

The American Rose Center
America's Rose Garden
Volunteer Newsletter

July 2023 - Issue #11

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"News You Can Use"

The newsletter for volunteers to the American Rose Center to keep you apprised of service opportunities

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*Please contact Frank or Pam for work assignments or other information,
Contact Don only if Frank or Pam are not available.*

ARC regular Volunteer Day is Thursday of every week, 8-10 a.m.
Master Gardener scheduled service day is the third Thursday of each month.
Master Gardener Volunteer Chair, Larry Williams—Larryw@broadmoor.tv 318-294-0642

Rambler Ramblings... Claude Graves

Welcome back to the ARC Volunteer News letter! I regret not publishing the newsletter over the past 5 months but life circumstances and a very busy spring season at the American Rose Center forced me to focus my time on other matters. In this issue I will try to bring you up to date on the exciting things that have happened and are currently evolving at the ARC with the Rambler Project.

The Rambler Pilot Garden

Our last issue featured an article on the Rambler Pilot Garden of 12 ramblers on Towers being constructed adjacent to circle number 2 of the new Wellan Circles Garden. This garden is a trial garden to ascertain the real world labor costs of maintaining a garden of large rambling roses.



The Pilot garden was completed in March, 2023 and 12 large ramblers, brought to the ARC from Chambersville in December 2021, were planted prior to the ARS National Convention in May. The January issue of the newsletter contains photos of the ramblers that had been selected earlier, the actual roses planted varied somewhat as some ramblers were substituted because of being in better condition or larger. The changes were that Venesta Pendula and Via-comtesse de Chabannes were replaced with Ruby Queen and Wartburg.

Although the ramblers were pretty much bloomed out before the convention they still showed off enough to create a lot of interest from the convention attendees.

Pilot Garden Ramblers - revised June 2023



Dorothy Perkins
Fades to darker pink



Evangeline



Gardenia
Quickly fades to pure white



Geschwind's Nordlandrose #2



Heidekönigin



Oriole



Papa Gouchault
Photo—Help Me Find



Rubin



Rudelsburg



Snowdrift



Wartburg



Ruby Queen

The ARS National Convention

The National Convention, held the first week of May, was a great success. We had 284 attendees from across the country, and everyone enjoyed seeing the new gardens despite the fact that many roses were quite small due to last minute replacement of roses lost or damaged in the December 2022 freak early hard freeze.

From the standpoint of the ramblers, we were able to expose a large segment of the ARS membership to the beauty and unique qualities of these giant roses. Many rosarians do not grow ramblers, fearing their reputation to be hard to maintain. Their ability to see our large roses grown on the towers helped to dispel some of their fears. This fear of wild growth is the primary cause of the endangered status of ramblers as gardeners over the years bought less of them leading to the nurseries dropping them from their catalogs. Any hope of revitalizing (and saving) the entire class of ramblers lies in increasing their viability as a specimen plant which can make a dramatic statement in today's gardens.

The convention offered me a special opportunity to network with many influential persons in the ARS and the rose industry in conversations about how the ramblers could best be preserved. I found much interest and support to pursue a formal structure to re-introduce the ramblers to the gardening public and to champion their expanded usage in American gardens.

On Saturday morning of the convention a program on Rambler Roses was presented by Anita Clevenger of the Heritage Rose Foundation and myself. The Program was highly attended and created much conversation and mostly positive comments among those in attendance.

The summation of the Rambler discussion was the statement made by Anita, "to save a rose, you have to give it away" and more specifically, the generally accepted 3-3-30 Plan—that it needs to be grown in 3 Nurseries, 3 Public Gardens and 30 Private gardens to have a reasonable expectation that the rose will survive over time.

A Plan to Save the Ramblers

Late last year a small committee comprised of ARS President- Diane Sommers, ARS VP- Craig Dorschel, ARS Treasurer- Carrie Bergs, and myself began meeting on a regular basis to create a not-for-profit effort to preserve Anne Belovich's Collection of about 350 ramblers. As there is nothing unique about Anne's ramblers except for the fact that many of them are the only ones in the United States. There are 100's more in Europe that are almost equally endangered except for the fact that they are still slightly more widely grown by the public and in many more public gardens in Europe than in the U.S. So, although our immediate focus is the Belovich collection, big picture is to preserve and protect ramblers in general.

The plan that we evolved achieves the following criteria:

- Create a strategic Partnership with a major Heritage Rose Nursery who over time will commit to putting most all rose varieties of the collection into commerce.
- ARS to supply free cuttings of the ramblers to additional Bareroot nurseries.
- Create an income stream into ARS by way of a fixed donation amount included with each Rambler sold by the participating nurseries.
- Maintain a database of specific gardeners buying each of the specific varieties of ramblers.
- Hold events for personnel of Public Gardens to introduce them to the concept of ramblers in Public gardens.
- Hold events to sell expendable large ramblers to the public to raise funds to support the Rambler nurseries at the ARC.
- Provide large expendable ramblers free to Public Gardens.

The above plan achieves the elements of the 3-3-30 scheme in giving the ramblers free to participating nurseries. A mechanism is included that assures that at least a few of each of the unfamiliar varieties would be distributed to various nurseries. The donation back to ARS from each sale to the Rambler Fund would help cover expenses of managing and promoting the Save the Ramblers Project.

Current Status of the Save the Rambler Project

During the convention I was able to visit at length with, and show our specialized nursery facilities to the Director of Strategic Partnerships of Heirloom Roses who had a booth and marketing team at the convention. Heirloom Roses was a sponsor for the convention is the major own root nursery specializing in Heritage roses in the country. Heirloom expressed an interest in being a major component in the Save the Rambler Project and further negotiations are under-way.

Here is the status of where we are as the negotiations continue:

- Heirloom Roses is tentatively committed to being the major partner with the American Rose Society to form the Save the Rambler Project.
- Heirloom will consider growing all 350 varieties of the Anne Belovich Ramblers in their facilities in St Paul Oregon, but not yet ready to commit to listing all of the Rambler varieties in their catalog.
- The concept of the donation with each Rambler sold is accepted and negotiations will set the dollar amount of the donations. Inclusion of the "donation" in the sale price is somewhat similar to the standard practice of royalty payments on patented roses and structured as such.
- Heirloom wants to test grow 10 varieties to see how they perform in their facility in Oregon.
- The ARC has furnished cuttings for the 10 test varieties from the selection of large Ramblers currently growing in the gardens at the ARC.
- Other own root nurseries will be invited to participate in the Save the Ramblers Project under the same structure as is established for Heirloom, except they will be able to grow a smaller limited selection from the collection.
- The World Federation of Rose Societies is following our project closely and we are hopeful of a financial grant to help establish the Save the Rambler Project.

Next Master Gardener Rambler Service Day Thursday July 20th @ 8:00 AM

I look forward to seeing all of you again! Thanks for all you do!

It's Hot! We will start at 8:00 this week to get a little ahead of the heat. We will have cold water available, but feel free to bring your own.

The irrigation has been improved with pressure reducers and filters in the lines to reduce the problems of emitters plugging. With the (hopefully) more reliable irrigation, the roses should be growing in the heat, but as not vigorously as in the cooler weather.

Should be some tying, pruning and weed pulling in

Nursery 1. The weeds along the fence have been sprayed and hopefully reduced.

Nursery #2 In addition to some tying and weed pulling, it has a problem with a large accumulation of pine straw, cones and small trigs and branches from the strong storms a few weeks ago. We will need to clean up the mess. I will bring some brooms and will try to get a leaf blower from Don to make job easier. (The problem with the leaf blower is it blows the weed seeds around and possibly into the pots).