



'Tove Jansson'

Photo by Susanne (Waldgarten)

Singularly Beautiful Roses

A Publication Dedicated to Single,
Nearly Single, and Semi-Double Flowered Roses
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A Variable Species

Found in Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and England - on the northern coasts of Spain, France, Germany, and the Netherlands - in the cold oceanic climate of Iceland, Denmark, and southwest Norway - in the arid habitat of Central Asia - and in the mountainous regions of Central Europe and western Siberia, *Rosa spinosissima* is thought by some to have the widest natural distribution of any species within the genus *Rosa*.

Its existence in continental Europe and the British Isles was noted by several sixteenth century botanists. The earliest mention appears in an encyclopedic work authored by Flemish horticulturist Rembert Dodoens in 1554 entitled *Cruijdeboeck* – “Book of Plants/Herbs.” It was subsequently translated to English (*A Niewe Herball*) by London botanist Henry Lyte in 1578. Lyte’s English translation reads as follows;

“Amongst the kindes of wilde Roses, there is founde a sorte whose shuts [shoots], twigges and branches are covered all over with thicke small thornie prickles. The flowers be small single and white, and of good savour.”



Another reference can be found in *The Herball or Generall History of Plants*, an English translation of another of Dodoens’ works, completed by botanist John Gerarde in 1597. The given description exhibits the movement towards Latinized biological classification (taxonomy) to create a standardized method of plant identification and was accompanied by a woodcut illustration.

“The Pimpinell Rose is likewise one of the wilde ones whose stalks shoot forth of the ground in many places, the height of one or two cubits, of a brown colour and armed with sharp prickles, which divide themselves towards the tips into divers branches, whereupon grow leaves consisting of divers small ones, set upon a middle rib like those of Burnet, which is called in Latin pimpinella, whereupon it was called *R. pimpinella*, the Burnet Rose.”

Gerarde added that plants could be found growing in the villages and towns that surrounded the 16th century metropolis known as London.

In addition to common names like the Pimpinell, Burnet Rose, and Dune Rose (in coastal regions), its abundant distribution in and strong association with Scotland would lead to a label that has endured throughout the English speaking world - the Scots Rose, or Scotch Briar.

Generally, *R. spinosissima* is recognized by smallish, cupped blooms that may be white to blush pink or pale yellow and single or semi-double. The sweetly perfumed flowers appear on short stems growing from twiggy canes densely armed with bristles and sharp prickles. Dark maroon-to-black hips are another easily recognizable feature. Leaves usually consist of seven to nine small dark green leaflets sometimes described as fern-like. The rose spreads by means of suckering, often forming thicket-like colonies.

As might be expected in a species with such wide distribution there exists a measure of variation that has created some confusion regarding taxonomic nomenclature. In his work, *Flora Lapponica*, Carl Linnaeus gave the name *Rosa spinosissima* (from *spinose* – many spines) to a rose native to the region of Sweden known as Lapland and generally accepted as the same rose referenced in the two previously mentioned sixteenth century botanical sources. In a later work he designated *Rosa pimpinellifolia* as a perhaps related but separate species distinguished by the shape of its fruit and by its contrasting pattern of bristles and prickles. In subsequent publications the two names appear to be used almost interchangeably creating a legacy of taxonomic confusion. The apparent consensus of the scientific community today is that *R. spinosissima* is a “garden group” or sub-species of a larger sub-genus recognized as *R. pimpinellifolia*. Further confusing the matter is the use of the term *Pimpinellifoliae* as a section name for over a dozen related rose species. However, for the purpose of this article *R. spinosissima* will be used as the Latinized botanical reference (following the lead of plantsman Graham Stuart Thomas, Scots Rose expert Peter Boyd, and the system of classification used by the American Rose Society).

Scientific literature states that *R. spinosissima* is of polyphyletic origin, meaning that it is derived from more than one ancestor or ancestral group. Plainly stated, this species’ diversity is due to multiple biological “dalliances” that have resulted in a heavily branched family tree – including numerous examples of inter-species hybrids. Our examination of this interesting tribe of roses will follow an OVERSIMPLIFIED system of classification generally looking somewhat like a pie divided into multiple slices – some overlapping. Each slice has some unique characteristics, but is still part of the whole.

