
SUBROSA

Rose Garden Volunteer Newsletter

Number 3

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A VISIT TO A HYBRIDIZER

As a result of an invitation extended to Clair by the Poulsen Roser ApS hybridizers, he, accompanied by Marty Burkard, Nancy Ferguson, and Bea Whyld, visited their growing fields on October 15 in Wasco, California, a few miles north of Bakersfield.

Poulsen Roser ApS, headquartered in Fredensborg, Denmark, with growing fields for North-Central-South America, Asia, New Zealand, and Australia at Central Point, Oregon is the world's largest developer of the miniature roses that have become so prevalent in our super markets and nurseries the last few years. This organization develops roses and then licenses growers.

It was a beautiful sunny day with just enough breeze to keep everyone comfortable. A delicious lunch of grilled vegetables and salami on thick slices of Danish bread, navy beans with a special flair, brownies, fruit, soft drinks, and wine was served by the host. This picnic was held alongside the rows and rows of acres of beautiful roses.

An exciting event was meeting Pernille Olson (nee Poulsen) during lunch. The rose named in her honor 'Pernille Poulsen' can be found in our Rose Garden in bed #12, midway down the south side.

After lunch, except for Clair who obviously is not deterred by prickles, we climbed into chaps to protect ourselves and all headed into the fields with Chris Pellet as our guide. Her knowledge of the roses growing there was so

incredible we were mostly breathless trying to keep up with her. Our tour included floribundas, hybrid teas, and miniatures.

We all returned home, tired but exhilarated by our shared experience.

An interesting addendum occurred when Bea, who features miniature roses on her Pasadena apartment balcony, returned from a shopping foray to Trader Joe's a week-and-a-half later with four plants sporting the Poulsen tag.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

Rose Garden pruning will start January 4, 1999 at 9:00 a.m. Sharpen your pruning tools and join us. We will have a brief review of pruning techniques for all of us.

Pruning demonstration for the public is scheduled in the Rose Garden for Saturday, January 16, 1999. Time 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

TREES OF THE ROSE GARDEN

Magnolia Delavayi

Magnolia delavayi (dee-lav-e-i) was discovered near Langkong, China in 1889, by the French plant collector Pere Jean Delavay.

It was introduced into England by E. H. Wilson in 1899. Records show the first of these trees to flower was grown in a glass house at Kew Gardens in 1908, just ten years after Franchet's recorded discovery.

Wilson was surprised that such a large-leaf evergreen, from a near tropical latitude and an elevation of 4,000-8,000 feet was sufficiently hardy for outdoor cultivation in the milder areas of the British Isles.

The main feature of *M. delavayi* is its foliage. The mature leaves are deep green in color, oblong in shape. The upper surface of the leaves are smooth while the under surface is covered with hundreds of very fine hairs. The leaf is very stiff with parchment-like texture.

The flower of *M. delavayi* is diurnal (opening in the afternoon, closing at night and opening again the next morning. By afternoon of the second day, the petals will shatter.

Flowers appear throughout the year with the peak bloom being from mid-July to September. The flower is slightly fragrant.

The fruit-cones of *M. delavayi* are sterile. They are dark brown when dried and contain relatively small seeds in the sharply beaked carpels (an inner structure where seeds are stored.)

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M. delavayi is one of the few Asian evergreen magnolias that have adapted to our Pacific Coast climate, all the way north to San Francisco.

Martha Burkard

THE HYBRID MUSK ROSES

The term "Hybrid Musk" was coined by Joseph Hardwich Pemberton (1850-1926), an East Anglican cleric whose avocation of growing and then breeding roses, turned into a full-time activity upon his retirement in 1914 "owing to ill health." Sometime around 1912 Pemberton started breeding the roses he would later call "Hybrid Musk." His first public offering included 'Clytemnestra', 'Danae', and 'Moonlight' which he listed as "Hybrid Teas."

The parentage of these roses includes strains of many different kinds of garden roses. However, the actual crosses which produced the "Hybrid Musk" were mainly "Hybrid Teas and "Noisettes."

Apparently, Pemberton did not immediately realize he had created a new type of rose which required a name of its own to distinguish it from the common bedding rose of his era. In The Rose Annual for 1918, "Hybrid Musk" appeared in reference to 'Moonlight' and 'Pax' and, thereafter, the term was applied consistently to the group.

Two featured "Hybrid Musks" currently in residence here at The Huntington Rose Garden are located in beds #21 and #22 (the round beds at the western end of the Rose Garden on the north and south sides of the walkway to the Japanese Garden) and named 'Buff Beauty' and 'Francesca'.

Both of these roses were planted during the pruning period in early 1998. Each rose is the cascading type that consists of two grafts. One graft is made onto

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the root stock and the second is made at the end of the cane reaching a height of eight feet.

'Francesca', a 1922 creation, in bed #22 has developed somewhat faster than 'Buff Beauty', a 1939 rose. However, we are hoping with a more normal weather pattern for the remainder of 1998 and the spring of 1999, both roses will grow into beautiful cascading arrays that will cover the support tower and highlight these two beds.

Be sure to check on these roses from time-to-time when you are touring and call them to the attention of our visitors.

Bea Whyld

EVENTS TO REMEMBER

FALL PLANT FESTIVAL

November 12 - 15, 1998

All Programs Start At 2:30 pm

Thursday, Renee Shepherd

"Creating a Gourmet Vegetable Garden Year Round"

Friday, Dr. Rosser Garrison

"New Garden Pests in Southern California and What to do About Them"

Saturday, Bruce Asakawa

"A Change of Thinking - Horticultural Notes From Bruce Asakawa"

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Sunday, Dean Norton

"The Restoration of George Washington's Gardens at Mount Vernon"

**November 16 - Garden Docent Meeting
Friends' Hall 9:30 am**

December 7 All Volunteer Holiday Cookie Exchange - Friends' Hall 9:30 am

December 10 - Second Thursday

Garden Talk -- Plant Sale --

Friends' Hall 2:30 pm

First Thursday

Remember we continue to need your help directing visitors on the First Thursday free day.

NEW PLASTIC LABELS

Finally new plastic labels for the roses we planted this past spring have been installed in the Rose Garden. Now you will no longer have to guess as to just what rose is blooming in bed 12! The delay was to a number of factors, but at least they are in and will help our visitors enjoy the Rose Garden