

The OGR & Shrub Journal

A PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY

MEET THE HYBRIDIZERS - *and their roses*

In this issue

**KIM RUPERT: MAN AND
HIS ROSES: PART I.....2**

RUPERT: PART II.....7

RUPERT: UPDATE.....9

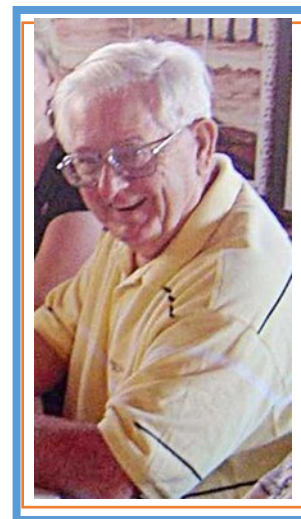
**BREEDING WITH
HULTHEMIA PERSICA.....14**

EYECONIC ROSES.....16

CALIFORNIA LADY.....19

HRF CONFERENCE.....20

There are many wonderful roses that we enjoy in our gardens. Some of these roses are new additions to old classes. How many gardeners really stop to think about where and how those new roses that are added to our shrub and old garden rose classes originate? This issue is the first in a series that will feature some of today's most interesting hybridizers. Note: Inclusion is in no particular order or indication of preference. We will start on the west coast. Enjoy!



This issue of the *OGR & Shrub Journal* is dedicated to respected professor, outstanding rosarian, prolific author—and OGR & Shrub committee member, Jim Delahanty, who past away July 26, 2013. His wisdom, expertise and his friendship will be sorely missed. *Editor*

*Lois Ann Helgeson, Editor
OGR/Shrub Committee Chair
530 12th Avenue N.W.
New Brighton, MN 55112
helge006@umn.edu*

Kim Rupert: The Man and his Roses: Part I - 2005

by Ingrid Wapelhorst

Originally published in The Ventura Rose, Ventura County Rose Society, fall 2005, fall2012

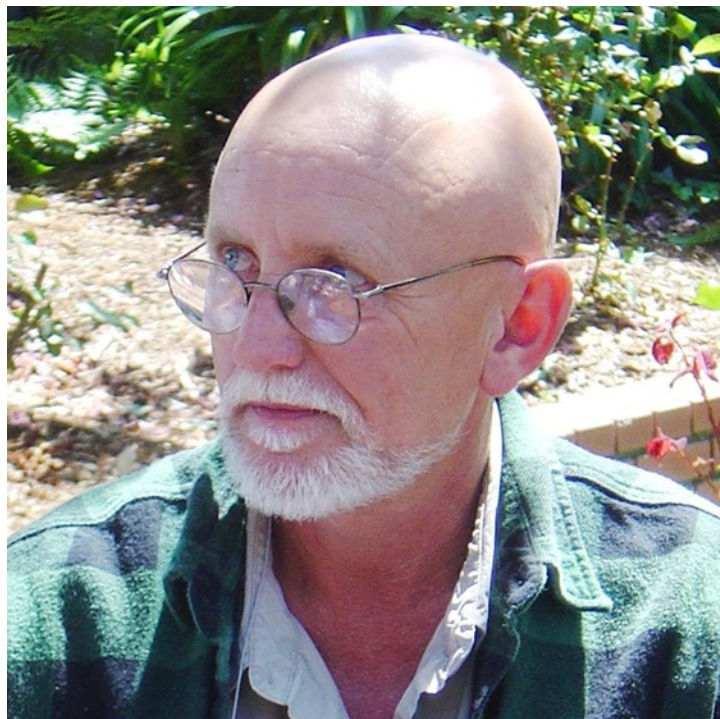
We are fortunate indeed to have a rosarian like Kim Rupert in Southern California. Many VCRS members and guests know Kim as the authority we've turned to each year at our January Auction, as well as on our bus trip to Sequoia Nursery, for his incomparable knowledge about every rose in commerce—and some that aren't. So, who is this walking encyclopedia of rose lore?

Southern Charm

In his own words, Kim Lauren Rupert was born “some time in the middle of the last century in Birmingham, Alabama. A hyper active child, interested in anything that moved, and many things which didn't.” This explains not only his boundless energy and enthusiasm about roses, but also his Southern charm in answering “Yes, ma'am,” and “No, ma'am” in response to my questions! Like most of us, Kim's initial affection for gardening grew out of his experiences in his mother's garden. Leaving Alabama, he eventually established his home in the Los Angeles area in the late 1960's. And the urge to create his own garden began to develop. In the early 1980's he volunteered at the Huntington Rose Garden, helping to propagate rare and unusual roses, and soon was collecting roses of his own for the same purpose. When his mother became incapacitated in the late 1980's, Kim moved more than 350 roses from his mother's garden to a hillside in Newhall, California. From then until this past year, Kim has been creating beautiful and unique roses for others to enjoy. How does he do it, and why, you ask? Good questions. Let's take a closer look into the rose-breeding world of Kim Rupert.

An “Amateur Rose Hybridizer?”

First, a clarification. I came across the term “amateur rose hybridizer” in reference to Kim on the internet recently. Although the term “amateur” hardly seems appropriate to those who know Kim Rupert, in very simplified terms, the “amateur rose hybridizer” is one



Kim Rupert

photo by Lois Ann Helgeson

who is on his own without the luxury of corporate resources—both time and money—to support research, experimentation, years of trial and error, and without an established avenue for bringing any new rose creations to public attention. Despite these drawbacks, the advantage the “amateur rose hybridizer” has at his disposal is independence to do what he wants, to pursue his own dreams, his own passions. And Kim is nothing if not passionate about roses!

So what dreams has Kim been chasing in the past twenty plus years of hybridizing and breeding roses?

He expects nothing but the best: disease free, attractive plants with beautiful, fragrant, continuous unusually colored blooms. Roses with few if any prickles. Roses that will be equally at home in high heat and shade. He wants to develop roses that will survive severe neglect and live long after the rose grower's initial enthusiasm has waned. He wants to develop roses that demand minimum maintenance and might even be found on gravestones in neglected cemeteries long after we all are gone. An admitted perfectionist, he sets the bar very high for his creations. The thought of growing beautiful, healthy, and unusual plants which will actually thrive in your garden unattended is a concept somewhat new to the large nurseries and the commercial rose buying public as well. (Kim credits Tom Carruth as one of the current hybridizers who emphasizes interesting, disease resistant and easy to grow roses.) It's not surprising that

Kim and others like him have had an up-hill battle in getting roses with a different agenda introduced into the rose world.

The Pursuit of 'Different' Roses

Using and propagating “different” roses has been a large part of the appeal to Kim as he pursued combinations as unusual as brown and gray or brown and yellow striped roses. When exotic colors don't appear in the offspring, he will still pursue the rose if it meets his other standards. “My ‘niche’ is ‘different and better’. My roses may never appeal to the mass market, but those who share my attraction to ‘different and better’ will, hopefully, love them,” says Kim. Lavender and purple roses as well as those with stripes have also been his favorites over the years. In fact, striped roses have become so much of a favorite for Kim that his mentor and friend, Ralph Moore, named a beautiful scarlet stripes on a light yellow background moss rose after him recently. Kim has experimented with roses no one else had used before in propagation, most notably ‘Basye’s Legacy’, from which two of his favorite roses ‘**Lynnie**’ and ‘**Dottie Louise**’ were developed. ‘Basye’s Legacy’ is a favorite because it produces both interesting and “cooperative” seedlings—those that develop regularly with healthy offspring.

