INDIAN ROSE FEDERATION

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Presidents Page

Dear Rosarians,

I was just wondering how the rose growing methods are fast changing with newer research and innovative approach to this hobby. Our friends from Kolkata have evolved a novel way to grow roses in pots. With a peculiar combination of soil and other materials as growing mediums with calculated doses of chemical feeds and micronutrients they grow superlative quality roses. Kudos to them!!

With, controlled ambient condition created with the help of poly houses aided by pad and fan method creating higher humidity and lower temperatures, our rose farmers have started producing world class roses. Hopefully, they will be the dominant players in European flower markets in near future. This has been achieved by application of latest technologies and tools.

One such tool I would like to mention is a cell phone. Introduction of cell phones during the last decade or so also, has played a role in rose world. We'll agree that it may have played some role in rose growing. But in my opinion it has played a very subtle and pleasurable role in relationships of rosarians. Cell phones have brought rose hobbyists closer to each other. With an advent of the WhatsApp, they are perennially in conference, chatting incessantly about latest varieties of roses, controls of pests and diseases etc. It has markedly increased bonhomie and mutual love and concern. To me it is a great achievement ! As I many times wish and extol that we, rosarians cultivate roses, but amongst us cultivation of friendship is also very important.

Warm regards,

Suresh Pinga

EDITORIAL

Hello Dear Members,

A hectic trip but fruitful to Kolkata to oversee the arrangements and to attend the Convention Committee meeting, AHSI (Agri Horticultural Society of India), the venue for the next Convention, has a sprawling garden with a large collection of flora and fauna, I am sure the delegates will enjoy each moment during their visit. Our next visit was planned out for Jagpur, some 110 kilometers from Kolkata.

Jagpur Flowers Association will be holding their Annual Flower Show on the 7th January - 2017, and are making elaborate arrangements for the same, while going through the area we found some 120 nurseries selling rose plants and the small farmers doing commercial cultivation of different flowers from Chrysanthemums to annuals and bi – annuals, the local flower market is held daily starting at 9.00 pm to 12.30 pm, where huge amount of flowers are brought, sold, packed for their onward destination, I was told that 90% of flower requirement of West Bengal is through Jagpur, flowers are also sent to Mumbai, Delhi and other major cities of our country, this trip will be an eye opener for the visiting delegates, I assure you that there will be more surprises for us, as pledged by some members of the association.

Please note very carefully, Bengal Rose Society was queried regarding the delegate fees, where in their brochure, it says that members of BRS have to pay Rs.1,000.00 as delegate fees and spouse Rs.500.00, it was found that there was a printing error and re – printing the brochure was unviable, Bengal Rose Society will be charging all their members same amount of delegate fees which has been kept for All India delegates, the Hon. Secretary, and the Managing Committee, have regretted the error.

Regards

Arshad Bhiwandiwala.

Viru & Girija Viraraghavan

Viru has a Masters degree in Chemistry. He passed the prestigious Indian Administration Service examination 1959, this is the premium government service. Worked in various senior capacities, including Director Agriculture Department and Secretary, Horticulture Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh State, which is in Central India, voluntarily retired after 20 years service in 1980, to concentrate on rose breeding, which he had been doing since 1967.

He has been Vice President of the Indian Rose Federation and Editor since 1985 of the Indian Rose Annual brought out by the Federation.

Since the 1990's he has concentrated on breeding with the two Indian rose species R.clinophylla and R.gigantea. he is experimenting with other rose species like R.bracteata chinesis spontanea, Rosa.hirtula laevigata rosea and others which he feels will lead to new hybrids adaptable to the warm climates of the World, especially the heat and humidity of tropical regions. His goal is to breed evergreen roses which are disease resistant and free flowering and which will hold their own, and indeed surpass the beauty of lush tropical plants. He has registered a number of his new hybrids with these species, many Teas, climbers, pillar shrub roses.

Girija has done her Masters in History and has a degree in Education. While assisting Viru in his rose and other plant breeding projects, she has been researching on the history of rose from ancient times. She is also the Editor of the Indian Rose Annual.
They have won many awards in the rose field, including the 'Great Rosarians of the World' award in 2006.

Girija has recently edited a coffee table book on the heritage of the town of Kodaikanal,

(hill station in the Palni Hills of the Western Ghats Mountain Rang of Southern India) where the couple hea settled.

