

*'Incredible'*  
Photo by Stephen Hoy

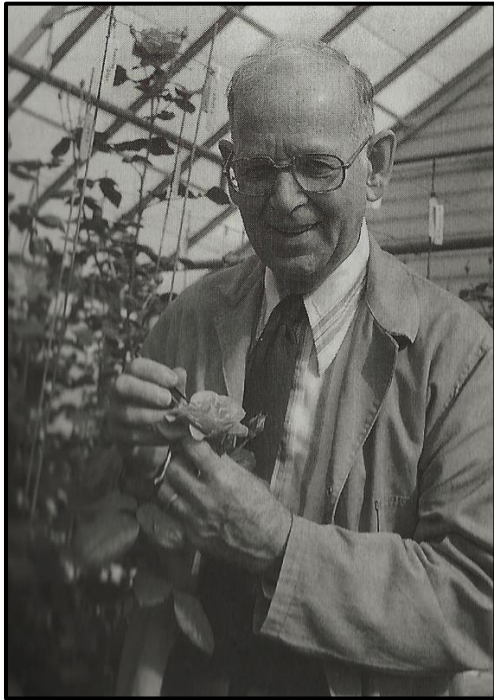
# Singularly Beautiful Roses

A Publication Dedicated to Single,  
Nearly Single, and Semi-Double Flowered Roses  
Volume 13, Issue 2  
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## Contents

Buck the Trend! .....	2
Tottering By Gently .....	8
From the Editor .....	10
Sources & Contact Information .....	10

## Buck the Trend!



**Dr. Griffith Buck**

Semipalatinsk, Siberia, and suggested he use it to add cold tolerance and repeat flowering to his hybrids. Resulting seedlings took several years to bloom and even longer to demonstrate mature horticultural traits. After corresponding with Wilhelm Kordes II about this issue, Kordes sent Buck one of his own sweetbriar hybrids, ‘Josef Rothmund,’ suggesting it would contribute earlier juvenile flowering.

With a goal of producing garden roses that would retain their foliage long into the growing season and survive Iowa’s harsh winters (to -20°F/-29°C), over one-hundred Buck hybrids were bred and named. Because he often gave them away to friends many failed to gain wide U.S. distribution. After his death a concerted effort was made by the Buck family to get them into commerce and many gained wider recognition. Indeed, with the 21<sup>st</sup> century interest in “lower input” rose gardening, many have become deservedly more popular. Although the majority have beautifully double blooms, there is a fascinating group with single, nearly single, or semi-double flowers that deserve wider recognition!

As seedlings of *R. laxa* x ‘Josef Rothmund’ were raised, one pink-flowered hybrid was used to proceed. It was crossed with a number of modern roses, and circa 1962, several hybrids were thought worthy of further consideration: ‘Andante,’ ‘Applejack,’ ‘Cantabile,’ and ‘Pizzicato.’

Of these, ‘Applejack’ received special attention. Its blooms are medium to light pink with red stippling that is more pronounced early in the growing season. ‘Applejack’s’ petal count is generally listed as ten to fifteen, but during the heat of summer that number often drops. The following quote vividly describes exactly what it was about this rose that really caught Dr. Buck’s attention; “I was out in the garden one humid summer

The name Dr. Griffith J. Buck (1915–1991) is likely familiar to many. His connection to roses began when as a young man he was encouraged by his Spanish teacher to find and correspond with a “pen pal” from Spain. Having received no replies after several attempts, he wrote to Spanish rose nurseryman Pedro Dot. A reply was forthcoming with enthusiastic information on rose growing and hybridizing. And so a dream was born as well as an enduring relationship with the Dot family. The lovely red blend Hybrid Tea ‘El Catalá’ was named for Pedro Dot in honor of his Catalonian heritage, and Spanish names were given to several other introductions.

After service in the U.S. Army during WWII, Buck enrolled at Iowa State College and eventually earned B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in horticulture and microbiology. During this phase of his education he became involved in a rose understock breeding program at the college (in cooperation with the American Rose Society) designed to test root stock/cultivar compatibility and to create new understocks that would enhance winter hardiness. He began sharing the goals of the program with ARS members in 1951 (see 1951 *American Rose Annual*, 101).

