To know some history of roses is to understand something of a universal principle, an understanding that offers a profound pleasure for the reflective personality—the deep gratification of knowing the connection of things. And such a connection grows even deeper when linked to the roots of one’s family tree.

As I step over a worn threshold into my sunset years—my crepuscular years—I can’t help but think of the generations that have shaped so much of my life. I have emerged from at least four generations of Russian-Germans, those Germans who answered the welcoming call of Catherine the Great and, later, her grandson Tsar Alexander I to settle areas of South Russia, primarily Bessarabia and the Crimea.

My great-great grandfather Henry Schramm was born in Russia, probably in the Crimean village of Heilbrunn, which was home to a number of relocated Schramms from Germany. The year was 1848.

As a rosarian I’ve been curious about roses that were bred or popular those years when my ancestors were born. Like the blood of ancestors, many roses too have lived and continue to live beyond the time of those who bred and first loved them. But we have very little information about specific roses bred the year of Henry Schramm’s birth. And while we do know the names of many roses grown then, often we do not know their dates. Record-keeping was not a priority for many early rose breeders.

We know, however, that a certain centifolia (or perhaps a gallica) named ‘Comtesse de Segur’ was introduced in 1848. Francis Parkman listed the rose under gallica in 1866, describing it as “pale flesh”—no doubt meaning Caucasian flesh—and “clear and beautiful,
Another rose of 1848 of which we do have more knowledge is ‘Apolline’, the feminized name for Apollo, god of music and poetry. A bourbon seedling of the rose ‘Pierre de St. Cyr’, introduced by Victor Verdier, it was described by Samuel Parsons in 1908 as “rose and pink” and “a vigorous grower”. John Cranston in 1873 had called it “a good weeper” from a pillar or wall. In early California it was a rose that appeared in many a nursery catalogue. Colonel James Warren, editor of California Farmer, listed it as one of the six best “everblooming” roses in 1873. Edward Gill of Berkeley/Albany listed it in his 1889-90 catalogue, evidence of its continued popularity. It was still in existence in 1958 when it appeared in Modern Roses V and in subsequent editions thereafter. Nearly forgotten, it can still be purchased today via custom order through Vintage Gardens; no other nursery in the world carries it.

In 1874 a ship carried Henry Schramm, his wife Christina, and two children to the United States. The privileges granted the German settlers by Tsar Alexander I recently had been revoked, and now the Germans in Russia were required to serve in the Russian army and to educate their children in Russian. Many left. Henry and Christina first homesteaded as grain farmers near Meno, South Dakota, then in 1899 moved to North Dakota where land was more available and less costly to buy. They arrived in Hazen Village by horse-drawn wagon. While farming near Hazen, they produced seven more children. Henry died in 1930.

Son of Henry, my great-grandfather Jacob Schramm was born in South Russia in 1871. He was three years old when the family arrived in Dakota Territory. According to the 1930 census, his parents were living with him at that time. I remember him: big-boned, stocky, and smelling of cigar. He died when I was nine years old. Two noteworthy roses were bred the year of his birth: ‘Marie van Houtte’ and ‘Baron de Bonstetten’.

‘Marie van Houtte’ is a tea rose still much loved by tea-rose aficionados. It is large, hardy, fragrant, and long-lived. Nearly every shoot culminates in a flower. It is as generous with its prickles as with its recurrent bloom. As lovely as its lemon or pale yellow petals are, edged with carmine, the plant is not for small gardens. Bred by Antoine Ducher, the rose was dedicated to one of two daughters.
born to the horticulturist Louis van Houtte of Ghent, Belgium.

‘Baron de Bonstetten’ was named for Karl (Charles) Victor von Bonstetten (1745-1832), a deist, a philosopher and writer of liberal ideas influenced by Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Voltaire, both of whom he knew. A Swiss, he was also a lover of roses. Blooming in flushes and growing from three and a half to seven feet high, the rose, a hybrid perpetual, exhibits a dark velvety red. Because it burns in hot weather, it grows its most beautiful in part shade. Jacob Schramm would have preferred this sturdy hybrid perpetual to the more feminine ‘Marie van Houtte’.

Herbert Schramm, my grandfather who lived to be ninety, was born in South Dakota in 1897. Initially a farmer near Krem and then Hazen, North Dakota, he became a postman once my grandparents moved to California in the late 1940s. There he transferred his love of the soil—as my father was to do also—to gardening.

Several important roses were introduced in 1897, among them ‘Baron Girod de l’Ain’, ‘Baronne Henriette Snoy’, and ‘Gruss an Teplitz’. The first, ‘Baron Girod de l’Ain’, is an unusual hybrid perpetual, varying from dark red to bright pink but strongly edged with white piping, like certain carnations. Sometimes the scalloped petals are also mottled. Ostensibly it was a sport or seedling of the hybrid perpetual ‘Eugene Furst’. It was introduced by Julien Reverchon, a botanist from Lyon who moved to Texas. Baron Louis Girod de l’Ain (1781-1847), the namesake of the rose, was a lawyer, judge, and conservative politician in Paris, wearing many hats over his lifetime, including Imperial prosecutor, Police commissioner, and Minister of Public Education. One wonders why Reverchon chose to remember the Baron.

The Baroness Henriette Snoy was the daughter of Baron Georges Snoy, a Belgian (who, incidentally, belonged to an international etching society in the 1870s) and Countess Alix de Chastel of Howarderie. When Henriette in 1902 married Count Fredrich (Fritz) van den Steen de Jehay, a diplomat, counselor of the Belgian Legation to Constantinople, she became, of course, a countess. The New York Times of November 9 declared it the “smartest wedding of the season.” They lived primarily at Chateau de Losange in the Belgian province of Luxemburg. In 1918, the Count was thrown from a horse and died. Henriette Snoy, Countess Steen de Jahay, remained at the chateau until World War II. Returning to her property after war’s end, she found the place virtually in ruins. Undaunted, she had it rebuilt. An older contemporary of Herbert Schramm, she died in 1957.

