

The American Rose Center  
*America's Rose Garden*  
Volunteer Newsletter - Feb. 22 Issue #1

Welcome to the first Issue of the Volunteer newsletter featuring the "News You Can Use" to coordinate your volunteer activities at the American Rose Center.

The mission of this newsletter is to keep our much-appreciated volunteer core informed about what is happening at the Rose Center, the volunteer opportunities available and the educational / special events we will be offering. Other than specific regularly scheduled events or designated special events, each Thursday of every week will be the normal day we have designated for volunteer service and the day on which we will be prepared with lists of tasks, and jobs to accomplish.

**Contacts for Garden Volunteers for information at the American Rose Center are:**

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*Rambler Ramblings...*

*By: Claude Graves, Chairman ARC Committee*

*With a tip of my hat to my first rose mentor, Howard Walters, I have named this column in honor of Howard's famous "Rosarian Ramblings" column that ran in The American Rose Magazine for 32 years.*

In each issue I will be writing a *Rambler Ramblings* about ramblers, it may be about a hybridizer, a particular rambler, or group of ramblers. In this issue I will start at the beginning, what is a rambler?

**What is a Rambler?**

The most basic definition of a rambler is that it is an early hybrid rose created from a cross between a species rose and a named (or sometimes unknown) cultivar which displays a growth habit of long flexible canes that can be trained to grow on vertical structures. Most ramblers were bred from the species roses 'R. wichuraiana' and 'R. multiflora' both are native to China and Japan. There are however also a significant number of "ramblers" produced from many other species roses.

'R. multiflora' has relatively limber canes that are easy to train on structures initially, but eventually will harden with time and become larger in diameter and stiff. Multiflora has large pyramidal clusters of small white blooms with what is to me, is an almost sickeningly sweet fragrance. It can grow to a large size unsupported as a massive shrub. This is the rose that was planted in great numbers in the Midwest as a wind break and to prevent soil erosion. Unfortunately, it was also a perfect habitat for the Rose Rosette Disease mite and was a significant factor in the spread of Rose Rosette Disease though out the Midwest.

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Grown in the wild, *wichuraiana* is perfectly happy mounding to about four foot tall then spreading out on the ground in an immense “carpet” of dark green, glossy ground cover. The five petal white blooms with yellow stamens of *wichuraiana* are larger than *multiflora* and born in small clusters along the canes. The blooms are pleasantly fragrant.

In 1893 ‘Turner’s Crimson Rambler’ was introduced from China into Great Britain. Many recognize it as one of the first of the new rose class of “ramblers”. It later became known as simply, “Crimson Rambler” and was sub-classed as a Hybrid multiflora (HMult), it had large clusters of blooms characteristic of the multifloras but also had much more flexible easy to train canes characteristic more of a *wichuraiana*. As the name suggests it bore masses of small bright red blooms and immediately became an extremely popular rambler. It also became a favorite rose for the early hybridizers to use in their breeding programs. The hybridizer of ‘Crimson Rambler’ is unknown. Many suspect that in its undocumented history in China that it has gained some of the genetics from *wichuraiana*.

As you are working with the ramblers as a volunteer in the Anne Belovich Rambler Garden you will become aware over time of many roses classed as HMult or HWich, but they have growth and/or bloom habits contrary to that parentage. I believe ‘Crimson Rambler’ being used somewhere in that roses’ breeding could probably be the source of that inconsistency.

The ramblers were basically the only climbing roses available until 1930. Almost all of the ramblers bloom only once in the late spring or early summer. When a reblooming sport (mutation) of ‘Dr Van Fleet’ was found and named ‘New Dawn’ it was such a profound discovery that it led to ‘New Dawn’ being granted U. S. Plant Patent #1. Yes, the very first plant patented!



R. multiflora



'R. wichuraiana'



'Turner's Crimson Rambler'

## ARC – Activities Scheduled for Feb 11 – Feb 12, 2022

### Friday, Feb 11 2022

**Task:** Move 150 small ramblers in 3 gallon pots from a trailer into the fenced Rambler Nursery where they will be grown to maturity prior to planting permanently into the garden.

