

The American Rose Center
America's Rose Garden
Volunteer Newsletter
July 2022 - Issue #6

"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 (other than a Thursday) only if Frank or Pam are not available.*

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

I want to express a special "Thank You" to Lou Osborne. Lou has moved from Shreveport to live with her son. I have served with Lou for many years on the ARC Committee and appreciate her many contributions to the ARC and most recently for volunteering to lead the Master Gardener participation at the rose center. Lou, we will miss you and wish you well!

Rambler Ramblings... Claude Graves

*This month we will continue to look at one of the true pioneers of rose hybridization, this month a man that J. Horace McFarland referred to as "that rose genius", Michael Henry Horvath. An article in the **American Rose Annual 1942**, "Better Roses For North America" by Dr. J. A. Gamble at pp. 54-55: "M.H. Horvath, of Mentor, Ohio, was the first one to really begin the exploration of the American species for the production of roses hardy and suitable for the different sections of North America. To date his greatest success has been with R. setigera, a wild climber.*

Michael Henry Horvath
1868—1945
Hungary

Horvath was a Forester by education as was our subject last month, Rudolph Geshwind. Horvath moved to America in about 1890 and lived in Mentor Ohio not far from Lake Erie. He found employment with a number of large estates and eventually worked for the Cleveland Parks Department.

His first crosses were with *R. wichuraiana* and were introduced thru the *Pitcher and Manda Nursery* as 'Pink Roamer', 'South Orange Perfection', 'Manda's Triumph', and 'Universal Favorite'. It was a few years before Horvath was credited with the creation of these now well known ramblers. However, Horvath achieved more fame from his future work with the American species rose *R. setigera*. As was Geshwind, Horvath was focused on the use of hardy native species roses to produce roses hardy enough for the North American environment. Around 1920 Horvath concentrated on using *R. setigera* for his breeding program. The first successes of his *Setigera* breeding



By permission of American Rose Magazine
M. H. HORVATH AND HIS FELLOW TRUSTEES OF THE AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY
Left to right: Leonard Barron, J. C. Clark, E. A. Piester, C. R. McGinnes, R. Marion Hutton, S. S. Pennock, T. Allen Kirk, Robert Pyle, M. H. Horvath in front.

Photo: American Rose Annual 1942

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

was the introduction of a pirate theme for naming his roses with 'Jean Lafitte' in 1924, and Mrs. F. F. Prentiss in 1925. Later in 1934 he added 'Captain Kidd', 'Doubloons' and Long John Silver' to the Pirate collection.

We have 10 Horvath ramblers in the Anne Belovich collection. five are Hybrid Setigera, 'Jean Lafitte', 'Captain Kidd', 'Long John Silver', 'Mrs. F. F. Prentiss' and 'Thor'. The other five are all Hybrid Wichuraiana, and include his first introductions, 'Pink Roamer', 'South Orange Perfection', 'Universal Favorite' and 'Gardenia'. Anne Belovich conceded on 'Manda's Triumph', and she lists both Horvath and W. Albert Manda (of South Orange New Jersey) as co-hybridizers of 'Manda's Triumph'.



'Pink Roamer' **Horvath HWich 1898**

'Pink Roamer' is one of Horvath's ramblers that puts on a good show when it blooms. It also is one of the earlier blooming ramblers, it is said that in England... "you know it's spring when you see 'Pink Roamer' blooming over the garden wall".

The two photos graphically demonstrate the importance of a rigorous pruning discipline. The photo the left was taken early in our experience at Chambersville and we were letting them grow to their ultimate size and splendor! After many towers blew down in thunder storms, we began exercising much more control over the size of the rose! Eventually we also learned that it required less time to maintain them in a more mannerly condition than to let them get out of control.



The blooms of 'Pink Roamer'



Right and center above: 'Long John Silver' one of the roses in Horvath's "Pirate Series" is a rose hybridized from the species rose *R. setigra*, it definitely has the somewhat wild and unruly growth habit we see in many of the setigera hybrid ramblers. They are capable of growing to unlimited height as witnessed by the long canes blowing in the wind in this photo.

This rose also is a favorite of mine. After growing these ramblers for a number of years I began to refer to a small group of rose as "The Great Whites". They were ramblers of various classes but with one common trait, they all had big pure white blooms!" My "Great Whites" list also includes, Purity, Silver Moon, Sir Cedrick Morris, and City of York.





