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# ***SUBROSA***

The Huntington Rose Garden Docent/Volunteer Newsletter

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## **Garden Docent Dress Code**

Garden docents represent The Huntington to the general public and visiting school children as the public face of the institution. Docents are regarded as professionals just like paid staff and so are asked to adhere to a specific dress code. Dresses, shirts or blouses with collars, slacks and close-toed shoes are required. Sleeveless, v-necked T-shirts, or those with logos inappropriate to The Huntington Gardens are discouraged. Hats are optional and make good sense, especially during the sunny months, however we ask that baseball caps with logos other than The Huntington "H" be left at home.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping to keep The Huntington "looking sharp!"

*Sue Lafferty*

*Education and Volunteer Services  
Manager*

## **GARDEN ACTIVITY UPDATE**

A review of the Shakespeare, Herb, and Rose Gardens indicates the following improvements are in progress.

### **Shakespeare Garden**

Clair and our new Head Gardner, Katarina, are well on their way to transforming the Shakespeare Garden into a picturesque vista more closely emulating the scene found in English gardens.

Katarina has planted wonderful annuals and perennials, many of which are mentioned in the works of Shakespeare.

Clair has planted several roses that are of importance in history. Among this list are: 'Alba semi-plena', aka (also known as) the "White Rose of York", the 'Apothecary's Rose', aka "Red Rose of Lancaster," and the rose known as 'York and Lancaster.' These roses have been associated with the 15<sup>th</sup> Century Wars of the Roses.

Other roses now in the garden are 'Souvenir de la Malmaison', 'Velvet' "Tuscany", and 'Rambling Rector'.

Installation of the rebar arch over the bust of William Shakespeare provides

the frame for the climbing rose 'Snow Goose', a new cultivar.

### Herb Garden

The climbing roses that cover the western end of the pergola leading to the Japanese Garden have been pruned, the pergola has been repaired, and is now in the process of being painted.

In Bed #30, north of the pergola, several old rugosa rose bushes were removed and replaced with new rugosa roses.

In the medicinal beds, new plantings are: 'Apothecary's Rose', 'Rosa Mundi' and the "Rose of Castile".

In the perfume bed, 'Kazanlik' has been added.

### Rose Garden

Approximately 100 new rose cultivars have been planted in the Rose Garden. Of special interest, we now have a new 'La France' in Bed #20.

An updated Rose Garden Inventory will be available shortly to Docents and Volunteers. This inventory will provide us with a current list of roses, their class, year of introduction, the bed # and color. Labels are now in the process of being produced for the additional roses in these gardens.

Martha Burkard

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### BOOK REVIEW

#### 100 Old Roses for the American Garden

by Clair G. Martin

Whether you are just beginning to learn about old roses or you are a long-time fan and grower of these roses, Clair Martin's latest publishing effort belongs in your library.

Clair has retained the format he developed for *100 English Roses for the American Garden*, making it an easy reference guide while working in, or planning, your garden. Clair's explanation of what constitutes an Old Rose and their classes provide an interesting and knowledge-increasing read for the novice.

The chapters on "What Makes A Rose...Old," "The Rose in Human Culture," and "Rose Growing Made Easy" provide a great deal of information on the subject of Old Garden Roses. For those of us who discuss roses with the visitors to the Rose Garden, another valuable tool is available for use in expanding our presentation.

The photography is outstanding, as is the prose accompanying each picture. You will find the photography to be more realistic and less stylized than in most books on roses.

Check page 224 for information on *Rosa banksiae lutea* (a species hybrid) now growing, and presently blooming, on the posts at the entrance to the Rose Garden Café.

Clair has now written two books that provide us with volumes of information

on roses and the wherewithal to present these plants as interesting and important members of the botanical world.

*Bea Whyld*

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## SATCHMO

In keeping with the year 2000's theme of "theater," I have chosen to write about an orange/red, free-growing, free-blooming Floribunda named Satchmo in Bed #12 honoring the great American jazz trumpeter, Louis Armstrong.