SECTION 1.) THE ‘ALTAICA’ GROUP

A relatively wide-spread and good-sized segment of the family is descended from a very cold hardy form of *R. spinosissima* found in the Altai Mountains of Siberian Russia. Described by German botanist Peter Simon Pallas in 1789 the rose was originally thought to be a distinct species. Its white to pale yellow flowers are larger, up to 3” in diameter, the plant habit is more upright, often growing to seven feet or more in moderate climates, with noticeably fewer bristles on the peduncle directly below the flower. Originally named *Rosa pimpinellifolia*, it has been variously referred to as ‘Grandiflora,’ *R. pimpinellifolia* var. *altaica*, and ‘Altaica.’ It was eventually given the botanical designation *R. spinosissima* var. *altaica*. The 1949 Percy H. Wright catalog of *Hardy and Semi-Hardy Roses* provides a



The wild salad herb
Burnet

Section – Pimpinellifoliae

- R. x cantabrigiensis*
- R. dunwichiensis*
- R. ecae*
- R. foetida*
- R. x hemisphaerica*
- R. x hibernica*
- R. hugonis*
- R. x involuta*
- R. koreana*
- R. primula*
- R. x pteragonis*
- R. x reversa*
- R. sabinii*
- R. sericea*
- R. spinosissima*
- R. xanthina*



description that deserves repeating; “The flowers, large single white and of good texture, are so freely produced that the bush is a cascade of white. Breathtaking in its beauty. Even the visitors who arrive with a prejudice against *single roses* fall in love with this one (p.7).”

Hybridizers in northern Europe and North America have utilized this rose desiring to infuse its cold-tolerance and resistance to the fungus disease *Phragmidium tuberculatum* (commonly known as “rust”) into their breeding lines. The work of a number of Canadian breeders - Frank Skinner, Percy Wright, John Wallace, and Robert Erskine – deserves special mention. During decades of hybridizing that began in the 1930’s Percy Wright began to turn particular attention to *R. spinosissima* var. *altaica* as opposed to other cold-hardy, yet rust-susceptible, rose species. One of his favorite seedlings, ‘Hazeldean,’ resulted from a cross of ‘Altaica’ and ‘Persian Yellow’ (*R. foetida persiana*). Several others of note from the same cross include ‘Kilwinning’ and ‘Yellow Altai.’

(Author’s note: Wright’s personal correspondence and the conclusions of other rose authorities raise some questions about whether ‘Harison’s Yellow’ or ‘Persian Yellow’ was the pollen parent.)



Counter Clock-wise from Upper Left:

‘Altaica’ Photo unattributed

‘Hazeldean’ Photo by Koren Vangool

‘Kilwinning’ Photo by Peter Harris

‘Yellow Altai’ Photo by Koren Vangool



In addition to work with other cold-hardy species Dr. Frank Skinner's work with 'Altaica' produced several seedlings, perhaps the most noteworthy being 'Butterball,' a once-blooming pale yellow cultivar. It in turn was used to good effect by Robert Erskine to create 'Madeline's Choice' and what he considered his best seedling, the somewhat recurrent 'Prairie Peace.'



'Butterball'
Photo by Margit Schowalter



'Madeline's Choice'
Photo by Koren Vangool

'Prairie Peace'
Photo by Koren Vangool



Some work continues to be done along these breeding lines by contemporary hybridizers as seen in the following illustrations. The six roses pictured below are examples of what is capable through 'Hazeldean.' None are offered commercially, but might be obtained if you know somebody who knows somebody.



R15-01
'Golden Showers' x 'Hazeldean'
Peter Harris
Photo by Peter Harris



RC-01
'Ross Rambler' seedling x R15-01
Peter Harris
Photo by Peter Harris



'Prairie Magic'
Henry Marshall
Photo by Koren Vangoof



'Yellow Alzbeta Kuska'
Henry Kuska - hybridizer
Photo by Peter Harris



'Sunsprite' x 'Hazeldean'
Morden Experimental Farm
Photo by Margit Schowalter



'Unity'
Art Coutts - hybridizer
Photo by Jim Coutts

(Author's Note: the influence of *Rosa foetida* is obvious. Uniquely, all the cultivars featured thus far are reported to be very disease resistant. All are, however, BIG plants and with the exception of 'Prairie Peace' once-blooming. Further info about 'Prairie Peace's potential to generate remontant offspring will be presented later in the article.)

