Fauque-

Laurent, is just the rose for one who needs a climber which will grow 30 feet up one side of an arch and then down the other. Its creamy white blossoms have yellow centers and a marvelous fragrance! Its pollen parent was a tea called 'Mme Hoste' (1887) It appears that Jacque Vigneron was the hybridizer of 'La Perle.'

'Alida Lovett' (1905), by Wallace Van Fleet, certainly reveals the fact that one of its parents was a hybrid tea. Its lovely medium pink blossoms are yellow at the base and have a fine fragrance. In my opinion, it should be reclassified as a hybrid wichurana.

'Lady Gay' (1905), by Michael Walsh, is a deep pink beauty whose pollen parent was a bourbon rose named 'Bardou Job' (1887). This hybrid wichurana grows at least 15 feet and won the gold medal of the Royal National Rose Society in 1905. It is quite resistant to mildew. Michael Walsh eventually attained great fame producing both hybrid wichuranas and hybrid multiflorae beginning in 1902. He usually named his roses after characters in the poems of Longfellow.

'Evangeline' (1906) is another of Walsh's offerings, this time with single soft pink 2-inch blossoms which are very fragrant and always borne in large clusters. It grows a good 18 feet and makes a very different display than the many wichurana ramblers which have double flowers. Its pollen parent was 'Turner's Crimson Rambler' (1893), which explains why it is so winter hardy.

'Francois Juranville' (1906) is still a very popular salmon pink climber which grows at least 15 feet. It is handled by so many North American nurseries that I really needn't say any more. Its pollen parent was a china rose called 'Laurette Messimy'. This is another Barbier success.

'Francois Guillot' (1907) is one of the many early hybrid wichuranas on display at the Roseraie de l'Hay in Paris, France. There are so many that it was difficult for me to take comprehensive notes on them all. This white

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climber has very double flowers, and its only distinction, as far as I can recall, was that its glossy foliage was light green instead of the waxy dark green found in the foliage of so many of the hybrid wichuranas. 'Francois Guillot' has a very mild fragrance, but made an impressive climber when in full bloom. Its parentage was the same as that of 'Francois Juranville', and this one is also by Barbier.

'Alexandre Girault' (1909) is best described by Graham Stuart Thomas: "Pretty buds of deeper colour open to almost scarlet flowers, nearly filled with rather quilled petals but showing white centre, green eye, and yellow stamens; the colour deepens to lilac-carmine, but remains paler on the reverse of the petals. This strange mixture of colours blends into a deep coppery carmine at a distance and is very satisfying, so much so that it has been given an important position at the Roseraie de l'Hay near Paris, where it covers a long high trellis around the formal pool." Its pollen parent was a pink tea rose known as 'Papa Gontier' (1883). Another Barbier production which should be classified as a hybrid wichurana.

'Miss Haylett' (1909) has large, double, carmine pink flowers on a plant which grows about 12 feet. Its blossoms have a yellowish tint and are not particularly fragrant. The bush is a cross between '*Rosa wichurana*' and a tea rose named 'Ernest Metz' (1888) introduced by Fauque-Laurent. 'Miss Haylett' still appears in a few French gardens and is currently available at two European nurseries.

'American Beauty, Climbing' (1909) was created by Josiah Hoopes, an American who was both a nurseryman and a rose hybridizer. Its parentage was ('*Rosa wichurana*' x 'Marion Dingee') x 'American Beauty'. It is a deep pink climber which should not be confused with its pollen parent 'American Beauty', a crimson hybrid perpetual, since the climber is non-recurrent. But I am convinced that they actually were confused and that many American gardeners bought the new climber expecting that it would be as lovely as the then extremely popular hybrid

perpetual of the same name. In my opinion, 'American Beauty, Climbing' should be reclassified as a hybrid wichurana.

