



Newsletter

APRIL 2026

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*The illustration above is of 'Rosa Mundi'
by James Sagmiller. This artwork was used on
the front cover of the first issue of Rosa Mundi,
the journal of the HRF, in Autumn, 2005.*



Mrs. Meyer and Mike Shoup.

President's Note

MIKE SHOUP

The journey that sparked my commitment to preserving lost and forgotten roses began with an outing with a group of “rose rustlers”—a term designed to draw attention to the search and rescue of surviving roses from remote locations like cemeteries and abandoned homes. We got to meet people like Mrs. Meyer in Brenham, who shared cuttings of what turned out to be ‘Louis Philippe.’ She was 93 at the time and this was her mother’s rose, dating it back to when Lorenzo de Zavala, minister to France when Texas was still a republic, had plants given to him from France as a gift.

Despite its controversial name, rose rustling was simply a media tactic to highlight our efforts in rescuing these cherished, fragrant varieties that our ancestors adored. This led to why the work of such a legitimately named organization the Heritage Rose Foundation (HRF) is now so important to me.

Through HRF, we are dedicated to preserving these historical roses and sharing their stories and lore with the world. Our upcoming conference in May will bring together enthusiasts, historians, breeders, collectors, and gardening aficionados to celebrate

the beauty and significance of old roses while fostering sense of community and camaraderie. Interestingly, open and community gardens act in a similar way. When running the Antique Rose Emporium, my greatest joy was witnessing customers meandering through the gardens, their voices weaving tales of family and heartfelt gatherings, offering solace from the everyday burdens that weighed upon them. Community and open gardens serve

as a wellspring of inspiration for new ideas in gardening, providing opportunities to discover new roses, gardening styles, and techniques while enjoying the wonderful camaraderie of fellow gardeners.

Join us on this remarkable journey as we continue to cherish and protect these timeless treasures.

Amongst the old roses, welcome! 🌹



Open garden at Antique Rose Emporium.

To Grow or Not to Grow: Train Canes Horizontally for More Bloom

MALCOLM MANNERS



At least thirteen buds on horizontal cane in Hex, Belgium.

My training is in plant physiology. In growing roses, I find it interesting to understand not only what a plant does, but how it goes about doing it.

Roses, like other plants, have some characteristic growth patterns that determine the shape and size of the plant. One of these that is particularly important, from the standpoint of flower production and branch location, is “apical dominance.” On a more-or-less vertically oriented stem, the new growth occurs at the top of the stem. There are many side buds all along the stem, but they will remain dormant, often for many years. If the cane makes branches, they tend to be produced only with new growth at the top of the stem. Yet if we prune the cane at any point along its length, the bud (or several buds) nearest the cut will swell and begin to grow almost immediately. How did they “know” it was time for them to grow? And why don’t more buds, lower down on the cane, also start growing?

As is true in humans and other members of the animal kingdom, plants use materials known as hormones to control aspects of their growth. Buds and leaves produce the hormone “auxin” (indole-3-acetic acid). The

auxin is transferred to the phloem (materials-carrying tissue) in the stem, where it is carried downward, to the roots. In the roots, it stimulates more root growth. But as it moves down the stem, there are cells at the base of those dormant side buds that perceive that flow of auxin, and it acts as a growth inhibitor to the bud, in essence saying to it “don’t grow yet; it’s not your time.”

There is another group of hormones, the cytokinins (zeatin and dihydrozeatin), which are produced by the roots, and are sent upward to the top of the plant, giving the opposite signal, “you need to grow now.” In a normal, healthy plant, these two signaling systems tend to produce a top and a root system that ideally match each other for size and function. And in those side buds along the cane, the auxin “do not grow” signal wins out over the cytokinin “grow now” message, and so they remain dormant. If you prune off the top, the buds near the top of the cut cane suddenly find themselves with no auxin arriving to tell them to stay dormant, but they are receiving an unusually large dose of cytokinin, which would otherwise have passed by on its way to the old top of the cane. And so they burst into growth. They almost immediately start sending massive

amounts of auxin down the stem, ensuring that the lower buds on the stem remain dormant (hence the top “apex” dominates over the lower buds—“apical dominance.”)