**10:00 AM - At the fenced area east of the administration building (not the west side).**

**Tools needed:** Pruners, Gloves, Knee Pads

Claude Graves, Chairman ARC Committee Chairman, Curator of the Anne Belovich Rambler Garden at Chambersville Tree Farms will do a “Show and Tell” demonstration of the process of placing the ramblers, inserting and securing a 10’ stake they will be grown on and connecting the irrigation stake.

Claude will then demonstrate pruning and securing the plants to the stakes including a discussion on the different growth habits and relevant pruning techniques for the different growth habits.

Volunteers will move the ramblers into the Nursery Facility and Claude will assist and continue the training on caring for rambler roses.

**Claude will be working in the Rambler Nursery the rest of the day Friday.**

**1:00 PM - 3:00 PM - At the Old Heritage Habit Garden at the White Pergola on the walkway south of the new Circle Gardens.**

**Tools needed:** Pruners, Gloves, Knee Pads

**Heritage Rose Pruning Demonstration** by Stephen Scanniello, Director of the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden at the New York Botanical Garden.

Stephen will do a hands on Pruning Demonstration on the proper pruning of old garden roses (which are pruned much differently than Hybrid Tea roses).

### Saturday, Feb 12 2022

**9:00 AM - At the fenced area east of the administration building (not the west side).**

Claude will be working in the Rambler Nursery Saturday AM, Volunteer help to work on the ramblers would be much appreciated.

**9:00 AM - Old Heritage Habit Garden at the White Pergola on the walkway south of the Circle Gardens**

Stephen and members of the Heritage Rose Foundation will be Pruning the old garden roses, they will be happy to have you join them and learn to prune Heritage Roses.



# NEWS RELEASE

## American Rose Society

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 2, 2022

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### **VOLUNTEER DAYS AT AMERICA'S ROSE GARDEN – FEBRUARY 18-19 IT'S THE ANNUAL "PRUNING PARTY"**

Shreveport, LA – America's Rose Garden at the American Rose Center is seeking volunteers to participate during its upcoming **VOLUNTEER DAYS** on Friday and Saturday, February 18-19, from 8:00 am – 'til. Volunteers are welcome to come work in the garden any time during the two days. Lunch will be provided on both days to all who register.

Volunteers will be guided through tasks by garden team leaders. Other tasks might include rose planting, feeding and winter weeding. At 9:00 a.m. attendees will hear "How To Prune Roses" by Connie Reeve as part of our Green Thumb Series of horticultural programming.



CONNIE REEVE is a current member and Newsletter Editor of the Shreveport-Bossier Rose Society; Past President of the Collin County Rose Society; Member of ARS since 2010; Consulting Rosarian for the Gulf District. Awarded the Bronze Medal from both the Collin County Rose Society and the SBRS. Received a Presidential Citation from Immediate Past President of the ARS, Bob Martin, for coordination of the judging of the International Rose Trials at the Gardens of the American Rose Center. Currently serving on the American Rose Center Garden Committee in working with Great Garden Restoration Project and future planning of the gardens. Connie is also a Master Gardener in Rusk County, Texas. She is a native of North Louisiana but has resided in Texas since 1994.

No experience needed. Volunteers should bring pruners, other available tools and garden gloves. Master Gardeners, Garden Club members, Scout troops, 4-H Clubs, businesses and church groups are encouraged to participate.

Volunteers are essential to fulfilling a public garden's mission of connecting people with plants, including Roses. What better way to learn, than to work alongside fellow gardeners with a goal of helping to keep America's Rose Garden beautiful and ready for visitors.

For more information about Volunteer Days, please contact Kim Merritt at (318) 938-5402 or email [kim@rose.org](mailto:kim@rose.org) Registration is necessary to reserve a complimentary lunch.

The American Rose Society is a non-profit, educational organization founded in 1892 to promote the culture, preservation, and appreciation of the Rose and improve its standard of excellence for all people through education and research. Its headquarters is located in Shreveport, Louisiana, at the American Rose Center, home to "America's Rose Garden."