



Magnolia

Magnolia grandiflora
The Laurel Tree of Carolina
Catesby's *Natural History*, 1743

Bulletin of the
Southern Garden
History Society

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Spring 1994

Cherchez le 'Musk'

by Liz Druitt, Washington, TX

The most exciting rose rescue story in recent years is the case of *Rosa moschata*, the true old autumn-blooming 'Musk Rose'. *R. moschata* is one of the parents of the most important American rose class, the Noisettes, which originated from a cross between this rose and the 'Old Blush' China rose in Charleston, South Carolina, in about 1811. It fell out of commerce both in America and England in the late 1880s because of a confusion of identity with another rose.



Photo courtesy of
Ruth C. Knopf.

The 'Musk Rose' is presumably a species rose, though it has never been reliably documented in the wild. It must have been an early garden favorite, however, because it is described in all its late-flowering, musky-scented glory in a number of early botanists' works. John Gerard's *Herball* of 1597 and John Parkinson's *Paradisi in sole, Paradisus terrestris* of 1629 both include it, and Johann Herrmann gives so clear a botanical description of it in his 1762 'Dissertation' that the 'Musk Rose's' full Latin name is designated as *R. moschata* Herrmann, though the date of introduction is still kept at the traditional mid-1500s.

This true form of *R. moschata* has small white flowers, single or double, borne usually in corymbs of seven blossoms. These have a clean, musky fragrance said to be produced

Continued on page 2 . . .

**Inside
this
Issue**

Page 5 The Wood Sorrels

Page 8 Call for Papers

Page 9 Restoration of the Anne Spencer Garden

Calendar

April 6th-8th, 1994. "African-American Landscape Symposium." The Landscape Architecture Program at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University will hold the first event of a unique symposia series addressing the history and roles of African-Americans in land-use planning and environmental design. The roster of speakers includes distinguished scholars and educators from Texas, the University of Michigan, the University of California at Berkeley, the National Park Service in Denver, Emory University in Atlanta, and the University of Georgia. SGHS member Richard Westmacott is among the speakers. For more information contact Dennis Nagae or Sue Anne Ware at (910) 334-7520.

April 10th-13th, 1994. The forty-eighth *Williamsburg Garden Symposium*: "Making Gardens." Speakers includes SGHS member Linda



Askey, garden writer and editor of *Southern Accents* and *Southern Living* magazines, and Brent Heath, owner of Daffodil Mart in Gloucester, Virginia. Sponsored by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in conjunction with the American Horticultural Society. For additional information, contact Deborah Chapman at (804) 220-8921.

April 11th, 1994. "Speaking for the National Parks: Women Advocates." A New England Garden History Society lecture in their Spring Series. Polly Welts Kaufman will speak on the role women have played in saving or preserving such national treasures as Mesa Verde, Joshua Tree National Monument, and Cape Cod National Seashore. Lecture begins at 6:30 p.m. in Horticultural Hall in Boston. For information contact Walter Punch at (617) 536-9280.

April 23th-24th, 1994. Mordecai Historic Park in Raleigh, North Carolina will host a plant

Calendar continued on page 10 ...

Cherchez le Musk *Continued from page 1*

by the fused styles rather than the petals, and this is probably why the scent lasts long enough to be carried so freely through the air around the plant. The fragrance can be enjoyed at quite a distance from the rose, especially on a lightly breezy day. Anyone walking past the plant in full bloom can understand why Shakespeare included it as part of the fragrant bower under which his fairy queen, Titania, slept. *R. moschata* is limited in height, rarely reaching its potential of 12 feet, so the plant has great flexibility for all sorts of landscape uses as a shrub or a climber. Most distinctively of all, it begins flowering very much later than most other roses, holding off until mid-summer for us in Zone

8, or until "autumn at the fall of the leafe" (Gerard) in colder zones, and it continues blooming for a very long period, seeming truly remontant.

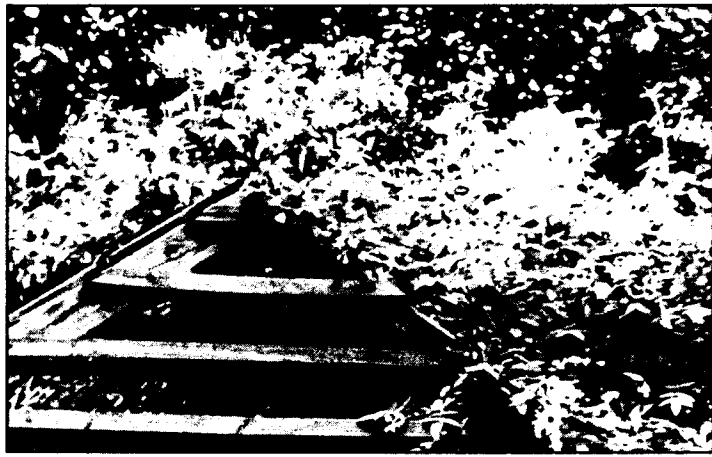
While this is interesting, it wouldn't make much of a story if the 'Musk Rose' was not only attractive, historic and a very important rose parent, but well and truly lost. Nobody even knew it was lost for some time, because its place was taken by the imposter, *Rosa brunonii*, the 'Himalayan Musk' (now known as *R. moschata nepalensis*). The 'Himalayan Musk' is very similar to the true 'Musk Rose', except it is considerably more aggressive, climbing 30 to 50 feet in height