Kim researches the ancestry of roses with qualities he likes, looking at the characteristics in their genes from which he can draw. Below are some of the roses Kim has introduced over the years. Brief description of their attributes, some personal influences behind his choices, and how they got their names may shed some light on what he has accomplished as a small-scale rose breeder. To say that Kim's been prolific is an understatement. As long as the list below is, it doesn't cover all of the roses he has created over the years. It does include most of those known to be currently in commerce, in private gardens, and some which may still be growing in nurseries or private gardens.

The First Born

Kim's first “child” was ‘**Purple Buttons**’, which made its debut in 1993 at Sequoia Nursery. This seedling of ‘Cardinal Hume’ is a miniature shrub with 1-1/2” to 2” deep red-purple, fully double flowers. It has nearly continuous bloom and a strong fragrance (Kim calls it

a “Red Hots fragrance”). ‘**Purple Buttons**’ was offered at both the 2002 and 2004 VCRS Auctions with the following comment: “At the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden this rose in bloom is covered with so many purple blooms of clove scent that the foliage can barely be seen.” [*Sequoia Nursery and The Uncommon Rose*].



‘Purple Buttons’

‘**Festival Pink**’ (RUPfespín) – a sport of ‘Festival Fanfare’®, medium pink, which replaced ‘Sparrieshoop’ in Kim's garden because it was healthier, had no mildew, and was a continuous bloomer. Aside from the Huntington Plant Sales, only the former Michael's Premier Roses carried this rose until they closed their doors last year. (*San Jose Heritage Rose Garden*)

‘**Kim's Cream**’ (RUPkimcrm) – a Floribunda with white and cream (“pale coffee” per Kim) 40-petalled flowers on a short (16” x 20”) bush, with a spicy fragrance, a ‘Lavender Pinocchio’ x ‘Lavender Pinocchio’ cross. If anyone is fortunate enough to know the whereabouts of this one, please report it, as this one has been requested by many rosarians!

‘**Golden Julia**’ (RUPgoljul) – A sport of the beautiful russet/tan/beige ‘Julia's Rose’, ‘**Golden Julia**’ has cooler tones in a medium yellow, and like its parent has a mild fragrance and 22 petals. Kim describes it as a “cool mustard color similar to that of ‘Honey Dijon’.” [*Cliff Orent's garden, Palm Springs, California*]

‘Pink Cardinal Hume’ (aka ‘Coral Hume’) – A seedling of ‘Cardinal Hume’, a shrub rose with clusters of small, medium pink blooms which was offered at the January 2004 VCRS Auction. Kim describes **‘Pink Cardinal Hume’** as a small, rounded, mounding shrub with bluish foliage and another one of his creations with a “Red Hots fragrance.” [*Sequoia Nursery. San Jose Heritage Rose Garden*]

‘Little Butterfly’ – HelpMeFind quotes Ashdown Roses as saying “the blooms of this rose look like little butterflies...” As we described it in our January 2003 VCRS Auction catalogue: “The number of blossoms in a cluster can easily reach 40 or so in various stages of pink and white with golden stamens...on a bush that rarely reaches 3’.” **‘Little Butterfly’** was bred from ‘Escapade’ and is also a healthy, shade tolerant, continuous bloomer; a compact, “tuckable” rose happy in the ground or in a pot. [*Ashdown Roses*].

‘Annie Laurie McDowell’ is a seedling of ‘Renae’ (a paler pink climbing Floribunda bred by Ralph Moore in 1954). **‘Annie Laurie McDowell’** is a large-flowered climbing (LCI) rose with beautiful medium pink clusters of pompon shaped flowers on nodding stems, with a strong fragrance, repeat bloom, SHADE TOLERANCE and is completely prickly free. **‘Annie Laurie McDowell’** was named in honor of Candy Craig, an early Los Angeles area television personality who, along with her husband Dean, were dear friends of Kim. The Craigs restored the last remaining original homestead in the San Fernando Valley, The Homestead Acre, and were responsible for starting Kim volunteering at The Huntington. Mel Hulse of the San

Jose Heritage Rose Garden saved this plant from obscurity by making future propagating material available. I personally grow this rose and love it! She produces abundant clusters which keep repeating—even in 90 to 100 degree heat—and the petals fall away cleanly with a nudge. (Thank you Kim, Mel, and Ashdown Roses!) [*Sequoia, The Uncommon Rose.*]

‘Beulah Belle’ is a 7 or 8 foot shrub with medium pink double blooms and a strong fragrance with occasional repeat later in the season. Kim describes it as having “pink, centifolia-looking” flowers with “crinkly foliage.” The source of the name is based on an amusing story about some friends of Candy Craig who had fun celebrating each others birthdays. Unfortunately, we don’t have space for the complete story here, but suffice to say Kim has a sense of humor when naming some of his roses! [*Ashdown Roses*]

‘Dotty Louise’ or ‘Dottie Louise’ is a 5-foot, fragrant, repeat blooming shrub rose with single-petalled flowers of dark red/purple with beautifully contrasting white at the petal bases and deep golden yellow stamens. This rose is a cross between ‘Orangeade’® and ‘Basye’s Legacy’. Dottie Louise was the childhood name of Mrs. Dorothy Cralle, who Kim affectionately describes as “the gracious, generous lady who created and operated Pixie Treasures, the miniature rose nursery in Yorba Linda, California, with her daughter, Laurie Chaffin, for nearly thirty years.” Dorothy was a special favorite of Kim, and he was thrilled when she gave her permission to name the rose for her. [*Ashdown Roses*]



‘Limberlost Blush’ – An 8’ shrub with double light pink or white and pink pompon style blooms with a strong fragrance (another fragrant beauty!). This hard-to-find rose is a sister seedling of **‘Super Jane’** and **‘Annie Laurie McDowell’**. Named after the Limberlost Nursery, a well-known and loved nursery in the San Fernando Valley which closed its doors several years ago, there are still plants of this **‘Limberlost Blush’** growing in Kim’s friends’ gardens, but it will likely never be introduced.

‘Super Jane’ aka **‘Limberlost Pink’** – **‘Super Jane’** is a Hybrid Musk rose growing to an impressive 10 or 12 feet with strongly fragrant double medium pink blooms which repeat from spring to fall. This rose is named after Jane Delahanty, wife of VCRS President Jim Delahanty, and was described in the January 2003 VCRS Auction catalogue as a “seedling sister to **‘Annie Laurie McDowell’**, thornless, except under stress, speedy upright grower with clusters of pale lilac blooms at the end of graceful, arching canes.” [Private Garden: James Delahanty, Sherman Oaks, California]

‘Lynnie’ – Judging from its sterling attributes, I’d guess **‘Lynnie’** is one of Kim’s favorites. **‘Lynnie’** is a 3’ X 3’ “architectural shrub,” with fragrant, semi-double, hot pink blooms with white at the base and yellow stamens. This is a cross between Ralph Moore’s **‘Torch of Liberty’** and **‘Basye’s Legacy’**. Kim selected this rose because of its great health, near lack of thorns, continuous bloom and beautiful foliage. **‘Lynnie’** also exhibits interesting and unusual foliage that changes from a bluish hue to a deeper purple-green in cooler winter temperatures, progressing finally to autumn colors before they drop, leaving marble sized, tangerine colored hips. Others have reported resistance to black spot on the Gulf Coast and mildew on the Pacific Ocean, and she is reported to have survived one of the coldest Northeast winters in recent history with nothing more than a rose cone for protection. **‘Lynnie’** has endured ice storms and temperatures far below freezing in skimpy four inch pots with no protection. Kim admired this rose so much he named it after his favorite aunt. The color of the petals reminded him of the lipstick she wore when he as a

child. **‘Lynnie’** is being tested at Rose Hills and is under trial with Peter Beales in Great Britain. [Ashdown.]

