

GREAT *Garden* RESTORATION

by Paul Zimmerman

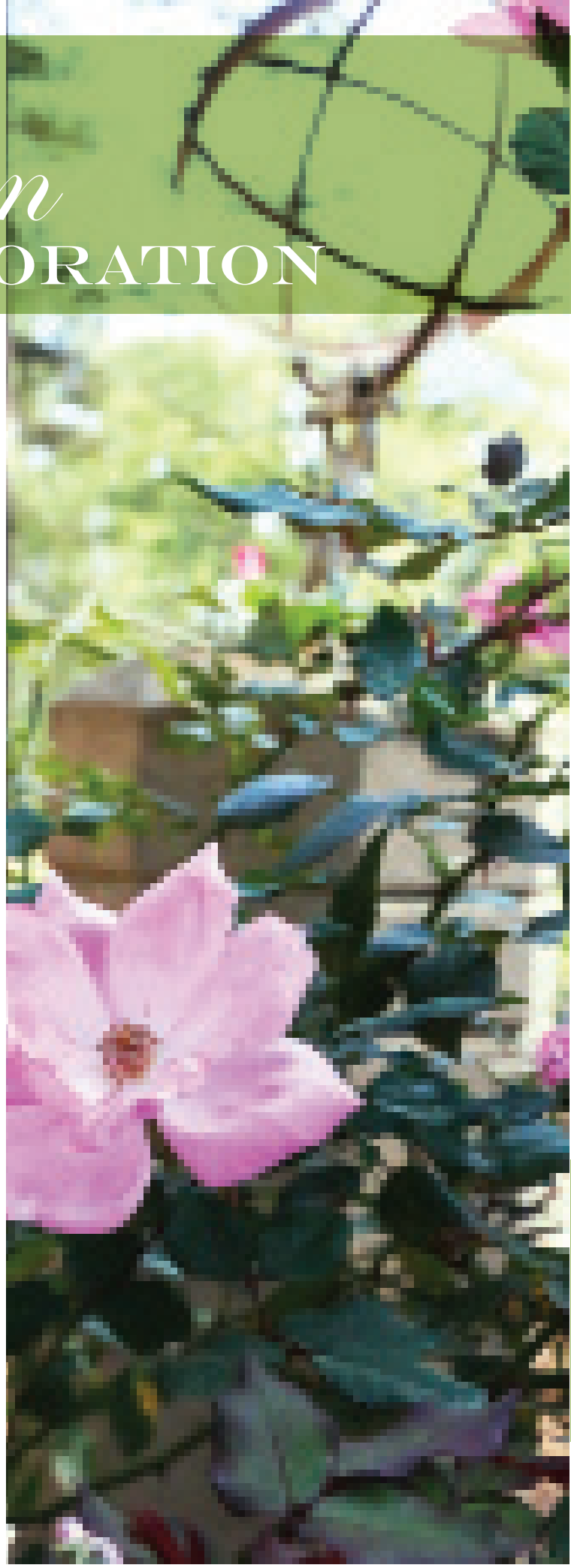
More than 100 years ago, Father of The American Rose Society, J. Horace McFarland, said the Society's mission is "encouragement for hybridizers of new roses, for planting of public rose gardens, and for providing information to guide and assist amateurs." The same is true today.

The American Rose Society certainly has a special place in the world of roses in America. It's a source of education, preservation, and perhaps most of all, inspiration to all gardeners in this country when it comes to roses. Through our magazine, website, bulletins, conventions, Consulting Rosarian program and more; the American Rose Society has continued to live that mission as stated by J. Horace McFarland.

The American Rose Center, located in Shreveport, Louisiana, has been a part of that vision since McFarland called for "a rosarium of its own" for the ARS. That goal was reached in the early 70s when the property was donated and the gardens were created. The original design consisted of more than 60 gardens spread over 40 acres. Over the years, conditions changed, trees matured, shading most of the garden and causing it to deteriorate. The need for a major renovation was recognized by the American Rose Center Committee.

