

The American Rose Center
America's Rose Garden
Volunteer Newsletter
2022 Issue #5

"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

Thus far in this newsletter we have looked at the famous rambler hybridizers from the mid to later rambler era. This month we will look at one of the true pioneers of rose hybridization, a man that challenged the popular theory of his time that to create a great rose you crossed two of the most beautiful roses to get a better rose. Geschwind reasoned that even good roses were as likely to transfer their bad traits and that the odds were that you would get a less vigorous prodigy, inferior to the two parents.



This newly opened bloom of 'Geisha' represents the deep red color of many of Geschwind's roses.

Rudolf Geschwind

1829 –1910

Austria-Hungarian Empire

Geschwind a Forester by education began hybridizing roses in 1850 and labored in relative obscurity until 1885 when his book describing a theory predicting what we now know as genetics was published. His idea for hybridizing roses was to use the hardiest roses as parents. He discouraged the practice of crossing two highly hybridized roses and turned to hardy species roses such as *Rosa roxburghii* (the Chestnut Rose), *R. setigera*, *R. canina*, *R. californica*, and *R. rugosa* to get the extreme hardiness of these roses. It is reported that Geschwind grew 100 different species roses in his personal garden trying to find unique, hardy roses to use in his hybridizing efforts.

Geschwind's roses are significantly different in appearance and growth habit than the Multiflora and Wichuraiana roses I have featured in this column in the past issues. First is the difference in foliage, many Geschwind roses are typically dark or olive green, rough textured, and flat with no sheen. Many of the Geschwind roses (at least in our climate) do not grow to great height. Many varieties will seemingly never get to the top of a 10' tower. These smaller roses can be grown in today's small gardens.

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Because of the wide variety of different roses used in his breeding program his roses are not easily grouped into any particular style. However, a casual observer can soon learn to guess with some accuracy the Geschwind roses by their very unique differences from the other ramblers. Geschwind's roses are also very cold hardy, we had no significant damage on the Geschwind roses in our collection at Chambersville from the sever freeze of February 2021, which devastated many other varieties.

Geshwind hybridized roses for 50 years, upon his death his collection of roses was moved to the gardens of his patron Marie Henrietta Chotek who was one of the original patrons of Sangerhausen, the historic garden in Germany that was the source of many of Anne Belovich's roses. Marie Chotek's garden fell into decline with World War I and continued to deteriorate in the depression of the 1930's. In only 35 years after Rudolph Geshwind's death, his entire collection had also expired. Only roses at Sangerhausen, L'Hay and Cavriglia in Italy and a few private gardens survived. Today many of the Geschwind roses in the Anne Belovich collection carry the annotation (aic) "as in commerce" as the identify is not certain as a proven true rose is not available to confirm the identity.



'Futtacker Schlingrose'

1900, classed as a HMult but parentage is unknown

Named for the village of Futtak in Hungary which was formerly part of the Chotek Family Estate

This rose was received in the original cuttings from Anne. It is a beautiful rose, with a good fragrance, but I fear it may not be the true rose. In her book *Ramblers and Other Species Hybrids*, she described it as "Crimson, with some deeper tones at the base". This points out the problem with many of the Geschwind roses regarding if they are indeed the original rose.

Below are photos of 'Futtacker Schlingrose' and another Geschwind Rambler, 'Trompeter von Sackingen' are from our collection. The photos of these two roses in Anne's book are very similar, and both look like the 'Trompeter von Sackingen' in the photos below.



'Futtacker Schlingrose' is one of the 6 ramblers at the entrance of the rose center and usually is the first one to bloom.

Right: 'Griseldis' is a rose hybridized from the species rose *R. canina* by crossing two *R. canina* seedlings, one a cross with a Hybrid Tea, the other a cross with a Bourbon (see the discussion previously about Geschwind's theory about always mixing a strong rose (Bourbon) with a weak rose (Hybrid Tea) earlier in the article.)

R. canina was a favorite choice for Geschwind in his hybridizing, usually crossing them with Tea Roses he had a series of over twenty *R. canina* hybrids and many of those were crosses were with 'Fortune's Double Yellow'. Unfortunately, Anne noted that the 'Griseldis' we have may not be true, although it looks very much like her photo of 'Griseldis' from Sangerhausen.