'Christine Wright' (1909) is a very cold-hardy climber which blooms earlier in the spring than the more modern climbers. Its very lovely pink flowers reflect its tea rose parent called 'Mme Caroline Testout' (1890). They are very fragrant but non-remontant, usually coming in clusters. This rose is a great credit to all the work Josiah Hoopes did in creating it. In my opinion, it should be reclassified as a hybrid wichurana.

'Joseph Liger' (1909) is one of only two bi-color roses in this entire series. Its petals are bright yellow, but, on the reverse side, they are creamy white. This unique production of Barbier is a cross between '*Rosa wichurana*' and a china rose named 'Irene Watts' (1896). It is not particularly fragrant, and so it resembles its china parentage in that respect. The other bi-color rose in this line is 'Alexandre Girault' (see above).

'Silver Moon' (1910) by Van Fleet has such lovely pure white blossoms that its popularity never ends, even though it is non-remontant. This charming single rose is moderately fragrant and may be used either on a trellis or growing up into trees. Its parentage is reputedly ('*Rosa wichurana*' x 'Devoniensis') x '*Rosa laevigata*,' and in my opinion, it should be reclassified as a hybrid wichurana.

'Fragenzeichen' (1910) shows how fast the Germans jumped into the hybrid wichurana race. Naturally the hybridizer, Johannes Boettner, used 'Dorothy Perkins' (1901) as one of the parents of this rose because he had heard of the great fame that that small-flowered hybrid wichurana had already achieved in America. As the other parent he used a red hybrid perpetual named 'Marie Bauman' (1863) which resulted in this lovely pink large-flowered climber which is correctly classified in *Modern Roses XI* as a hybrid wichurana.

'Fraulein Octavia Hesse' (1910) is a production of H.A. Hesse of Ems, Germany. Its

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creamy white flowers have excellent form, which seems to be its principal virtue. Graham Stuart Thomas finds it is somewhat similar to 'Alberic Barbier' (see above), which he says is the superior rose in most respects. Its pollen parent was a hybrid tea rose called 'Kaiserin Augusta Viktoria' (1891). Since 'Fraulein Octavia Hesse' is a repeat-blooming rose now classified as a hybrid wichurana, it should be reclassified as a large-flowered climber in order to be consistent with my reclassification plan stated above.

'Dr. W. Van Fleet' (1910) is another example of Van Fleet's new large-flowered climbers which thrilled gardeners beginning to tire of all the small-flowered climbers then in commerce. The pollen parent was a tea rose called 'Safrano' (1939). The grayish-pink flowers which bloom in loose sprays are non-remontant, so naturally I am proposing that it be reclassified as a hybrid wichurana.

'Arcadia' (1913) drew a lot of attention in the garden where I saw it, perhaps because it was such a bright red in contrast with the many pink or yellow wichurana climbers which surrounded it. Its rose parentage is unknown, but Michael Walsh is its creator. It is a well-known fact that Walsh used 'Turner's Crimson Rambler' as one parent in producing several of his multiflora and wichurana climbers, and I am convinced it was one parent of 'Arcadia.' It was difficult to determine if this rose is truly large-flowered, but I am calling it that here. Suffice it to say that its very double blossoms make an attractive climber and that its red color is quite unique in this series of once-blooming, large-flowered climbers.

'Source d'Or' (1913), by Eugene Turbat, has all the characteristics of a hybrid wichurana but is classified as a large-flowered climber. It has non-remontant flowers, glossy dark green foliage, and the typical wichurana fragrance. Its parentage is unknown. Two more recent creations of Turbat presented in Part II of this article are correctly classified as hybrid wichuranas in *Modern Roses XI*. Since it is obvious that Turbat had the resources for

producing hybrid wichuranas, and since 'Source d'Or' has all the characteristics of a wichurana, I believe that this yellow beauty should be classified as a hybrid wichurana. This oldtimer is still seen in a few French gardens.