Perhaps the most famous European hybridizer to experiment with 'Altaica' is German rose visionary Wilhelm Kordes II. A rare example of a *spinosissima* hybrid that is remontant, 'Karl Foerester (introduced in 1931)' is a creamy white, lightly fragrant, double-flowered rose combining the hardy genes of 'Altaica' with the classically formed Hybrid Perpetual 'Frau Karl Druschki.' However, Kordes believed there was more to be mined from 'Altaica.' Over the next two decades a number of roses were introduced known as the "Fruhling" ("spring") series, named for their early spring flush of color. 'Fruhlingsmorgen,' a favorite of mine, has inspired numerous hybridizers, and figures prominently in Sam McGredy's family of hand-painted roses.



Clock-wise from
upper left:

'Karl Foerester'
Photo by Jeffcat

'Fruhlingsgold'
Photo by Arvid
Jorgensen

'Fruhlingsmorgen'
Photo by Stephen Hoy



SECTION 2.) THE ROSA FOETIDA AFFAIR

A small but prominent slice of the pie demonstrates a distinctly “Persian” influence. By far the most enduring example is a rose by which America’s westward pioneer expansion can be traced. Also known as “The Yellow Rose of Texas,” ‘Harison’s Yellow’ is a cross of *R. spinosissima* and *R. foetida* (some reverse the parentage). Named in honor of George F. Harison, a New York attorney from whose garden the rose is said to have been raised (ca. 1824), it is a vivid double yellow-flowered upright growing rose that is unquestionably “Scots” in foliage, fruit, and armor and *R. foetida* in scent. A dissertation could probably be written offering all the differing suppositions about its origin and identity. According to very reliable sources there is more than one rose being marketed as ‘Harison’s Yellow.’ See “Comments” and “References” on HelpMeFindRoses.com to further explore. Suffice it to say its enduring legacy and adaptability is well established.

Another rose originating from the same parentage is ‘Williams Double Yellow.’ Also known as ‘Prince Charlie’s Rose,’ it was raised in England by John Williams (ca. 1828). More compact growing than ‘Harison’s Yellow’ this unique hybrid has loosely double sulphur yellow cupped flowers, is well-armed, and suckers quite freely - hinting of greater *Spinosissima* influence than the former. Green carpels in the flower’s center are another distinguishing characteristic.

An additional name that appears in catalogs is ‘Old Yellow Scotch,’ a densely growing cultivar of unknown origin that is similarly semi-double. As with many in the at-large *Spinosissima* family it is perhaps an example of one of a cluster of similar appearing forms rather than a unique cultivar.



‘Harison’s Yellow’

‘William’s Double Yellow’



Canadian hybridizer Isabella Preston emerges into the story at this point. Working at the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa, the English born “Queen of Ornamental Horticulture” - Ms. Preston, was lauded for her work with lilies, lilacs, crabapples, Siberian iris, and roses. In addition to creating roses using *R. rugosa*, *R. glauca*, *R. setigera*, and *R. cinnamomea*, she also used ‘Harison’s Yellow’ to produce a number of hardy varieties during the 1920’s. The open-pollinated variety ‘Orinda,’ considered one of the best, possesses fifteen to twenty petalled cream colored flowers on a plant that Ms. Preston described as “more attractive than the parent.”



Other examples of open-pollinated seedlings exist but are rarely considered to be finer than ‘Harison’s Yellow. For the collector’s garden there is ‘Harison’s Salmon’ – a semi-double cultivar with apricot/yellow flowers.

From Left Counter Clock - wise:

‘Orinda’ Photo by Peter Harris

‘El Areana’ Photo by Leonard Heller

A Rudolph Geschwind hybrid derived from ‘Harison’s Yellow’ – very popular in Norway.

‘Harison’s Salmon’ Photo by Margit Schowalter



SECTION 3.) INTER-SPECIES SPINOSISSIMA HYBRIDS



A very early (<1809) compact growing inter-species hybrid originally found throughout the Hebrides and highlands of Scotland is 'Involuta.' It is thought to be a seedling of *Rosa spinosissima* and *Rosa sherardii*, a native of mountainous regions of Europe and Scandinavia. (perhaps carried west by Viking invaders?). Strongly *Spinosissima* in character the small single blooms are predominantly white feathered with mauve-pink.

