'Marinette'
Photo by Stephen Hoy

Singularly Beautiful Roses

A Publication Dedicated to Single,
Nearly Single, and Semi-Double Flowered Roses
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Some "Newer" Roses Unwrapped

One of my great joys might be called the "catalog shuffle." I never fail to be enthusiastic about discovering a "new" rose – whether a recent introduction or an older one that has escaped my notice. Those that fall under the purview of this newsletter's focus frequently fall through the cracks of catalogs like water through a sieve, or, they take up residence in the unphotographed "roses in limited quantities" photocopied insert that falls out of the catalog when opened. The original mission of this newsletter was to create a network of enthusiasts that ensured their commercial survival. Here are a few – some relatively new, some perhaps just "new" to you, that here in my Georgia garden have sufficient merit to recommend themselves.

'All A-Flutter' HelpMeFindRoses.com states that this fuchsia-pink 7-10 petalled cultivar was bred by 'Knock Out' hybridizer William Radler in 2002. It is one of three recent rose introductions (all Radler hybrids) belonging to the Southern Living Plant Collection, a collaboration between Plant Development Services, Inc. and *Southern Living* magazine. One of its parents is 'Rainbow Knock Out' which has passed along a strong measure of resistance to black spot (Ed. note; Mr. Radler has obviously held some seedlings back or waited for the right marketing opportunity to come along. 'Rainbow Knock Out's breeding date is listed as later than 'All A-Flutter's which is not consistent with the latter's lineage.). The 3-4" blooms lighten in color as they age giving the plant an all pink 'Mutabilis'-like (in reverse) appearance, an effect that is actually quite eye-catching in the landscape. With its red tinted filaments I'm beginning to think I favor it over 'Pink Knock Out.'

'Bill Reid' Named for Canadian artist William R. Reid, Jr. (1920-1998), whose art was dedicated to preserving Haida traditions (a native people of the Pacific Northwest), 'Bill Reid' is the third in a series of rose introductions from the Canadian Artists Rose Program. Much like the Explorer and Parkland series, these varieties have been selected for their flower power and hardiness. This cultivar is a glowing non-fading golden yellow with occasional darker edges. Its nearly single flowers frequently arrive in clusters of two or three. Hybridized by Larry Dyck, the rose breeder at the Morden Research Station in Manitoba in 1996, it was released in 2012. Some minor issues with black spot should not ruin your enjoyment of this vibrantly yellow rose.

'Campfire' This extremely black spot resistant rose was also hybridized by Canadian Larry Dyck and is the fourth in the Canadian Artist series. It commemorates a painting of the same name by early 20th century Canadian painter Tom Thomson (1877-1917). The 15 or so petals of this 2014 introduction open creamy pastel yellow with rosy pink edges. As the blooms mature the pink deepens and gravitates inward both on the inner and outer surfaces of each petal. Its parents, 'My Hero' (Ping Lim) and 'Frontenac' (Dr. Felicitas Svejda) each contributed wonderful attributes, 'Campfire' is very floriferous and absolutely trouble free. HMF reports that this compact growing cultivar has survived climate zone 2b winters. I can report that it is heat and humidity tolerant as well.

'Deanna Krause' I had to buy this rose again after killing the first one with Roundup overspray. Stuff happens. A hybrid from Texas Rose Rustler Ray Ponton, this cultivar is a cross of 'Carefree Beauty' and 'Fourth of July.' It produces an endless variety of pink and white striped blooms both one-per-stem and in sprays of 2-3. In contrast to the obvious 'Fourth of July' influence, the plant's architecture and health more closely resemble 'Carefree Beauty.' I find it to be very resistant to black spot and haven't had the cercospera issues that occasionally appear on C.B. here in our humid, hot summers.

