



Bench Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

Friday Dec 4th 2015

MEETING

Horticultural Hall

7-30 am Hall open

11am Meeting

Bench & Christmas Hospitality

Flower Arrangement Title

“Memory Lane” – traditional designs in all classes

Class D - Shadow Box

Program

Making arrangements/craft for Christmas with
Claire Russell (See Page 4 for details)

Thursday Nov 3rd 2015

SET UP

Help Needed

Horticultural Hall

Set Up for the Friday meeting

9 – 10 AM

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF MAILING ADDRESS SEE BELOW

Officers 2015 – 2016

President

Peter J.Holmes holmes@northrock.bm

Vice President - Programs - Bench Chair

Clare Russell crussellbermuda@gmail.com

Treasurer & Past President

Marijke Peterich peterich@northroock.bm

Immediate Past President

Diana Antonition diana.antonition@gmail.com

Recording Secretary and Publicity

Post available. Please apply to help your Society

Tulo Valley Coordinator & Team Leader Book Sales

Essie Hans Past President ccd@northrock.bm

Rose Sales Coordinator

Pat Thomas lenthomas@logic.bm

Waterville Coordinator

Lisa Marshall ljmarshall@northrock.bm

Volunteers Coordinator

Alison Masters alisonmasters@northrock.bm

Past President & Member

Eugene Rayner eugenerayner@gmail.com

BRS Program for the remainder of 2015

Friday Dec 4th 2015

MEETING

Horticultural Hall

7-30 am Hall open

11am Meeting

Bench & Hospitality

Flower Arrangement Title

“Memory Lane” – traditional designs in all classes

Class D - Shadow Box

Program

Making arrangements/craft for Christmas with Claire Russell

PROGRAM for 2016Thursday Jan 7th 2016**SET UP**

Horticultural Hall
Set Up for the Friday meeting
9 – 10 AM

Friday Jan 8th 2016**MEETING**

Horticultural Hall

7-30 am Hall open

11am Meeting

Bench & Hospitality

Flower Arrangement Title

“Bold and Brave” – modern designs in all classes

Class D - Shadow Box

Program

Translating “Titles” into arrangements ---

Cindy Young

Thursday Feb 4th 2016**SET UP**

Horticultural Hall

Set Up for the Friday meeting

9 – 10 AM

Friday Feb 5th 2016**MEETING**

Horticultural Hall

7-30 am Hall open

11am Meeting

Bench & Hospitality

Flower Arrangement Title

“Hidden Treasures”

Class D - Shadow Box

Program

Speaker Mike Shoup

Thursday Mar 3rd 2016**SET UP**

Horticultural Hall

Set Up for the Friday meeting

9 – 10 AM

Friday Mar 4th 2016**MEETING**

Horticultural Hall

7-30 am Hall open

11am Meeting

Bench & Hospitality

Flower Arrangement Title

“Anything Goes” – using fresh and dried plant material – there is NO height

limit in ANY of the classes this month

Class D - Shadow Box

Program

Lyon 2015 slide show with Diana Antonition

Friday April 1st 2016**TEA MEETING**

To be held at the home of Diana Antonition in Jennings land

Rose Hat and Arrangements in a Tea Pot

Competitions.

Program

2.00pm-2.30pm - Everyone arrives and can view the rose gardens and orchid house

Receiving of yummys.

Tea Pot arrangement competition

2:30pm - Open up the refreshment table

3:00pm-4:00pm - Brief meeting (update on upcoming AGM,

AOB

Announce winners of the Tea Pot arrangements and award prizes - Fancy Hat parade/ judging and award prizes.

Thursday May 5th 2016**SET UP for AGM**

Horticultural Hall

Set Up for the Friday meeting

9 – 10 AM

Friday May 6th 2016**Annual General Meeting**

Horticultural Hall

Rose News

Secretary

The Society is looking for a new Secretary. If you are interested, please contact Peter Holmes. Come on members its not that bad being involved. This is your society.