I said that auxin always moves downward in the stem, and by that, I mean in the direction from the tip of the stem to the root system, even if that direction is not straight down in the gravitational sense. But auxin will also tend to move, in a more-or-less horizontal stem, with the pull of gravity, so that the upward-facing part of the stem has less auxin than it would have had if it were vertical, and the auxin tends to pool in the lower part of the stem. This fact allows us to manipulate our roses to produce more flowers in areas they would not otherwise have done. (See the side note!)

The practice of “pegging” a rose means to bend a cane downward so that part of it is horizontal, or even a bit below horizontal. And with climbers, we can train the canes to a horizontal position when tying them to a trellis. Then, auxin’s “do not grow” message becomes very much weakened in those upward-facing side buds, and they begin to grow. A vertically-oriented cane may produce only a flower or a cluster of flowers at the top; but a horizontal stem will produce many side shoots, each of which will bloom, resulting in an extreme increase in the total number of flowers produced by the plant. Many of our heritage roses have sufficiently flexible canes that we can train them very nicely to be horizontal. And even those with stiff, upright canes (e.g., some of the Hybrid Perpetuals) can usually have at least the tops of the canes bent over, rather like a candy cane’s hook, giving several times as many flowers. 🌹



Climbing rose trained at Florida Southern College.

Credit Where Credit Is Due

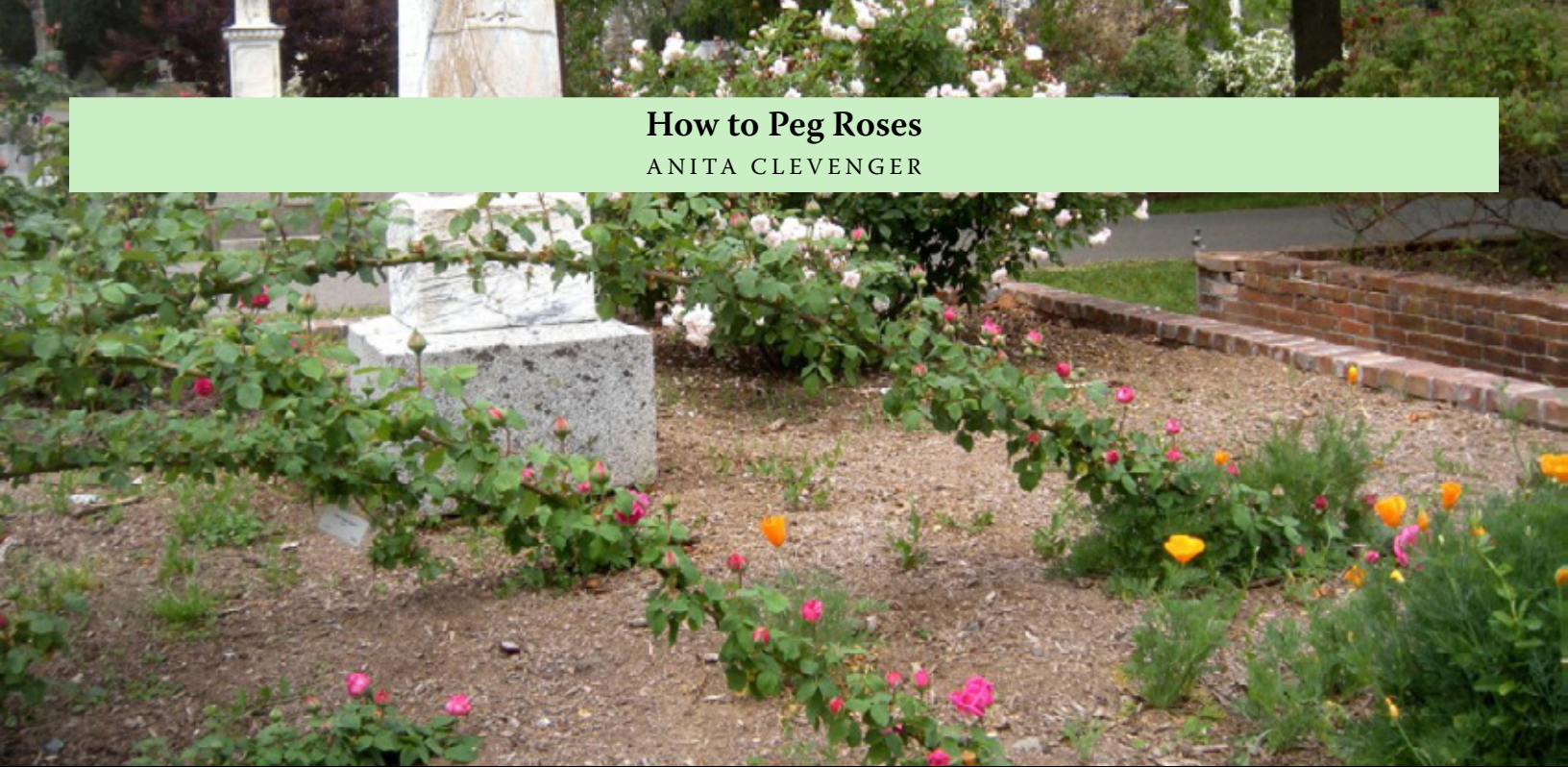
When I was in graduate school working on my M.S. in Horticulture, many years ago, my major professor, Dr. R. H. Briggs, was a rather stern, frightening man. He would call students into his office and grill us on our knowledge of the literature of the research we were doing. One day, when I was being interrogated, he asked me to talk about the movement of auxin. I explained the shoots-to-roots movement, but then I said I also thought that auxin would move downward with gravity, in a horizontal stem. He pounced at that—he said “Who did that research and first published it?” I had no idea, and was terrified that I had made a fatal mistake, but then he shouted “I DID!” I think, in the long run, he was happy I knew about it, even if I didn’t realize he was the discoverer of the phenomenon.