'Excite' In the 1980's a Florida couple, Jim and Diann Giles, played a big role in selling roses grafted on *R. fortuniana* to folks in the Deep South District of the American Rose Society. We didn't discover that Diann had gotten bitten by the hybridizing bug until years later. Among a small group of her roses that are highly regarded locally, including 'Colonial Days,' and 'Butterfly Kisses,' is a nearly single Hybrid Tea named 'Excite' (2001). The watermelon red/rose shaded petals contrast sharply with deep green foliage. Among my collection of single Hybrid Teas it more closely resembles 'Mrs. Oakley Fisher' in habit of growth and flower power than 'Dainty Bess.' It could easily be described as everblooming, producing large 4-5" flowers in sprays of 3-5. Diann has never

released information regarding its parents, but it has inherited a fair measure of disease tolerance. My friend Allen Whitcomb has used it in his hybridizing and has introduced what I consider to be an amazing seedling from it.

'Flamingo Kolorscape' ('Gartenfreund') One of three roses featured in this article from the Kordes Kolorscape Series, this semi-double cultivar is a 2013 introduction. The Kolorscape roses are the newest incarnations of the long-standing Kordes tradition of breeding varieties suited for low-maintenance public gardens. Many of the early 20th century Kordes Hybrid Polyanthas/Floribundas were intended to fit this profile. 'Flamingo Kolorscape,' disease-resistant, self-cleaning, and heat-tolerant, is not only a wonderful candidate for mass planting, but ably works as a specimen in the residential landscape. Add to its résumé the fact that it was a winner in the German ADR trials. Picture the bird at its coral/rose/pink peak of color for a hint of the visual impact this cultivar makes in the garden.

'Fruit Punch' The second of three William Radler rose introductions in the Southern Living Plant Collection, 'Fruit Punch' is the real standout of the group. No hints as to its parentage are provided, but I found it to be virtually immune from disease (at least in its first year in the garden) – very Radler-like. Glossy foliage highlighted by maroon-tinted new growth contrasts vividly with the kaleidoscope of fruity colors featured in the petals of this single-flowered variety. Think strawberry, tangerine, and blushing peach swirled together around a tart lemon center (in training to write catalog gush)! Very, very satisfying in the garden. Look for it at the big box stores.

'Kardinal Kolorscape' This 2014 addition to the Kolorscape Series is a deeply saturated red with approximately 15 petals. The jury is still out for me when comparing the blooms to other no-fuss reds – 'Knock Out,' 'Home Run,' 'Thrive!,' and 'Miracle On The Hudson.' However, the disease resistance in my garden is very comparable – little to no spotting (Patent information says it also has excellent resistance to rust and powdery mildew). Additionally, it adheres to the self-cleaning and heat-tolerant criteria of the Kolorscape Series which makes it a great candidate for mass planting in commercial or public gardens. Unlike many nearly single-flowered roses it produced no hips which may speak to its prolific flower-power.

'Lemon Fizz Kolorscape' Several years ago my rose friend Karen Radde interrupted my rhapsodic praise of a yellow Shrub rose named 'Limoncello' with an even more effusive evaluation of a new test rose in The State Botanic Garden of Georgia in Athens, GA (where Karen does volunteer work). Its name – 'Lemon Fizz.' I was confused because I was growing a rose with the same name that was somewhat disease prone. The latter has been subsequently dropped from commerce and the name now belongs to the former, a 2011 Kordes introduction that was deemed an ADR award winner in 2015. It has also been designated a Kolorscape Series rose and it nicely meets that criteria. It holds its color somewhat longer than the aforementioned 'Limoncello,' a daunting challenge in our Zone 8b heat and sunshine. Kordes is making tremendous strides in producing healthier yellow-flowered roses for the garden!

