

The American Rose Center
America's Rose Garden
Volunteer Newsletter
Sept 2022 - Issue #8

"News You Can Use"

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

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

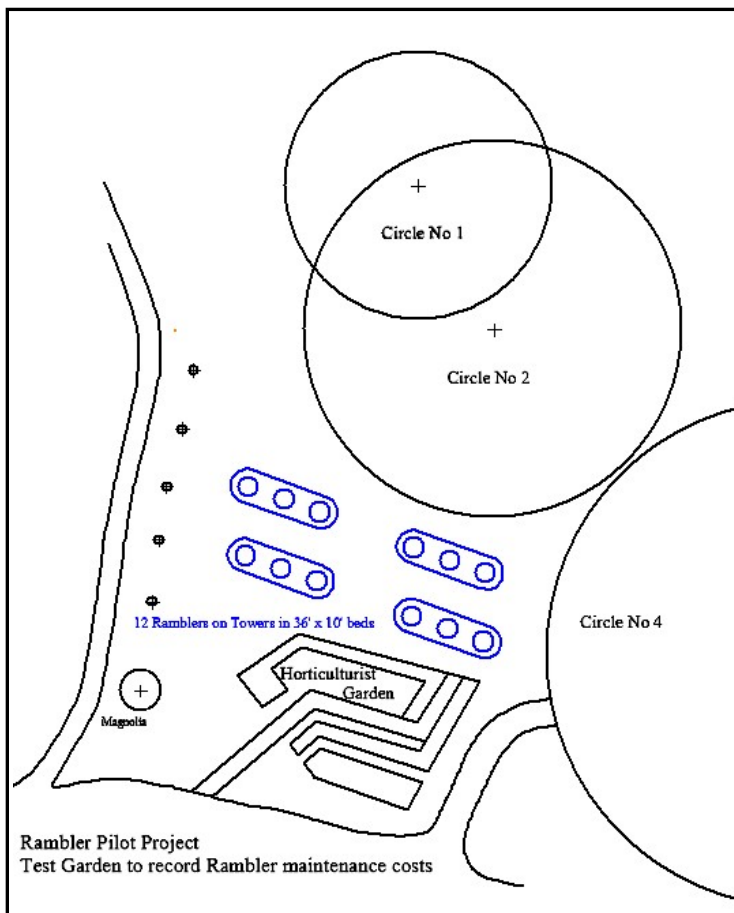
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*Please contact Frank or Pam for work assignments or other information,
Contact Don (other than a Thursday) only if Frank or Pam are not available.*

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

Rambler Ramblings... Claude Graves

Since the beginning of this newsletter we have looked at the notable hybridizers and species roses of the broad class of roses known as Ramblers. As a change of pace this month we will be focusing on a new trial garden for the Rambler Project soon to be installed in the gardens at the American Rose Center.



The Pilot Project

The Pilot Rambler Garden will be a small replication of a proposed larger rambler display garden being planned for America's Rose Garden. The purpose of the Pilot Garden is to provide a time study of the amount of time/labor required for garden staff to maintain, grow and train the large rambler roses on the twelve foot tall display towers.

The Pilot garden will consist of 4 beds, each 36' x 10' and each containing 3 towers on 12' spacing for a total of 12 towers in the garden. This test garden will accurately duplicate, in a smaller number, the proposed 50 tower garden under consideration for the future. The time/cost evaluation results from the Pilot Garden will determine the construction of any additional gardens.

The Pilot Garden construction will be built this fall and the garden will be planted with 12 large, mature ramblers from Chambersville Tree Farms so meaningful data can start being taken immediately

The Roses selected for planting for the Pilot Garden were selected more based upon their availability, rather than any particular attributes. The inventory of ramblers at Chambersville was greatly depleted by the devastating freeze of Feb 2021, the best of the available surviving roses were selected based on size and condition but with some consideration of their beauty. Below are the roses selected and some information on each rose.