'Griseldis', Geschwind LCI (per ARS) 1895



'Erinnerung an Brod, HSet 1896

Another rose of similar appearance and coloration to the true 'Futtacher Schlingrose' and 'Trompter von Sacking', this time bred from the North American species *R setigera*. Anne comments that it is an important rose in the development of the "blue" roses such as 'Veilchenblau' and 'Rose Marie Viaud'. Most sources quote a height potential of 'Erinnerung an Brod' as 6' to 8'. It has surpassed that height in the nursery at Chambersville. It is also claimed to be somewhat remontant, but we have seen only a sparse rebloom in the fall, perhaps more fall bloom will occur on a more mature rose.

Helga Bricht, former President of the World Federation of Rose Societies is quoted as exclaiming "We must grow more of this rose when she saw it for the first time.

**Another Geschwind rose identity mystery!
'Erlkonig' aka 'Roi des Aunes'**

Although 'Erlkonig' and 'Roi des Aunes' are supposed to be the same rose under two different names, it seems more likely that these are two different roses. Early on we received a cutting from Anne that we grew as 'Roi des Aunes'. It made a large beautiful lilac climber that was a favorite in the garden. Eventually we got another cutting from Anne under the name 'Erlkonig', in growing 'Erlkonig' it quickly became evident it was not the same as 'Roi des Aunes'!

Anne's book states they probably are two different roses she describes 'Roi des Aunes' as "flowers are first deep pink and then fade to medium lavender" This description seem to very much agree with the two photos below at different stages of bloom of 'Roi des Aunes'

Anne goes on to say that she was sold another rose under the name 'Erlkonig' that was very different (this is the rose we grow as 'Erlkonig'). The mystery is; in her book under 'Roi des Aunes' it just says "see 'Erlkonig' and the photo of 'Erlkonig' is the rose we grow. Why did she not list and show the photo of the rose we grow as 'Roi des Aunes'?"

Perhaps it is because she felt BOTH roses were not the real 'Roi des Aunes'!



**'Erlkonig' classed as a hybrid Multiflora shrub by ARS
ARS Exhibition name is 'Roi des Aunes'**



**'Roi des Aunes'
'Erlkonig' is supposedly a synonym for 'Roi de Aunes'**



'Roi des Aunes'

This is a photo of a very fresh new bloom on our 'Roi des Aunes', note the possibility that this is the... "flowers first open deep pink..." as described in Anne's book for Roi des Aunes".

Next Master Gardener Rambler Service Day **Thursday June 17th 8:30 AM**

Change in Leadership for Master Gardener Teams

I was sorry to learn that Lou Osborne, the Chair of the Master Gardener ARC Rambler Project has resigned her position as she is moving out of town to live with her son. Many know she has been dealing with health issues and now know that she will be in a safe and loving environment with her son. I have worked with Lou for about 20 years on the ARC Committee and appreciate her many hours of service to the American Rose Society. I am sure her history of service to the Master Gardeners is equally as great and is as much appreci-

ated. Thanks Lou for all you have done for both organizations over the years!

We are very fortunate to have Larry Williams who has been acting as the Assistant Chair for Lou to take on the duties as the Chair of the rambler project. Larry has been doing an outstanding job of keeping everyone informed and the activity coordinated. I know the program will continue to run smoothly with Larry's guidance.

More to do in the Rambler Nursery

Last month Larry had assembled a smaller crew of volunteers for the May 19th work day commensurate to the amount of work that needed to be done. The rambler at that time were in their "blooming" period when they slow down vegetative growth and put their energy to producing flowers.

Now, after the bloom, the rambler will go into a serious vegetative growth mode. The volume of work in the nursery will increase over the next few months as the rambler put on a lot of new growth during the rest of the year. All that new growth will need to be trained up or pruned away.

Larry will assemble teams of the estimated number of volunteers from the group that has already been through the training. The number of volunteers will gradually increase as the roses get bigger and the amount of work needed increases.

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 three new volunteers for training last month and now have a group of about 30 Master Gardeners that have gone through the training required to properly care for the rambler in the growing nursery at the rose center.

Now, as the need for the basic training slows down, I will be concentrating on working with the MG teams

on the nuances of training the rapidly growing rambler. Making the decision of when to train new growth up to be part of the future rose, or when to cut it out is often difficult to make. I hope to offer 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.