'Oso Easy Cherry Pie' ('Candia Meillandécor') Not really a new rose, but still relatively new to many I'm sure. The name in bold type is the name you'll find on the tag, but if you exhibit it at an ARS sanctioned show the name in parentheses is the ARS-approved exhibition name. The Proven Winners marketing brand was created in 1992 to identify new annuals and herbaceous and woody perennials that have superior habits of growth and/or require less chemical intervention on the part of the average home gardener. Another component of the brand is plant education and attention to "right plant/right place." One of their offshoots is the Oso Easy series of roses. Not all of the roses are

equally "right" for every garden, but one of my favorites is 'Oso Easy Cherry Pie,' a compact grower with bright red 2" single flowers with a distinct white eye and bright yellow stamens. My plant grew in a large container for a year, has been in the ground for two years, and is approximately 24" tall and 30" wide. Very similar in habit of growth to 'Pink Drift,' a favorite in my garden. It has remained very healthy. [Ed. note; It's also producing some very interesting seedlings. One I'm keeping my eye on is a cross with the thornless 'My Stars.']

'Rhapsody In Red' Here is a rose that is what this publication is all about. My great friend Al Whitcomb lives near Florida's west coast and is like myself an "amateur hybridizer" and avid rose photographer. I'm growing a number of his seedlings and although there are several I could rave about one in particular stands out. 'Rhapsody In Red' is a seedling of the previously mentioned 'Excite.' Photos of it started arriving in my inbox from its first or second flush of bloom. I got a plant grafted on *R. fortuniana* nearly two years ago. The semi-double flowers are a sultry dark red with darker edges offset by striking golden stamens. Its form reminds me of the David Austin rose 'Marinette,' - just enough petals to hint at a high center, but most beautiful as an open flower. 'Rhapsody In Red' has been very healthy so far with minimal black spot infection.

'Ron's Vision' A number of Mike Shoup's Pioneer Roses are growing in popularity. Beginning with several roses that are standouts in the Antique Rose Emporium garden – 'Buff Beauty,' 'Carefree Beauty, 'Mrs. Oakley Fisher,' 'Graham Thomas,' and 'Basye's Blueberry' to name just a few – Mike began breeding roses in an attempt to create a diverse group of carefree, repeat flowering garden plants. Many have been given names that commemorate individuals prominent in Texas history. 'Ron's Vision,' a cross of 'Carefree Beauty' x 'Graham Thomas,' has been a rewarding compact-growing rose. It has inherited, to my delight, the vibrant yellow-gold color of 'Graham Thomas' accompanied by the disease resistance of 'Carefree Beauty!' Heat tolerance seems to be another positive attribute. This rose was named for well-respected Houston television newscaster, Ron Stone, who established a foundation for the study of Texas history in Brenham, TX (A.R.E.'s location). [Ed. note; Look for a future article about more of Mike's Texas Pioneer Roses]

'Smile' This is a variety that is not well known but should be. Bred by John Clements and introduced by Heirloom Roses in 2002 I first saw this rose in their no-spray seedling/trial beds during an open house. 'Smile' is an upright growing bush, to 6' here in middle GA, with beautiful glossy foliage that is very healthy. The single to nearly single blooms will occasionally measure 4" across and are a very attractive peachy, apricot-pink feathering into a prominent pearl white center. Striking red filaments make the stamens pop! Large sprays and long stems make this a great cut-flower rose as well.

'Smiling Jean' Here is another practically lost rose that deserves to be in many more gardens. Kim Rupert was kind enough to share this variety with me several summers ago. 'Smiling Jean' was bred by the great Sean McCann. Many of Sean's early hybrids, mostly Miniatures, were carried by Jerry Justice of Justice Miniature Roses. Later introductions, including this Miniflora, were available briefly from Paul Zimmerman through Ashdown Roses. Depending on sun and heat the 2½ - 3" blooms are variously salmon pink to coral in color with roughly two rows of petals. The foliage is extremely glossy and free of disease. It initially reminded me of 'Lady Elsie May' in both color and habit of growth.

'Watercolors Home Run' A fantastic rose bred by former Weeks Roses hybridizer Tom Carruth! I purchased a plant last winter from Brecks, primarily a bulb resource owned by the same company that purchased Weeks Roses - Plants Alive. It began blooming early in the growing season for me and never stopped. Promotional photos promised a blend of pastel pink and yellow shades and 'Watercolors Home Run' delivered. In its first year the plant developed a mounded compact shape - about 24" in height and 30" in width. I was extremely pleased with its disease resistance as well – no black spot – and predict that many growers will find it to be an outstanding addition to the low-maintenance rose garden.

