



## ***SOUTH CAROLINA FAMILY AND COMMUNITY LEADERS***

Affiliated with National Volunteer Outreach Network, Country Women's Council, U.S.A., Associated Country Women of the World and in partnership with Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service  
SCFCL website: <http://www.scfcl.com>

### **Leader Training Guide**

#### **Heritage Roses – The South Carolina Rose**

#### **Objectives:**

To increase your knowledge of the South Carolina Rose – The Noisette Class.

#### **Lesson Overview/Introduction:**

Heritage Roses are those that existed before 1867. (The first hybrid tea rose, La France, was introduced in 1867.) *Rosa moschata*, one of the parents of the Class of Noisette Rose, was found to be in existence by 1540. *Rosa gallica* var. *officinalis* (Apothecary Rose) was dated before 1300. The Old Rose or Heritage Rose Classes consist of Bourbons, China Roses, some Climbers, Ramblers, Albas, Hybrid Perpetuals, Moss Roses, Portlands, Gallicas, Damask, Species and Noisettes. One of the wonders of the rose world is the century-plus, old "Tombstone Rose." A double flowered white Lady Banksia Rose was planted in Tombstone, Arizona in 1885 by Mary Gee. The single, rooted cutting was sent to her from her family in England. The rose covers 8000 square feet, produces an unbelievable number of flowers each spring. The trunk of this rose is 12 feet in circumference and is supported by scaffolding of pipes and wire cables. One can walk under its branches. The Banksian roses are mostly evergreen, do not have thorns, no pest or disease and are covered by hundreds of blooms for three to four weeks in late spring.

#### **Lesson:**

As stated in the introduction, there are many classes of Heritage roses. This lesson will focus on the South Carolina Rose – The Noisette Class. The Noisette rose was introduced to the world by a rice planter, John Champneys, in Charleston, South Carolina.

Around 1811, the Noisette Rose was introduced by John Champneys. He crossed two old roses, *Rosa chinensis* (Old Blush, 1752) and *Rosa moschata*, a very old rose from 1540. The resulting hybrid, Champneys Pink Cluster, was the first rose in the western world to be ever-blooming. The Noisette Rose is the only class of roses that was established in the United States. Most rose classes were from China and Europe. Phillippe Noisette of France chose Charleston as his home and established a botanical garden there in 1805. Any party or gathering in the Charleston area had to have roses from the Noisette Botanical Garden. Phillippe Noisette sent a Champneys rose specimen in 1814 to his brother in France. Pierre-Joseph Redoute painted Blush Noisette, a seedling of Champneys Pink Cluster and the development of the Noisette Rose Class shifts from the South Carolina Coast, for many years, to France. It was the French growers who recognized the importance of the Noisette Rose to the world. The repeat blooming and other great qualities attracted hybridizers to this rose class, making many beautiful new varieties. The crossing of Blush Noisette Rose with Tea scented roses from China transformed the Noisette Rose Class with larger blooms, altering scent and color of blooms. The blooms of the Noisette Roses are mostly

pale to dark pink, yellows, and whites. Bush size varies from small, 3 feet to 6 feet, and climbers, 10 to 15 feet. The scent of the Noisette Rose is very sweet with a hint of spice. The Blush Noisette rose blooms in such large clusters on one stem. That one stem is often a vase of roses. The most endearing values of old roses are their garden virtues, delightful fragrance, resistance to pest and disease and have diversity of form which makes them useful landscape plants. They can embellish the architecture of a fence or home, blend with perennials, annuals, herbs, bulbs and shrubs. When not in bloom, old roses offer greenery and colorful hips. Rose hips (seed pods) on old roses add texture and color to the fall garden and food for the birds. A diversity of plans in a garden landscape ensures beauty over time and reduces the need for one plant to always be perfect. This is the idea of having a garden with roses, rather than a rose garden.

Many old unnamed varieties are found at old abandoned home sites, graveyards, and passed around from friend to friend. Forgotten roses are a legacy worthy of saving.

### **Lesson Summary:**

With the soft colors of pink, pale pink, yellow and white, plus the wonderful fragrance and the selection of sizes, there is a Noisette Rose for every garden.

Here are a few Noisette Roses:

Alister Stella Gray (4 feet plus), 1894, light yellow fragrant  
Champneys Pink Cluster (6 feet plus), 1811, light pink, fragrant\*\*  
Crepuscule (6 feet), 1904, apricot blend, very fragrant  
Lamarque (climber to 8 feet), white, very fragrant  
Blush Noisette (4 feet), 1817, white, fragrant\*\*  
Mary Washington (3 feet), pink, fragrant

\*\*Original Noisette Rose

Others – Noisette Roses X Old China Tea Scented Roses

### **Suggested Activities:**

Visit the Noisette Rose Garden located at the Edisto Gardens, Orangeburg, South Carolina.

Visit Roses Unlimited, 363 North Deerwood Drive, Laurens, SC 29630, 864-682-7673.  
rosesunlimiteddownroot.com

They offer a catalog of over 1200 varieties, both old and modern roses.

Propagation of Roses:

Take a 6-7 inch stem cutting, no larger than a pencil, after the rose has bloomed. Remove the spent bloom, leaving 2 leaves at the top and be sure to have 3-4 bud eyes at the bottom of the stem. At least one bud eye has to be below the soil, two or more are better. Keep your cuttings in water from the time they are removed from the mother plant till they are dipped in rooting hormone and placed in potting soil. Stick the cuttings into small pots filled with potting soil. Firm the soil around the cutting and water thoroughly. After roots are formed, cuttings may be transplanted to

larger pots. Soil and leaves should be kept moist during the rooting process. Cuttings usually root in 6-8 weeks. Place in bright light, but not direct sunlight or full sun.

**Suggested Materials:**

There are many reference books available in retail, libraries and the internet. Rose Study Classes are presented each year at Roses Unlimited in the Spring.

**Lesson Prepared by:**

Doris Taylor, SCFCL chairperson of Yards & Neighborhoods, a member of the South Carolina Rose Society, The Heritage Roses Group and the Southern Garden History Society. Also, has been an employee of Roses Unlimited for 15 years and has studied roses since 1989.

**Lesson Review by:**

Millie Davenport, Clemson Extension Consumer Horticulture Agent

**Sources/References:**

William M. (Bill) Patterson, co-owner, Roses Unlimited