Not well known but important in the development of a number of early single and nearly single-flowered Hybrid Teas is *Rosa hibernica*, the original "Wild Irish Rose."

Suspected to be a naturally occurring offspring of *Rosa canina* and *Rosa spinosissima* this rare hybrid species is considered a parent of the Chaplin Brothers Hybrid Tea 'Innocence' and also possibly 'Irish Elegance' and 'Irish Fireflame.' Sweet smelling 'Innocence' has been in my garden for years.



A number of cultivars, several of unknown origin, are categorized as hybrids of *Rosa pendulina* or *Rosa x reversa* (a *R. pendulina* x *R. spinosissima* hybrid). The lightly double, cotton candy pink 'Poppius,' introduced before 1872, is highly recommended for colder regions and is very popular in Finland and other Scandinavian countries. Other varieties of similar origin and currently growing in my Georgia garden are: the very fragrant 'Mrs. Colville,' a



From Top to Bottom:

Rosa x involuta
Photo by Marnix Bakker

Rosa x hibernica
Photo unattributed

Rosa pendulina
Photo unattributed

spectacularly rich rose-red single-flowered cultivar, 'Glory of Edzell,' mauve with a white star-shaped eye, and 'Mary Queen of Scots,' a veritable "Scots Mystery Rose." (This name was also given to a multi-petalled variety whose flowers are mauve-purple with a white reverse [see *Shrub Roses of Today*, Graham Stuart Thomas and *Scots Roses of Hedgerows and Wild Gardens*, Mary McMurtrie]. Despite the disparity, the single-flowered cultivar pictured appears to be more prevalent in commerce.)



Left: *Rosa x reversa*
Photo by Pirjo Rautio

Center: 'Poppius'
Photo by Rosalino

Center: 'Mrs. Colville'
Photo by Stephen Hoy



Right: 'Glory of Edzell'
Photo by Stephen Hoy



Left: 'Mary Queen of Scots' (in trade)
Photo unattributed

Center: 'Red Nelly'
Photo by Valeria Chediak

Front Cover: 'Tove Janson' - a 'Red Nelly' x 'Poppius' cross

The previously mentioned Canadian hybridizer Dr. Frank Skinner crossed a seedling of *Rosa laxa* with *R. spinosissima* to create 'Suzanne' (introduced in 1950), a hybrid much used by Dr. Griffith Buck, Dr. Felicitas Svejda, and many others to infuse cold tolerance into their breeding lines. There is speculation that 'Suzanne's' pollen parent was the Spinosissima hybrid 'Stanwell Perpetual' which would account for its ability to rebloom.



'Suzanne'
Photo by Paul Barden

In the Netherlands dendrologist (a specialist in woody trees/shrubs) S. G. A. Doorenbos introduced an important hybrid of *R. spinosissima* in 1953 named 'Ormiston Roy.' Graham Stuart Thomas postulates that its seed parent 'Allard,' originally thought to be a seedling of *R. xanthina*, is actually a 'Harison's Yellow' seedling. It in turn was used by American rose historian and hybridizer Roy Shepherd to create the very free-flowering 'Golden Wings' in 1956. 'Golden Wings,' subsequently, has figured in the hybridizing work of David Austin and a number of other rose breeders.

'Ormiston Roy'
Photo by Leonard Heller

'Golden Wings'
Photo by Stephen Hoy



Doorenbos is loosely credited with another Spinosissima hybrid named (rather unimaginatively) 'Doorenbos Selection.' This little purple rose has become a garden favorite of mine. It has many of the typical Spinosissima traits, fragrance, black hips, a low-growing, suckering habit and has proven, even as a once-bloomer, to flower for an extended period of time and to be free of fungus disease. It produces copious amounts of pollen and I used it quite liberally in my hybridizing this past year.



