

The American Rose Center
America's Rose Garden
Volunteer Newsletter
October 2022 - Issue #9

"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

Rambler Ramblings... Claude Graves

This month will look at a lesser known hybridizer from a later era, Jan Böhm, the son of a noted Horticulturist of the former Czechoslovakian Republic who started a rose business in 1918. Although he created only a small number of ramblers, one may become very important to the future of the rose industry!



'Srdce Europy'
HWich/HMult (HSig) 1937

Jan Böhm created his roses from an amazing number of little known species roses. 'Srdce Europy' is such a rose. It is listed as a HWich x 'America Pillar' a Hybrid Setigera, but some references also class it as a HMult. This rose is an example one of the roses which illustrate the difficulty of classifying roses of very mixed ancestry. It's growth habit is more HMult or Setigera, however it has the glossy small foliage of a Wichuraiana. What ever the actual parentage is; there is something unique about its genetics as this Rambler has displayed a very high tolerance (dare I say Resistance) to Rose Rosette Virus in the gardens at Chambersville.

This rose pictured here in a 2022 photo is the original rose planted in 2012. It has survived the Great Freeze of 2021, being flooded twice with water 3 feet deep for over 3 weeks. (The small size for a 10 years old rambler is attributable to a sever pruning by beavers during the last flood!)

However the most amazing thing about this rambler is that it is the only rose in this area of the garden that has never showed any symptoms of Rose Rosette Disease! All of the neighboring roses have been replaced at least twice since the original planting.

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The absence of RRD is not attributable to lack of exposure to the virus. In 2019 Chambersville was involved in a research project with Dr Mark Windham at the University of Tennessee testing miticides for control of the RRD eryopid mite. I was sending foliage samples to Dr Windham for mite counts to determine the mite population on the roses. 'Srdce Europy' recorded the highest mite count for any sample I ever sent, yet this rose never showed RRD symptoms! Suspecting this variety might be asymmetric, we test the rose for RRD with negative results.

Dr Dave Byrne of Texas A&M has used roses from cuttings of this 'Srdce Europy' in his breeding program to create new roses with resistance to RRD. Some of these roses created from 'Srdce Europy' by Dr Byrnes hybridizing efforts have shown promising results when grown in Dr Windham's RRD infected "Rose Garden from Hell" test garden in Crossville Tennessee.

R. Setigera has been shown to be tolerant to RRD, but we have lost other Setigera hybrids at Chambersville (including 'American Pillar' which is a 50% parent of 'Srdce Europy'. Hopefully this rose will provide some genetic clues to developing a truly RRD resistant rose.

Right 'Srdce Europy'

Not the most beautiful of the Ramblers, but still an attractive bloom. The numerous beautiful Setigera Hybrids such as 'Baltimore Belle', 'Long John Silver', 'Arcata Pink Globe', and 'Queen of the Prairies' created by other hybridizers show the promise of the beautiful blooms possible in the offspring of crosses made with 'Srdce Europy'



Below 'R. setigera'

This is the native species rose of North America. This photo is of the variety Serina, presumed to be a thornless sport found in Arkansas.

Below 'R. setigera'

Closeup of the bloom. Note the heavy "rugose" texture of the foliage. Some experts feel the textured foliage is not tolerated well by the RRD mites providing some resistance to RRD.





'Kde Domov Muj'

Jan Böhm HMult 1935

'Kde Dumov Muj' is one of my favorite ramblers. So much so I grow it in my garden at home, in spite of all the pruning work it creates because of its extremely vigorous growth habit. The massive amount of bloom that lasts a good three weeks and good fragrance make it worth the effort!

This rambler is also one of the ramblers I selected for the Secret Garden at the ARC for all the same reasons. It should be magnificent for the ARS National Convention at the ARC next May.

Kde Dumov Muj is the name of the Slavic National Anthem, KDE is pronounced as "duh".



'Graf Zeppelin'

HMult 1910

With an introduction date of 1910 this was probably one of Böhm's earliest ramblers and is one of only four varieties of Böhm ramblers in our collection.

Böhm's most well known rose is 'Awakening' a fully double sport of the famous 'New Dawn' which he discovered and introduced in 1938. 'Awakening' is identical to 'New Dawn' except for a significantly higher petal count which sometimes makes the bloom "quartered" as seen in many heavily pedaled Old Garden Roses.

Next Master Gardener Rambler Service Day
Thursday October 20 @ 8:30 AM

More to do in the Rambler Nursery

The Ramblers are growing with the milder, cooler weather so there should be a fair amount of tying up to do at our next workday on the 20th. The weeds will also be growing, however the recent Volunteer Master Gardener crews have done good job of keeping ahead of the weeds. You may not appreciate how important weed control is, but consider that we will be growing these roses in the containers for at least another year. Imagine what a problem we would have if any weeds got established with deep roots in the pots. It was a major problem at Chambersville!

I will be at the Nursery on Wednesday the 19th,

the day before the monthly work day at about 10:30 AM. We will be stabilizing the existing posts and installing the new posts and cables to add 30 additional growing positions in the Nursery. I have asked Larry Williams to see if there are any Master Gardeners that would be interested in helping for a few hours. I would appreciate the help and the opportunity to get to know a few of you better. I don't know if hours spent setting up the nursery would qualify as MG volunteer hours, but I do know that the American Rose Society and I would certainly appreciate the help!

Rambler Nursery Training

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.

As I said last month, “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.”

A SPECIAL ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

After the work session on Thursday 10-20, I will be pruning some of the large ramblers in the Secret Garden and on some of the towers. Anyone interested in learning about pruning large ramblers is invited to join me and I will explain what I am doing and why I do the things I do in training the big roses.

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.

In the near future we will be installing all the infrastructure for growing the ramblers. Again, some help would be appreciated in setting up Nursery #2. The time line for this work is not yet established , I will let everyone know when the work is scheduled.

Upcoming Events at the Rose Center

Take a little time to see the other gardens at the ARC. The next month will prime time for the roses!

In 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 effect our October or November Master Gardner Work Days.