‘Madame Alfred Carriere’ wrapped around pillar, Kew Gardens, London.

How to Peg Roses

ANITA CLEVINGER



Pegged 'Madame Isaac Perriere'.

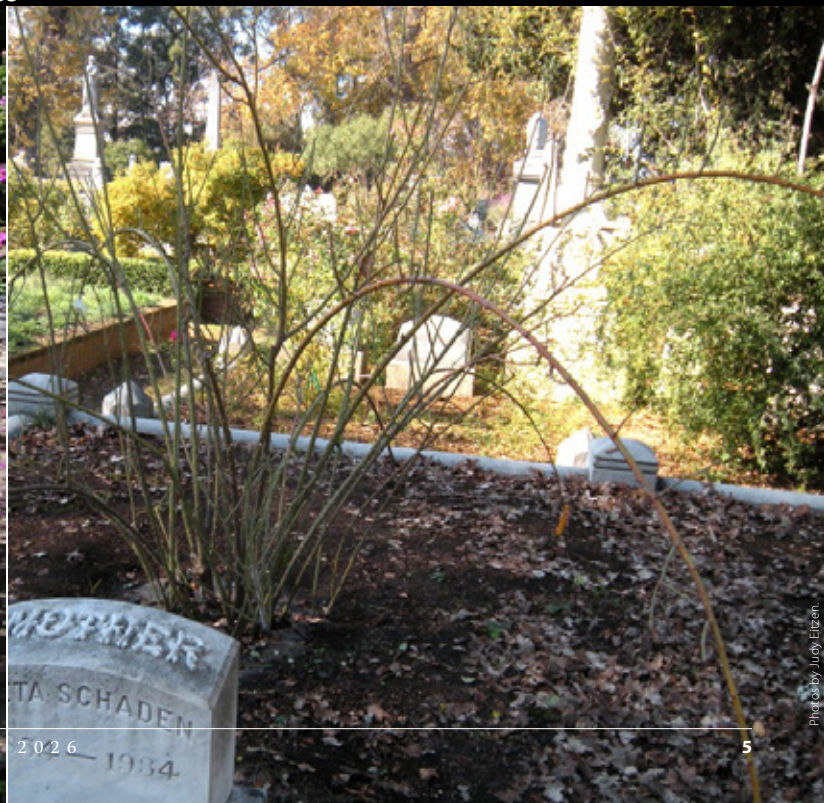
I first encountered the concept of pegging roses in Liz Druitt's excellent book, *The Organic Rose Garden*. She recommended "curving the canes down to the garden bed and fastening them with long hooks or staples," saying that "'Madame Isaac Pereiere' is one of the all-time great roses for this." She describe a fully-pegged rose as a "garden spider."