Both are founder members of a conservation / environment society and are still active helping preserve the natural floral heritage of the area, which is an unique ecosysytem and tropical mountain climate, evocatively called ‘an island in the sky’

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CONSERVING THE ROSE HERITAGE OF ASIA AND OTHER WARM CLIMATES
OUR WAY FORWARD

Viru and Girija Viraraghavan
(Indian Rose Federation)

Abstract : the objective of this talk is to re – awaken interest in warm climate roses, as it is warm climates of the world especially southern Asia, do not have modern roses which perform well. There are of course a surprisingly large number of heritage roses in these areas (growing well despite scant attention), but very little has been done to use them in rose breeding. Also climate change is a growing hazard which threatens the future of these old beauties.

David Austin, in his path breaking work, has focussed on creating ‘English Roses’ - roses which combine the form and fragrance of European heritage roses, with the added attribute of repeat flowering. His work, apart from creating a range of fascinating new varieties, has contributed immensely to the awreness of the value of traditional cold climate roses in modern rose breeding, and the importance of the class itself.

In Asia, starting from the east, we have a remarkable range of heritage warm climate roses, in Japan, in China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, India, as well as parts of Iran and the Arab world. A preliminary survey of these roses and their breeding possibilities has appeared in our introduction in the Indian Rose Annual, released on the occasion of the 2014 Regional World Conference in Hyderabad, India.

In this paper an attempt is made to show the progress achieved by us so far, in creating new roses, and breeding lines, utilizing Asian roses as well as others suited for warmth. Hopefully these new hybrids will be well adapted to Southern Asia, and other warm climate regions of the world, and will lead to a revival of interest in their preservation in this vast continent.

Finally we emphasize the problem of preservation of heritage roses in the warmer parts of the world in a situation of climate change. Even if some of the forecasts of the adverse

effects of climate change are overemphasized, there can be little doubt that climate change is happening and that in situ conservation has to be supplemented by a scientific program of ex situ conservation, if the classics of the past are not to be lost. Much work has been done in the U.K. with heritage ornamental plants, including roses, under the program, 'Plant Heritage'. We urgently require similar programs in the various regions of Asia.

In conclusion, we would like to emphasize that it is indeed most appropriate that a world heritage rose conference is being held in China, which is the home of a remarkable range of roses from the thousands of years old Chinese civilization. We should remind ourselves that the most invaluable feature of repeat flowering in roses is the gift of China. China, and the rest of Asia, has much to offer in the quest to give new form of life to roses, utilizing those which have stood the test of time.

Key words : Asia ; warm climates ; rose heritage ; conserving.

The objective of this talk is to re – awaken interest in warm climate roses, as it is warm climates of the world especially southern Asia, do not have modern roses which perform well. There are of course a surprisingly large number of heritage roses in these areas (growing well despite scant attention), but very little has been done to use them in rose breeding. Also climate change is a growing hazard which threatens the future of these old beauties.

We would like to stress that the continued existence of heritage roses in Asia is gravely threatened by modern development. It is no news to most of you that many South countries are among the fastest development areas in the world – there are dramatic changes in life – style, one consequence of which is that people have very little time for slow paced activities like gardening. Then again is the problem of open spaces disappearing both in the urban areas and even in the countryside. In other words, habitat loss is also very negative factor to the future of heritage roses.

David Austin, in his path breaking work, has focussed on creating 'English Roses' - roses which combine the form and fragrance of European heritage roses, with the added attribute of repeat flowering. His work, apart from creating a range of fascinating new varieties, has contributed immensely to the awareness of the value of traditional cold climate roses in modern rose breeding, and the importance of the class itself.

In Asia, starting from the east, we have a remarkable range of heritage warm climate roses, in Japan, in China, Vietnam, Laos, Malaysia, Thailand, India, as well as parts of Iran and the Arab world. And in Turkey, especially in the eastern region.

In this paper an attempt is made to show the progress achieved by us so far, in creating new roses, and breeding lines, utilizing Asian roses as well as others suited for warmth. Hopefully these new hybrids will be well adapted to Southern Asia, and other warm climate regions of the world, and will lead to a revival of interest in their preservation in this vast continent.

it is necessary to stress that warm climate rose breeding largely neglected so far, requires entirely new approach, and a separate line of breeding, which implies the conscious reversal of cold climate approaches. if we look at modern rose breeding in the West, there is great emphasize on resistance to cold – every generation of the modern rose from these areas is and less adapted to warm climates. just consider some of the best roses for the tropics are ancient hybrid teas like the French la France and the ancient American hybrid, Radiance. the message is obvious.