The rose in her honor was named before her marriage. Sumptuously full and thick with petals of pale pink or incarnadine, darker at the base, this very fragrant tea rose was bred by Alexandre Bernaix. The flowers grow in small clusters on a bush three to five feet high. Not only does it bloom almost continuously, but it also tolerates more cold than most tea roses. It continues to be commonly found at rose nurseries.

‘Gruss an Teplitz’ deserves mention, not only because it is a comely dark red rose but also because it was bred by Rudolf Geschwind whose native tongue was German but who lived in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, dying in 1910 after hybridizing more than 140 roses. Geschwind was perhaps the most famous of all German-speaking breeders until the mid-20th
‘Gruss an Teplitz’ is his most famous rose. Variously classified as a china, a bourbon, and a hybrid tea, many a grower is content to call it a shrub. Bearing double, cupped blooms whose petals are a paler red on the reverse side, the flowers exude a lovely scent. The foliage begins as purple and matures to green. This rose remains popular. In the year 2000 the World Federation of Rose Societies voted it the world’s Favorite Old Rose.

By the time my father, Helmuth Schramm, was born in 1920, his family had moved to North Dakota. Farmers of grain and livestock in a widespread area west of the Missouri River populated by other Russian-Germans, they retained their traditional customs and language. They made use of root cellars, pickled and canned fruits and vegetables for the winter months, hauled coal from the hills for their wood-burning stoves, pumped drinking water at the windmill, helped each other with harvests and barn-raising, slaughtered a pig or calf or sheep or goose as needed, made their own sausages. A generation later when I was born, little had changed. I too spoke German before English.

A rose that speaks to me, introduced the year of my father’s birth, is the rich, dark red ‘Souvenir de Claudius Denoyel’. Supposedly it is a climber, but after nearly three years mine has yet to climb. Nonetheless, the small plant is so covered with its large blooms in springtime that it’s hard to see much else. Its second bloom is less prolific. It was bred by Jean Chambard, a man who introduced more than 75 roses, winning gold medals for nineteen of them. Chambard named the rose in memory of his niece’s husband who was killed near Calais during World War I at age 21.

‘Bloomfield Abundance’, another rose of 1920, is perhaps better known. It was bred by George C. Thomas, who prefixed “Bloomfield” to the names of most roses he raised. If it is better known, it is not at all certain that the rose sold today under that name is the one bred by Thomas. His rose was clearly a hybrid tea, a cross of the 1918 hybrid tea ‘Sylvia’, a sport of the famous ‘Ophelia’, and the 1907 very large, double hybrid tea ‘Dorothy Page Roberts’. The photos from 1920 in the American Rose Society Annual and the 1930 and 1947 photos of J. Horace McFarland’s Roses of the World in Color reveal a big-bosomed rose. However, over the last sixty years ‘Bloomfield Abundance’ has been compared to the polyantha ‘Cecile Brunner’. In fact, some nurserymen and rosarians claim that ‘Bloomfield Abundance’ is synonymous with ‘Spray Cecile Brunner’, another polyantha related to the first one. And by 1947 the American Rose Society claimed in Modern Roses III that Thomas’ rose was “similar to Cecile Brunner but hardier and the blooms larger.” But Thomas’ own photograph of that year shows it to be much, much larger—four or five times larger. A study of the photos I’ve mentioned indicates clearly that ‘Bloomfield Abundance’ flowers do not grow in sprays, corymbs, or clusters. Furthermore, the rose so-called today puts forth miniature flowers, not huge blooms. In 1978, the great English breeder Jack Harkness, writing of the imposter rose, asserted, “It has long been obvious to nurserymen who see their stock of ‘Cecile Brunner’ suddenly change to ‘Bloomfield Abundance’ that the parentage in Modern Roses cannot possibly be right.” Authority William Grant’s supposition that ‘Spray Cecile Brunner’ of 1941 has “usurped” the true rose’s place is correct. The real ‘Bloomfield Abundance’ may be lost.

No doubt my great-great-grandfather Henry and his son Jacob felt somewhat lost in leaving Crimea behind for Dakota Territory. And my grandfather Herbert, leaving South Dakota behind for North Dakota and later for California must have felt some loss; in fact, he still felt so connected to the land that he often said near the end of this life he wished to die in North Dakota. And in 1988 he did. Though remaining in California, my father would follow him a year later.

To reprint, publish or use this article, please request permission from the author at: schrammd@earthlink.net. The photo of Baroness Henriette Snoy is courtesy of: http://royalementblog.blogspot.com/2011_09_01_archive.html The photo of ‘Apolline’ is by Steve Jones from Modern Roses 12 online. The photos of ‘Baron de Bonstetten’ by Mashamcl, of ‘Baronne Henriette de Snoy’ by Cass and of ‘Gruss an Teplitz’ by Jill Streit are all from http://www.helpmefind.com. All photos are used with permission. The photo of ‘Bloomfield Abundance’ from “The Practical Book of Outdoor Rose Growing” by George C. Thomas. Photos of the Schramm family are from the author’s family collection.
President’s Message

We are plunging headfirst into Fall weather, one of the most wonderful times to be in the garden! While popular belief is that September is the best month in the Bay Area, I have always found that October is the best for me. It is time to harvest our summer crops, and to plant our Winter crops and Spring bulbs. Even before my roses have put on their final flush for the last rose show of 2012, I have started to select my next roses from the 2012 New Rose Introductions by the American Rose Society’s *American Rose*. There is always room for one more!