The Sacramento Historic Rose Garden was a great place to try this out. The collection included many Hybrid

Perpetuals which tended to grow straight up, with bare canes producing tufts of flowers at the top. The roses were grown in cemetery plots, with plenty of room to spread their canes. We used landscape staples and tent stakes, fastening the canes with a few inches of twine. We spread a few roses out like spiders, but preferred to peg some outside canes and leave upright canes in the middle, creating a beautifully arching plant.

Liz also suggested using weights to bend canes.

Left: "Westside HP" pegged. Right: The same rose winter pruned and pegged.





Left: Crystal Bremer self-pegging 'Quatre Saisons Blanc Mousseux'. Right: Lateral branch of the same rose.

We tied fishing weights to the tips, which did produce a bend but the canes tended to bob around in the wind. We removed the weights as soon as the new growth stiffened.

Tying canes together horizontally, or “self-pegging,” was very effective on roses with flexible, rangy growth, such as ‘Quatre Saisons Blanc Mousseux’.

We also tied large, sprawling roses around simply-built structures, such as rebar bent into arched shapes and tied in the middle to create a dome. Not only did this create,

in Liz’s words, “masses of flowers,” it tamed their growth.

Pegging has some drawbacks. It is labor-intensive and takes up a lot of space. In Sacramento’s heat, pegged canes tend to sunburn and need to be replaced with new canes. We also learned not to bend canes steeply downward because they tended to die back to the highest point.

Liz warned that pegged canes might “tip-root,” which we would have welcomed as an easy way to propagate. Unfortunately, that never happened! 🌹

Left: Marty Stroud and Charlie Wingo pegging 'Paul Ricault'. Right: "Phillips and Rix Pink Climbing China" lateral bloom.





"The Everywhere Rose."

Photo by Anita Clevenger

An Unsolved Mystery

ANITA CLEVENGER

While in Australia, I saw "The Everywhere Rose," which has been found in every Australian state and has been given at least ten study names. It was so widespread in Sydney's Rookwood Cemetery that it also earned the name of "The Cemetery Rose." Some Australians refer to it as "Mrs. Something." It seems to be the same as a northern California found rose known as "Dr. Peck's 12th Avenue Smoothie." Both once-blooming roses have flat flowers with a visible green center eye, crepe-like petals which may ball from spring rains, and stout, arching, long canes that bear few, if any prickles.

This rose has been identified with a number of historical names. In the UK and Sangerhausen, Germany, it is grown under the name of a Centifolia Hybrid, 'Gaspard Monge'. It's been in commerce in the United States as

'Charles Lawson,' but it doesn't match the historical descriptions of it. 'Charles Lawson' was said to be a good seed parent, but the roses grown today do not seem to bear fertile hips. It's also been sold in North America as 'Blush Damask'. In Australia, it was once sold as 'Juno'.

Australian rosarians have no records of 'Gaspard Monge' coming to their continent, so that identity is questionable. They have speculated that it could have arrived as a rootstock, which would explain it being found in so many places. It suckers into a wide bush, making it easy to propagate and pass around by digging up some roots. That, too, could explain its ubiquity.

Not only is the original name a mystery, so is its class. It has the characteristics of a Hybrid Bourbon, with its gray-toned leaves, or a Hybrid China, with some red

at the stipules and sparsely armed canes. The buds are quite glandular. Some see Gallica and Centifolia heritage. It grows especially well in clay soil and many not be fully winter-hardy.

There is considerable information about this rose listed under the “Dr. Peck’s” name on Helpmefind.com. It’s fun to read about it. Under “member comments,” Gregg Lowery explains who Dr. Peck was: “a physician who lived and worked in Oakland and was among the founding members of the Heritage Rose Group. He was retired and a volunteer at the Oakland Public Library, and obsessed with gathering information from books and periodicals that dealt with roses popular in Oakland in the late 19th century.” Gregg explains that the “smoothie” part of the found name refers to the “mostly thornless stems of the rose.”

Gregg often points out that we rarely can be sure of the identity of an old rose because none of us were born at the time of its introduction. We can compare plants morphologically and through DNA analysis, and piece together their horticultural history by tracking where they have been found. Old catalogs may also provide clues.

