



CEMETERY ROSE

*Old City Cemetery Historic Rose Garden
Preserving California's Heritage Roses*



Volume 5, Issue 2
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New Structures at the Rose Garden *by Anita Clevenger*

The Historic Rose garden is the proud recipient of two new arbors made of historic iron fencing. This project was the result of collaboration by the Cemetery's staff, Victor Esparza and Curtis Clarke, other city employees, and members of the Sheriff's Work Detail.

We already had a similar arbor supporting 'Reve d'Or' (433SE), and were eager to replace a lightweight metal arbor that collapsed under the weight of 'Cl. Mlle. Cecille Brunner' (519W), leaving its plot a weedy, unmanageable mess. The city also installed another structure along Cypress Ave to support 'Ellen Poulsen' (490SE). This rose is sup-

posed to grow only a few feet tall, but ours is definitely a climber (making us wonder about its identification!). We are choosing some additional sites to install at least two more of these elegant, strong structures.

Many of the Historic Rose Garden roses are climbers or fountain-shaped plants that quickly overtake a cemetery plot. We've been working hard to let them grow as close as possible to their natural size and shape, while keeping them from blocking grave markers and paths. While we are delighted with these new structures, additional low-cost, long-lasting and attractive (or unobtrusive) supports are needed.

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**Cemetery Rose
Garden
Activities and
Dates**

**January 28
Pruning Party**

**April 15
Open Garden**

Pruning Party Planned

We will be inviting people to join us at a pruning party on Saturday, January 28th. Who will be invited to be part of this exclusive group? Anyone we know who is familiar with the care of old roses. The cemetery is surprisingly beautiful and peaceful in the winter, with gleaming hips visible and always at least a few roses in bloom.

We are planning to get some work done that we rarely have time to do,

such as defoliating disease-prone Hybrid Perpetuals, cleaning out and shaping some of the neglected polyanthas, and carefully reducing the size of a few of our huge tea roses.

We plan to work from 10 am to 2 pm, and will provide a hot lunch, beverages and good company. If you want to be sure to receive an invitation, call Anita Clevenger at 455-7561, or email her at anitac@surewest.net.

S**t Happens

editorial



The Gardener's Dictionary * has a simple mnemonic for working with manure as garden fertilizer and I think that it deserves serious consideration by all gardeners.

We tend to find and use a variety of commercial products when many natural ones will be just as beneficial if we but took the time to learn the simple mnemonic, 3-2-5.

Just like remembering the NPK formula for various manufactured fertilizers (ratio of nitrogen to phosphorus to potassium), this is a simple way to garden with s**t.

3 refers to the three basic types: messy, stinky and messy/stinky. Simple!

2 refers to the two sizes they are available in, tidbit (4 oz packet) and blammo (220 pound sack).

Finally, **5** refers to the five methods of application: too much, too little, too early, too late and wrong kind.

What could be simpler? I hope that everyone who reads this brief editorial goes out and finds the best manure for the job.

Just remember, at this time of year it is messy/stinky, way too much and way too early!

***Gardening: A Gardener's Dictionary**, by Henry Beard and Roy McKie, 1982

Contributions, complaints, greetings:
verlaine@inreach.com or call me at 685-6634.
Judy Eitzen

Rose Rustling Rocks!

by Anita Clevenger

What do North Bloomfield, Placerville Union Cemetery, and El Dorado cemetery have in common? How about the Altaville (in San Andreas) Catholic and Protestant cemeteries?

All of them are "rose rustling" meccas, locations where the rosarians have found old roses, propagated them, and passed them along to be grown and preserved in private and public collections. In some cases, rosarians have identified the class and variety of these roses. Others have still not been identified, and may never be.

A dozen members of Gold Coast Heritage Rose Group traveled through the Gold Country Oct 28-30 to see what roses remain at these and other historic sites. Rosarians came from as far south as Camarillo, and north as Mendocino. Some people came to look for specific

roses. Jill Perry, curator of the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden, wanted to replace approximately thirty found roses that originated in these towns and cemeteries and had been lost to the SJHRG collection.