‘Nessie’ – A cross between a once-blooming hybrid gigantea climber **‘Montecito’** (a white flowering hybrid gigantea by Franceschi-Fenzi, 1930) as a seed parent and an unknown pollen parent whose name was on a tag lost to desert rodents). **‘Nessie’** covers herself with apricot pink, 2”, semi-double blooms with an intense spicy fragrance. The name is derived from her resemblance to the Loch Ness Monster, based on her rapid 9 foot arching growth. It’s also somewhat of a pun on another huge species hybrid climber, **‘Mermaid’**. [Private Garden: Robert’s Desert Rose Garden, Rancho Mirage, California]

‘Rayon Butterflies’ – A 3’ pink-blend rose with pink-yellow blooms, bred from **‘Mateo’s Silk Butterflies’**. The January 2002 VCRS Auction catalogue described this offering as a “very hard-to-come-by-rose,” and quoting from The Amity Heritage Rose website adds: “The overall color is pink, but it is



blessed with the color changes of 'Mutabilis' with yellow-apricot changing to light then dark pink. Light scent." The name is a humorous reference to the way the rose turns darker pink as it ages, much like rayon, whereas 'Mateo's Silk Butterflies' turns mauve. Since it wasn't what Kim was looking for from the cross, he removed it from his garden to make room for other seedlings. Others have requested the rose, including Janet Sclar of Amity Heritage Roses who asked permission to introduce the rose. *[Amity Heritage Roses. Public Garden: San Jose Heritage Rose Garden]*

'Sunburn' – A 3' spreading shrub floribunda, single, open yellow flowers which "sunburn" deeper pink tones. This is a "lost" seedling which The San Jose Heritage and Mel Hulse saved. It wasn't what Kim was looking for from the particular cross, so the records of its parentage are no longer available. The rose has taken on a life of its own since Kim passed it on. *[Amity Heritage Roses. Public Garden: San Jose Heritage Rose Garden]*

'Too Cute' – A polyantha with beautiful 1" very double blush pink blooms which are produced in massive clusters of up to 40 individual flowers. The blooms are very fragrant and repeat well from spring to fall. Parentage on this one, again, was destroyed by the desert rodents; however, Kim was working with polyanthas, hybrid musks and other old garden roses at the time. **'Too Cute'** was a prolific bloomer in Kim's garden for years, was always one of his favorites, and when Candy Craig saw it, she exclaimed, "Darling! That's just TOO CUTE!" *[Ashdown Roses]*.

'Indian Love Call' – A tall, graceful, once-blooming, semi-climbing, or gracefully arching shrub rose to 7' by 3' with semi double, 3" fragrant, medium pink blooms, (Kim considers it "mauvy red with lighter reverse") and completely without thorns. This is another 'Basye's Legacy' cross, this time with 'Anne Harkness'. Like **'Lynnie'**, this rose "sun tans" in intense winter sun and colder temperatures; the upper surfaces of the foliage and canes turn violet while the reverse leaf surfaces remain dark green, turning scarlet and gold before they fall; it is very fertile, with large, round, tangerine hips on the plant until spring. Kim describes this as a rose for all seasons. This rose was first made available to the public at the January 2002 VCRS Auction. *[Private Garden: James Delahanty, Sherman Oaks, California]*.

'Laurie' – A seedling from 'Mrs. Aaron Ward', a 1907 Pernet dwarf hybrid tea. **'Laurie'** is larger and bushier than 'Mrs. Aaron Ward' in a 3' X 3' bush with 5" blooms (in mild weather, smaller in heat) which are full rosette with pointed petals in form reminiscent of some English roses. **'Laurie'** was named after Kim's mother. *[Not currently in commerce]*.

'Patchwork Sport' – 'Patchwork' was a red, yellow and orange blend, unregistered hybrid tea, similar to 'Granada' and 'Joseph's Coat'. Kim's plant produced blooms with striping and splashing of these colors instead of the more solid colors of the original. This was a find for someone who had collected all the striped sports of hybrid teas available in the United States. This sport was offered for a few years by Vintage Gardens and Sequoia Nursery, but is no longer available commercially. It appears to be extinct.

'Great News Sport' – From Kim's 'Great News' imported floribunda bred by E. B. Le Grice, the sport produced a large cluster of the expected pansy purple from 'Great News', the other half exhibiting light, lilac pink with darker veining. Kim isolated the central bloom which showed half one color and half the other and the resulting sport was once offered by Vintage Gardens and Sequoia Nursery but is no longer available either commercially or privately.

When asked how many seedling turned out to be failures, Kim answers, "Bazillions!" But when you read about the attributes of roses like **'Lynnie'**, **'Annie Laurie McDowell'**, or **'Too Cute'**, you can see why he continues the quest for 'different and better' roses.



Kim Rupert: The Man and His Roses: Part II – 2005

The following list of roses includes those still in development, under consideration by various nurseries for introduction, and those still known by “study” names.

‘Lauren’ – This seedling of ‘Baby Faurax’ has the same deep violet blooms as ‘Baby Faurax’, but they appear on a more graceful, china-like plant. Julia Cooper of San Diego is one of a group in Southern California known as the “HOMs” (Hooked on Mauves). Kim sought and received approval from Julia’s daughter, Lauren, to name this rose after her. (“Lauren” is also Kim’s middle name.) This rose is currently offered by Ashdown Roses under the name ‘Purple Poly Seedling’.



‘Winifred Coulter’ X ‘Greensleeves’ – A 2-foot shrub with very large, full medium pink ruffled blooms carried atop a dainty plant. Not introduced as of this writing, but those who are growing it look forward to its release.

‘Torch of Liberty’ X ‘Star ‘Magic’ – This seedling resulted from a cross of a traditional miniature and a thornless bracteata hybrid. The plant is a shrubby climber with mauve red, double open blooms with purple petal bases scattered all over the plant from summer well into winter here in Southern California. Ashdown Roses has it in test fields.

‘Lilac Charm’ X ‘Basye’s Legacy’ – The reason for this cross was a successful attempt to intensify the mauve tints of ‘Basye’s Legacy’. Kim reports that this shrubby, floribunda-type plant has single, mauve blooms with some fragrance, and it appears to be QUITE fertile. It’s currently being tested and may be released soon by The Uncommon Rose.

‘Softee, Softee’ – The legendary Ralph Moore created a seedling named ‘Softee’ from a cross of his two greatest breeding roses. Kim has been intrigued with ‘Softee’ for many years. The one seedling he has retained is a self seedling from ‘Softee’. **‘Softee, Softee’** produces clusters of very double, “ragged” blooms in shades of blush to deep pink. The fragrant flowers grow to 2” in size and appear in clusters all over the plant. The bush is thornless with disease-free dark green foliage even with late afternoon overhead watering. Kim has not determined whether it is best considered a shrub, a groundcover or some other bush form but believes it would be “beautiful on a short weeping standard.”