and surviving cold climates without flinching. The foliage is varied a little as well, but the most important difference is that *R. brunonii* flowers once only, in the late spring or early summer, and is long out of bloom by autumn. The 'Himalayan Musk' was described by botanist Dr. John Lindley after its discovery in Nepal in 1820, and the study specimen growing in London's Kew

1931, E.H. Wilson, the famous plant hunter, went so far as to write that it had "long been lost to cultivation."

That might have been the end of the line for this great rose, but fortunately in the 1930s there was a resurgence of interest in the older classes. At a time when only a few nurseries in Britain and America still offered a commercial selection of old roses, two rosarians came to the rescue. In her 1935 book, *Old Roses*, Mrs. Ethelyn Emery Keays spoke powerfully of the delights of heritage roses and issued a challenge to all her readers to be aware of the need to seek out and preserve the remaining historic varieties. At the same time, British rosarian Graham Stuart Thomas had become very interested in tracking down leads to one of the few remaining specimens of *R. moschata* in England. He ran it to earth in the late 1930s in the garden of the late E. A. Bowles (a well-known garden writer), after a series of detective

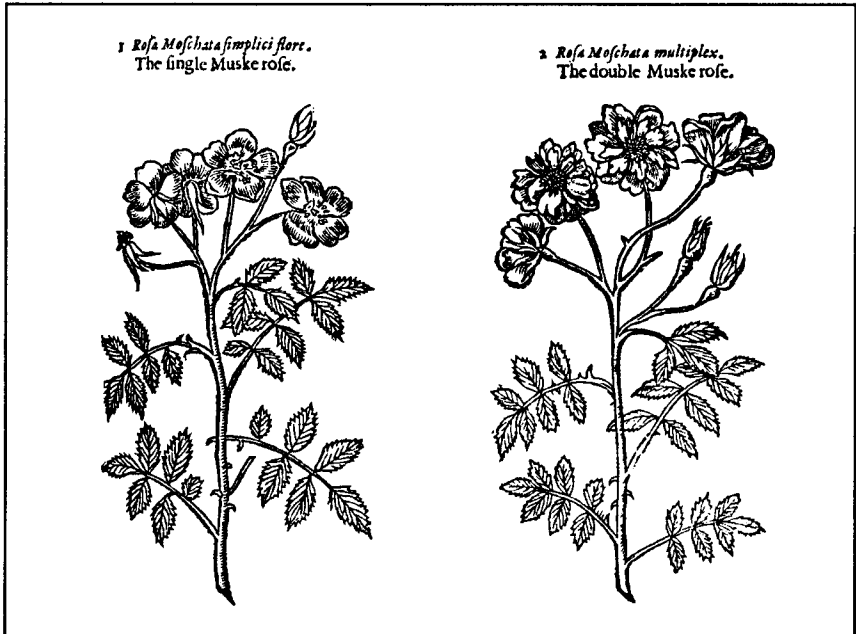


R. Moscata, Hillsborough, NC. Photo courtesy of J. H. Butler.

Gardens was still labeled *R. brunonii* as late as 1883.

Unfortunately for the true 'Musk Rose', the well-known Belgian botanist and rosarian Francois Crepin decided in the mid-1880s that *R. brunonii* should also be called *R. moschata*. His prestige was great enough to get the labels changed on botanic garden specimens of *R. brunonii*, including the commonly studied plant at Kew Gardens. This had the effect of a successful magic trick – while attention was focussed on the 'Himalayan Musk', few even noticed that the autumn-flowering 'Musk Rose', the more tender of the two species, dropped right out of sight. In his 1927 *Cyclopedia*, Bailey wrote that "the Musk Rose of the older writers, known since the 16th century, seems at present almost disappeared from cultivation." And in

operations which are described in his book *Climbing Roses Old and New* (1965). From this specimen and one other that Thomas found came a new generation of *R. moschata* in England, but the 'Musk Rose' was still missing in America.



Known to the Elizabethans, as Gerard's illustrations show, the true 'musk rose' was subsequently lost to cultivation until the 1930s.