Danish hybridizer and nurseryman Valdemar Petersen introduced several Spinosissima hybrids in the 1960's. 'Fenja' resulted from a cross with the light pink species *Rosa davidii*. A second hybrid, 'Rugspin,' is not apparently available in the U.S. but has definitely made it to my "find it" list. It is a cross of *Rosa rugosa* 'rubra' and the Spinosissima 'Altaica' (Rug – spin). The Rugosa influence is evident in its foliage, fragrance, and recurrent flowering habit. The dark wine red single blooms, offset by sunshine yellow stamens, create quite a color sensation. Imagine it grouped with 'Basye's Purple Rose' and 'Anne Endt!' The third of Petersen's spinosissima hybrids is 'Aïcha,' a medium yellow, vigorous growing cross of the salmon tinted Hybrid Tea 'Souvenir de Jacques Verschuren' with 'Guldtop,' an older yellow Spinosissima hybrid.

From Upper Left Counter Clock-wise:

'Doorenbos Selection'

Photo by Al Whitcomb

'Fenja'

Photo unattributed

'Rugspin'

Photo by Cristina Macleod

'Aïcha'

Photo unattributed



Of more recent vintage is 'Louis Riel' a unique once-blooming cross of *Rosa rubrifolia* and 'Altaica.' Bred by Canadian hybridizer Stanley Zubrowski, its contrast of silky white blooms with grayish foliage highlighted with purple would be outstanding in the mixed border.

Three David Austin varieties close out this wedge of the hybrid *Spinossissima* pie. Most recently introduced is 'Lochinvar.' Although no information is given about its parentage the David Austin website hints at its Scots Rose heritage. The very fragrant light pink repeat flowering cultivar does not appear to be commercially available in the U.S. Second is the low-growing, single white flowered 'Rushing Stream.' No parentage is given for this 1997 introduction either, but one glance at the foliage clearly indicates that it is of hybrid origin. Last is the aptly named 'Robbie Burns' - Scotland's greatest poet. Even though classed as modern Shrub, this oft overlooked cross of 'Wife of Bath' with *R. spinosissima* has the appearance and character of a *Spinossissima* hybrid with its light pink to white, once-blooming habit, and dark hips.



'Louis Riel'
Photo unattributed

'Lochinvar'
Photo courtesy David Austin Roses



'Rushing Stream'
Photos by Marina Parr
'Robbie Burns'



SECTION 4.) THE SCOTS ROSES

Any investigation into this segment of the *R. spinosissima* family will lead one to the name of Peter Boyd. Mr. Boyd has written extensively, traveled to gardens, and collected Scots Roses and the lore associated with them for over thirty years. He has held positions as teacher of environmental studies, archaeological scientist, and museum collections manager and museum curator. A book containing a summation of his quest for all things related to Scots Roses is soon to be forthcoming and highly anticipated!

As previously mentioned *Rosa spinosissima* has been associated with Scotland for centuries. As far back as the 15th century Battle of Towton, lore tells the story of a locally growing white rose that occasionally appeared streaked with red due to the blood that stained the fields where the battle occurred. White, marbled, red, and pale yellow colored forms of Scots Roses were known to gardeners in the 1700's. Scottish nurseryman Robert Brown raised seedlings from collected wild forms beginning in 1793 and through the process of selection eventually cataloged eight double-flowered varieties in a rainbow variety of colors (Author's note: one of this group was pale yellow with the true scent of the Scots Roses, unlike 'Harison's Yellow' and 'William's Double Yellow.') Glasgow plantsman Robert Austin furthered the work initiated by Brown and by the 1820's offered over one hundred cultivars.

The Scots Roses remained popular through the first half of the 19th century. Scottish gardeners and immigrants carried them to America, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. American horticulturalist William (Robert) Prince's inventory of Scots roses grew to over forty varieties by 1846, most notably including three reblooming cultivars, 'Estelle' - rose colored, 'Scotch Perpetual' - blush, and 'Stanwell (Perpetual)' - incarnate/flesh pink. British nurseryman William Paul offered as many as seventy-five different varieties.



'Stanwell Perpetual'
Photo courtesy David Austin Roses

Deserving a special place in the spotlight is the most widely grown Scots Rose – the just mentioned 'Stanwell Perpetual.' Discovered as a found seedling in the nursery of James Lee in Stanwell, Middlesex, England, its recurrent bloom period led to speculation that it was a naturally occurring hybrid of *R. spinosissima* and 'Autumn Damask' (*Rosa x damascena* 'Quatre Saisons'). Many older rose catalogs list it with the Perpetual Damasks (sometimes referred to as Portlands). According to an article appearing in *The Gardener's Chronicle* (March 22, 1890) Lee's son, Mr. John Lee, reported that the rose was introduced to commerce in 1823. It quickly gained a reputation as the first rose to bloom in the garden as well as the last. A recommendation by well-respected Woodlands Nursery owner Charles Wood in 1838 helped raise the cultivar's popularity. The tightly packed flesh-pink petals of 'Stanwell Perpetual' may resemble delicate powder puffs, but the plant is anything but delicate. That it was a favorite of gardener Gertrude Jekyll might be reason alone to recommend it, but it also stands out as perhaps the rose that shaped and inspired David Austin's rose creations (quartered form, fragrant, & recurrent).