'Jean Lafitte', HSet 1924

Left: 'Jean Lafitte' was the first of the "Pirate Series" of Setigera hybrids. Our initial rose was one of the 60 roses gathered for import into the US by Anne Belovich on her last trip to Sangerhausen Germany. Complications with grafting instead of rooting the roses in the Netherlands, letting them get too big to import, then having to root cutting from the grafted roses at Hooks Nursery in France delayed import for 5 years. When the roses finally came out of quarantine at her home in Washington State, she was already very ill and elected to have them delivered to Chambersville and never grew them in her garden. As far as I know we may have the only 'Jean Lafitte' in the United States. Will Radler requested a rooted cutting which we supplied for use in his Knock Out Rose™ hybridizing program.

'Captain Kidd', HSet 1934

Right: Another of the "Pirate Series" from Horvath. I fell in love with the massive dark red blooms and planted this ramblar at my home. It has been a great learning experience, beautiful big blooms, but not very many of them. I thought it will bloom more when it matures. Not so, three years later no more bloom, but I learned something, the gangly growth habit of some Setigera roses combined with large, sparse, black spot prone foliage does not work well in a small space. The captain is headed to the gallows this fall!



'Thor' HSet 1940

Left: If there is a competition among ramblers for the biggest bloom 'Thor' would be in the race with Captain Kidd. Both also share the same characteristics mention before as to growth habit. Both are great roses for massive structures. They also both have a moderate amount of fragrance.



'Mrs. F. F. Prentiss' HSet 1925

Right: Mrs. F. F. Prentiss is another of those last 60 ramblers imported from Sangerhausen. This may be another ramblar in our collection unique to the United States, the only photos I can find online are all from Europe. This rose does have a more refined growth habit and is one of the roses planned for the new 12 tower Pilot Project at the ARC. Mrs. Prentiss was a supporter and patron of Mr. Horvath early in his career in Cleveland.



Next Master Gardener Rambler Service Day

Thursday July 21th 8:30 AM

What's doing in the Rambler Nursery

Last month I had expected to see more new growth on the ramblers however the early onset of the hot weather evidentially had slowed the expected flush of new canes. The problem was compounded by the fact that we had not compensated for the warmer weather by increasing the irrigation frequency so the plants were dealing with low moisture levels.

With the continuing extreme hot weather we have gone to a twice a day watering schedule to maintain an adequate moisture level in the pots and should see an increase in growth. However ramblers are no different than most all other roses, they do not grow well once the low temperature at night remain in the 80's.

This phenomenon is illustrated by the fact that you can

grow better rose in the mid summer months in Arizona than in Louisiana even though the temperature in Arizona is over 110 degrees almost everyday. The difference is the temperature in Arizona may dip into the 60's at night. Those cool nights make a huge difference!

We may have to wait for cooler weather in the fall to see any rapid growth of the ramblers. In the meantime we will continue doing the same routine care for the roses. A crew of the same size as last month should be adequate for July.

Larry Williams and the ARC Volunteer Coordinators, Frank Hover and Pam Bradley and some of the more experienced volunteers will lead the crews.

Rambler Nursery Training

We had no new volunteers for training last month so I was able to spend my time offering advice on how to handle some of the many different pruning situations faced on the different growth habits of different varieties of ramblers.

Making the decision of how to train new growth up to be part of the future rose, or when to cut it out is often difficult decision to make. I am glad to have the

time to do this advanced training on what I consider the "art" of pruning ramblers. I use the term "art" as it is truly more of a process of visualizing what you want the finished product to look like and doing what is required to accomplish that end, rather than a rigid set of 'RULES'. I hope to be able to pass on some guidance and advice on how to make these decisions based on my personal experience over the last 12 years.

Upcoming Events at the Rose Center

There are no events scheduled for the month of June other than the regularly scheduled volunteer work day every Thursday.

There are however some exciting new things that will be happening in the next few months that will have a definite impact on the rambler project.

1. Construction will begin soon on Rambler Nursery #2 The unused fenced area west of the Administration Building will be converted in a second Rambler Nursery almost identical to the current Nursey #1
2. Nursery #1 will be expanded by adding 30 additional spaces for pots in the currently unused area. That will bring the capacity of Nursery #1 to 230 ramblers, Nursery #2 will hold 120 ramblers giving us the required 350 spaces for the entire Anne Belovich collection.
3. In September, 12 additional rambler towers will be erected in the core garden area around the circles. These 12 towers are a Pilot Project to provide data on the labor requirements to maintain the ramblers on towers necessary to plan for future gardens for the ramblers. These towers will be planted with large mature ramblers moved from Chambersville Tree Farms.