Black Plastic Pots

Please start saving your 1, 2 and 3 gallon pots as they will be required at Tulo in the very near future. They should be cleaned and placed in a bin bag, we will advise when they can be delivered.

WFRS Regional Conference Beijing China

The World Federation of Rose Societies Regional Convention will be held in Beijing China the home of China Roses from May 18 - 14, 2016, with a Pre tour starting May 13 and a post tour May 25 - 29 **The Chinese Rose Society have offered us free registration to one member of BRS, so if you decide to go please contact Peter Holmes.**

Waterville News from Lisa

The old and large rose bush in Bed #1, Beaute Inconstante, will be removed December 7 or sometime during that week. A BRS member may like to slip this rose for the BRS March sale. A new Beaute Inconstante is already in Bed #1. This rose variety hails from Pernet-Ducher, 1892, and it has a strong tea rose scent, as well as lovely metallic scarlet-pinky-coppery coloured blooms with streaks of yellow.

Bermuda's Anna Olivier needs pruning and I would like to tackle this job on Saturday, November 28. I can hold off doing this if someone would like to take slips from this rose.

The Waterville roses are blooming well and there may be other rose bushes that could be slipped. Any specific rose requests for the sale? We are in the process of pruning the Waterville rose bushes.



Part of the 20 Entry Bench at our November Meeting

Bermuda Rose Society 4th December Meeting**MAKE A FESTIVE ARRANGEMENT TO TAKE HOME****WHILE YOU ENJOY CHRISTMAS CHEER****This is a hands on, fun, “have-a-go” event.**

There is no demonstration per se; we are getting straight down to the business of arranging. There will be lots of help if you want it, encouragement if you need it, plenty of applause for your finished masterpiece and LOTS of Christmas Cheer!

BRS will supply two types of container (or bring your own if you prefer):

- 1. O’Dapter – small green plastic ring containers that plug into the space where the candle goes on a candlestick. The container can hold the candle**
- 2. Low rectangular green plastic container – gives you flexibility**

Oasis, tape, waste bags, water will also be provided

Members to supply Please can everyone bring something from the following list:

- Green foliage, such as pittosporum, maidenhair fern, asparagus fern and anything else that inspires you.**
- Roses (with exhibitors' permission, we could use also use bench exhibits)**
- Other complementary flowers**
- Any Christmas decorations or accessories that you may wish to include**
- Candlestick/s if you think you might do an O’dapter arrangement**
- Candle if required**

Please bring your own secateurs and waste bag.

Guess the Rose Competition



If you think you know what the rose above is, please email your bench team.
In our Nov 6th newsletter (below) the rose was Talbot Rose correctly guessed by

Lee Davidson

Thank you those who responded as well.

Please keep trying its all about getting to know your roses!



“ADVENTURES IN THE LAND OF WINE AND ROSES”

Another ramble from Gerry Ardis

On the second day of our pre-convention tour we had to be up bright and early for our visit to the Abby Rose Gardens of Valsaints at Simiane La Rotonde, a couple of hours bus ride out of Avignon. Our hotel put on a good buffet breakfast at 6.30am to ensure we were on the road as early as possible.

This rose garden of Valsaints is literally perched on top of a rocky outcrop overlooking a pristine valley. In years gone by there had been a pre-Roman hilltop settlement and a Christian monastery and abbey on the site at an elevation of almost two thousand feet. The garden is surrounded by the regional Park Reserve of the Luberon, the Plateau of Albion and the Pays of Forcalquier. This dry area specializes in olive tree cultivation and lavender growing; however, it also has this amazing rose garden perched on the plateau literally at the top of a rocky hill. Over the years, since the French Revolution, the ancient abbey had fallen into ruins when in 1996 a young gardener, Jean-Yves Meigen, with a group of dedicated volunteers, undertook the transformation of the dry stone ruined terraces of the ancient abbey into a rose garden with a large selection of aromatic plants. Over the years some five hundred varieties of old roses were introduced, similar to the roses we grow in Bermuda.