“The Everywhere Rose” is one of many roses that are beautiful and worth growing, an unsolved mystery that only makes our gardens more magical. 🌹



Photo by Judy Elzen



Photo by Judy Elzen

“Dr. Peck’s 12th Avenue Smoothie.”



Photo by Anita Clewinger

“The Everywhere Rose” in Western Australia.



Historic Rose Garden, 2012 Open Garden.

Open Gardens, Old and New

ANITA CLEVENGER

For nearly 30 years, the Sacramento Historic Rose Garden's Open Garden was held at the beginning of April, kicking off the rose season in Northern California. Curator Barbara Oliva started it shortly after the garden was founded in 1992, recognizing that a special event was a good way to publicize the garden, raise funds, solicit volunteers, educate the public, and encourage everybody to grow old roses.

Like many events, it started small. Over the years, it grew and grew, just as the roses

in the cemetery increased in size and number. Rose lovers came from around the world, declaring that attending the event was on their "bucket list." Heritage Rose Foundation trustees Connie Hilker and Peggy Martin came to speak. Barbara spoke, too, giving a notorious talk about rose sex, explaining why roses bloomed, how they were fertilized, and what exactly was inside a rose hip. (Some people thought that this was racy stuff for a seemingly-demure little old lady, but they didn't know Barbara very well.)

The gathering of the rose community was big part of the draw. Founder Fred Boutin, a noted botanist and heritage rose expert, attended regularly. Other rose notables included Gregg Lowery, Pamela and Michael Temple,

Clay and Jeri Jennings, Jill Perry, Sheri Berglund, and many more. People hugged old friends, made new ones, talked about roses and blissfully walked through the garden.

In the early days, volunteers grew little rooted cuttings of many of the found



Barbara Oliva.

Fortunately, there are still public places that host events featuring heritage roses. We have written about plans for Roseto di Murta and the Trinity Cemetery elsewhere in this newsletter. Here are some other events:

THE LYNCHBURG OLD CITY CEMETERY IN VIRGINIA IS HAVING ITS 31ST ANNUAL ROSE FESTIVAL APRIL 28–MAY 2, offering rose and companion plant sales for sale and historic tours. www.gravegarden.org/occevents/

THE HISTORIC MARYSVILLE CEMETERY, CALIFORNIA, grows many of the Sacramento cemetery roses, and hosts an annual Flowers, Tombstones & Tales tour, which was cancelled this year due to rain. www.facebook.com/HistoricMarysvilleCityCemetery/

IN GARY, INDIANA’S WOODSON LIBRARY, ON TUESDAY JUNE 2 & SATURDAY JUNE 6, RAZVAN BANCOS WILL PRESENT A PROGRAM, “THE GRAVITY OF HISTORIC ROSES—WHAT MAKES ROSES ATTRACT US AND KEEP US IN ORBIT.”

He will give a short history of highly scented roses, and discuss roses in the kitchen, roses as medicine, early hybrids, and early rose classes. This will be followed by a tour of the library roses in bloom. People will be asked to smell, compare, and rate their top scents and write them down in the Book of Noses. They will also have an opportunity to sample rose petal, leaf, or rose hip-infused treats, like ice cream, iced tea, candy, and sherbet, review rose literature at the library and engage in open conversation. For more information about this garden of 115 old garden rose varieties, go to www.millergardenclub.org/rosegarden.

roses that were in the collection, sold for \$4. Not uncommonly, the pots would arrive with weeds growing in them and snails clinging to the side. Then some nurseries, such as Vintage Gardens, offered to donate a few plants. The rose sales really took off after volunteer Judy Eitzen

asked for permission to propagate in the Cosumnes River College greenhouse. We went from having only one or two of each variety, if we were lucky, to many. Other volunteers, including Karen Jefferson and the Jennings, also propagated many roses. At our peak, we offered 700 roses, all listed in a tempting sales catalog.

The rose sale eclipsed the other activities. People would line up as soon as the



Run for roses.

to everybody at the gate and asking them to queue up in order. Then, we cut the rope and escorted the queue at a sedate pace to the sales tables. Many people thought there was no way that the throng of rose maniacs could be that civilized, but everybody behaved.