‘Frances Fisher’ – A cross of two of Kim’s favorite single hybrid teas, ‘Frances Ashton’ (1937) and ‘Mrs. Oakley Fisher’ (1921), this shrub has large, glossy foliage on a spreading bush. Pointed, blush primrose buds slowly open to semi-double, very fragrant, pale lemon ivory blooms, about 3” in diameter. The name is derived from the combination of the names of the parents; however, it is also the name of one of Kim’s clients, actress Frances Fisher. Ms. Fisher is understandably excited to learn of the rose with her name and is looking forward to its introduction at Ashdown Roses.

‘Inner Wheel’ X 0-47-19 – One of Ralph Moore’s famous breeding roses is called 0-47-19 (a 1947 ‘Floradora’ X *R. wichurana* cross). Kim crossed 0-47-19 with Fryer’s ‘Inner Wheel’. The result is a very healthy and fertile wichurana rambler with pink and white hand-painted, semi-single 2” blooms. Although considered a once bloomer, it may repeat in mild summer locations. The Uncommon Rose has this rose in test for cold tolerance and other traits.

‘April Moon’ X ‘MORcrest’ – The seed parent is a semi-double, pale yellow to white Griffith Buck shrub. The pollen parent is Ralph Moore’s first “crested” rose breeder. The result is almost what Kim was hoping for: a plant with large, fragrant, double medium pink to

red blooms with exaggerated sepals. He hopes to use it further with other sources of crested sepals.

‘Sevilliana’ X (‘Basye’s Legacy’ X ‘Graham Thomas’) – This floribunda-type plant produces orange-pink “flecked or stippled” on a three-foot plant, from spring to fall. However, the foliage isn’t quite what Kim wishes it was, although it will likely be used for further breeding.

‘Orangeade’ X *R. fedtschenkoana* – *R. fedtschenkoana* is a deciduous species rose from Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan with “oddly gray foliage”—another “different” rose which attracted Kim’s attention. Although the species has proven difficult to cross with modern roses, Kim chose ‘Orangeade’, a rose he describes as a rose “you could pollinate with dirt.” This healthy cross grows larger than the species—up to seven feet tall and is even more aggressively invasive than the parent. He describes the scent of the species’ new growth tips as “Nobel Fir Christmas tree in a room with a hard wood fire.” Instead of the single, white flowers of the wild rose, this seedling has double, blush pink ones, and also retains the “linseed oil” scent of the parent. The rose is deciduous like its parent, but its foliage turns from the gray-green to a brilliant gold before being dropped.

‘Dotty Louise’ X *R. fedtschenkoana* – Kim says he was thinking along the same lines with this cross as he was with the preceding one. He theorized correctly that if ‘Orangeade’ were successful, its offspring—Kim’s dark red single—might also be. Over a half dozen seedlings have been retained from this cross, all of which demonstrate more saturated colors in all of the plant parts. They have all retained the scented foliage and exhibit bloom types from single to fully double, which range in color from blush pink to a dark, reddish purple. Every seedling is deciduous with assorted degrees of autumn color foliage. All but one sucker profusely like the species. Since recent DNA research has indicated that the *R. fedtschenkoana* was one of the ancestors of the famous re-blooming ‘Autumn Damask’ (also known as the Rose of Castile), Kim plans to join the genes of the **‘Dottie Louise’ X *R. fedtschenkoana*** with the amazing species assortment to be found in ‘Basye’s Legacy’ to create a more nearly perfect form of ‘Autumn Damask’.

‘Joycie’ X ‘Basye’s Blueberry’ – This is a seedling from Ralph Moore’s orange miniature ‘Joycie’ and Dr.

Basye’s species hybrid, ‘Basye’s Blueberry’. Kim had hoped for a thornless rose from this cross since both parents shared this trait. What resulted is a 3' by 3' semi-deciduous bush rose, with sharp, needle prickles, and excellent repeat bloom from spring into winter in mild climates. The flowers are double, deeply cupped, in a mauve-medium red. They are between 3.5" to 4" in diameter and “cut nicely.” Paul Barden recently reported in his article, “Progress in My Breeding Program,” on his Old Garden Roses and Beyond website that “Kim Rupert has a seedling he is testing that is a cross of ‘Joycie’ and ‘Basye’s Blueberry’ which has one of the best “old rose” fragrances I have smelled in a modern hybrid.”

As you can see, Kim has an impressive number of roses to his credit, but you would never know it to talk to him. Despite his degree in Marketing, he is very low key about “selling” his own creations. It is only later after you leave him and look up a few of the roses that he has mentioned that you realize how many were his own.

Kim’s goal is to find unusual, disease-free, drought and heat tolerant, thornless, fragrant roses that can be easily maintained. He is fortunate to live and work in two different climate zones, Santa Clarita and Pacific Palisades, which provide evidence of a rose’s capabilities in widely varying environments. He is blessed with the eye of a hawk, a photographic memory, boundless energy, a teacher’s willingness to share all that he knows with any interested party, and the patience to help others who do not have all of his talents.

Sometimes it can be difficult to discern which influences have had more impact on his life: The glorious roses to which he’s so committed or the astounding list of close friends and rose aficionados with whom he has interacted. There is a synergy between the two forces which is inescapable. Some of his favorite people include Ralph Moore (Kim’s mentor), Paul Zimmerman of Ashdown Roses, Bob and Kathy Edberg of the former Limberlost Roses Nursery, Mel Hulse of the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden, Paul Barden of The Uncommon Rose, and his good friends Candy and Dean Craig.

His garden has played host to many rose breeders from the U.S. to Great Britain and has also been part of a BBC publication and film production, *The Quest*

for the Rose. He has written, and continues to write, articles for various publications as well as the E-zine located at the www.helpmefind.com/roses website. He has captured his creations—and those of unusually colored and famous roses—on thousands of slides, which he has shared in talks at various rose societies (including the Ventura County Rose Society). He was one of the featured speakers at the Heritage Rose Foundation Conference in El Cerrito this past May. His roses have been introduced by Sequoia Nursery, Ashdown Roses, The Uncommon Rose, and Amity Heritage Roses. The San Jose Heritage Rose Garden contains a large number of Kim's roses. (The Ventura County Rose Society website, www.venturarose.org, contains links to each of these sites.)

After almost three decades in retail management, Kim decided to “have fun at making a living” and has been working in the landscaping and nursery business at the beach for the past few years. He rejoices in working with people who love roses, gardening, and the possibilities of things to be, despite a miserable commute each day. Much of Kim's Santa Clarita garden was sacrificed in order to extend another highway, level another hill, and to provide upscale condominiums for a surging urban population. He reports that he will no longer be engaged in hybridizing or propagating roses. This declaration, however, is at odds with his past history and his declared intentions regarding over a half dozen of the roses listed in this article. I'm sure I'm not alone in looking forward to more beautiful and unusual roses from Kim.

My sincere thanks to Kim for sharing hours of his time and volumes of information about the roses he has bred and his reasons for doing so; to Jim Delahanty for his gentle prodding, support and incomparable editing; to Mel Hulse and Ashdown Roses for a list of their current inventory of Kim's roses and pictures of them; and to HelpMeFind.com and their information on Kim's roses that inspired this article and was an indispensable resource for me. IW

Kim Rupert: The Man and His Roses Update 2012

The above two articles on Kim Rupert, first published in Ventura County Rose Society newsletters in the fall of 2005, closed with the hope and anticipation of future discoveries from Kim's breeding program. As of

this writing in the fall of 2012, I'm delighted to say our expectations were not ill-founded.