The Great American Rose Garden Restoration Project was begun by a core group consisting of President, Pat Shanley, ARS Past President, Marilyn Wellan, Executive Director, Laura Seabaugh, Gulf District Director and Chair of the American Rose Center Committee, Allen Owings and ARS Chair of Development, Gaye Hammond. Marilyn Wellan is the Master Plan Coordinator and with her vision and focus the garden's Master Plan was created and the project moved forward.

The plan was to rethink the design of the gardens and consolidate the many individual gardens into one area and more importantly, to make it a unique garden not only in the world of roses but also of public gardens in general.



As a start, some 3.5 acres of pine trees, just past the Klima Center and the Watkins Reflection Pool, have been completely cleared. What this represents is an opportunity to completely rethink what the experience of visiting The American Rose Center will be. It's pretty much a blank slate and something like that, within an existing garden, is rare.

There had already been a tremendous amount of work done on the project, when Pat Shanley mentioned it to me over dinner, during the Biltmore International Rose Trials last September. Needless to say, as a lover of roses, someone with experience in designing gardens and an almost 25 year member of the ARS, I was intrigued by the possibilities. I had just been commissioned to be part of a large estate project in the Pacific Northwest that would involve traditional rose and perennial gardens and borders. I had also brought Richard Beales into that project. Perhaps the two of us could be considered to help the ARS make their dream garden come true? The next day I met with Marilyn, Laura and Pat to toss around ideas and subsequently, Richard and I were offered the opportunity to be part of the team from a vision and design perspective.

Enter Jackson & Perkins. Jackson & Perkins are launching a custom, rose and perennial garden, on-line design service in spring, 2018. I have been working with them on this project and will be a part of it. After discussion, they felt that a very symbiotic relationship could be had by Jackson & Perkins sponsoring Richard and I, as part of the Jackson & Perkins Landscape Garden Design Team, to design the new gardens at the ARC. An agreement was finalized and within a few

weeks we were on the grounds at the garden in mid-November.

But what should this garden be? It could be a beautiful garden of rose beds laid out to caress the eye. It could be a collection of roses in beds arranged perhaps by time, hybridizer or something else, like many beautiful gardens around the world. While that would be a beautiful garden, would it be unique to the American Rose Center and ARS? Personally, I felt it would not and thus was born the theme of the garden, "The History of the Rose In America." The garden would not only be beautiful but it would tell a story befitting the vision of J. Horace McFarland.

The first objective for the garden is for it to be a visual rose feast for the eyes. As this is the garden of the American Rose Society there needs to be a "wow factor" as you first enter the garden. The first vista will be from the proposed J. Horace McFarland Plaza. As visitors move through the garden they will not only experience a lovely rose garden but they will also learn about the history of the Rose in America. Narratives could include hybridizers, nurseries, styles of growing roses for exhibiting, for gardening and more. As we move through the garden, seminal moments in the history of the Rose in America will be way points along the journey, such as the creation of the noisette class, the journey of "Found Roses" westward, "Papa Floribunda", Gene Boerner's work with that class, the introduction of the 'Peace' rose that started the modern hybrid tea movement and some 45 years later the 'Knock Out' rose that turned the rose world on its head. But it won't end there. Now that visitors have

Thank You Jackson & Perkins for sponsoring the Grand Garden Restoration Design Plan!



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LEFT to RIGHT Richard Beales, Marilyn Wellan, Laura Seabaugh and Paul Zimmerman during a visit to the American Rose Center.

learned something about the history of the Rose in America, they will be invited along a path leading to the Windsounds Carillon Tower Garden to learn the future of the Rose in America. In those gardens we will establish the American Rose Center International Rose Trials. Using the guidelines created by the World Federation of Rose Societies, an International Rose Trial will be established, being just the third in the United States.

The gardens will also include education. Not only in history but also in hands-on activities, particularly for children. They will learn about the past, present and future of roses in America, and we will hopefully “seed” future rosarians in America.