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In building and planting the rose garden Jean-Yves, and his team, had to overcome a lot of challenges because the weather, the soil and the location were not particularly conducive for growing roses where the summers are dry and hot and winters very harsh. The organic cultivation methods used had to be appropriate for the climate and the terrain because no chemicals, of any description, were used in the garden. Everything was organic and the soil for the beds had to be prepared from scratch and consisted of a mixture of the sparse supply of local soil combined with forty tons of peat moss and a large amount of home produced organic compost. The garden includes wild companion plants of the area along with those plants most suited to the climate and the location of the garden. In addition, to making the rose beds, renovating the old terraces and making the soil, there had to be a great deal of planning for wind breaks because this area of France is notorious for the winds, especially

during the winter months. The wind known as the Mistral blow out of the north for days on end and at an elevation of 2000 feet it can reach speeds of forty knots and above –reminds me of St. David’s in January, February and March. All the roses in the garden were produced from slips on their own roots, just as we do in Bermuda.

Over the years Jean-Yves Meigan not only built the amazing rose garden but he and his team renovated and restored the ancient abbey church and also have plans to renovate the monks residence next to the church in the next few years. I could have thought of a better location for a rose garden instead of a rocky outcrop at an altitude of 2000 feet on top of a mountain with very little soil and a harsh dry climate with little rain; however, the result of all this work is a really magnificent garden in an unusual, but spectacular location, with a mass of beautiful roses in full bloom.



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After lunch we were off again traveling through the regional park reserve of the Luberon and across the high Plateau of Albion. All the way it was really beautiful countryside again covered with fruit orchards, lavender fields and vineyards with glimpses of medieval castles and seventeenth and eighteenth century chateaus. Our lady guide pointed out Mount Ventoux known as the “Giant of Provence” and told us that this area is quite high and considered a medium-altitude mountain range in France with heights up to four and a half thousand feet. She also mentioned that this particular area has a real diversity of climates where Mediterranean, Continental and Oceanic climates alternate and compete which allowed farmers to grow a wide diversity of crops. As we crossed the Plateau of the Albion our lady guide pointed out a nuclear power station and the French military installation where the French nuclear deterrent had been developed.



After quite a long journey we arrived at “Bourg Argental” a village in the heart of “Pays du Plat”, another regional park where about fifty thousand people live in villages in the actual park area. We were in one of the villages “Bourg Argental” to visit the garden and nursery of Dominique Croix and husband, Jacques Ranchon. This nursery and garden goes back a long way and was designated an Outstanding Garden of France (Garden of Excellence) in 2010.

The nursery and garden started in 1819 with a collection of conifers that did well because of the elevation, climate and soil of the area round “Bourg Argental”. By 1835 the nursery had an area of eight hectares and had developed large collections of conifers, roses, azaleas, kalmia, wisteria, magnolias and rhododendrons along with many trees. At that time by order of the then King of France Louis –Phillippe 1 the nursery was commissioned to reforest parts of the local region.

On our arrival our hosts, Dominique and Jacques, along with Dominique’s parents, had put

on an excellent reception for us in a large tent decorated with masses of roses and other plants from the gardens and nursery. The reception consisted of very tasty finger food and a good selection of wine and soft drinks.



After the mandatory speeches from Jacques Ranchon and the local town dignitaries, we were taken on an excellent tour of the gardens and nursery in two groups

headed by Dominique and Jacques. Jacques led our group and had a novel way of making himself heard. A young man had a speaker connected to a car battery which he transported around in a wheelbarrow staying close to Jacques who had the microphone.



Cont

While Jacques addressed us in French we were able to understand what he was saying because he was accompanied by excellent lady interpreter who had a very nice Scottish accent. The garden itself has some very old and rare trees and was separated into different groves to depict the plant heritage of the garden itself over the years and the plants of the "Pays du Pilat".