Several individuals made early contributions to the garden roses Dr. Buck would eventually create. Dr. Frank Skinner shared a form of *R. laxa* raised by Dr. Niels Hansen from seed collected in



**‘El Catalá’**

Photo courtesy of Moyesii’s Garden



'Applejack'  
Photo by Stephen Hoy

Applejack is considered "America's Native Spirit." The Laird family began distilling it in 1678 in Monmouth, NJ. It was a drink popular with several US presidents including George Washington. Early nicknames for the spirit were: Jersey Lightning, Corpse Revivor, Essence of Lockjaw, and Horn of Gunpowder!



Closeup of stippling



morning. It was perfect weather for the release of foliage fragrance from sweetbriar roses. I noticed that the foliage of one particular seedling was very apple scented. It just so happened that this seedling was also in full bloom at the time and the combination of the clove scent of the flowers and apple scent of the foliage proved too much for me. It was so overwhelming that it drove me out of the garden." Because of its apple-scented foliage Dr. Buck originally wanted to name it "Summer Pippin" after a popular heirloom apple variety, but that name was considered unacceptable. Via one of its descendants, 'Carefree Beauty,' it can be found in a number of his introductions as well as those of other breeders.

Several varieties were released in 1975. 'Prairie Flower,' my favorite Buck rose, has had a spot in my garden since the mid-80's. In 1988 I attended a national rose show at the ARS headquarters in Shreveport, Louisiana. At a dinner I sat with a friend, and as the meal progressed, I discovered I was also sitting beside . . . Dr. Buck. He was surprised to find someone that appreciated this single-flowered introduction. Its five to seven petals are a rich rose in color with a prominent white eye. It has also been quite healthy for me. 'Prairie Flower' has 'New Dawn,' 'Queen Elizabeth,' and 'Suzanne' in its genetic background. 'Suzanne,' a cross of *R. laxa* x *R. spinosissima* made by Dr. Frank Skinner, contributed a somewhat glaucous tint to 'Prairie Flower's foliage,' which I have found is readily passed along to offspring (see photo on next page).

'Prairie Flower' - Photo by Stephen Hoy

‘Summer Wind,’ has ‘Applejack’ as a pollen parent and has inherited several of its traits - fragrance and black spot tolerance. Foliage fragrance has been noted by some under the right conditions. Its blooms have roughly seven to twelve petals that vary in color depending on climate. Dr. Buck described it as a shade of orange-red fading to a salmony shade of pink. In my garden the latter color is the norm. A study conducted in north-central Texas found that ‘Summer Wind’ was never infected with powdery mildew during a recent four-year trial (*Landscape Performance of Buck Roses Under Minimal-input Conditions in North-Central Texas*, <https://digitalcommons.tamuc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1001&context=ag-science-faculty-publications>). ‘Summer Wind’ has been used by a Florida friend to create several very appealing, registered hybrids (see photos at end of article).



f1 ‘Prairie Flower’ foliage on top



‘Summer Wind’ - Photo by Al Whitcomb

Lastly, is ‘Maytime.’ This single-flowered rose resulted from a cross of the yellow Brownell climber ‘Elegance’ and the vigorous pink ‘Prairie Princess,’ a Buck rose released in the late 60’s. The blooms of ‘Maytime’ are various shades of pink with a pale yellow center giving the overall impression of apricot. It was reported by California rose breeder Dr. Walter Lammerts to be immune to powdery mildew. The rose I have in my garden labeled ‘Maytime’ does not appear to match the color description and raises concerns that what is in commerce at present may be mislabeled. The cultivar that I have (see below) produced a red-flowered sport in 1982 (in the gardens of Roses Unlimited) that was registered and named ‘Brave Patriot.’