Other rosarians were caught up in the thrill of the chase, taking cuttings of unknown teas, Hybrid Perpetuals or china roses in the hopes that at least one of them would grow to be a treasure. Some were just along for the ride, taking photos, learning, and observing how roses grow in these cemeteries.

I was thrilled to see the original locations of some of our favorite Sacramento cemetery roses. "Zeisz White," a noisette, still surrounds Jacob Zeisz's intriguing headstone in Placerville. "Sawyer Plot Tea" climbs up a tree in El Dorado Cemetery. 'Autumn Damask' continues to grow in North San

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"Zeisz White" a noisette, still surrounds Jacob Zeisz's intriguing headstone in Placerville...

Rose Planting in the Cemetery

by *Barbara Oliva*

In October, we planted several roses in the Cemetery. These had been slowly growing off-site to a size that should survive when committed to the ground.

We chose early fall because, though the sun is lower, the soil remains somewhat warm and the shorter day is moving the plant toward winter dormancy. The roots have a chance to develop, while top growth isn't likely to take off until next spring.

They've had a long road before coming to this point. Most were taken as cuttings months or even years ago; rooted and held in small pots until large enough to move up to gallon pots from which they'll be planted.

They've also come a long way from the mother plants. The alba rose listed as 'White Rose of York', was received as a rooted sucker from a large plant. It had traveled from New York, crossed the prairies in a wagon train to Cherry Creek, Nevada, then to Roseville, where it is growing on the


property of the mother-in-law of the woman who donated it.

"Standiford Moss" was collected in El Dorado Cemetery in 2002; when Australian visitor Pat Toolan toured the Gold Country. This is a study name that may change as we sort out different study names assigned to found roses, and agree on one. The mother plant is a short growing colonizer, once-blooming with a dark rose pink blossom.

"Lt Pink Semi Double" is either a Tea or early Hybrid Tea from the same collecting trip in '02; as is "Cream/Pink T/HT".

'Inermis Morlettii' is one of the very rare roses donated for the Heritage Rose Foundation sale. I acquired it and donated it to the rose garden because the only US source for it is Tanglewood Farms in Fort Bragg and thus uncommon enough to deserve a preservation space in our collection. Inermis means not armed; i.e., no prickles. It is classified as a

(Continued on page 5)



Study Names are shown with double quote marks and represent a temporary name assigned to a found rose until its real name is learned. In some cases, a sport or seedling is an entirely new plant and the original name or heritage remains unknown.

New Structures, cont.

(Continued from page 1)

Originally, Fred Boutin led the formation of rebar arches and other supports that remain a simple, inexpensive solution. The rebar was stuck into pieces of conduit and tied together with wire. Over a decade later, a few have collapsed from the weight of the huge noisettes and ramblers that grew to blanket them, but most are still doing their job.

Tripods made of wooden posts work well for some of the limber roses, but they are quickly outgrown. We built a metal tripod out of conduit, too, to support "Like Lamarque" (441SW).

We are experimenting with using four-foot-high vinyl-coated fencing to hold back vigorous fountain-shaped roses, allowing them to arch gracefully over the top. The Seattle Rose Garden uses these cages, and finds

them relatively easy to remove when it's time to prune. Take a look at "Vina banksia" (432NE) and see what you think. We also fenced 'Fortune's Double Yellow' (526).

Oh, yes - Fortune's Double Yellow! It had grown to the size of a small house, and was the happy home of lizards, birds and insects. It enveloped some beautiful gravestones, and really wanted to take over the cemetery. With the help of Americorps volunteers, we removed most of its growth last winter. Then, we faced the inevitable, and cut the rest of its canes to stubs. Vigorous own-root roses can quickly recover from such abuse, and we are looking forward to next spring, when we think it will spectacularly bloom on this year's new growth. We hope to keep it in bounds by summer pruning, and continuing to corral it in the fencing.