We set up a rose hotel where rose purchases could be safeguarded, after inadvertently re-selling roses that had been purchased and set aside near the sales tables. We offered a rose valet service to transport roses to people’s cars.

We led tours throughout the day, with Judy Eitzen driving a large golf cart throughout the cemetery, historic tours, and Barbara, Fred, and me giving rose-centered tours.

Even after the city imposed pruning “guidelines” which diminished the



Lining up for Rose Sale, Sacramento

cemetery gates opened, and wait in line until the rope was cut at 9:30 am. Generally, there were 65 people waiting. As soon as they could, they would run for the roses! The slower and more frail were at risk of being shoved aside and trampled, so we started giving tickets

Open garden sales table.





Open garden tour.

due to the pandemic, so we sold the roses remotely and donated many of them to other public gardens. We never again had an Open Garden.

Other sites where rose events flourished are no more, as well. The Chambersville Heritage Rose Garden in Texas was lost to development. For a few years, the Garden of Roses of Legend and Romance at Sequest Arboretum in Wooster, Ohio, conducted an Open Garden patterned after Sacramento's. (Unfortunately, this garden suffered from rose rosette disease and no longer exists.) Nurseries that once offered events have closed or shifted focus.



Conversation in the garden.

While many of the roses still grow in the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery, it is no longer tended by knowledgeable volunteers or the site of events. It is just a cemetery, with unlabeled roses surrounded by weeds. Gardens don't last forever, and neither do rosarians. We need to seize every opportunity to bond as a community and share our love

garden and a volunteer agreement that drove many volunteers away, a nucleus of current and former volunteers continued to propagate its roses. In April, 2020, we had scheduled yet another Open Garden, paid the permit fee, and were ready to sell 450 roses. Alas, the cemetery locked down

Spring offers an opportunity to also visit private gardens of heritage rose lovers.

SHARRIE ELY HAS INVITED PEOPLE TO "ROSES AND ROCKS" AT HER HOUSE IN COPPELL, TEXAS, ON APRIL 18 & 19.

IN ROSEVILLE, CALIFORNIA, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS CHARLOTTE OWENDYK & LINDA KNOWLES ARE OPENING THEIR ROSE GARDENS ON APRIL 17 & 18. Linda's allee of roses is breathtaking, and she grows some Fabien Ducher roses rarely seen in the US.

If you get invited to see somebody's garden or become aware of one that is scheduled to be open, be sure to go!

Gregg Lowery talking with Pam Temple, Barbara Oliva, Jeri Jennings and Jill Perry.



of old roses, and the roses themselves.

Sacramento's former Historic Rose Garden volunteers continue to gather to talk about roses, catch up on each other's lives, and toast the wonderful memories and beauty of the Historic Rose Garden. Let's raise a glass to all such efforts! 🍷



'General Schablikine' in front of 'Lijiang Rose'.



'Lijiang Rose'.

Photos by Sabrina MASNATA

A New Season Along the Trail of Roses

SABRINA MASNATA

Roses are in a hurry this year! As I write this on April 2nd, most of them are ready to bloom. They can't wait to write a new story of beauty along the "Trail of Roses" in Genoa, Italy, which extends from Trasta to the Murta Cemetery, site of the Roseto di Murta.

Last winter, we had awful weather. It rained almost continuously, delaying our gardening tasks. We had plenty of time to think and dream about new stories to tell our visitors. So, new little corners of beauty have bloomed along the "Trail of Roses:" a place to meditate and relax on the bridge over Rio Ciliegio, a stumpy area in the woods, a little garden of Irises next to the Cemetery and an area dedicated to myrtles, a plant that gives the name to the village of Murta where our rose garden is. All of these spots create a narrative that links local history to gardening stories and adds interest to our project.

We have a busy schedule for the forthcoming season of roses, starting this month with visits focused on the "Queens of April," once flowering roses that are ready to bloom: *Rosa chinensis spontanea*, 'Lijiang Rose', 'Indica Major', 'Fée Opale' and 'Fortune's Double Yellow'.

May here in Italy is traditionally the month of roses. This year, however, blooms are in advance, so it will host the second flush of Teas and Chinas, I'm afraid. The program for this month is rich in events. We'll start on May 9th and 10th, with the 4th edition of Spontanea, our

health and nature fest. I will lead mindfulness practices using roses, asking people to focus on their scent and shape to anchor them in the present moment. We will also have watercolor workshops, a conference about the healing energy of beauty and sessions of forest bathing in the woods.