A New Crested Rose

If you are active in the Rose Hybridizers Association the name John Jelinek will be familiar to you. A resident of Oregon, John began growing roses in 1999. A look at his listing on HMF will reveal a number of diverse hybrids from his breeding program. He recently registered a new seedling with strong 'Crested Moss' (*R. centifolia cristata*) influence, most notably demonstrated by tufted/crested sepals that have the appearance of frilled parsley. Ralph Moore is noted for developing a group of "Modern" moss roses, both large-growing and miniature [Ed. note; I'm fortunate to have a signed copy of Ralph's booklet entitled *Modern Moss Roses*]. John forwarded the following description.

"New single and semi-double crested shrub. Size 3' x 3.' Mild to strong, sweet fragrance. 5-11 petals. Medium to large, semi-double blooms borne mostly solitary cupped to flat bloom form. Prolific, blooms in flushes throughout the season. Crested sepals, glandular sepals, leafy sepals, long sepals, decorative, pointed buds. Tested in Oregon and coastal California. Parentage – 'Tournament of Roses' x 'Crested Jewel.'"

Comments found on HMF/Roses.com state that the rose, named 'Crested Abundance,' is very disease resistant, particularly to rust and powdery mildew, but also to black spot. No info on availability commercially. Thanks to John for sending me this info. Kudos to all amateur hybridizers for their dedication and hard work!

'Crested Abundance'

Photos by John Jelinek

From the Editor

Another rose season is quickly unfolding here in Middle Georgia. Along with an early Easter the crepe myrtles and pecan trees broke dormancy weeks before the norm. My father-in-law, a rural country farmer in his younger years, informed me that was a sure-fire clue that no further killing frosts would occur. True for the last thirty plus years. *Rosa banksiae normalis* and *Rosa fortuniana* were the first roses to bloom in the garden quickly followed by my growing collection of Spinosissimas. 'Harison's Yellow' then put on a brilliantly-hued show. The Alister Clark variety, 'Scorcher,' also lit up the fence-line.

Settling an impending dilemma, a recent strong wind and rain event literally lifted a sixteen year old 'Knock Out' up out of the ground. I was contemplating either cutting it back drastically or creating a "Largest-'Knock Out'-in-the-World" contest. It was roughly eighteen feet in diameter at its widest and over eight feet tall. Turns out I had unknowingly planted it over a bleeder line from the septic tank! The storm took care of that decision. Curiously, other roses in the yard were untouched – even potted roses remained upright. Apocalyptic!

It's also time to either pot up or cull last year's seedlings – maybe several Rugosa types will have their first blooms this spring. This year's crop is transitioning outdoors as I write this. In the near future pictures will be posted on my Facebook page.

Contact Information:

Singularly Beautiful Roses

Editor: Stephen Hoy
223 Sentry Oaks Dr.
Warner Robins, GA 31093
hoy127@cox.net

North American Sources:

Antique Rose Emporium – 'Deanna Krause,' & 'Ron's Vision'
Chamblees' Roses – ''Flamingo Kolorscape,' 'Kardinal Kolorscape,' & 'Lemon Fizz Kolorscape'
Cool Roses – 'Rhapsody In Red' (maybe 'Excite?)
Cornhill Nursery – 'Campfire'
Heirloom Roses – 'Smile,' & 'Watercolors Home Run'
High Country Roses – 'Bill Reid'
Northland Rosarium – 'Bill Reid'
Palatine Roses – 'Lemon Fizz Kolorscape'
Sam Kedem Garden and Nursery – 'Bill Reid,' & 'Campfire'

Retailers that sell Star Roses or Proven Winners selections may have 'Oso Easy Cherry Pie'
Retailers that market the Southern Living Collection (Home Depot?) may have 'All A-Flutter,' & 'Fruit Punch'
I know of no one that currently offers 'Smiling Jean.'