‘Maytime’ - Photo by Ingrid Wapelfhorst



?‘Maytime’ - Photo by Stephen Hoy





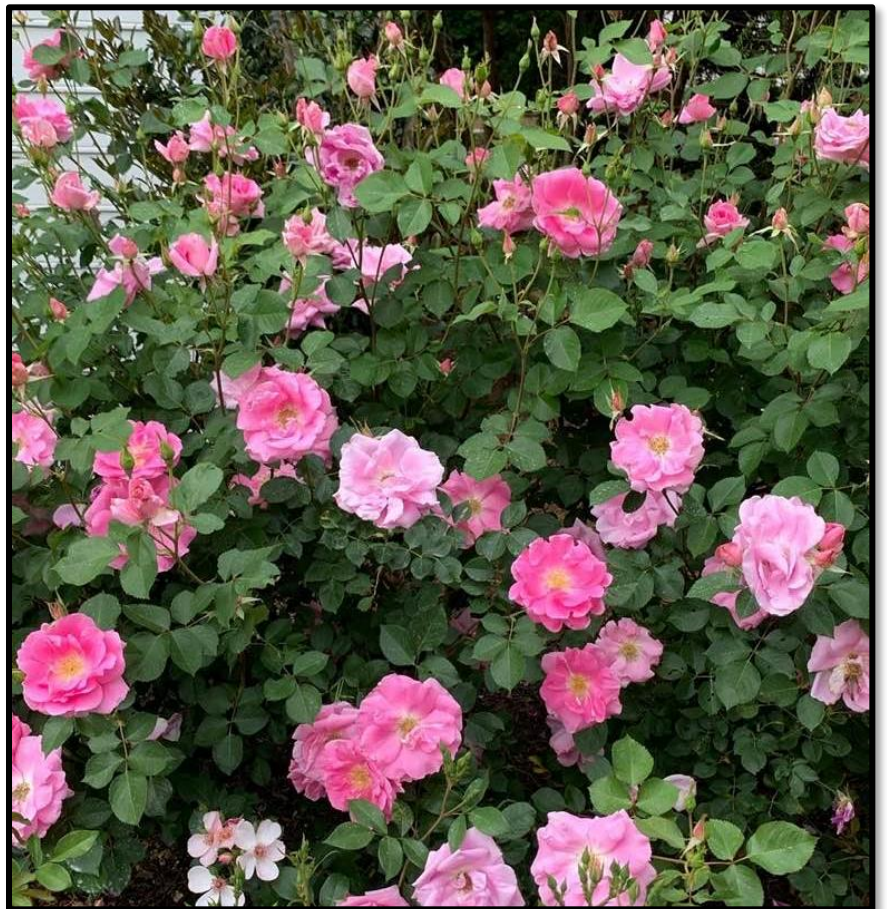
Left:  
'Brave Patriot'  
Photo  
Stephen Hoy



Right:  
'Sevilliana'  
Photo  
Stephen Hoy

In 1976, 'Sevilliana' was one of two sister seedlings released having relatively complex parentages. Its semi-double flowers are a soft flamingo pink with rose-red stippling inherited from 'Applejack' and a light fragrance. Dr. Buck used it to create several more varieties with pronounced stippling: 'Gee Whiz,' 'Incredible,' 'Spanish Rhapsody, and 'Mountain Music.' Its name was chosen to celebrate the energetic, flamenco style of music and dancing of the Spanish city of Seville. Without black spot prevention this variety has struggled in my garden.

'Carefree Beauty,' bred in the late 60's but released in 1977, is Dr. Buck's most well-known rose. 'Applejack,' 'Queen Elizabeth,' and 'Prairie Princess' figure in its genetic make-up. Its large, rich pink flowers have roughly fifteen petals and appear continuously throughout the growing season. Bred for the cold of Iowa, 'Carefree Beauty' is also known to grow very well in hot climates, both humid and dry. It was among the first group of roses to receive the Earth-Kind designation, a U.S. program established to introduce rose growers to varieties that demonstrate outstanding landscape performance. Because of its great qualities it has been used by hybridizers all over the globe as attested by HMF's list of 411 descendants (including Knock Out). For a brief period it masqueraded as the found rose "Katy Road Pink," having been discovered growing unattended in Katy, Texas. A notable comment by blogger Dee Nash deserves mention; "She is a perfect lady, a homesteader in the world of roses."