The following weekend (16th and 17th) will have two cultural conferences in the cemetery. The first will be about Maria Massuccone Mazzini, mother of famed Italian revolutionary Giuseppe Mazzini. Maria is buried in the cemetery. The next day, Professor and Architect Mariella Zoppi will present her new book: *La Donna dei Giardini—Gertrude Jekyll e la libertà della natura* (*The Woman of the Gardens—Gertrude Jekyll and the Freedom of Nature*) about the famous Victorian gardener and writer.

Every Sunday morning at 9 am we'll also have guided tours of the garden, where I've recently introduced new plants that I'm looking forward to seeing in bloom: 'Wassily Chludoff', 'Telengana Pink', to honor Viru Viraraghavan's life and heritage, and 'Rose Edouard', the first Bourbon rose.

As usual, I thank you all for taking the time to read about our project and about our roses.

If you want to be updated on our garden and events, consider following [roseto_di_murta](https://www.rosetodimurta.it) on social media, or checking our website, www.rosetodimurta.it 🌹

Reinvigorating a Partnership

SHAUNA MOORE



Christopher Gordon teaching rose pruning.



The Green Bucket Brigade: Pam Smith, Erix Sanchez, Lanselot Gomez Paulino, and Andry Silva.



Volunteers pruning at Trinity.

On Saturday, March 28, 2026, Trinity Cemetery and Mausoleum (155th and Broadway, New York) hosted a successful volunteer rose pruning day that brought together an inspiring group of rosarians and garden stewards. Volunteers traveled from near and far, including members of the Heritage Rose Foundation who came from out of state, and rose enthusiasts from across the East Coast, and even a volunteer from the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

The day focused on more than just seasonal pruning. Volunteers worked side by side with Trinity's staff and caretakers, providing hands-on training in rose care and proper pruning techniques to support long-term stewardship of the collection.

Special thanks go to Kevin McLean, Facility Coordinator at Trinity, and Dan Levantino, Cemetery Director, whose collaboration and enthusiasm were instrumental in making the day a success. Thanks to this collective effort, more than 40 old garden roses received much-needed care.

Looking ahead, the community will host a **Rose and Cemetery Tour on May 30, 2026**, led by rosarian Christopher Gordon alongside Dan Levantino.

Planning is already underway for new planting of more roses this season, with an ambitious wish list aimed at strengthening and expanding the historic rose collection, with the support of the Heritage Rose Foundation.

This pruning day marks an exciting step forward in reinvigorating our partnership with Trinity Cemetery and in possibly reinspiring the Heritage Rose District of New York City. We look forward to continued collaboration and growth in the seasons to come. 🌹



Tony Sansone, Vanya Wright, Kevin McLean, Dan Levantino and Christopher Gordon.



Vanya Wright, Chris Gordon, Dan Levantino, and Kevin McLean.



Shauna Moore celebrating all roses pruned!

HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION 2026 CONFERENCE MAY 1-3

Featuring:

DEE NASH

Red Dirt Ramblings and the Gardenangelist Podcast

PEGGY MARTIN

Rosarian of "Peggy Martin" Rose Fame

GREG GRANT, PH.D.