And just to keep everyone updated on Marin Art & Garden Center (MAGC), we are moving forward with a full schedule of meetings for 2013. The rental rate for 2013 will be $100 for each meeting (plus setup charges). While MAGC’s financial gap is still not closed, plans have been coming together to redefine the real purpose and mission of MAGC, and a new business model is being considered. MAGC has planned two events for the remainder of the year. On November 11, MAGC is sponsoring a “Remember the MAGiC” event, highlighting peoples’ special times at MAGC over the years. The main fund raising event will be a raffle, so if you would like to make individual donations, MAGC would love to receive them.

The second event is a MAGC Holiday Tradition Event, scheduled for December 8. Again, there will be a fund raising raffle with each Program Partner (that includes the Marin Rose Society) contributing raffle items and participating in festivities throughout the center grounds. MAGC is hopeful that these two events combined with their Annual Appeal for donations will close their funding gap for the year. While we believe that MAGC will be successful in solving their financial problems, your Board of Directors has researched and catalogued alternative venues so we know where we might relocate if we need to.

As you may have heard, Joan and Gail have resigned their positions as co-editors of our wonderful newsletter, effective after the November issue. If anyone would like to assume the editor (or co-editor) position, please just let me or one of your directors know. This would also be a good time to see if our members would like to see changes to the newsletter style or format. If you have suggestions please let us know so they can be considered for the 2013 edition. Remember that we have many wonderful talented writers and contributors to that made our newsletter a “Gold Medal” winner in the ARS contest for the last two years. I am certain that this high standard and quality of the newsletter will continue well into the future. Special thanks to our co-editors for a job well done!

Don

Program Notes

Last month, our guest speaker was Darrell Schramm, who talked on “Tracing The Modern Rose Back into Time.” It was an impressive evening of rose history education. The lecture reminded me of a royal family tree and the many connections in arranging marriages to flourish and perpetuate the power of the family. By the end of the 16th century only the once blooming roses were known in Europe. Two hundred years later a repeat blooming rose was discovered and by mid 19th century hundreds of roses were cultivated as repeat bloomers. Many collectors were scouring the world for roses and then applied the science of hybridizing to gradually develop the wide variety of forms and colors we love in modern roses. Darrell’s photos traced this course of rose history with delightful stories of the personalties of the early Rosarians who devoted their talents to bringing us a royal heritage and rose perfection. Thank you Darrell, for giving us a different appreciation of roses.

This month, on October 9th, our guest speaker will be Thomas Bonfigli, who will present “New Roses for 2013”. Thomas is member of the North Bay Rose Society, a winner of the Bronze Medal for Outstanding Service to a Local Society in 2004, the NCNH District Outstanding Judge in 2004, and the NCNH District Silver Honor Medal in 2007. He is a Master Consulting Rosarian and Horticultural Judge. Tom is very well known to our Society as a great friend and judge for the monthly and Marin County Spring Rose Shows. We like Tom and his enthusiasm for roses; he grows many varieties in his garden and loves to exhibit them. I cannot think of anyone better to talk to us about new roses than Tom Bonfigli!

Lydia Treadway, 1st VP & Program Chair
**MAGiCal Roses**

*Roses of Marin Rose Society’s Public Garden at Marin Art & Garden Center*

*By Paul Cullen, Consulting Rosarian*

‘Double Delight’  "What's not to like about this rose?" It not only is a beautiful rose but has an exceptional fragrance, kind of spicy and sweet. It has a combination of colors from creamy white, pale pink, yellow to deep red edging. That's part of her magical delight, no two are exactly alike. This hybrid tea is hardy and blooms in abundance throughout the season. It was hybridized in 1976 and has a garden rating of 8.3.

‘Double Delight’ was the first rose I purchased and planted. We bought our first house in 1977 and it had a big backyard. That year AARS named ‘Double Delight’ rose of the year. It is still one of my favorites.

Another favorite rose of mine is ‘Altissimo’. ‘Altissimo’ is Italian for "in the highest." This magical climbing rose is matchless, literally and figuratively. There is no other rose with the combination of the velvety blood-red color accented with bright golden stamens and dark green glossy leaves. Flowers are single blooms with up to 7 petals and about 5 inches across. It was bred in France in 1966 and has a garden rating of 8.5.

‘Altissimo’ can be seen at its best on a wall, corner of a building, a pergola, trellis or a rod iron fence as it is beautifully displayed in the MAGC garden. My ‘Altissimo’ is growing in a large pot in the corner near my garage. It is a repeat bloomer and climbs 8 to 10 feet. Luckily, the deer have not discovered it and it has outgrown their reach.

*The photos of ‘Double Delight’ and ‘Altissimo’ are by Joan Goff and are used with permission.*

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**Raffle Donations Needed!**

Donations are needed for the raffle table, particularly for the Harvest Dinner on November 13, 2012.

Please contact Lydia Truce for more information: Email:  lydia@stdesigninc.com or phone (415) 485-1758

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**Financial Report to the Membership**

The financial summary report for the FY2012 will be posted at the Harvest Dinner. The Society is in good financial health and has a bank account of $17,000 and a Reserve Fund of $16,000 as of June 18th. The Board authorized payment of $2320 to MAGC for membership that covers us July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. We have the continued use of the Livermore Room for our meetings and monthly Rose Show for this period. All Committees carried out their work within their Budgets and are to be commended for the outstanding service to the Marin Rose Society. Please renew your membership and continue to participate and enjoy our Society. More details available at the Harvest Dinner in November.