Kim's two-year-plus hiatus began abruptly. His extensive collection of approximately 1,200 roses was reduced drastically around 2005 when the majority of the planned community property on which his roses were growing turned out to be part of an adjoining development which had immediate and unexpected plans for construction. The immense rose collection included an extensive variety of roses ranging from new introductions to rare, unusual, hard-to-find varieties as well as some of Kim's own hybridized creations. When the enormous rose garden was dismantled, 200 were rescued and preserved in Kim's sister's garden, many others were given away, and too many remaining in the ground were finally bulldozed during the new construction on the site. Fortunately, through a great deal of effort and manpower, many truckloads of roses were also unearthed and their pots moved to a good friend's property in Encino many miles away, where they remained for a year and a half, watered and maintained by hand, until they slowly found permanent homes in the ground. Unfortunately, some of the salvaged roses that made their way to new homes did not survive the transition.

Enabled by this new, large property in Encino in which he could continue his rose breeding with what remained of his roses, Kim once again was able to focus on his hybridizing, but with some differences. Where the breadth of the “What if” crosses in his early hybridizing efforts were almost limitless (see prior crosses in the above articles) and included experimentation with a wide variety of roses for a slightly larger number of goals, his new ventures appear to have more focus. Gone is the appeal of trying unusual combinations involving brown, and gray, and unusually striped roses with the hope for similar eclectic offspring; also missing are the crosses of other breeders' hybrid teas, floribundas and shrubs with each other. The resurgence of his new efforts has primarily focused on *R. fedtschenkoana*, ‘Basye's Legacy’, and *R. hugonis* hybrid crosses on modern roses with some additional species roses added to the mix. Many of his proven and promising crosses from his early breeding days now predominate his breeding program—a natural progression in any breeder's hybridizing efforts, drawing on and further enhancing the strengths and most sought-after characteristics exhibited by each rose.

Kim's first 64 seedlings from his 2010 planting were meager compared with the 3,000 blooms he hand pollinated before the destruction of his former growing grounds, but it was a good start and resulted in some impressive hybrids. Some of the resulting plants will be used for future hybridizing, budwood from several has been shared with a Dutch nursery to be tested and shared with breeders in Holland, and seeds from others have been shared with another breeder in Australia. His seedling production has increased at such a great rate in the past few years that over a hundred of his creations have had to be passed on to friends to free up more space in his breeding areas and to allow him to concentrate on the many hybrids which show the most promise for his future rose progeny.

The following highlights some of Kim's ongoing rose breeding accomplishments in the past few years.

'Dottie Louise' x *R. fedtschenkoana* = [DLFED] – 'Dottie Louise' x *R. fedtschenkoana* [DLFED] is a



repeat dlfed(2)[1]

mainstay in his breeding program as he focuses on the "great genes" from 'Basye's Legacy'. Five crosses show enough differences and promise that Kim separated them into

distinct HelpMeFind entries: **DLFED 1** through **5**. Kim uses the individual pollens much of the time, instead of mixing them as he had originally done. **DLFED 1** has small single deep pink flowers with bright yellow stamens and suckers prolifically; **DLFED 2** has larger single blooms of similar coloration and seldom suckers but has shown a tendency to bloom early. **DLFED**



1-72-1xdlfed_3(2)[1]

3 exhibits mossing, as do some of its offspring. (Based on Dr. David H. Bryne's finding that *R. fedtschenkoana* is one of the species roses carried into European



1-72-1dlfed7(4)[1]

Old Garden Roses, Kim speculates that *R. fedtschenkoana* might have created the mossing in Moss roses.) **DLFED 4** reminds Kim of 'Gloire des Rosomanes' and is the most likely of the five to have repeat bloom; its petal count varies with the temperature, with more petals and bloom in warmer temperatures, and it doesn't sucker. **DLFED 5** has blooms between the sizes of those of **DLFED 1** and **2**, with denser foliage and moderate suckering. So far, all of them appear to have single blooms and are deciduous with no disease.

Kim has also used Ralph Moore's 1-72-1, the sister seedling of 'Rise 'n' Shine', as the seed parent of many of his **DLFED** crosses in hopes of creating a more dwarf, bushy plant, with yellow flowers and repeat bloom. Most are once blooming in shades of pink and apricot with species-like foliage; however, one

seedling not only bloomed a few months after it was germinated, but it also has had repeat and continuous

has produced deep pink double blooms. A cross of 'Glad Tidings' x **DLFED 1** [**GTDLFED**] has produced blush to medium pink blooms and shows promise as an ever-blooming, healthy bush with thornless canes with "decent vigor."



1-72-1rugeldafly(1)

In 2009, Kim made many crosses using the **DLFED** pollen on 'Mr. Bluebird', 'Torch of Liberty', 'Pookah', 'Miss Lowe', 'Mutabilis' and a number of HTs and floribundas "to see what would happen." Of particular interest to Kim are the crosses of **DLFED** with china and multiflora ('Pookah') genes. Many of these crosses have been reciprocated using the **DLFED** hybrids for seed. Kim is quite excited to see results from using 'Cineraire' (china/ bengale) with them.

bloom through winter [**1-72-1DLFED3**]. Its eventual size is still unknown, but its good color and prolific bloom reassure Kim that he's on the right track.

Extra **DLFED** pollen was crossed in 2008 with 'Cherry Parfait' (the only available flowers available as a seed parent at the time). The eight or more seedlings of this cross produced plants with species-type growth and slow flower production, with only two in bud by the spring of 2011 for the first time. **CPDLFED1 – 5** are currently on HelpMeFind. The blooms range from single to semi-double or double with colors from deep saturated red to white blushed pink, and even a pink and white bi-color. All have varying degrees of ever-green scented foliage, one of which exhibits more hybrid tea (HT) type foliage than the others. Kim is sharing plants of this seedling with fellow hybridizers Robert Rippetoe and Paul Barden for their breeding



Dlfeds blue cpdlfed(14)[1]

use, with thoughts of crossing it with *R. glauca* in hopes of intensifying the blue foliage.

A few flowers of 'Nicole Carol Miller' were also pollinated with **DLFED**. One seedling, **NCMDLFED 1**,

'Orangeade' x *R. fedtschenkoana* [**OADEFED**]. Kim continues to maintain the two hybrids resulting from this cross, although he believes there is greater benefit using **DLFED**. Paul Barden has crossed 'Midnight Blue' with **OADEFED** to produce some beautiful violet colored hybrids.

'**Lynnie**' – With all that his '**Lynnie**' shrub rose has to offer, it's surprising that Kim hasn't used this rose in his earlier hybridizing efforts. He is now, "finally," working with a number of seedlings from '**Lynnie**' and 'Cineraire', 'Mutabilis', and 'Julia Child', a number of which he is currently evaluating, and has started seeds of '**Lynnie**' crossed with *R. fedtschenkoana*. Although '**Lynnie**' isn't as deeply colored as '**Dottie Louise**', Kim considers '**Lynnie**' a better garden rose



'Lynnie' x 'Julia Child'



'Lynn Sunday' 'Lynnie' x 'Sunny Today'

and hopes for a more dwarf, bushier plant with the *R. fedtschenkoana* cross than he has seen from using 'Dottie Louise'.

'LYNNPOO', a seedling of 'Lynnie' x 'Pride of Oakland'

showed great promise early on with lovely pink and white blooms, great health, lack of prickles, and heavy, continuous flowering and will soon be released under its new name 'Porcelain Rose' by Long Ago Roses.

Kim's 'Indian Love Call' crossed with 1-72-1 pollen has one promising year-old seedling [ILC1-72-1] with yellow blooms, good health and vigor, but, alas, has prickles.