It was some years later that American rose-lovers John and Marie Butler, already aware of Mrs. Keays' challenge, were so intrigued by Thomas' chapter on "The



originated from one of a pair of plants found by rosarians Carl Cato and Ruth Knopf during their exploration of the Burwell plot in the Elmwood Cemetery at Charlotte, North Carolina. The "Burwell Musk," as it was study-named, and the "Crenshaw Musk" appeared to be the same plant. Most interestingly of all, the Burwell and Crenshaw families turned out to be related.



Burwell Plot, Charlotte, NC. Photo courtesy of Ruth C. Knopf.

Mystery of the Musk Rose" that they decided to look for it themselves. They began to comb old gardens in their own area of Virginia, knowing that the region had been settled at a time when the true 'Musk Rose' was still commonly grown. They were not aware that a rooted cutting they'd recently been given of a rose found in North Carolina would turn out to be the very plant they sought, so they kept hunting.

The Butlers did get to find the 'Musk Rose' themselves, during a July 1985 rose-hunting expedition in tandem with Heritage Rose Foundation president Charles A. Walker, Jr., and his wife, Judy Holley. The plant that they discovered was about six feet high and blooming with both the single and double forms of the flower, as is common with *R. moschata*. They christened their find "Crenshaw Musk" for study purposes, since it was found growing on the Crenshaw family burial plot in the Hollywood Cemetery at Richmond, Virginia.

By this time, the previously mentioned cutting had bloomed in the Butler's garden and was actively identified as *R. moschata*. This cutting had

The rediscovery story became even more engrossing when it was learned through the old rose network that *R. moschata* had already been found as long ago as 1970 by Mrs. Helen Blake Watkins. She was not actively looking for it, but simply investigating the gardens of local historic sites in Hillsborough, North Carolina, in her role as Chair of the Horticultural Committee of the Hillsborough Historical Society. She discovered the 'Musk Rose' growing on the grounds of the old Burwell School, an institution started by yet another branch of the Burwell family back in 1837. Mrs. Watkins collected cuttings from the rose, which she identified as *R. moschata*, without realizing it was lost and needed any kind of fuss or announcement. Her specimens appeared identical to the other Burwell and Crenshaw roses. Mrs. Watkins was responsible for

Continued on page 11



The true 'Musk Rose', from Crispin van der Passe's Hortus Floridus.

The Wood Sorrel(s) of Southern Dooryard Gardens

by Arthur O. Tucker, Dover, DE

Several years ago I had the opportunity to visit Edenton, North Carolina in spring. One thing that I still remember is the pink and pale green of a wood sorrel (*Oxalis*) which carpets many dooryard gardens in northern North Carolina and southern Virginia. On returning to Delaware, I tried to find this wood sorrel in my horticultural manuals (which are mostly British), but I was never able to pin it down. Even Elizabeth Lawrence's *A Southern Garden* (1942) lists merely "Oxalis (common pink)" and "(common white)"



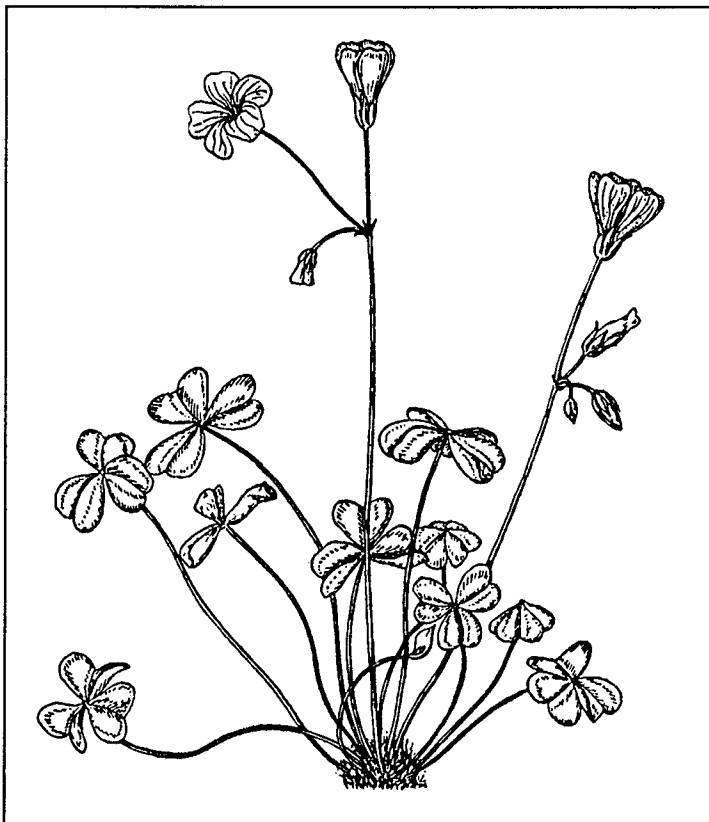
without any indication of a species.