East Texas Plantsman and Story Teller

SHAUNA MOORE

Interim Vice President, Horticulture,
Brooklyn Botanical Gardens

ANDREW BAROCCO

Rose Hybridizer

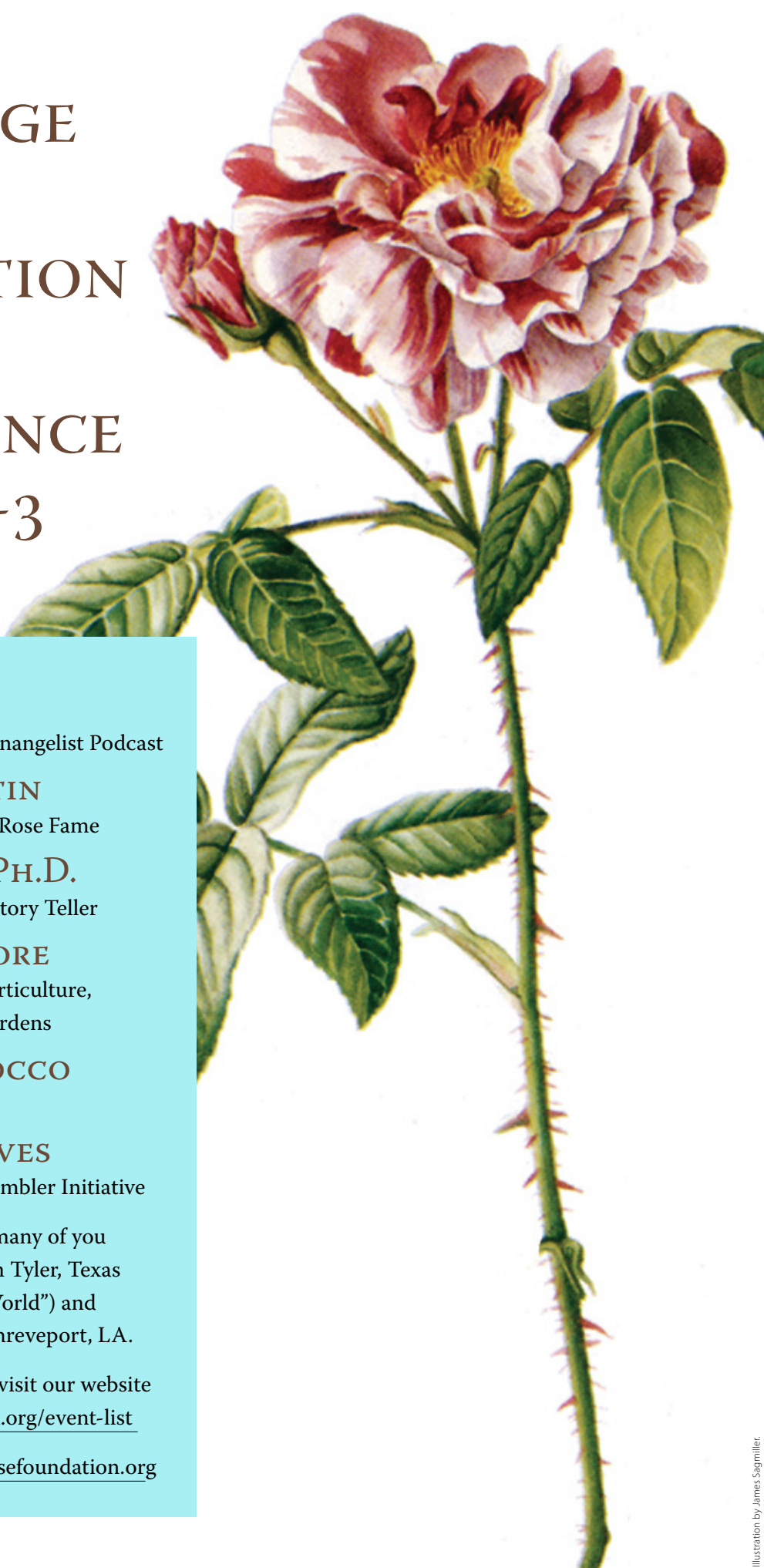
CLAUDE GRAVES

Master Rosarian and Save the Rambler Initiative

We look forward to joining many of you
at our upcoming conference in Tyler, Texas
("The Rose Capital of the World") and
the American Rose Center in Shreveport, LA.

For details about the conference, visit our website
at www.heritagrosefoundation.org/event-list

Questions? Email us at heritagrosefoundation.org



Mission Statement

THE HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION IS A 501(C)(3) NOT-FOR-PROFIT FOUNDATION WITH THIS MISSION:

- 🌹 To collect and preserve heritage roses and promote their culture.
- 🌹 To establish one or more gardens where heritage roses may be grown and displayed.
- 🌹 To conduct and contract to conduct investigations and research in heritage roses.
- 🌹 To publish and disseminate information and research about heritage roses.
- 🌹 To establish and maintain a library to facilitate investigations and research in heritage roses.
- 🌹 To foster public knowledge and appreciation of heritage roses and their preservation.

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