Frank Treadway, Treasurer
# Monthly Rose Show Winners—September 2012

**Judge:** Martin Kooi  
**Clerks:** Paula Jaffe, Lenore Ruckman

**BEST IN SHOW:** Lovestruck, Dora Fleming

**COURT:** Secret, Sandy Simon  
Cliffs of Dover, Sandy Simon  
Lavaglut, Paula Jaffe  
Altissimo, Sandy Simon

1. **HT OR GRANDIFLORA -ONE BLOOM**  
   **First:** April in Paris, D.Fleming  
   Granada, J.Tighe  
   Secret, S.Simon  
   Double Delight, E. Shibata  
   **Second:** Dick Clark, J.Tighe  
   Liebeszauber, J. Tighe  
   St.Patrick, D.Arnold  
   Let Freedom Ring, P.Cullen  
   Traviata, P.Nacamuli  
   Marilyn Monroe, F.Taylor  
   **Third:** Aperitif, D.Fleming  
   Sunset Celebration, J.Tighe  
   Gold Medal, E.Shibata  
   California Dreamin’, J.Tighe

2. **HT OR GRANDIFLORA SPRAY**—no entries

3. **FLORIBUNDA- ONE BLOOM**  
   **First:** Livin’ Easy, L.Treadway  
   **Second:** Monkey Business, J.Tighe  
   French Lace, E.Shibata

4. **FLORIBUNDA SPRAY**  
   **First:** Lavaglut, P.Jaffe  
   **Second:** Lavaglut, D.Arnold

5. **MINIATURE-ONE BLOOM**  
   **First:** Aristocrat, D.Arnold  
   **Second:** Irresistible, S.Simon  
   Cal Poly, J.Blakeley

6. **MINIATURE SPRAY**—no entries

7. **MINIATURE- FULLY OPEN**  
   **First:** Dancing Flame, S.Simon  
   Denver’s Dream, C.Pelissero  
   **Second:** Rainbow’s End, J.Tighe

8. **MINIFLORA-ONE BLOOM**  
   **First:** Memphis Music, P.Jaffe

9. **MINIFLORA SPRAY**—no entries

10. **MINIFLORA- FULLY OPEN**—no entries

11. **OLD GARDEN ROSE**  
    **Second:** Reve d’Or, S.Simon

12. **MODERN SHRUBS**  
    **First:** Lavender Dream, S.Simon  
    Cliffs of Dover, S.Simon  
    L.D. Braithwaite, P.Jaffe  
    **Second:** Sally Holmes, S.Simon

13. **CLASSIC SHRUBS**—no entries

14. **CLIMBERS**  
    **First:** Fourth of July, S.Simon  
    Altissimo, S.Simon  
    **Second:** Royal Sunset, S.Simon

15. **FRAGRANCE**  
    **First:** Double Delight, P.Jaffe

16. **FULLY OPEN ROSE**  
    **First:** Marilyn Monroe, F.Taylor  
    Lovestruck, D.Fleming  
    Leonidas, P.Jaffe  
    Wild Blue Yonder, S.Simon  
    Dick Clark, J.Tighe  
    Fragrant Cloud, S.Simon  
    Double Delight, J.Blakeley  
    **Second:** Eureka, L.Treadway  
    Veterans’ Honor, L.Treadway  
    Ingrid Bergman, L.Treadway  
    Liverpool Remembers, P.Jaffe  
    Brass Band, E.Shibata

17. **POLYANTHA SPRAY**  
    **First:** Mrs. R.M. Finch, S.Simon

18. **HYBRID TEA OR GRANDIFLORA in CLEAR GLASS BOWL**  
    **First:** Elina, S.Johnson  
    **Second:** Aperitif, D.Fleming  
    Henry Fonda, L.Treadway  
    Legends, P.Jaffe

19. **MINIATURE in CLEAR GLASS BOWL**  
    **First:** Irresistible, S.Simon  
    Ultimate Pleasure, S.Simon  
    **Second:** Apricot Twist, C.Pelissero

20. **MINIFLORA IN A CLEAR GLASS BOWL**  
    **First:** Memphis Music, L.Ruckman

21. **ANY OTHER ROSE IN CLEAR GLASS BOWL**  
    **First:** Julia Child, D.Fleming

22. **MULTIPLE BLOOMS IN A BOWL**—no entries

23. **HI-LO CHALLENGE**—no entries

24. **NOVICE CLASS**—no entries

25. **BOUQUET**—no entries

26. **ARRANGEMENT**—no entries
Rose Classification—Moss Roses  
By Betty Mott, Master Rosarian

For my final article on roses of lesser known rose classes, I have chosen to enlighten you with information about an old garden rose class, moss and climbing moss (M & CL M).

I begin with a quote from Peter Beales’s book, Classic Roses. “Nature decreed, at some point in the evolution of the Centifolias, that some of them should have whiskers. These whiskers take a variety of forms, from multiple, stiff bristles to soft, downy glands which resemble moss. As so often with roses, there is no record as to exactly when the first mossy mutation occurred. Probably they have been with us far longer than the 280 or so years since one was recorded.” These roses have stalks, sepals and sometimes leaves that carry small globe-shaped glands containing fragrant resinous oils, and stems of which are noticeably bristly. The mossy character of these roses and the scent they impart to the hands when touched strongly appealed to Victorian women. Moss roses are believed to be sports (mutations) from the cabbage rose, centifolia and the damasks. Muriel Humenick, writes, “The feel of the moss indicates the rose’s origin—if a rose has supple, fern-like moss, it has been derived from a centifolia, while a rose with stiff, prickle-like moss has been derived from a damask.”