(Author’s note: for further investigation. H.C. Andrews’ 1828 volume entitled *Rose; or a Monograph of the Genus Rosa*, Vol. II describes a Scots Rose named *Rosa spinosissima incarnatae*, a flesh pink repeat-flowering cultivar, that was recently introduced from France by a Mr. Crace. Andrews mentions observing it growing at Hammersmith Nursery [another nursery operated by the Lee family] where it was named ‘Lee’s Eternal.’ Do we really know the origin of ‘Stanwell Perpetual?’)

By the latter half of the 19th century, however, the numbers of Scots Roses available to growers began to wane. Recurrent modern hybrids replaced the once-blooming types. Nurseryman and rose authority Edward A. Bunyard listed descriptions of a mere thirty-six cultivars in his 1936 classic, *Old Garden Roses*, many only with descriptive rather than proper names, i.e. “Double Light Marbled.” The trend continues.

Below: several examples of Scots Roses available to North American rose enthusiasts.



Rosa spinosissima incarnatae



‘Double White’
Photo unattributed



‘Carnea Plena’
Photo by Jill Streit



‘Single White’
Photo unattributed

‘Dominie Sampson’
Photo by Margareta Ciragan

‘William III’
Photo by Paul Barden

‘Falkland’
Photo Palatine Roses



Many of today's rose hybridizers are turning to species roses for an injection of vim and vigor. A recent article in the *Rose Hybridizers Association's Newsletter* (Winter 2013) highlighted the breeding efforts of Knud Pedersen, a successful Danish rose specialist and nurseryman. After hearing Scots Roses authority Peter Boyd speak about *R. spinosissima* and its hybrids Pedersen began working with the group. He has used "true" Scots Roses and their hybrids, as well as other members of the *Pimpinellifolia* section to create a number of reblooming cultivars as well as numerous F1 seedlings with the potential to produce recurrent offspring in future generations. (Author's note to hybridizers: Pedersen has concluded that the reblooming 'Stanwell Perpetual,' although nearly sterile as a seed parent, can be used as a pollen parent to produce recurrent seedlings.)



'Single Cherry' x 'Mon Amie Claire' – recurrent

'Lochinvar' x 'Paula Vapelle' - recurrent



'Queen Mary' x 'Lochinvar' – recurrent

'Andrewsii' x 'Mon Amie Claire' - recurrent



Some additional photos illustrating current work being done along Spinosissima lines.



Left: a 'Suzanne'
seedling hybridized by
Paul Barden



Right: 'Caladhan'
hybridized by Werner
Schenkel



Left:
'Prairie Peace'
seedling hybridized by
Werner Schenkel



Right:
'Prairie Peace'
seedling hybridized by
Werner Schenkel



Left: a recurrent
'Prairie Peace'
seedling hybridized
by Werner Schenkel



Right: a recurrent
'Prairie Peace'
seedling hybridized
by Doug Wild



Two recurrent hybrids introduced by Belgian rose breeder Ivan Louette.

'Mon Amie Claire' – parentage unknown
Photo by Oilmis

'Paula Vapelle' – a seedling of 'Stanwell Perpetual'
Photo by Pirjo Rautio

As this article draws to a close let attention be drawn to the work of several individuals whose contributions to this article were significant. Peter Boyd has written extensively about the Scots Roses and has been collecting and photographing locally grown specimens and historically known named cultivars for decades. Additionally, he has been instrumental in cataloging nomenclature and original descriptions with an end towards identifying types. A book, tentatively titled *Scots Roses, Rosa Spinosissima and other Pimpinellifolias*, is on the horizon. Collectors - be ready to grab it when available!