Species Roses – Kim has been fascinated for some time by species roses which have not been obviously used in breeding before. Since nothing was known to have been bred from *R. fedtschenkoana* before Basye's discovery of its genes in OGRs, it continues to intrigue Kim, and he's used it extensively. Few modern hybrids exist of *R. hugonis*, and he continues to experiment with his *hugonis* from Ralph Moore. He also maintains his '1-72-1' x *hugonis* hybrid and continues to use it in new crosses. Other species roses' pollen he's frequently used are from *R. minutifolia*, *R. stella mirifica* and more recently 'Basye's Amphidiploid 86-



'Carlin's Rhythm' (named to honor Kim's eldest nephew's musical talent) is a cross between 'Lilac Charm' and 'Basye's Legacy'. Robert Rippetoe crossed 'Carlin's Rhythm' with 'Home Run' [CARxHOR], then shared the result with Kim. Kim then crossed CARxHOR with 'Grandmother's Hat', which he considers one of the best and most interesting OGR-type rose that he's grown. The most interesting seedling ['CARLRUNHAT'] is thornless with great repeat flowering deep pink blooms and is very healthy so far. Kim notes 'Grandmother's Hat' genes are evident in the "sweet cedar scented sepals" of 'CARLRUNHAT'. There are other seedlings from the cross which are lighter colored and single; all are what Kim describes as "healthy, happy plants."

3' (a single *banksia* x *laevigata* cross). He has tried repeatedly and unsuccessfully to make crosses with every seed available using one of his favorites, *R. banksia lutescens*, going through the slow process of waiting up to the two years it often takes for *banksia* hybrids to germinate. I'm delighted to report that he had one germinate in only four months, and this seedling is growing well.

Location and the Passage of Time

– Kim's move to a more coastal location has made another significant impact on his hybridizing. Although affording him more space to dabble with his ever-expanding hybridizing and to work in a new climate, there has been a downside as well. Not all of the roses he has favored for crosses in his past breeding efforts have been as happy or healthy in his more temperate climate ("right on the cusp of coastal fog and inland valley heat") as



there has been a down side as well. Not all of the roses he has favored for crosses in his past breeding efforts have been as happy or healthy in his more temperate climate ("right on the cusp of coastal fog and inland valley heat") as they were in his more arid garden. After consulting with a number of experts, he obtained many new roses from Burlington Roses and the former EuroDesert Roses and will introduce these new varieties into his hybridizing program.



nately, the closing of previous sources listed in the original 2005 articles such as Ashdown Roses, Sequoia Nursery, and EuroDesert Roses shorten the list of online nurseries which carry Kim's roses in the United States; however, his roses have intrigued many nurseries overseas, and several are now carried by Rozenkwekerij de Bierkreek (Netherlands), Rosensversand C. Fechner (Germany), and Le Rose di Piedimonte (Italy).

Much like any inquisitive and creative person, Kim Rupert's hybridizing has evolved over the years. Former goals have been narrowed or slightly different directions have been taken as new discoveries and better offspring have appeared along the way revealing new paths to follow and new crosses to investigate. Kim continues asking and seeking answers to the question Ralph Moore instilled in him, "What if...?" His original niche of "different and better" has not changed in his pursuit of very attractive rose plants with disease-free foliage which require little maintenance, have few if any prickles and exhibit lovely, fragrant blooms. As with any creative genius, the evolution of the fruits of his labor is an ongoing process, and Kim's inquiries and experiments continue to produce a prodigious number of fascinating, beautiful and meritorious new creations worthy of note not only by rose lovers but also by fellow rose hybridizers. His collaboration with Robert Rippetoe and Paul Barden will undoubtedly produce an increasing number of intriguing roses from all three innovative hybridizers.

Many of Kim's roses are currently available in the United States through Angel Gardens, Burlington Rose Nursery, Heirloom Roses, Rogue Valley Roses, Vintage Gardens, and in the near future from Long Ago Roses. Unfortu-

For updates on Kim's ever-evolving hybridizing efforts, visit HelpMeFind.com where he regularly updates information and pictures of many of his latest discoveries. Newer additions such as **'TOOCUTECHILD'** ('Too Cute' x 'Julia Child') and **'Yellow Sally'** (seedling of Sally Holmes) are just two of his latest intriguing hybrids.

Additional updates and excellent information on Kim's insights into growing and propagating roses can be found on his blog:

["pushingtheroseenvelope.blogspot.com."](http://pushingtheroseenvelope.blogspot.com)

I extend many thanks to Kim for sharing so much detailed and enlightening information about his roses in preparing these articles; to Jim Delahanty for lending his exceptional support and editorial help; and to HelpMeFind, an invaluable resource of rose information.



photos in this section provided by Ingrid Wapelhorst/Kim Rupert

BREEDING WITH HULTHEMIA

PERSICA

by Jack Harkness

Reprinted from the 1977 *American Rose Annual*

More than 140 years ago, a seedling of *Hulthemia persica* was raised in the Luxembourg Gardens in Paris. It was clearly a hybrid, having been pollinated naturally by a rose. It was introduced in 1836, is now known as *Hulthemia hardii*, and to the best of my knowledge it has hitherto been the one and only hybrid of *H. persica* in existence. It is an attractive plant, though prone to mildew, and by its appearance I surmise its unknown pollen parent had a larger flower than *H. persica*, a longer flowering period, and bushy growth.

So unique and attractive is the colouring of *H. persica* amongst roses, that many breeders seized upon that one hybrid; but without success, for it proved sterile. Efforts to breed with *H. persica* itself were rarer, owing to the difficulty in persuading that plant to live and flower in cultivation, but such efforts as were made have left no mention of any success.

This report tells that Alec Crocker of Aberdeen determined to grow *H. persica* and to breed with it, reasoning that what had happened once by accident could be made to happen again with intent. How, after obtaining seed from Iran, he generously shared it with me, in order to double the chances of success. How it fell to my good fortune, possibly due to the more suitable climate of Hitchin, to raise not one, but 50 separate hybrids during the 9 years of work; and how we now propose to share these with other breeders, in order to hasten the day when roses of this most beautiful colouring may grow in the gardens of the world.

H. persica was for many years considered to be a rose, and still appears as *Rosa persica* in the *R.H.S. Dictionary of Gardening*. It is possible that it is a very primitive form of rose. Like the two species of the sub-genus HESPERRHODOS, it is a drought resisting plant, and has prickly hips. It is interesting to note that *R. stellate*, which is probably its nearest relative, has 3 leaflets (sometimes 5), making a bridge between *H. persica*, with its simple leaf, and the less primitive rose species with five, seven, nine or more. The course of the evolution of the rose is little known,

and it may be that *H. persica* could teach us something of it.

Let us now study *H. persica*. It stands out from all wild roses by the chestnut red blotch at the base of each yellow petal. The flowers are small, about 4 cm in diameter; the petals are broad, with a cleft at the outer centre; but the base of the petals is so narrow, that they fall at a slight disturbance.

The red blotch is roughly in the shape of a fimbriated mushroom, the red and yellow colours intruding into each other at the edges. As the petals are usually 18 mm long, and the red blotch 7 mm, it will be seen that over one third of the petal length is red, albeit the narrowest third. The yellow color is extremely vivid, and may prove to be the best source of yellow in roses, especially when one considers its unfading nature in view of its native habitat.