In October I attended a Board of Directors meeting of The Herb Society of America in Annapolis, Maryland. A few of

us went on a side trip to an herb nursery in Davidsonville, Maryland. In the perennial section of this nursery I found quart pots of "Old Fashioned Oxalis" with scattered blooms. From my dimmed memory, this was just what I had remembered in Virginia and North Carolina. When I purchased a pot I inquired as to the source and was told that it came from a private garden in Virginia. This form, I was told, is very spreading and tends to die back in the heat of summer. However, this nursery also sold me another form which tends to flower all summer long and does not die back during the heat of summer; this form also remains in nice tight clumps. This non-invasive form came from a private garden in Chincoteague, Virginia.

Back in my office, opening up my floras, I find this perennial pink wood sorrel keys out, for example, in H. A. Gleason's *The New Britton and Brown Illustrated Flora of the Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada* (1952) as *Oxalis violacea*. Turning to Melinda Denton's *A Monograph of Oxalis, Section Ionoxalis (Oxalidaceae) in North America* (Michigan State Univ. Biol. Ser. Vol. 4, No. 10, 1973), this also keys out to *O. violacea*. This species is reported to occur in dry upland woods and prairies from Massachusetts to Michigan and South Dakota, south to Florida and Texas and flowering in April to June, occasionally later. Gleason also notes "Forms with white flowers and with pubescent petioles have been described."

At this point I wrote to Flora Ann Bynum



Oxalis violacea illustration from *New Britton and Brown Illustrated Flora of the Northeastern United States*.

in Winston-Salem, NC and asked her what she knew about the old oxalis, called pink wood sorrel in the manuals. She really did her detective work and noted that both William C. Welch's *Perennial Garden Color for Texas and the South* (1989) and Steve Bender and Felder Rushing's *Passalong Plants* (1993) call this *O. crassipes*. In correspondence with Dr. Welch and Bill Hunt and further reading into Elizabeth Lawrence's books, Flora Ann deduced that the name *O. crassipes* arose from the catalog of Cecil Houdyshel's bulb nursery in California. Lawrence writes in *The Little Bulbs* (1957): "One of the commonest garden flowers hereabouts, and one of the most valuable, is an oxalis that I had been unable to identify with certainty until Mr. Houdyshel cast some light on it. He sent me what seems to be the same thing, identified as *O. crassipes*." Lawrence goes on further to describe it in more detail with culture and blooming times in both North Carolina and California. Flora Ann sent me three clumps of the pink wood sorrel from North Carolina, and all match the material

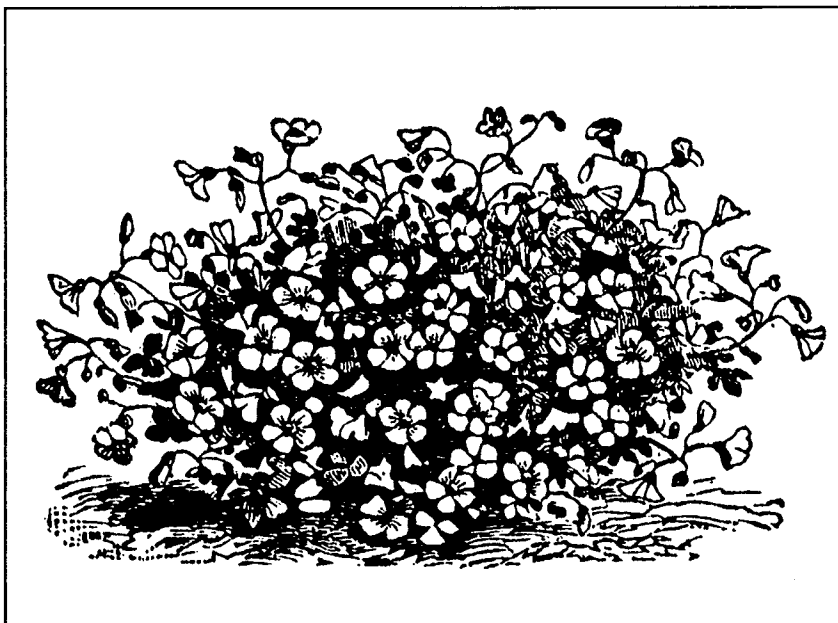


from Maryland/Virginia.