These different groves were very attractive and effectively decorated with arches, statues and fountains to reflect the plants that were growing.

The rose garden itself has over 450 varieties of botanical and old roses.



Paul Cross took over the garden and nursery in 1959 and in 1999 his daughter Dominique succeeded her father as head of the nursery. Dominique has been breeding roses since she was a child and is now a well-known and highly respected rose breeder in France and recently created, with the permission of the Vatican, a rose in honour of Pope Francis.



After a long drive it was dark when we arrived back at our hotel in Lyon. I think we were all very tired after our tour and the long journey from Avignon to Lyon. It seemed a long time since we left Avignon in the early morning and I for one was very happy to "hit the sack".

To be continued next month

Minutes of the Monthly General Meeting Botanical Gardens, Horticultural Hall

Friday, 6th November, 2015 at 11:00a

The Vice President, Clare Russell welcomed members and guests: Rachael Antonition, Marjorie Wilson and Linda O'Shea

Apologies were received from President Peter Holmes, Felicity Holmes, Eugene Rayner, Miranda Fountain and Marijke Peterich

Minutes of the 2nd October were approved by: Lee Davidson Seconded by: Susan Swift

Clare informed the members that there had been a change to today's presentation, which will now be given by Rachael Antonition on the 2015 Chelsea Flower Show. Rachael has recently returned from the UK to start her own Garden Design Consultancy business, holding a BA in Landscape Architecture from Kingston University and has just completed her post graduate Diploma in Garden Design from the London College of Garden Design. She is a 4 time recipient of the BGC Scholarship and a recipient of the Peter Leitner Scholarship. She participated in the concept, design, construction and realization of the RHS Chelsea Garden Singapore exhibit and gave a presentation of the 2015 show and the many gardens that were on display.

Clare read out a thank you e-mail from Heydon Trust (Rev. Moore), thanking Diana Antonition for the lovely rose arrangements she did for their re-dedication service and the support of the BRS over the years. She also read out a thank you letter from Mrs. Ferguson for the rose arrangements done at Government House for the arrival of Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Gloucester.

Clare informed the members that the December Christmas Cheer meeting presentation will be a hands-on workshop, where members will make their own Christmas arrangement; everyone can get involved and participate.

Treasurer's Report: As Marijke was off Island, there was no Treasurer's Report.

Tulo Valley Report: Essie informed the membership that the fans were in, the grounds have been done, the exhaust was in. She gave further details on the water issue at Tulo, quote pending from Watlington Water Works. In the New Year, will be looking for volunteers to help man Tulo.

Waterville Report: No report was given on Waterville. Volunteers are still needed to help prune and weed the gardens.

A.O.B.

Clare on behalf of the BRS Executive and members, extended condolences to Susan Swift on the passing of her mother past member Peggy Wingood and read a note from the original 1984 rose book that mentioned Peggy.

Diana A. reminded members of the upcoming Garden Club open house at 'Norwood' (Saturday, 21st November, 10:00am-3:00pm). Volunteers were still needed to act as Hostess's from 9:30am-3:30pm and still needed Flower arrangers, as the BRS was decorating the cottage. A volunteers sign-up sheet and flower arrangers sign-up sheets was being passed around.

Members were reminded of the St. Mary's Church (Warwick) Fair, also on Saturday, 21st November, from 10:00am-4:00pm.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed.

Rachael then gave her slide presentation on the 2015 Chelsea Flower Show.

Rachael gave a talk on the ideas, mechanics and building of the show gardens at the 2015 Chelsea Flower Show, specifically the Singapore garden.