'Dorothy Perkins'
HWich 1901 J&P

'Dorothy Perkins' was one of the most popular ramblers ever grown in the United States. Distributed by Jackson & Perkins it had wide distribution over the entire country. Its heavy bloom and great vigor made it an instant success. It is most likely a seedling of Turners Crimson Rambler, it roots easily and quickly and was grown by thousands of gardeners. The rose became so popular that many Rosarians in the 1930's shied away from it as "being too common".



'Erlkonig' (aic)
HMult 1886 Geschwind

'Erlkonig' also known as 'Roi des Aunes' was one of Geshwind's most popular roses and grown since its introduction, however there is still a debate over if it is the correct rose. Anne had designated our rose "as in commerce" as there is no proof that it is the true rose though it does resemble photos from reliable sources. However, its still a beautiful rambler and worthy of growing in any garden.



'Heidekönigin' (aic)
HWich 1986 W. Kordes

'Heidekönigin' is described as being a "miniature shrub" by Kordes, maybe in Germany, but not in our warm climate. It will grow to immense rambler proportions and is every bit deserving of that classification. It is one of the most prolific bloomers we grew at Chambersville as you can see in the photo. This rose is sometimes sold under the name 'Pheasant'.





'Gardenia'

HWich 1899 Horvath

'Gardenia' was one of the roses featured in the Vol 7 edition of the Newsletter. The large light yellow blooms do very much look like gardenias and even the fragrance is reminiscent of gardenias. But, best of all it blooms very heavily, almost covering the plant in bloom.



'Wartburg'
HMult 1910 Kiese

Hermann Kiese was one of the Greatest early rose hybridizers. His 'Wartburg' graced to walls of Wartburg Castle, it is a seedling of his most famous rambler Tausendschön, a rose we lost from Anne's collection but should be easily replaceable due to its popularity. Wartburg in its own right is a wonderful addition to any garden. It is cold hardy and known to grow in Russia in the region around Moscow.



'Weetwood'

HWich 1983 Bawden

'Weetwood' is one of the more modern ramblers in Anne Belovich's collection. It does not bloom exceptionally heavy in the first bloom, but does show some repeat bloom throughout the year. The individual blooms are quite attractive, opening fully quartered with a touch of salmon pink then fading to a pure cream pink. They have a hint of a foliage fragrance.

Some of the other ramblers for the Pilot Garden are shown below.



'Ruby Queen', Van Fleet



'Rudelsburg', Kiese



'Evangeline', Walsh

Next Master Gardener Rambler Service Day Thursday September 15 @ 8:30 AM

More to do in the Rambler Nursery

The weather is cooling and we have had some good rains. So the ramblers are growing, so are the weeds so there will be work to do in the Nursery on the September 15 work day. Fortunately you have been doing such a good job on the weeds there are not too many of them.

I plan to bring over a few new ramblers so there should be a few ramblers to install in the gardens to replace duplicates that were found in the inventory we took in August.

Those participating in the August work day experienced that some of the ramblers are now starting to

get tall enough to require a ladder to tie them up. To insure this can be done as safely as possible I have purchased a 3' Podium Ladder for the Nursery. The podium ladder will allow a person to stand securely on a platform with a railing and work safely to 9 foot high. As stated previously, if you do not want to work from a ladder there will be plenty of ground level projects.

If some of you would like to help, I will be adding three new cables to the overhead grid support system. I will appreciate some assistance. The three new cables will allow us to add 30 additional ramblers to Nursery #1

Rambler Nursery Training

We had a few 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 ramblers in the growing nursery at the rose center.

As we are at the level of volunteers I estimated we would need to staff the monthly work day needs, I will be concentrating now on working with the MG teams

on the nuances and "art" of training and tying up the rapidly growing ramblers.

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.

Addition of Rambler Nursery #2

Rambler Nursery #2 is under construction in the old schedule. We fenced trial garden west of the Administration Building. Nursery #2 will increase our total capacity to 350 ramblers which will contain the entire Anne Belovich Collection.

We anticipated moving plants into nursery #2 in September but the rains severely set back the construction schedule. We now anticipate moving the ramblers over in October.

Upcoming Events at the Rose Center

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

In early Oct. we will be starting the installation of the displays for Christmas in Roseland which will be expanded again this year. The activity of putting up the lights should not affect our October or November Master Gardner Work Days.