Well, okay, but turning to the *Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas* by A. E. Radford, H. E. Ahles, and C. R. Bell (1964),

this keys out to *O. rubra*, not *O. violacea* or *O. crassipes*. This is also in agreement with John Ingram's "The Cultivated Species of Oxalis. 2. The Acaulescent Species" (*Baileya* 7:11-22, 1959). Ingram casually mentions *O. crassipes* but dismisses it as a cultivated variant of *O. rubra*. *Oxalis crassipes* was originally described from cultivated material in the Botanical Garden of Berlin by Ignatz Urban in Friedrich H. G. Hildebrand's *Die Lebensverhältnisse der Oxalisarten* published in 1884. Walter C. Blasdale treats *O. rubra* in detail (*National Horticultural Magazine* 36:285-288, 1957) and says that *O. crassipes* (and *O. articulata* and *O. floribunda*) is closely related or identical to *O. rubra*. *Hortus Third* (1976) provides no characteristics unique to *O. crassipes* to distinguish it from *O. rubra*.

Michael Wright in *The Complete Handbook of Garden Plants* (1984) says the issue is even more confused. He states that *O. rubra* is sometimes incorrectly sold as *O. rosea* or *O. floribunda*. Turning to *Hortus Third*, *O. floribunda* is listed as a synonym of *O. rosea*, while of *O. rosea*, a native of Chile, we read: "Probably much of the material cult. under this name is *O. rubra* cv. 'Delicata'. A listed name." Radford, Ahles, and Bell also cite the *Ionoxalis martiana* of Small as a taxonomic synonym of *O. rubra*. Aargh! This means that period references to *O. violacea*, *O. rubra*, *O. rosea*, *O. floribunda*, *O. crassipes*,



Oxalis rosea illustration from Henderson's Handbook.

O. articulata, and/or *I. martiana* (plus *O. arborea*, *O. alba*, and *O. lilacina*, see below) may all refer to the same species or perhaps three different species. For example, is the reference to *O. floribunda* in Edward Sprague Rand, Jr.'s *Flowers for the Parlor and Garden* (1870) actually our *O. rubra*? Rand describes it thusly: "A variety with short, fleshy stems, just serving to elevate the dense tuft of leaves and blossoms above the soil. Should be allowed to dry off during the winter and bedded out in summer, when it will bloom profusely for about four months. A native of Chili. Flowers rosy pink." Ingram treats *O. rosea* (alias *O. floribunda*) in a separate discussion (*Baileya* 6:22-32, 1958) as a caulescent (stemmed) species with pink flowers, and *Hortus Third* characterizes *O. rosea* as a long-stemmed annual and *O. rubra* as a tufted perennial. Rand describes a tufted perennial, and so this must be our *O. rubra* in cultivation in Massachusetts pre-1870. I also find *O. rosea* and *O. floribunda rosea* listed in Dreer's catalog (Philadelphia) for 1869 and *O. floribunda rosea* and *O. floribunda alba* listed in George W. Park's catalog (Libonia, PA) for 1895.

How early was *O. rubra* introduced and who introduced it? From my limited search of catalogs, I know it was available in the U.S. pre-1869, and Lawrence reports it very common in the south in 1957, so an early to mid nineteenth-century date of introduction is most likely. When I want to get a date for introduction into Great Britain, I turn to nineteenth century books by J. Donn, J.C. Loudon, or R. Sweet, but none of these books list *O. rubra*. However, Robert Sweet's *Hortus Britannicus* (Second ed., 1830) lists *O. martiana* introduced from Brazil in 1828.

The true *O. rubra* was named by August F. C.



P. de Saint-Hilaire, a French entomologist and botanist, who explored Brazil and Uruguay from 1816 to 1822 and published the three volume *Flora Brasiliae Meridionalis* in 1824-1833. *Oxalis rubra* is described on p. 124-125 in volume 1 published in 1825. He reports *O. rubra* (crudely translated here from the original Latin) as: "discovered on the shores of brooks near the village of Freguesia Nova, in part of the southern province of São Paulo as called Campus Geras. Flowering in March." Thus, Sweet's date of 1828 for *O. martiana* being introduced into Great Britain from Brazil might be a good working date for *O. rubra* too. Distinguishing characteristics of *O. rubra* are the copper dots on the edges of the three leaflets, a sinus in each leaflet from 1/3 to 1/2 the length, hairy sepals and peduncles, and a rhizome-like taproot with articulated tubers (not true bulbs) as offsets. Since *O. rubra* is in Section *Articulatae*, it would not be expected to be in Denton's revision cited above (even though it was once described as a species of *Ionoxalis* by Small). However, while Virginia is in the geographical area circumscribed by Gleason, this flora does not include *O. rubra*, and the key mentions neither bulbs versus rhizomes nor the copper dots. Ingram writes of the copper dots: "These spots are typical of this species and some other species of Oxalis, but they have been mistaken for the rust, *Puccinia oxalidis* (Lévl.) Diet. & Ell., which has been found on a few species of Oxalis." L. H. Bailey adds further information on *O. rubra* in his *Cyclopedia of American Horticulture* (Fifth ed., 1906): "A lilac-flowered form passes erroneously for *O. lilacina*, and white form for *O. arborea*, var. *alba* or *O. alba*; and *O. violacea* and *O. violacea* var. *alba* of the trade seem to be this species and its variety."