'Carefree Beauty' - Photo by Christopher Huffer



*'Bucred' - Photo by Mike Gleason*

A third cultivar, 'Piccolo Pete,' was also released in 1984. It also has 'Carefree Beauty' as its seed parent, but a complex cross of 'Peace,' 'Dornröschen,' and Buck's 'Country Music' provided the pollen. Its ten to fifteen petals are rose-red in color and nicely fragrant. 'Piccolo Pete,' like many of the Buck roses blooms in ready-made bouquets. I wonder if the song "Piccolo Pete," rereleased and popularized by the Andrews' Sisters during WWII was the inspiration for the name?

Three last varieties were part of a collection of roses that was never commercially released by Dr. Buck during his lifetime. His wife and daughter, with the help of Chamblee's Nursery, got them into the hands of rose growers.



*'Prairie Clogger' - Photo by Heirloom Roses*

'Butterfly Magic' is salmon-pink with a distinct yellow center. It has ten or so petals and its blooms are often four inches in diameter. 'Cinderella's Song' has beautiful blooms on a plant that has not handled disease pressure well here. The blooms are large, with seven to ten petals with pink edges surrounding a creamy yellow-white center. Resembling a little bonfire, a vivid red halo surrounds the base of the stamens and pistils. Although its parentage was never released, 'Peace' was a rose used by Dr. Buck and perhaps figures in this variety's background. The third variety, 'Cinnamon Spice,' originally went by the study name 'Prairie Symphony.' It is a cross of 'Carefree Beauty' and the red and yellow McGredy Hybrid Tea 'Piccadilly.' Its petals are heavily stippled with red on a base of rose-red that lightens to rose-pink as



*'Piccolo Pete' - Photo by Dan Turner*

the bloom ages. My own-root plant has taken a while to get going but I love the color and the stippling. It would also benefit from more black spot prevention.

Griffith Buck commented, "In reflecting back on my achievements in rose breeding, I am quite satisfied. The only thing that would make me happier is that more people would learn how easy they are to grow." Although there are a host of great garden varieties bred by Dr. Buck to choose from, several of these "singularly beautiful roses" might enhance your garden quite nicely!



*'Butterfly Magic'*



*'Cinderella's Song'*

*Photos by Stephen Hoy*

*'Cinnamon Spice'*

*Stippled seedling by David Zlesak  
Out of 'Carefree Beauty'*





*'Debbie's Delight'*

hybrids out of 'Summer Wind' bred by Al Whitcomb

Photos by Stephen Hoy



*'Miss Grace'*



*'Naga Belle'* - Photo by Stephen Hoy

An outstanding variety out of 'Carefree Beauty' bred by Viru Viraraghavan



## Tottering-By-Gently

“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.”

William Shakespeare

For over sixty years David C. H. Austin and David Austin Roses has been introducing delightful roses with the form and fragrance of the old garden roses, but with the repeat flowering habit of modern roses. Often, the names of his roses are as intriguing as the roses themselves.

David Austin’s love of the people, history, lore, and literature of his native land is wonderfully reflected in the names he chose for his rose introductions. Abraham Darby, ironmaster and inventor, was a founding figure in the Industrial Revolution. ‘Belle Story’ was named for one of first females to enlist in the Royal Navy’s Nursing Service.

Characters from Chaucer (‘Wife of Bath,’ ‘The Squire,’ ‘The Pilgrim,’ and many more) and Shakespeare (‘Prospero,’ ‘Othello,’ ‘Heavenly Rosalind,’ ‘Desdemona,’ etc.) appear prominently. ‘Scarborough Fair,’ a folk tune thought to have originated in the England of the Middle Ages remains popular (Simon & Garfunkel!). Authors Christopher Marlowe, Sir Walter Scott, Emily Brontë, and Roald Dahl, as well as fictional literary figures, Jude the Obscure (from a novel by Thomas Hardy), and Lady of Shallot (from a poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson) are celebrated. Composers Benjamin Britten and Sir Edward Elgar have an important place in the world of music as well as the rose garden. Darcy Bussell is a highly acclaimed English ballerina. Rosarians Gertrude Jekyll, Graham Thomas, and Constance Spry, all advocates and collectors of the old garden roses, receive their due. The Alnwick Castle, Glamis Castle, Munstead Wood, Kew Gardens and the roses named after each bring to mind the bounty of gardens overflowing with color and fragrance.