'Paul Noel' (1913), by Remi Tanne of Rouen, France, is a lovely non-remontant climber which appears in several French gardens. This rose is a beautiful blend of pink and yellow and has the marvelous fragrance associated with hybrid wichuranas. Its pollen parent was a tea rose named 'Mons. Tillier' (1891). In my opinion, it should be reclassified as a hybrid wichurana.

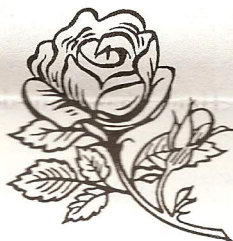
'Dr Huey' (1914) is a cross between a small-flowered wichurana called 'Ethel' (1912) and a medium red rose named 'Gruss an Teplitz' (1897). Peter Beales' comments on 'Dr Huey' are significant: "Used extensively as an understock under the name 'Shafter', especially in the United States and Australia. Consequently it crops up frequently as a garden plant in its own right, and so it should." 'Dr Huey' has semi-double blossoms of crimson maroon, usually borne in clusters. This climber by Captain George Thomas grows about 12 feet. It is a non-remontant rose and should be reclassified as a hybrid wichurana.

'Mary Lovett' (1915) had as a pollen parent a hybrid tea rose named 'Kaiserin Augusta Viktoria' (1891). The results were a very fragrant waxy white flower which is quite double. In the Crawford Rose Garden in Brooklyn, NY, Scanniello and Bayard describe the non-recurrent blossoms of this large climber as follows: "The pointed buds open to clusters of three or four flat flowers with 25 to 30 petals and exposed stamens. These clusters are borne mostly at the end of laterals, each at least a foot long. 'Mary Lovett' is another creation of Walter Van Fleet. One of the chief advantages of this climber seems to be that it will fill a space 12 feet high and 24 feet wide if you need a climber that large. In my opinion, it should be reclassified as a hybrid wichurana.

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'Paul's Scarlet' (1916) is a cross between 'Paul's Carmine Pillar' (see above) and a noisette named 'Rev d'Or' (1869). Growing up the side of my former home in Bethesda, MD, it gave those who saw it a real thrill throughout the month of May, and no one seemed to care that it was only slightly fragrant. Graham Stuart Thomas calls it the most popular climber in England. 'Paul's Scarlet' was registered by William Paul posthumously in 1906. It is quite fitting that Part I of this article begins and ends with a climber created by William Paul, who, along with Thomas Rivers, was so influential in early English rose hybridization.

At this point I'm wondering if my readers now realize there were only four red climbers among the 34 we have been discussing. All the rest were either yellow, pink, white or blends thereof. I have no answer for this mystery unless it is purely a coincidental result.



### PREPARING FOR THE PAST

by Maureen Reed Detweiler

*Passion For Roses* - Peter Beales' Comprehensive Guide To Landscaping With Roses

Cloth binding, 256 pages, many beautiful color photos

2005, Rizzoli International Publications, Inc

300 Park Avenue South

New York, NY 10010

Peter Beales lives and works at his nursery in Norfolk, England, putting his 50 years of experience growing prize roses to very good use. He is now serving as president of the Royal National Rose Society of England. In

2003 he was awarded Royal Horticultural Society Victory Medal of Honour.

The first book on roses that this writer ever owned was Beales' first book, *Classic Roses* (1985). She remembers purchasing the book and rushing home to read it, and reading until two o'clock in the morning, unable to put it down. It was the beginning of her 20-year affair with old roses.

This new book concentrates upon landscaping and the best roses to use for certain effects, as the sub-title suggests; but a charming feature of this book is the inclusion throughout of his personal reminiscences about his experiences with roses and rose people.

It is this writer's hope that this book will fill many with the "passion for roses."

### 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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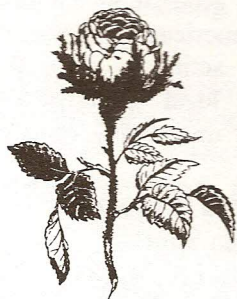
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