When these roses first hit the nursery scene they were quite the rage at the beginning of the 19th century, as the thirst for this novelty rose grew, some 30-40 moss roses were listed in Victorian nurserymen’s catalogues. Another quote from Peter Beales that I could not resist is, “Many of these roses had they stood naked, without the novelty of mossy clothes, would never have survived the competition and would quickly have faded into oblivion. They are not over popular today and apart from a few which are underrated, I am not sure they deserve to be. It would be sad, however, if they were to die out.” That quite simply stated is why moss roses have found their way into my rose garden.

I like growing novelty and unusual roses. I also marvel at how many gifted painters; Pierre Joseph Redoute, Jan Brueghel, George Ehret, and Dutch and Flemish masters, Jacob Van Es and Gerald van Spaendonck, chose to include moss roses in their works most likely because of their mossy clothes.

Who would not want to point out ‘Chapeau de Napoleon’ in their garden? This rose comes with many names as do most moss roses. It is also called ‘Cristata,’ and ‘Crested Moss.’ It came from Vibert of France in 1826 and was listed as a chance discovery, and is described as fully double, highly scented, cabbage-like, silvery deep pink flowers enhanced by a fascinating moss formation on the calyx. This is shaped like a cocked-hat, hence the name. Apart from that, it is a useful shrub of medium size, well dressed in foliage. This rose however is not looked on as a true moss because the original plant was discovered in 1820 growing as a seedling in the crack of a ruin in the Swiss town of Fribourg. Since all the resulting flowers were the same, it was not a sport from a normal R.centifolia, but a self-perpetuating variety from an escaped seed probably carried to Fribourg by a bird. At times when doing research for articles I often wonder where the
information came from since there are often detailed conflicting accounts written by respected rose authorities.

Other notable Moss roses are ‘Mme Louis Leveque’, Leveque, France, 1898, parentage unknown. The flowers are cup-shaped until fully open, quite large and of soft warm pink. Its soft silky texture of the petals in their nest of moss makes it as near as perfect. The flowers are held on an erect, mossy stem amid large, dark green foliage.

‘Capitaine John Ingram’, Laffay, France, 1856, parentage unknown, is one of the most charming of the Moss roses. It is well endowed with reddish moss on the stems, receptacle and calyx. Fully double, very strongly scented, petals varies in weather from dark crimson to purple.

“Salet’, Lacharme, 1854, a rose with considerable character with clear rose pink color is believed to be the most reliably remontant with the “real odour of musk.”

In my garden, the rose I have closest to resembling a moss rose is a miniature rose, ‘Rose Gilardi’, described in Combined Rose List 2012, by Beverly Dobson & Peter Schneider, as a miniature (mini-moss) red blend striped from Ralph Moore, 1987. Moore too, was captivated by unusual characteristics of the moss roses and is credited by hybridizing some of the modern mosses, ‘Goldmoss’ and ‘Rougemoss’ in 1972, which are fully remontant cluster-flowered bushes.

If you like unusual or novelty roses, time to remove one of your tired old friends hanging on with one last cane and replace it with a moss rose. Guarantee it will turn a few heads with their strong scent and mossy clothes. One parting word of advise, best to wear garden gloves around moss roses derived from the damask, the whiskers can be quite painful when touched.

Resources:
Humenick,Muriel (2007). Roses for Northern California, Lone Pine

The photos of a moss bud and of moss prickles are by Gail Trimble and are used with permission. The photos of ‘Chapeau de Napoleon’ and ‘Capitaine John Ingram’ are by Jill Streit, and the photo of ‘Mme Louis Leveque’ is by Pascale Hiemann—all are from http://www.helpmefind.com and are used with permission.
October in Marin and Sonoma is a great time for our rose gardens. If you had pruned back in early September, you will have a bountiful garden full of rose blooms. I usually prune back in late summer as I judge rose shows in the fall and want to have blooms to take to the rose shows.

You can now still prune, but prune lightly as our roses will need to start to go dormant in November and December. I certainly have had roses for both the Thanksgiving table as well as the Christmas table (rare); however, we need to think about letting our plants begin to start their dormancy and by not pruning, this begins the cycle. It also will enable you to have hips, as hips form if you stop pruning. Hips are great for a number of things: to feed the birds, to enjoy as artwork in your garden, to put into your fall arrangements for the house or to keep and try to start them from the seeds they produce.

Now is also the time to stop all fertilizing for the same reason. We don’t want to make the plant try to grow at this time; we want to allow it to rest. It is fine however, to put a layer of mulch around your rose plants after you have pulled all the weeds. This will protect the plant with moisture and will hopefully prevent some of the weeds to sprout.

If you have any rust, mildew or blackspot forming, the only thing to do is to remove that leaf and put it in the garbage. Do not put diseased leaves into your compost. I have a garden seat/bench and move it around the roses as I cut off the diseased leaves. My garbage bucket is next to me and out they go. I do this rather frequently as my garden is organic and I don’t want the disease to spread.

Another thing to think about in October is to rate how well your roses have done this year. If you have any new plants to your garden, I think waiting two to three years is a good measure. But for any other roses, if you believe you have done everything possible to help this rose produce what you expected and it hasn’t, then shovel prune it! If a rose has too much disease, the flowers are too small or not what you expected, try another rose. There are thousands of roses available and one should not be unhappy with a rose.