This slightly fragrant rose has been a favorite of mine since I first sighted it. 'Satchmo' is a 1970 hybrid of 'Evelyn Fison' x 'Diamant'. The flowers are brilliant scarlet doubles (25 petals), but after being open a few days, the lacy edges of the petals appears to turn black while the centers remain a true scarlet.

Louis Armstrong, Satchmo, was born in 1900 in James Alley, known as the lowest Negro slum in New Orleans. He was always a hard working boy and helped support his Mama through a succession of menial jobs such as paperboy, mule driver of the milk cart, coal deliverer, and dock worker.

The music in his soul was formed early and deeply. At age six he could be found at 2 a.m. sound asleep leaning against the wall of the bandstand at the Funky Butt Hall down the block from his

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home. He was there absorbing the beat and syncopation of the magical sound produced by the first jazz/ragtime musicians.

Louis' good fortune came when, at thirteen, he was sentenced to the Waif's Home for Wayward Black Children. There he learned to read music and to play musical instruments from percussion to his dream, the cornet. He finally became a member of the marching band which played Sousa.

It has been said that Stachmo's horn was never something exterior, separate from him, but the essence of his playing came through his horn from a deep part of his being. The trumpet was his only vehicle for bridging the enormous gap between the poor New Orleans black and the world of the white race.

The name Satchmo was born because his friends would laugh at the sight of him stuffing cakes between his thick lips. First they called him Dippermouth and Dipper which soon evolved into Satchelmouth and finally Satchmo—the name that was to follow him throughout the rest of his life.

Louis' voice and ability to interpret a song was what supported him through his early musician days when many of his instrumental skills were still developing. When Louis would sense that he was losing his audience with his horn playing, he would break into song. He would then rely on his unique voice and a jazz/ragtime rendition of a popular ditty to immediately regain their attention. As a result, he was never out of work.

In his book *Louis Armstrong*, Hughes Panassil says, "He is the only one to

possess simultaneously all possible qualities: An easy beautiful tone in all registers, versatility, a most beautiful attack, perfect accuracy, poignant vibrato, volume, density of sound, perfect legato and staccato playing, along with amazing flexibility of the lips for inflection.”

Louis Armstrong's grandmother was born to slavery, but through his music, he freed us all.

*Dorothy Fansler*

## CURATOR'S CORNER

The Huntington Rose Festival 2000 will be remembered as one of the loveliest, most gracious, and liveliest we have produced.

A sufficient supply of *100 Old Roses for the American Garden* were forwarded airfreight, arriving Friday, April 14. Rose Festival tee shirts were also available.

Special thanks for their enthusiasm and hard work go to Nancy Ferguson along with Martha Crissman, Dorothy Fansler, Herrad Marrs, and Joanne Stephens for working with The Book Store and More staff who set up a satellite store in the Rose Garden. This proved to be a success for both the Festival and the Book Store.

Although our Friday evening Wine and Cheese fete had to contend with some chilly temperatures, Emina Darakjy's excellent and beautifully displayed foodstuffs did much to dispel the

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weather. A great big "Thank You" to Emina for a job well done.

Saturday morning festivities opened appropriately with the graduation of 12 new Rose Garden Docents. This lovely ceremony, involving the awarding of the red badge of the Docent, was enhanced by the participation of Sue Lafferty, Mikki Heydorff and Celeste Lindgren. Congratulations to all the new Docents.

Using art as a learning tool, Michael Fritzen, Youth and Public Programs Coordinator at The Huntington, in combination with the Barnsdall Park Art Group, did a magnificent job of presenting roses to the children (and their parents) who attended the Festival.

Thank you, also, to a great group of Tuesday and Saturday Volunteers along with Rose Garden Docents. Combining this crew with improved weather and sufficient beautiful roses in bloom provided our visitors with an interesting and educational visit to our garden.

Whether you were a worker or a visitor to the 2000 Rose Festival, thank you for helping to make it a success.

*Clair Martin*

## IMPORTANT DATE TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

Rose Garden Docent and Volunteer  
Pot Luck – 11:00 a.m. – July 15 –  
Headhouse –

Reserve this date! More  
information to follow.