For rose book aficionados, Mary McMurtrie's book *Scots Roses of Hedgerows and Wild Gardens* is a must have. Not only an avid horticulturist and nurserywoman, Ms. McMurtrie (1902-2003) was an accomplished water colorist whose subjects included Scottish wild flowers, cottage pinks, and her beloved Scots Roses. The above mentioned book is lavishly illustrated with sixty-seven watercolor portraits, superb examples of botanical art, and accompanied by a rich narrative laden with the passion and insight of a devotee.

Lastly, mention must be made regarding the efforts of Stanwood, Washington resident Leonard Heller. An avid collector and grower of roses, Mr. Heller has established three unique gardens on his property one of which, Rosarium Scoticum, is dedicated to *Rosa spinosissima*, its variants, and related members of the *Pimpinellifolia* section. Containing over 175 cultivars it is a North American treasure chest of rarely seen rose cultivars reminiscent of the Rosarium Scoticum established at Woburn Abbey in the 19th century under the guidance of John Russell, Duke of Bedford.

Today collectors, historically minded gardeners, and those of a mind to celebrate what they fondly remember of grandma's garden are enthusiastically gathering roses of various "makes and models." What was old is new. Try a cultivar of *Rosa spinosissima* for its splendid floral display. Be charmed by its sweet scent. Value its thriftiness. Be surprised by its tough character. Wear gloves!

From the Editor:

As the research for this article was drawing to an end I happened upon an article written by Peter Joy - "Of Rose Traditions and Traditional Roses in Finland." It revealed the importance of *R. spinosissima* as an important parent in the development of hardy roses in Finland and Sweden. Several newer (or new to North American rose growers) cultivars were featured. A significant contributor, Finnish nurserywoman and rose hybridizer Pirjo Rautio, has collected and catalogued locally grown forms and introduced her own *Spinosissima* seedlings among others. SEE PHOTOS.

My Middle Georgia rose garden has just begun to bloom. The Banksias are beautiful and my *Spinosissimas* are in full bloom. Inside, approximately 175 (so far) rose seedlings are producing their second and third set of true leaves and the first bloom will open in the next several days. Very keen to see the results of an attempt to breed some healthy and fragrant purple flowered roses through several 'Manhattan Blue' x 'Doorenbos Selection' crosses.

As a very small scale hybridizer I'm proud to say that a seedling entered into the Biltmore Rose Trials has done very well - earning good marks for disease resistance. Its overall rating placed it nicely in the middle of those entered that year! It will complete its evaluation period this year and will then be registered.

Apologies for the tardiness of this edition of the newsletter. Much of the last several months of 2014 were dedicated to completing a manuscript that has been accepted for publication by one of my alma maters - Mercer University. It will be the first book solely dedicated to the history of a Civil War prison for Union officers located in Macon, GA. The tentative title is - *Camp Oglethorpe: at the foot of Seventh Street* and the anticipated date of publication is spring/summer of 2016. Footnotes, bibliography, and marketing plan - oh my!



'Marzipan' - bred by Pirjo Rautio
spinosissima hybrid
Photo by Marita Protte

'Ristinummi' - found rose
spinosissima x rugosa hybrid
Photo by Pirjo Rautio



'Papula' – a found spinosissima hybrid
Photo by Marita Protte



'Staffa'
Photo by Marita Protte

'Ruskela' – a found
spinosissima hybrid
Photographer unknown



'Kerisalo' – thought to be a hybrid of
R. majalis x *R. spinosissima*
Photo by Lauri Simonen



Sources:

North American Mail Order Sources for Spinosissima Roses:

Corn Hill Nursery: www.cornhillnursery.com

Greenmantle Nursery: www.greenmantlenursery.com

Forestfarm: www.forestfarm.com

High Country Roses: www.highcountryroses.com

Hortico: www.hortico.com

North Creek Farm: www.northcreekfarm.org

Rogue Valley Roses: www.roguevalleyroses.com

Rose Petals Nursery: www.rosepetalsnursery.com

Contact Information:

Singularly Beautiful Roses

Editor: Stephen Hoy

223 Sentry Oaks Dr.

Warner Robins, GA 31093

hoy127@cox.net

Thanks to the many folks that gave me permission to use their wonderful photographs. Through the amazing vehicle of HelpMeFindRoses.com I reached out to complete strangers and was pleased to once again find that rose enthusiasts are generous people.