Minutes by PP Diana Antonition

**Bench Results: Cut Rose Report:
Limited to 20 exhibits per exhibitor.**

Judges: Nancy Wadson, Jennie Watlington

Apprentice Judges: Kelly Sousa

Recording: Diana Hindness, Kelly Sousa

Ribbons: Jermaine Wilson

Stewards: Judy Godfrey, Calvin Bridgewater, Alison Masters, Katie Fetigan, Jermaine Wilson, James Outerbridge

Number of Exhibits: 114

Number of Exhibitors: 9

Best in Show: Fabvier by Clare Russell

Cut Roses Total Points:

First:	Diana Antonition	235
Second:	Millicent Ardis	170
Third	Molly White	145

As this was a 20 entry limit and no points were awarded, bottles of wine were presented to 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

Bench Results: Flower Arrangement Report:

Title: Counter balance

Flower Arrangement Judges: Susan Conyers and Cindy Young of The Garden Club of Bermuda

Number of Exhibits: 6

Number of Exhibitors: 3

Class A

First:	Not awarded
Second:	Mingo Cook
Third:	Molly White

Class B

First:	Molly White
Second:	Mingo Cook

Class C - no entries

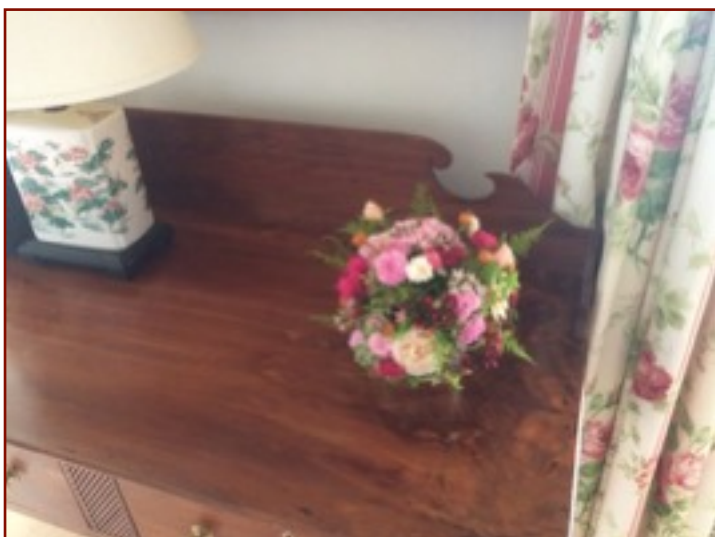
D Shadow Box:

First:	Mingo Cooke
Second:	Diana Hindess

Overall Flower Arrangement Points:

First:	Mingo Cooke	35 points
Second:	Molly White	20 points
Third:	Diana Hindess	10 points

Arrangements by BRS members for the Duchess of Gloucester's visit to Bermuda in her suite at Government House



Calendar

Friday Dec 4th 2015

MEETING

Horticultural Hall

7-30 am Hall open

11am Meeting

Bench & Hospitality

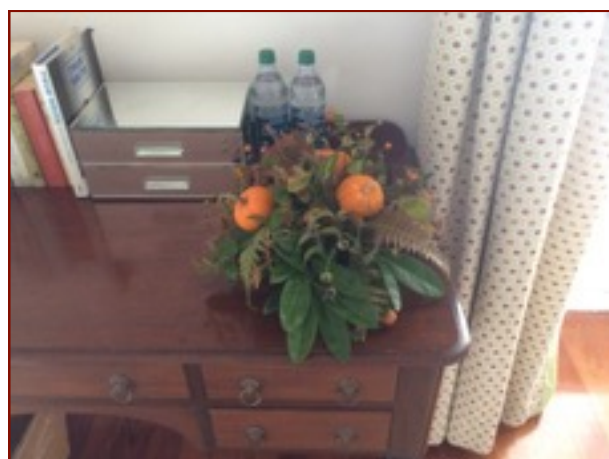
Flower Arrangement Title

“Memory Lane” – traditional designs in all classes

Class D - Shadow Box

Program

Making arrangements/craft for Christmas with Claire Russell



Thank you Diana Hindess, Mingo Cook, Marijke Peterich & Felicity Holmes