Blasdale calls *O. rubra* a "trimorphic species," meaning that the flowers are one of three different types: (1) short-styled, (2) medium-styled, or (3) long-styled. Seed will only be produced when one stylar form is pollinated by another stylar form; self-pollination will produce few or no seeds. Thus, Blasdale reports, *O. rubra* rarely sets seed in California (he did find short- and medium-styled forms in California but no long-styled forms).

In summary, the correct name for the common pink wood sorrel is *O. rubra*. An absolute, final answer would require examination of the type specimens of Saint-Hilaire (in Paris) and Urban (in Berlin). However, my questions to the *Magnolia* readers are the following. Has anyone noted the two growth forms (spreading versus clumping) of *O. rubra*? Is *O. rubra* 'Lilacina' still grown? Can I obtain plants of *O. rubra* 'Alba' from someone? Does your *O. rubra* set seed? Are *O. rosea* or *O. violacea* still in cultivation?

Elizabeth Lawrence also lists *O. braziliensis* in *The Little Bulbs* (1957) as hardy in North Carolina and flowering a cyclamen purple. She notes that in South Carolina this is known as the Georgetown oxalis, and she found it "growing so freely



in Mr. McNairy's garden in Laurinburg, North Carolina...." Has anyone found this species in old gardens in the south? How

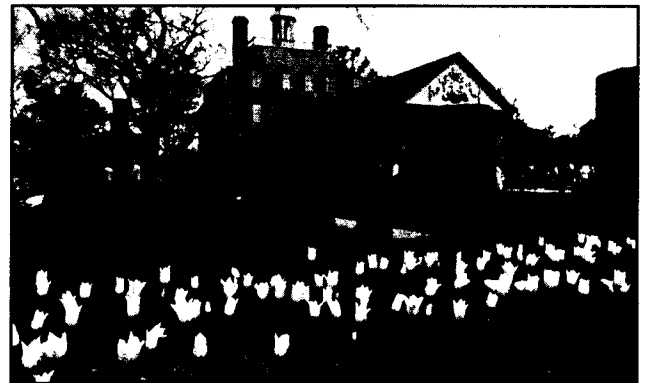
did it acquire the epithet "Georgetown oxalis?" Lawrence also mentions the rhodamine purple *O. lasiandra*: "This seems to be a common garden flower in the Deep South for I often see it advertised by farm women in the Mississippi Farm Bulletin...." Does anyone still cultivate this bulbous species? What is the range of cultivation? L. H. Bailey in *The Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture* (1943) says that *O. lasiandra* "Under the variously used name 'floribunda' said to occur in the color varieties álba, caeruléscens and lilácina." The yellow Bermuda buttercup, *O. pescaprae* (*O. cernua*), is noted as naturalized in Bermuda and Florida. How common is this species in old southern gardens? L. H. Bailey (1943) also reports of *O. cernua* "A form with double fls. is var. *pléna*." Are there any other desirable species in old gardens?

Do your gardening neighbors call these oxalis or wood sorrels? And, finally, how do you pronounce Oxalis? Do you talk about your ox-a-lis' or your ox-al'-is? †

Call For Papers

In October, 1995 the tenth conference on Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscape will be held once again at Old Salem, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The Landscape Conference Committee is currently soliciting suggestions and proposals for lectures, workshops, and panel discussions pertinent to the theme, "The Influence of Women On The Southern Landscape."

Suggestions and proposals should be submitted to the Landscape Conference, Old Salem, Inc., Box F-Salem Station, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27108 †



The twelfth-annual meeting of SGHS will convene May 6th in Colonial Williamsburg. The gardens at the Governor's Palace will be a gathering place for SGHS members. Photo courtesy of Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, Virginia.

Restoration of Anne Spencer Garden Recognized



The January/February issue of *Historic Preservation* features an article on twentieth-century poet Anne Spencer and the garden she nurtured for more than seventy years at her home in Lynchburg, Virginia. Spencer, a well-known figure of the Harlem Renaissance, created an intellectual oasis for African-American scholars and artists travelling in the South. Guests at her modest, wine-red shingle house at 1313 Pierce Street included James Weldon Hughes, Paul Robeson, Langston Hughes, Thurgood Marshall, and Marian Anderson among others. Her garden in full bloom was the object of many visits by friends such as writer W.E.B. DuBois who presented her with a cast-iron African head which she and her husband Edward placed by the garden pond.