Use your ARS Handbook for Selecting Roses to check to see the garden rating of a rose before you buy it. I try to tell anyone to buy a rose with a garden rating of at least 7.0. Of course your best luck will be with a rose with a rating of 8.0 or higher. These roses are real winners in any garden. Helpmefind at http://www.helpmefind.com/ is another source to look at photographs of a rose and to find where you might purchase it.

Enjoying your roses and cleaning up the garden in anticipation of late fall and winter chores are on the “to do list” in October. It is also time to begin thinking about what roses to replace and which new
roses to purchase. Some rose websites are already sending out emails to get you to place your orders for bare root roses now. There are also some rose nurseries that sell own root roses all year long and fall is a great time to purchase a new rose and get it in the ground before winter rains come. It will have time to establish some good roots before spring. Heirloom Roses at http://www.heirloomroses.com/ and Rogue Valley Roses at http://www.roguevalleyroses.com/, both in Oregon, are great nurseries that sell own root roses. Check them out.

My roses (all in pots) in my new home and garden in Sonoma are doing great. They love the warmer climate and I can spend more time on them since I don’t have to do other garden chores. I have a once-a-week gardener to do the mow and blow.

I do believe roses in pots actually need more care as the nutrition runs out with the watering and you need to replace that good fertilizer more often. Since I was a lazy fertilizer when I had roses in the ground, I find that my roses love the new attention. Most of my roses are still recovering from the shock of being uprooted and shoved into a pot after being in the ground for a long time. But they show beautiful new growth, vibrant green leaves and smaller but beautiful blooms. Not only have they benefited from fertilizer but they were all planted with great new soil.

That’s all for this month, I’m off to the National Convention in San Ramon!

All photos by the author, Joan Goff.

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**Nominating Committee Report and Slate of Officers for 2013**

The members of the nominating committee, Dorothy Arnold, Sigrid Boitano, Maureen Groper, Sandra Simon and Lydia Truce, are very pleased to present a new slate of officers for what may be a challenging 2013. This slate of officers will be presented to the membership at the October meeting when our elections are held. At that time, nominations can also be taken from the floor.

President  Frank Treadway  
1st Vice President  Lenore Ruckman  
2nd Vice President  Ronette King and Sandy Simon  
Secretary  Kitty O’Donnell  
Treasurer  Lydia Truce  
Directors at Large  Vivien Bronshvag (3 year term)  
                    Paul Cullen (1 year term)  
                    Paula Jaffe (4 year term)  
                    Gail Trimble (2 year term)  
Parliamentarian.  Richard Holtz

Thanks to all the nominees for agreeing to serve on next year's Board of Directors. Thanks to the nominating committee for their time and effort, and thanks especially to all who served this past year!

Sandra Simon, Chair of the Nominating Committee
Show and Tell: Schadenfreude...By the Rosaholic

Hi. My name is Tim and I am a rosaholic.

Chorus: HI, TIM.

Well, the topic tonight is why most rosarians hate California rosarians. Oh, I know they tricked it up with some fancy German title like ‘Shadow of Freud,’ but what they really mean is why do they hate us? The answer is easy: Because we have better rose lives than they do. Why, we get something like six flushes of bloom per growing season. There are some chilblained places in this country where one flush of roses is regarded as continuous bloom.

Not only that, but we work harder too. All through the winter months back East—like September through June, they’re whining about snow cover and winter mulches and reading the deceitful catalogs while they sip hot chocolate and eat bon bons. We, on the other hand, are out working and pruning and spraying and defoliating and spraying and labeling and spraying. And it is really hard work—spraying when the State keeps labeling things like Agent Orange dangerous to the health of little children and you have to import it from Arizona. I mean, who cares if a product causes cancer in Norwegian lap rats? Where the hell did they get such a powerful lobby in the first place? None of the Norwegians I know keeps lap rats.

And they are downright ungrateful. Where would they be if we didn’t grow their roses for them? Where do they think roses come from? Puyallup? Salem’s Corners? Now it is true that they grow some roses down in Texas. And it is also true that they manage to grow roses in Portland without any sun. But those are violations of the law of nature. Why, in Florida if the neemytoads don’t get the roses, the alligators get the rosarian. And in New Jersey the air is so bad, you can practically see the roses tiptoeing toward Staten Island.

Another reason they hate us is because we have more fun. We name our roses after ‘Barbra Streisand,’ or ‘Julie Newmar,’ or ‘Betty White.’ They have to name their roses after ‘Frieda Krause.’ Or ‘Happy Butt’. Or ‘Mme Gregoire Staechelin—I broke a tooth trying to pronounce that one day. And we have rose shows in Spring and Fall—for a total of five months of the year. They’re lucky to have one on July 22nd, or the next day-- when summer leaves town. When we stage a rose festival, we actually show roses; there aren’t no stock car races, loop the loop airplane shows, or ersatz beauty and talent parades. Why, we can produce beauty queens on any block in Hollywood. And rose queens, too.

And now some people are complaining that we hog the USEnets and list serves and other corners of the Internet. It is enough to get your blood pressure up to 80 or so. Californians take to the Internet and the like because we are at the forefront of everything. We work at roses twelve months out of the year. While they are planning Christmas gifts and spending money on foolishness, we brag about the roses on our Christmas dinner table. While they look at pictures of tropical resorts in the middle of their snowfields, we are planting next year’s roses. While they are mooning over roses lost in winter on Valentine’s Day, we are fertilizing and mulching.

Of course, the real reason they hate us is that our roses are better. Taller bushes, bigger blooms, and cleaner foliage. We don’t have any nasty foreign beetles, either. And I might add we have no tornados, hurricanes, or other natural disasters; with the exception of a little earth sliding, all our damage is our own fault.