In this background, it is clear that we have to create a new line of tropical rose breeding and it follows that an important ingredient would be the rose species of warm areas, especially those not so far utilized, as well as the heritage roses of Asia.

From this perspective there are indeed surprising possibilities which should be highlighted otherwise there is a tendency to think that the rose is a plant meant for the temperate parts of the world.

In our area we have two very interesting tropical rose species R.cliniphylla, a close relative of R.bracteata, which has its centre of distribution in Bangladesh, as also many parts of India.

Other possibilities include the sub tropical wild roses like R.gigantea and R.chinesis spontanea, which, though they are in the background of modern roses, have not been utilized in rose breeding to any appreciable extent in recent times.

Again there are species like R.cymosa. widespread in Southern China but curiously not featuring in rose breeding so far.
This much on suitable rose species.

Turning to heritage roses, even a preliminary survey shows that there are many beauties waiting to be noticed and utilized by the tropical rose breeder.
These can be divided into three kinds :

1. Various forms of the tea rose available not only in China and Japan, but also in

Vietnam, Laos, India and the Middle East.

2. The second group, again well distributed in the countries mentioned above are the Bourbons.
3. The third group contains the China roses, again widely distributed

We show you the results of these kind kinds of roses in these countries.

We should clarify that we have limited ourselves to just a few of the heritage roses of only those brought to the notice of the world by outside explorers, as the subject will surely be dealt eith in detail by rose experts in China.

Japan - Komachi, Lake Mishmi, China
China - Qing Yan Blush China, Zi Yan Fei Wu, China
Vietnam - China type rose, Tea Rose, wild collected probably R.multiflora x R.bracteta.
Laos - Semperflorens type China, Old Blush type China.
Myanmar - Archin Gatin Blush China.
Malaysia - Magenta Kampung, Sempurna, White Kampung, damask Rose.
Thailand - Gulap Mon, Chulalongkorn, Cosmos Rose, Rama IV, Deng Praset.
Singapore - China Rose, Damask, Mystery Bourbon, Mystery Tea.
India - Telangana Pink, Kakinada Red, Renu Apricot Tea, Madurai Tea, Holiday Home Climber, Kerala Tea, Seven Days Rose Tea, Rajakkad China, Pondicherry Tea.

We now come to the second part of our lecture - the utilization of some of these species and roses in creating warm climate roses. The photographs which follow show what has been achieved by us on the task of creating new warm climate breeding lines.

Slides to be shown.

1. Rose of the Temple of 10,000 Flowered and Camellia seedlings
2. M. Falcot and seedlings
3. Safrano and seedlings
4. Telangana Pink and seedlings
5. R. clinophylla and seedlings
6. Gulap Mon and seedlings
7. R. Edward and seedlings
8. Chinensis Spontanea and seedlings
9. Levigata roses and seedlings
10. Holiday Home Climber and seedlings

11. Souvenir de Madame Leone Viennot and seedling
12. Easlea's Golden rambler and seedling
13. Some China seedlings.

Apart from these pictures we show you some of our new hybrids which have been registered and released. These are the result of the new approach to rose breeding outlined above.

14. Some recently released roses.

Finally, we emphasize the problem of preservation of heritage roses in the warmer parts of the world in a situation of climate change. Even if some of the forecasts of the adverse effects climate change are overemphasized , there can be little doubt that climate change is happening, and that in situ conservation has to be supplemented by a scientific programme ex situ conservation, if the classics of the past are not to be lost. Much work has been done in the U.K. to preserve heritage ornamental plants, including roses, under the programme 'Plant Heritage'.

The organization, 'Plant Heritage' in U.K., has 11 Rosa collections, including collections focussing on 19th century shrubs, pre - 1900 shrub roses, the roses of Pemberton and Bentall (Hybrid Musks), Rosa spinossisima, R.rugosa, Rambling Roses, and pre – 1900 gallicas..

We urgently require similar programmes in the various regions of Asia. One interesting initiative is the garden with found OGR's which is being established in Yuzuncu Yil University in Van, in eastern Turkey, not far from the border with Iran.

In conclusion, we would like to emphasize that it is indeed most appropriate that a world heritage conference is being held in China, which is the home of a remarkable range of roses from the thousands of years old Chinese civilization. We should remind ourselves that the most invaluable feature of repeat flowering in roses is the gift of China. China, and the rest of Asia, have much to offer in the quest to give new form and life to roses, utilising those which have stood the test of time.

Please note that the scanned images were of ver poor quality hence I have not put them up.