Marks on flowers very often serve as guides for insects; and no doubt the dark centre is for that purpose, especially in a yellow flower in semi-desert conditions of bright light. This supposition is strengthened by my belief that *H. persica* is a plant which prefers that its flowers are not pollinated by themselves, but rather by pollen from another flower; or indeed more likely from another plant. Why else do the stamens grow outwards, away from the stigmas, only curving back above them when their pollen is all but gone? I have noticed that fertile self-set seed of *H. persica* is very rarely produced in cultivation, and even though we do not emasculate its flowers, we have raised more hybrids than selfs in a ratio of 4 to 1. The existence of the red blotch argues that this is a flower that requires pollen to be brought to it by insects from elsewhere.

Filaments and anthers are yellow, and the stigmas are either pale, or slightly purplish; a colour variation I have not accounted for. The colouring of these organs has an important influence on the beauty of the hybrids. I have seen about a dozen flowers with no pistils, only a hole in the middle.



Twice we have had flowers of 6 petals, and of greater diameter than normal. In accounts of rose history, I have seen illustrations of the rose on the palace of Knossos in Crete. My six-petalled *H. persica* resembles that illustration more closely than any rose I know.

The stems are thin, wiry, and have sharp, thin thorns. The leaves are simple, whereas all other roses have leaves of three or more leaflets. There are no stiples, contrary to all other roses.

The stems are bi-coloured, except when immature or very old. From each eye upwards there is a narrow strip of brown bark, and from each eye downward a strip of white.

The seed pods are round, and wickedly bristly; or rarely they are flat, like a disc. They ripen early, and need to be harvested a month before our normal harvest time, otherwise many fall off.

The seed germinates easily; and very rapidly the seedling grows a long tap root, so that a 3 inch seedling may have a root 18 inches long. The seedlings are succulent to the touch, and are exceedingly prone to mildew, by which they can be easily lost. They are light greyish green, the leaves very close together.

Our plants of *H. persica*, however, once grown past the seedling stage, have been extremely healthy; as also have been the hybrids. I cannot recollect seeing mildew, blackspot or rust on any of them. We have grown *H. persica* out of doors over winter; it stood the frosts of two winters without damage, but eventually died, I suppose from a dislike of excess moisture.

H. persica, according to repute, cannot be propagated by cuttings or budding. I have not tried. But it will produce runners, which on three occasions in our greenhouse have traveled under concrete paths, to surface some 6 feet away.

It is somewhat sparse in flower, and we find that the flowering is confined to a few of our plants.

The plants are grown in an unheated greenhouse, where they begin to flower soon after mid-April, and finish in early June.

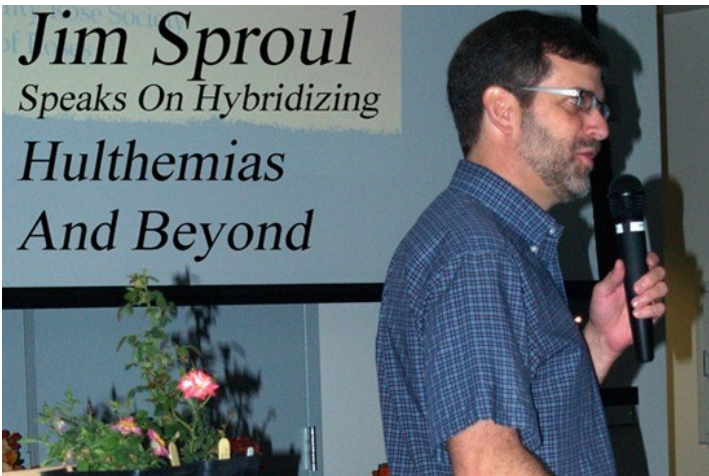


photos by Betty and Peter Harkness

EYECONIC ROSES

by Carolyn Elgar

Originally published in the Rose Gazette, Orange County Rose Society, April 2012



Jim Sproul

photo by Jeri Jennings

For nearly 200 years, rosarians have tried to breed the beautiful species *Hulthemia persica* with garden roses. Closely resembling a wild rose (to which it is almost certainly related), *Hulthemia persica* is distinguished by a dark red spot at the base of each petal, and it is this spot that rose breeders wanted to hybridize. Thanks to the pioneering efforts of Harkness and others, breeder Jim Sproul has developed two breakthrough hybrid *Hulthemia* roses, and we are honored to introduce them here. Welcome the Eyeconics™, perpetually blooming, self-cleaning, highly disease-resistant roses with "eyes"!

Jack Harkness was the first to successfully hybridize roses with *Hulthemias*. At first, work was very slow and like mules, the early hybrids were infertile and frequently unattractive. From his early work, Harkness ultimately released four of his hulthemia roses for introduction. Of these, 'Tigris' and 'Euphrates' were probably the most important.

During the last 10 years, the pace has quickened to get the red *Hulthemia* blotch into roses. Several rose breeders from around the world have entered the race to produce attractive repeat blooming *Hulthemia* roses. The most successful among this group includes Ralph Moore of the US, Chris Warner

of England, Peter IIsink of the Netherlands, and of course, the Harkness family of England.

It appears that the "blotch" gene (or genes) is linked to genes coding for non-remontancy (that is non-repeat blooming), willowy growth, disease susceptibility and needle-like prickles. It also appears that there are several aspects of the blotch itself that may be independently coded for blotch size and shape, blotch color, and intensity of color.

These eye-catching new roses represent a breakthrough in the world of rose breeding. Hybridizers have spent many years attempting to cross modern roses with *Hulthemias*, a once-blooming species with a characteristic red blotch. *Hulthemias* are not true roses, just like donkeys aren't true horses, but there are similarities. The goal was to obtain a rose with a reblooming, pleasing habit and disease resistance, but with the blotch of a *Hulthemia*. Jim Sproul, who has spent the past 15 years refining his work with *Hulthemias*, has achieved this with this novel hybrid, '**Eyeconic Lemonade**'.

Jim Sproul, a Bakersfield physician, created '**Eyeconic Lemonade**' and another of Star Roses' new introductions, '**Eyeconic Pink Lemonade**', by cross-breeding 'Tigress' - English rose breeder Jack Harkness' original fertile link to the wild *Hulthemia persica*, with its dark "eye" - and the *Hulthemia* hybrids of other rose breeders.





with much more traditional foliage. One of the pre release plants was sent to me by a nurseryman friend, and I am impressed!

Hulthemia, a xerophyte native to desert regions of Iran, Afghanistan and Turkey, called "the most noxious weed in Iran" and desirable because of its characteristic red 'blotch' petal base. It's one of my prime rose "obsessions" and has been for over twenty-five years.