This article, by James Delahanty, is from the April, 2012 edition of The Ventura Rose and is reprinted with permission.
Want gorgeous roses? It’s not magic - the secret to growing vigorous, profusely blooming plants is right there under your feet. No matter how much you baby your plants or spoil them with exotic concoctions, it’s the activity in the soil, all but invisible to the naked eye, that makes the difference. What the plants’ roots encounter in the soil will largely determine whether they thrive or merely survive. The interactions of the plethora of organisms, seemingly insignificant but existing in the millions in any given soil, provide plants with the things they need to live and flourish. Welcome to the soil food web.

“Given its vital importance to our hobby, it is amazing that most of us don’t venture beyond the understanding that good soil supports plant life, and poor soil doesn’t,” reflects Jeff Lowenfels and Wayne Lewis, authors of *Teaming with Microbes: A Gardener’s Guide to the Soil Food Web*. In its natural state, soil is a living environment, pulsating with biological activity in a complex ecosystem. Healthy soil smells sweet, is loose, friable, well-drained and rich in organic matter. It’s about 24% air, 25% water, 45% minerals, 3 - 5% humus, and up to 1% living organisms - a veritable treasure trove of diverse, dynamic life. To get a sense of the concentration of microbial life, envision a square yard of fertile soil four inches thick; it would be home to more microbes than all the people that have ever lived on the planet! More specifically, a teaspoon of rich garden soil can hold up to one billion bacteria, several yards of fungal filaments, several thousand protozoa, and scores of nematodes, along with soil giants like earthworms and millipedes.

The feeding of one organism upon another in a sequence of food transfers is known as a food chain. An example of a simple food chain is a rose plant → aphids → beetle → lizard → hawk→ bacteria and fungi → rose plant. In this food chain, the rose plant is the primary producer and the aphids are the primary consumers, sucking juices from the rose plant. The beetle is the primary carnivore eating the aphids, followed by the lizard, a secondary carnivore that eats the beetle. The hawk, the tertiary carnivore, consumes the lizard, and eventually dies. Its remains are broken down by decay-causing bacteria and fungi that supply nutrients to the rose plant, and the food chain cycle is complete.

Food chains can be cross-linked to form intricate webs. The soil food web is the community of organisms that are interdependent for sources of carbon and energy with the majority of activity occurring underground. Ranging in size from the tiniest one-celled bacteria, algae, fungi, and protozoa, to the more complex nematodes and microarthropods, to the visible earthworms, insects, small vertebrates and plants, these organisms move, eat, digest, excrete, and die, all the while decomposing organic matter, cycling minerals and nutrients, detoxifying pollutants and enhancing soil structure, stability, porosity, infiltration, and aeration. This in turn makes a better place for roots which translates into stronger, healthier plants.

With the exception of deep-sea hydrothermal ecosystems, all food chains start with photosynthesis and end with decay. These steps in the food chain are called trophic levels. In the soil food web, the first trophic level begins with photosynthesis; the second trophic level contains the decomposers, parasites and pathogens (primarily bacteria and fungi). Next, in the third trophic level, come the shredders, predators and grazers (protozoa, nematodes, microarthropods and earthworms). The fourth level contains higher level predators like insects, spiders and snails. The fifth and higher levels are more predators – birds, lizards and frogs and rodents.

Soil food webs are unique – whether in an agricultural field, forest, pasture or home garden. This individuality or structure is related to the composition and relative numbers of organisms in each group within the soil system. These in turn, are dependent on the physical properties of the soil, the types and concentration of vegetation, climate factors, and management practices. The ratio of fungi to bacteria is characteristic of the type of system. Grasslands and agricultural soils usually have bacterial-dominated food webs, while forests tend to have fungal-dominated food webs. And the type of organisms reflects their food source. Protozoa, for example, are abundant where bacteria are plentiful. Where bacteria
dominate over fungi, nematodes that eat bacteria are more numerous than nematodes that eat fungi. The soil food web in your vegetable garden is likely to be vastly different than the one in your rose garden, or the one supporting your lawn due to the types of plants, and likely, the different management of each.

A healthy food web occurs when all the organisms that a plant requires are present and functioning, the nutrients in the soil are in the proper forms that will enable a plant to take them up, the correct ratio of fungi to bacteria is present, along with the appropriate ratio of predator to prey. *Teaming with Microbes* offers gardener’s some considerations for maintaining healthy soil food webs:

- Most trees, shrubs and perennials prefer their nitrogen in ammonium form and do best in fungally dominated soils.
- Adding compost and its soil food web to the surface of the soil will inoculate the soil with the same soil food web.
- Aged, brown organic materials support fungi; fresh, green organic materials support bacteria.
- Mulch laid on the surface tends to support fungi; mulch worked into the soil tends to support bacteria.
- Coarse, dryer mulches support fungal activity.
- Application of synthetic fertilizers kills off most or all of the soil food web microbes.
- Rototilling and excessive soil disturbance destroy or severely damage the soil food web.

Next time you’re out smelling the roses, think about what’s really going on under your feet, and whether you’re providing the necessary ingredients that will let Mother Nature maintain a healthy, vibrant food web in your soil.


*Photos of microbes copyright Dennis Kunkel Microscopy, Inc.; fungal fruiting body and multiple bacterial cell types*

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**Members Only Section Now On Our Website**

[http://www.marinrose.org/members-only.html](http://www.marinrose.org/members-only.html)

Please note new password (empty the cache of your current browser first): silverado

This section contains Newsletters from 2004 to 2012,

By-laws, Standing Rules, Treasurer’s Reimbursement Form and Calendar of Events.
Growing roses? We can help!