Although the house was listed in the National

Register of Historic Places for 1977 (after her death in 1975) it was not until 1983 that work to restore the garden began with the efforts of Jane Baber White. By then, time and neglect had taken their toll, leaving

White a challenging task which has become for her a labor of love. Her efforts to coordinate volunteers, solicit support from the Hillside Garden Club and other groups, and her exhaustive research into the writings and life of Anne Spencer has resulted in the re-creation of a garden which reflects the heart and spirit of its creator. Restored to its 1925 appearance, the garden contains thirty-five surviving roses planted by the Spencers, including a 1902 American Pillar and a 1927 Spanish Beauty, as well as the original anemones, lilies, and Chionodoxa which had been buried beneath a jungle of privet and honeysuckle.

Jane White, a member of the Southern Garden History Society, spoke about the restoration of this garden in the sharing session of the 1991 *Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes* conference at Old Salem +

In Print

The Well-placed Weed the Bountiful Garden of Ryan Gainey. In this beautifully illustrated book, designed by Charles L. Ross with photographs by David Schilling, SGHS member Ryan Gainey shares the joy of his private garden and shows how to weave the garden into your life and home. The book, published in conjunction with a seven-part series by Atlanta Public Television entitled "The Well-Placed Weed," is both a whimsical and romantic study of Ralph Waldo Emerson's notion that a weed is "a plant no one has found a use for." Available through Taylor Publishing of Dallas, Texas. The 1993 hardcover edition is \$29.95.

An expanded and updated fourth edition of ***Gardening by Mail*** is now available. Barbara J. Barton's popular and useful source book lists thousands of mail-order suppliers of seeds, plants, and garden accessories and service companies throughout the United States and Canada. This well-indexed resource also includes information

on horticultural societies, research libraries, magazines, newsletters, and books. Published by Houghton Mifflin Company, New York. \$19.95.

This season's ode to roses comes from Sean McCann, author of ***The Rose: An Encyclopedia of North American Roses, Rosarians, and Rose Lore.*** McCann traces its history in the New World from the wild roses cultivated by Native Americans along the James River Valley to the All-American Rose Selections developed by modern breeders. A Stackpole Books publication. \$24.95.

The New Small Garden: Plans and Plants That Make Every Inch Count by SGHS member and garden expert Peter Loewer supplies the reader with every detail needed to design a garden in a small area. Guidelines are given for choosing the best plants for a host of gardens, including dwarf conifer gardens, alpine gardens for rock plants, moss gardens for shade, and trough, tub and pot gardens. \$19.95 +

Calendar

Continued from page 2 . . .

sale to benefit Capital Area Preservation, Inc. Herbs, hard-to-find perennials, old garden roses, scented geraniums, herb products, garden accessories and books will be available. A free workshop on "New and Unusual Herbs" will be held Saturday morning at 9 a.m. For more information, call (919) 834-4844.

April 30th, 1994. "Heritage Plants in Today's Gardens," a conference sponsored by the Frederick W. Vanderbilt Garden Association, Inc., will be held in Hyde Park, New York. Topics will include old garden roses, Victorian gardens, and SGHS member Tovah Martin will speak on "The Victorian Parlor Garden." For more information, call (914) 889-4813.

May 6th-8th, 1994. "In Search of the Colonial Landscape." The Twelfth-Annual Meeting of the Southern Garden History Society sponsored by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Sessions will be held in the Cascades Meeting Center. The program includes trips to Bacon's Castle and Carter's Grove and lectures by Rollin Woolley, Gordon Chappell, M. Kent Brinkley, Terry Yemm, and Wesley Greene of the Colonial Williamsburg staff along with Ann Crossman and Thaisa Way. Speakers will address the complex issues of garden restoration from the Colonial Revival Period to the present-day focus on landscape archaeology and infrared photography using this renowned historic site as a case study. Program brochures and registration forms have been mailed to all current SGHS members. For additional information, contact meeting chair Lawrence Henry at (804) 220-7451 or meeting registrar Deb Chapman at (804) 220-7255.



May 16th-27th, 1994. "Private Gardens of England and the Royal Chelsea Flower Show," a travel study program offered by the Lewis Ginter

Botanical Garden. Frank Robinson, executive director of the botanical garden, will be guest horticulturist for this tour of fifteen English gardens from "The Priory" near Tewkesbury to Sissinghurst Castle and ending with a day at the Chelsea Flower Show and the Tradescant Gardens. For reservation information, call (800) 942-6666.