Three generations of Austin's  
Richard (grandson), David, & David (son)



As David Austin was considering which roses to eventually introduce in 2018, he decided to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a weekly cartoon first published in *Country Life* magazine in 1993. Created by cartoonist, artist, and sculptor Annie Tempest, the comic strip, *Tottering By Gently*, features the everyday life of Dicky and Daffy Tottering and their family at Tottering Hall. The comic, based loosely on Annie’s memories of growing up on her family’s 3,000 acre Broughton Hall estate, is a humorous, tongue-in-cheek commentary on generational differences and on the differing perspectives of



men and women on a variety of subjects, including sports, dieting, ageing, gardening, fashion, food, and social norms.

The rose, 'Tottering-By-Gently,' was introduced at the Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower Show in 2018 (along with 'Emily Brontë' and 'Mill On The Floss'). Its single yellow flowers are somewhat darker at the base of the petals and are accented by bright yellow stamens. As the plant matures expect to see fairly continuous bloom. The catalog suggests some may detect a light musk scent in its simple flowers, but apparently I am fragrance-impaired. It makes a densely foliated bush with dark green foliage that has done well without

any spray in my Georgia garden. Although it is self-cleaning, tolerance to black spot in high pressure regions will likely be improved by regular dead-heading. 'Tottering-By-Gently' has grown larger than other yellow favorites 'Lemon Fizz,' 'Carefree Sunshine,' and 'Limoncello' in my garden and it produces a nice crop of orange-red hips if allowed. Plant this variety and you may discover gold in your garden!



*Upper Right: 'Tottering-By-Gently'  
Photo courtesy David Austin Roses*

*Above and Below Right: 'Tottering-By-Gently,' Photos by Stephen Hoy*

## From the Editor

I want to talk about rose friends. This year began with several opportunities to get together with familiar faces and make new acquaintances. Having been invited to speak to the Yankee District of the American Rose Society, I was reminded that people of diverse regional, economic, educational, and ethnic backgrounds can quickly find common ground when the subject is centered on the queen of flowers and her culture.

I've also discovered that welcome relationships can be formed across international boundaries with modern technology. So many people have been eager to share information, ideas, photos, and encouragement. Thank you to correspondents in Canada, Europe, South America, India, Australia, and New Zealand!

Thankfully, live performances have resumed in our area. I have had the opportunity to play several concerts and am celebrating fifty-seven years of playing the trombone this summer! Which brings to mind the composers mentioned in the 'Tottering-By-Gently' article. As a high school student I attended a performance of Benjamin Britten's one-act opera *Noye's Fludde*. Noah was played by my high school chorus teacher and I was mesmerized by the music, drama, and sets. It and many other musical moments played a big role in my choice to pursue music as an avocation. And then there is Elgar. In America every person that has attended a graduation has heard some version of March No. 1 from his set of *Pomp and Circumstance Military Marches*.

Lastly, the appearance of 'Tottering-By-Gently' on the market brought back memories of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Hybrid Tea, 'Cecil.' I grew it for a number of years and considered it a real treasure, perhaps because of its rarity. It did not grow well as an own-root plant, unfortunately. 'Tottering-By-Gently' more than adequately fills the hole left by 'Cecil's disappearance from commerce. And I have one open-pollinated seedling coming along quite nicely!

## Sources and Contact Information

Sources for Buck roses include:

Angel Gardens; [www.angelgardens.com](http://www.angelgardens.com)

Antique Rose Emporium; [www.antiqueroseemporium.com](http://www.antiqueroseemporium.com)

Heirloom Roses; [www.heirloomroses.com](http://www.heirloomroses.com)

High Country Roses; [www.highcountryroses.com](http://www.highcountryroses.com)

Hummingbird Roses; [www.hummingbirdroses.com](http://www.hummingbirdroses.com)

Rogue Valley Roses; [www.roguevalleyroses.com](http://www.roguevalleyroses.com)

Rosarium Garden Center (formerly Northland Rosarium); [www.northlandrosarium.com](http://www.northlandrosarium.com)

Roses Unlimited; [www.rosesunlimitedsc.com](http://www.rosesunlimitedsc.com)

'Tottering-By-Gently' – David Austin Roses; [www.davidaustinroses.com](http://www.davidaustinroses.com)

## Singularly Beautiful Roses

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