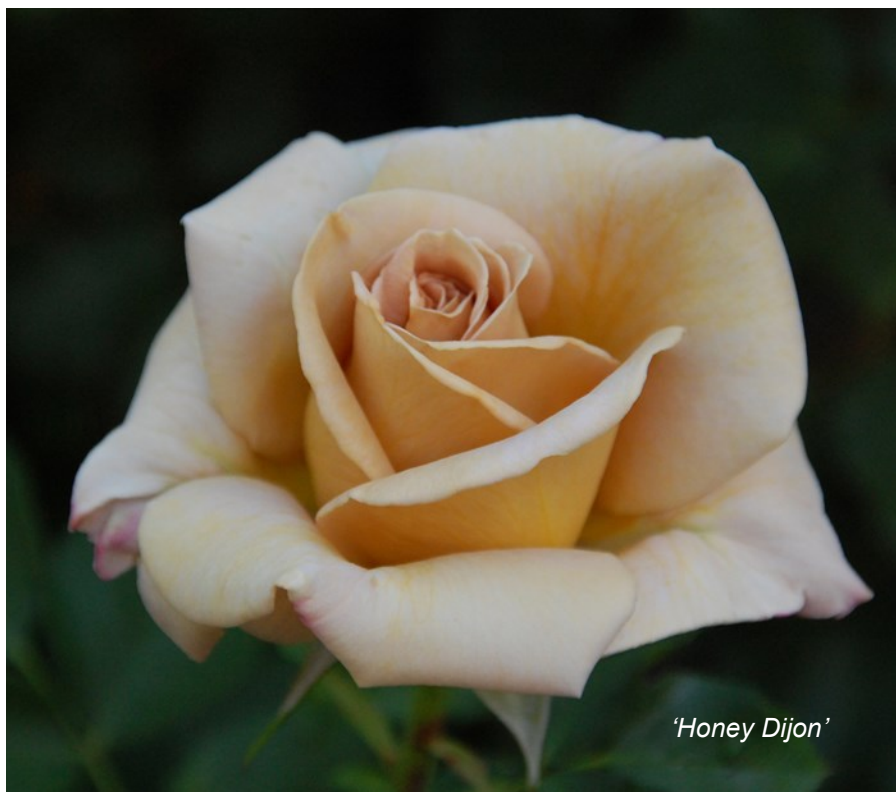
Jim Sproul has hybridized a number of other unique roses. Here are some examples of these roses.

"Using all of those I came up with '**Eyeconic Lemonade**' and '**Eyeconic Pink Lemonade**'," he says. "They're quite different in appearance but they both have that characteristic darker center. It's something you can see in a baby rose right off the bat. So it represents a new color pattern in roses that wasn't available before."

The *Hulthemia* blotch differs from the halo of Ralph Moore's Halo™ roses in several ways: the coloring on the halo goes farther from the apex of the petal towards the petal edges than in the middle of the petal, while in the *Hulthemias*, it is farthest from the petal apex in the middle of the petal; the halo color often shows through to the reverse of the petals, while that is not so with the *Hulthemias* – in fact, the *Hulthemias* most often have a lighter color on the reverse side of their petals and; the halo color does not go all the way to the apex, but is separated from the apex by a zone lacking the halo color, while the blotch of the *Hulthemias* often goes to the petal apex (though I have seen some of the *Hulthemia* blotches cut-off from the petal apex by a zone of clearing, this probably represents an independent trait).

Jim has taken the characteristic *Hulthemia* "blotch" and put it on real garden roses! Instead of the wispy, prickly "bramble bush," Jim's roses are real garden rose type plants





'Honey Dijon'

Over the years Jim Sproul has hybridized other unique roses. Included here are a few of those varieties.

'Life Lines' is an orange red climbing miniature rose that has received the American Rose Society's Award of Excellence Award in 2005.

'Heather Sproul' is a pink exhibition miniature rose that Sproul named for his wife.

'Honey Dijon', introduced in 2003, is classified as a grandiflora. It is part of the unusual russet color class.



'Honey Dijon'

photos in this section provided by Carolyn Elgar unless otherwise noted

CALIFORNIA LADY

by Judy Eitzen

Originally published in the *Cemetery Rose*, Sacramento Historic Rose Garden, September 2013

One of the most beautiful roses (of course, they're all beautiful!) in the Historic Rose Garden is climbing on the south side of the Haymond mausoleum in the middle of the Broadway Bed. This climbing tea is 'Lady Waterlow' and was introduced in 1902 by Nabonnand, a French hybridizer working not far from the rose's namesake. But that gets us ahead of the story. This antique rose has a California connection.

Margaret Hamilton of Napa was a leading hostess of San Francisco society – an heiress who suffered an unfortunate first marriage to a Boston man who abandoned her after making off with her inheritance in just five weeks. That would put most women off marriage, but Margaret was made of sterner stuff. She returned to her family in San Francisco and became one of the leading society hostesses of her day. She was just 33 when she met and immediately fell in love with a 59-year-old Englishman while visiting mutual friends in Monterey, California. His name was Sir Sidney Waterlow, a widower and captain of industry, former Lord Mayor of London and a great philanthropist who had been made a baronet by Queen Victoria for his many years of service to the Crown.

California society was a relatively small, intermixed



group as the initial meeting and acquaintance of the couple was reported in the San Francisco Chronicle shortly after their wedding:

"...As guests of the family of Charles Crocker, Miss Hamilton and her sister were enroute for Monterey at the time Sir Sidney Waterlow was passing over the road in his private car, accompanied by Gen. Williams. It was on the cars that he first met Miss Hamilton, the gentleman's manner proving conclusively he



was attracted in no ordinary degree. Subsequent horseback riding, bowling and billiard-playing, in which Miss Hamilton was an adept, and the charming faculty of entertaining both young and old, made an impression which culminated in a formal proposal of marriage at a dinner-party given under the hospitable roof of Mr. Crocker. On the subsequent arrival of Miss Hamilton and Mrs. George Hearst in England, they were met at Liverpool by Sir Sidney and informed that a suite of rooms at the hotel was in waiting for them, but as a special favor to himself and particular gratification to his daughters, who had met Miss Hamilton in California, he begged to be allowed the pleasure of entertaining the ladies. At last, Mrs. Hearst consented, agreeing with Sir Sidney that by acceding to his invitation the family would have a better opportunity to know the lady upon whom he had placed his choice. In due time, the Baronet declared to his family and relatives his intentions regarding Miss Hamilton. The news was received with the best of feeling, and resulted in all interested making a special business of tendering congratulations."

The couple was married in March of 1882 at the British Embassy in Paris and set off on a world tour the following year, eventually settling in homes in England and France. Their property in Cannes was named the Villa Monterey after the place where they first met. Margaret charmed Cannes society with her beauty, wit and large, expressive eyes. She became the center of formal parties, liked by young and old. Sir Sidney, maintained a gruff exterior which concealed his philanthropic generosity, and did not enjoy society's activities. Regular visitors to the villa included European Royalty and Sir Sidney often retreated to his much beloved garden. In 1902 Clément Nabonnand, a purveyor of that garden named a rose for



Lady Waterlow.

Philanthropist Sir Sidney founded an international hospital in Cannes and gave his park in Highgate, North London (now, Waterlow Park) to the London County Council and continued working to improve conditions for the underprivileged in East London.

After his death in 1906, Lady Waterlow continued Sir Sidney's work with London's underprivileged, before moving permanently to the Villa Monterey in 1925 where she died in 1931. In 1964 the villa was pulled down (furnishings and art having been auctioned off after Margaret's death). Only the splendid gates to the park and the lovely rose, 'Lady Waterlow' remain.

photos in this section provided by Judy Eitzen

Heritage Rose Foundation Conference

Tracing our Heritage: Discovering our Roots

Lakeland, Florida, November 14-17, 2013

The 2013 HRF Conference will take place at the Frank Lloyd Wright designed Florida Southern College campus in Lakeland, Florida. The event is hosted by Dr. Malcolm Manners and the Department of Horticulture Science. Speakers include: Dr. Nancy Morvillo on rose DNA, Connie Hilker on preservation at Hollywood Cemetery, Peggy Cornett on preservation efforts at Monticello, and Mike Shoup on heritage roses of the future. Dinner speaker Eitienne Bouret will talk on the last ten years of rose preservation in France.

Register: <http://hrflakeland2013.brownpapertickets.com/>

Information: heritagerosefoundation.org