May 19th-22nd, 1994. The annual meeting and conference of the Heritage Rose Foundation will be held in Richmond, Virginia. The meeting will include planting projects with heritage roses at the Virginia House and a rose identification workshop. Tours of local gardens and the Hollywood Cemetery are also planned. For more information, contact Charles A. Walker, Jr. at (919) 834-2591 or send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to 1512 Gorman Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 27606.

May 21st, 1994. The Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants will host an Open House at Tufton Farm, the Center's nursery and production facility, from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. This is a special opportunity to enjoy the "behind-the-scenes" operation of this preservation program at Monticello near Charlottesville, Virginia. SGHS member Dr. Arthur Tucker, historic plant expert from Dover State College in Delaware [see page 5], will be on hand to discuss historic roses, dianthus, and other spring-blooming perennials. For more information, contact Peggy Newcomb at (804) 984-9816 ♣

Musk Rose

continued from page 4

a large part of the research that proved the kinship of the Burwell and Crenshaw families through their descent from Governor Spotswood of Virginia.

The various rosarians involved in the rediscovery of *R. moschata* in America have made sure that the true autumn-blooming 'Musk Rose' of history is now back in commerce so that it will be widely grown again and safe from future loss. Ruth Knopf has found one other, apparently unconnected, plant of *R. moschata*, but there is a great deal of interest in pursuing the possibility that the study of the Crenshaw/Burwell family's movements will lead to even more findings of original 'Musk Rose' plants. This is an ideal example of the way that treasured possessions such as roses were shared as family and friends spread out and settled a new country.

Searching for and finding old roses, whether



done alone or with a group of experienced and delightful "plant thieves" such as the famous Texas Rose Rustlers, is like taking part in a treasure hunt with a time limit.

Parking lots and building projects are being set down on top of more and more old garden sites. Breeders of modern roses are coming to recognize the vigor and beauty of older kinds, but rose breeding is a long, slow business and every old rose that gets bulldozed is not only a loss to gardens now but a loss to the gene pool for the roses of the future. On a personal level, simply by growing a rose variety and keeping it from extinction makes a contribution to the conservation of existing beauty, and, unlike whale-saving, you get to enjoy your noble work in the intimacy of your own garden. It's even possible that the foundling rose rescued from the teeth of the backhoe or collected from a cemetery on the verge of "perpetual care" will turn out to be an identifiable and historically important variety, such as the ancient 'Musk Rose' +

Members in the News

The Southern Garden History Society has recently made the news thanks to SGHS member **Davyd Foard Hood**. His article for Richmond's 1994 Antiques Show Magazine, "A Renaissance in Gardening and Garden History," recognizes the contributions of this organization and is illustrated with the cover of a recent issue of *Magnolia*.

"The Southern Gardener" section in the March-April issue of ***Southern Accents*** contains a piece by SGHS member **Linda C. Askey**. Entitled "Garden History is Alive and Growing," her story features the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants at Monticello.

Landscape historian **C. Allan Brown** will be a keynote speaker for the "Garden Show of Paris and Western France," to be held at Thoiry, a sixteenth-century French renaissance chateau in the countryside west of Paris. The event, a major trade and public horticultural show, will be held April 15th-17th, 1994.

Garden designer **Sarah S. (Sally) Boesberg** has been named Chair of the Board of Directors of the American Horticultural Society. Ms. Boesberg, who teaches courses on the history of landscape and garden design at George Washington University, has been a member of the AHS Board and its executive committee since 1990 +

Of Interest



Ramble On: The Antique Rose Emporium Branches Out. On February 26th a sport of the original Emporium in Independence, Texas opened in Dahlonega, Georgia, expanding this rose-rustling enterprise further across the South. Dahlonega was once famous as America's first mining site during the 1828 Gold Rush. This historic community, located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains and on the banks of the "wildly scenic" Chestatee River, is one hour north of, and ten degrees cooler than, Atlanta. Manager Glenn Austin, and his associate Henry Flowers, moved from Independence (once called the "Athens of the South") to develop this site which includes extensive display gardens, a sales area,

and gift shop. The mail-order operation will remain exclusively in Texas. For more information about this exciting venture, write the Emporium at Rt. 1 Box 630,

Dahlonega, Georgia 30533, or call (706) 864-5884. Information from their toll-free line in Brenham, Texas is also available by calling 1-800-441-0002.

The Gardens of Summer. A special, ten-day tour of English gardens, sponsored by Old Salem Inc., will take place this summer from June 30th to July 9th. The tour begins and ends in London and includes trips to Kensington Gardens, Motisfont Abbey, Sudeley Castle, and Hidcote Manor. A highlight of the trip will be the Hampton Court International Flower Show and Rose Festival. For more details, contact Anne Cox, (919) 721-7333 or Lord Addison Travel at 800-326-0170 ♣

Deadline for submission of articles for the Summer Issue of Magnolia is May 1st.

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