This may all sound very ambitious and it is. But only from great ideas come great things. This is a team effort already

LEFT to RIGHT Back Row: Richard Beales, Jack Bogues, Paul Zimmerman, Crystal Davis, Beth Smiley, Carol Spiers. LEFT to RIGHT Front Row: Peggy Spivey, Butch Fleniken and Becky Smith and Carol Spiers.



involving many people in the American Rose Society. As it moves forward, other groups and members will become part of this Great American Rose Garden Restoration Project. A formidable force is building behind the Master Plan’s original vision and together with the membership, that vision will become a reality.

Some 25 years ago when I first started with roses I never dreamed one day I’d be standing with Richard Beales at our national headquarters looking out at a blank canvas on which we would paint “The History of The Rose in America”. But it has happened. And because it’s happened, the sky’s the limit for the new garden of the American Rose Center.

Your support for this important restoration project, *in any amount*, will be greatly appreciated. Here’s how you can help:

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES: \$10,000 or more. Donors opportunities for naming gardens or garden elements; includes inscription on our permanent 50th Anniversary GREAT AMERICAN ROSE GARDEN RESTORATION 2017-2022 Donor Wall.

TIMED GIVING: Commit to an annual gift of \$2,000 or more for each of the five years of the Restoration Project –2022 when the Gardens will celebrate its 50th year: your name will be inscribed on our 50th Anniversary Donor Wall. (Consider monthly contributions of \$166 per month to achieve this pledge.)

GENEROUS GIFTS: Names of donors of \$1,000 or more will be inscribed on large stone tiles in Klima Rose Hall under the heading GREAT AMERICAN ROSE GARDEN RESTORATION 2017-2022.

HUG-A-TREE: \$500. Our garden is a “woodland garden” and we revere our trees. Nurture a tree in the Garden – your name on an attractive label: at the base of a variety to be planted, or at one of our majestic pines.

WELCOME GIFTS: Everyone can be a part of our Great Garden Restoration. All gifts will be recognized in American Rose.

Please contact Laura Seabaugh Laura@rose.org or Marilyn Wellan roseusa@suddenlink.net to discuss needs and donor options.



Great Garden Restoration



The following donations, pledges and grants totalling more than \$245,000 have been received

RESTORATION GIFTS - \$50,000 and over
Jackson & Perkins Roses
Louisiana State Parks FHWA Recreational Trails

RESTORATION GIFTS - \$20,000 and over
Shanley, Pat & John DelVecchio
Wellan, Marilyn & Myron Wellan

RESTORATION GIFTS - \$10,000 and over
Collin County (Dallas Area) Rose Society
David Austin, Ltd, David Austin & Michael Marriott
Extra Touch Builders, Burt Allen
Malmay Logging, Jack Malmay
Matthews, Neill - Bequest

RESTORATION GIFTS - \$1,000 and more
ARS Gulf District
Chambersville Farms, Dean & Carol Oswald
Dallas Rose Society
Community Foundation of N. La. 'Gifts for Good'
Garrison's Greenwood Gardens, Mark & Sandi Walton
Graves, Claude & Pam
Hammond, Gaye
Harder, Ann
Hurst Rentals, Keith Dillard
Louisiana Signs & Designs, Kris Kelley
Mayo Family, Claudius & Madge
McClure, Gloria
New Orleans Rose Society
Owings, Dr. Allen, Gulf District Director
Pharr Bros.

Weeks Roses, Inc.
White, Barzanna
Willis Farms, Dr. Gladden 'Bud' Willis

RESTORATION GIFTS - \$100 to \$999
AAA Quality Engravers
Adams, Jolene
Arbor Gate, Tomball, Texas
ARS Buckeye District
CenLa Rose Society
Kristen Cole — Hug-a-Tree
Gainesville Rose Society — Hug-a-Tree
Graves, Claude & Pam
Hover, Frank & Flora
Kelley, Ken & Wanda
Northwest La. Master Gardeners
Plantskydd
Reddington, Nancy
Seabaugh, Alan
SW Louisiana Rose Society
Spiers, Jerry
Verrett, Marguerite
Wellan, Marilyn — Hug-a-Tree
Wellan, Myron — Hug-a-Tree



to date (12-31-17)