WE HAVE:

- Quality Roses
- Fertilizers & Amendments
- Rose Planting Mix
- Organic Pest Control
- Fine Garden Pottery
- Expert advice!

Calendar for Upcoming Events

**Tuesday, October 9, 2012**
**Monthly Meeting**
7:30 p.m. Livermore Room
MAGC

**Tuesday, November 13, 2012**
**Harvest Dinner and Installation of Officers**
6:00 p.m. Livermore Room
MAGC

**Tuesday, January 8, 2013**
**Monthly Meeting**
7:30 p.m. Livermore Room
MAGC

**Tuesday, February 12, 2013**
**Monthly Meeting**
7:30 p.m. Livermore Room
MAGC

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**Thank you ARS National Volunteers!!!**

Thank you to everyone who volunteered and/or came to the ARS National Show in San Ramon. The event was a huge success and many people said it was one of the best Nationals in many ways. Our society had many volunteers and we worked very hard. From the registration table to the rose show (placement, clerks, recording) to the speaker events and the garden tours, our volunteers were all over.

You should be very proud of our MRS volunteers!

Thanks again,
Joan Goff

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**Upcoming International Events**

October 11-18, 2012
**16th World Rose Convention**
Sandton, South Africa
Contact Sheenagh Harris: info@rosafrica2012.co.za
Conference website:
http://www.rosafrica2012.co.za/
### Have a Question? Contact a Consulting Rosarian

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dorothy Arnold**, Fairfax</td>
<td>453-4036</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Rndarnold@aol.com">Rndarnold@aol.com</a></td>
<td>Fairfax</td>
<td>453-4036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vivien Bronshvag, Kentfield</td>
<td>461-4066</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vivlrb@aol.com">vivlrb@aol.com</a></td>
<td>Kentfield</td>
<td>461-4066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Cullen, San Anselmo</td>
<td>454-1385</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pcniner@aol.com">pcniner@aol.com</a></td>
<td>San Anselmo</td>
<td>454-1385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheryl Frechette**, Healdsburg</td>
<td>(707) 395-0654</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cherylfrechette@yahoo.com">cherylfrechette@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Healdsburg</td>
<td>(707) 395-0654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joan Goff**, Sonoma</td>
<td>(707) 343-1580</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joanegoff@yahoo.com">joanegoff@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Sonoma</td>
<td>(707) 343-1580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Goldsmith, Turlock</td>
<td>830-1799</td>
<td><a href="mailto:johngoldsmith@earthlink.net">johngoldsmith@earthlink.net</a></td>
<td>Turlock</td>
<td>830-1799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maureen Groper, San Anselmo</td>
<td>457-6045</td>
<td><a href="mailto:samaureen@comcast.net">samaureen@comcast.net</a></td>
<td>San Anselmo</td>
<td>457-6045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paula Jaffe, Tiburon</td>
<td>435-4804</td>
<td><a href="mailto:paulajaffe@comcast.net">paulajaffe@comcast.net</a></td>
<td>Tiburon</td>
<td>435-4804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronette King, San Rafael</td>
<td>479-4039</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ronettejk@comcast.net">ronettejk@comcast.net</a></td>
<td>San Rafael</td>
<td>479-4039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nanette Londeree**, Novato</td>
<td>899-1023</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Rosienan@aol.com">Rosienan@aol.com</a></td>
<td>Novato</td>
<td>899-1023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betty Mott**, Mill Valley</td>
<td>383-0466</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mottbetty@gmail.com">mottbetty@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Mill Valley</td>
<td>383-0466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitty O'Donnell, Novato</td>
<td>883-6943</td>
<td><a href="mailto:KKOSF51@comcast.net">KKOSF51@comcast.net</a></td>
<td>Novato</td>
<td>883-6943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Lanoy Picarelli**, Novato</td>
<td>892-9096</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bjlipster@gmail.com">bjlipster@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Novato</td>
<td>892-9096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Polizzi, San Rafael</td>
<td>479-8056</td>
<td><a href="mailto:marypolizzi@ymail.com">marypolizzi@ymail.com</a></td>
<td>San Rafael</td>
<td>479-8056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lenore Ruckman**, San Rafael</td>
<td>457-4424</td>
<td><a href="mailto:CMR3X7@aol.com">CMR3X7@aol.com</a></td>
<td>San Rafael</td>
<td>457-4424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Shibata, San Rafael</td>
<td>479-4865</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ewshiba@gmail.com">ewshiba@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>San Rafael</td>
<td>479-4865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy Simon, Mill Valley</td>
<td>388-4589</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sandyls1220@gmail.com">sandyls1220@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Mill Valley</td>
<td>388-4589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florence Taylor**, San Rafael</td>
<td>454-3870</td>
<td><a href="mailto:NONITAYLOR@aol.com">NONITAYLOR@aol.com</a></td>
<td>San Rafael</td>
<td>454-3870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Treadway, San Rafael</td>
<td>456-2640</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Frank@HomesMarin.com">Frank@HomesMarin.com</a></td>
<td>San Rafael</td>
<td>456-2640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lydia Treadway**, San Rafael</td>
<td>456-2640</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Lydia@HomesMarin.com">Lydia@HomesMarin.com</a></td>
<td>San Rafael</td>
<td>456-2640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gail Trimble**, San Rafael</td>
<td>472-6228</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gail@marinrose.org">gail@marinrose.org</a></td>
<td>San Rafael</td>
<td>472-6228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lydia Truce, San Rafael</td>
<td>485-1758</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lydia@stdesigninc.com">lydia@stdesigninc.com</a></td>
<td>San Rafael</td>
<td>485-1758</td>
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**Master Rosarian**