Rose Rustle, cont.

(Continued from page 2)

Juan, although it has been cut back severely.

Roses are everywhere, once you learn to look for them. We noticed them along the roads, in people's yards, throughout the cemeteries, and even next to a car wash. While we discovered a few roses, more typically, old roses that had been previously recorded were no longer around or were struggling for life. When we took cuttings, we did so carefully, and made sure that we tracked the provenance for future reference.

My favorite moment was in Altaville, where Master Gardeners Bev Vierra and Lynn Storm joined us to share their knowledge of the roses that they have documented and worked to preserve.

Rose Rustler's Code

Cass Bernstein, assisted by other members of the Gold Coast chapter of the Heritage Rose Group (including our Sacramento members) is developing a code of behaviors to observe while rustling roses. Here's a sample of the work thus far:

- *Before you embark, define "historic rose" and remember the objective is preservation, not free roses.*
- *Never damage a historic rose or remove it unless it is in imminent danger of destruction. Even then, realize that removal is a trespass.*
- *Ask for permission to take cuttings...*
- *Public or private rose gardens and botanical collections are not appropriate venues ...*
- *Disinfect your pruners before collecting cutting material from each rose...*
- *Collect cuttings for propagation the first time you encounter an usual rose, regardless of time of year unless taking cuttings will damage the rose or you have no chance of successfully propagating it.*
- *Leave the rose better than you found it...*
- *Take pictures and notes. It's impossible to have too much documentation...*
- *Exercise discretion. In a group rustle, limit the amount collected...*
- *Emergency rustling kit: key chain pocketknife and water bottle. Car kit: add pruners, baggies, disinfectant, water,*

We spent time observing a graceful tea or early hybrid tea that was in full bloom in the Catholic cemetery. Every aspect of this rose was beautiful, from bush to full-blown blossom. The pointed, nodding buds opened with a lush, rather blowsy fullness, revealing light-pink petals with a darker reverse, and red stamens in the center. The more that we examined, discussed, and photographed this rose, the more we fell in love with it. It was wonderful to share this experience with knowledgeable, like-minded friends. Barbara and I brought home cuttings, and hope to grow it in the Sacramento cemetery one of these days.

Pat Rubin of the Sacramento Bee accompanied the group and wrote an article that appeared in the garden section of the Bee on December 3.

by Judy Eitzen

paper towels, and marker. Full kit: add gloves, plastic storage bin 1/3 full of water, surveyor's tape.

- *Assign the rose a study name that suggests location and class, if possible...*
- *Check property ownership rolls at the County Recorder's Office and local historical societies to determine dates of construction and find old photographs.*
- *Carefully consider the consequences of public disclosure of the exact location of a historic rose, turning it into a rose pilgrimage destination subject to vandalism...*
- *Research possible identities by growing out cuttings and comparing them to roses in large collections...*
- *...Examine all parts of the rose that assist in identification: bloom, foliage, canes, prickles, buds, stipules, stamens, and petals...*
- *Educate owners of the unique value of historic roses. Warn against pruning, weed-trimmers and Roundup and other weed-killing products.*

This is the gist of the code being developed with some changes due to space considerations. Rosarians and others interested in preserving historic plants should consider all aspects of their actions.

More information can be found at the Gold Coast Heritage Roses Group, goldcoastrose.org/

Rose Garden Maintenance Update

by Anita Clevenger

We have continued to direct members of the Sheriff's Work Detail to groom paths, spreading wood chips on them to provide safer footing and to reduce weeds. We have also been cutting back, weeding and mulching in the plots, with the assistance of several volunteer groups. The Franchise Tax Board, for its "Day of Caring," provided a total of seven hard-working volunteers who weeded, removed suckers, and deadheaded with great enthusiasm. Equally enthusiastic were three Americorps crews, who dug out several duplicate roses, making room for additional planting and reducing our maintenance needs. They also helped us reduce the size of several overgrown roses and shrubs.

We are developing a list of roses that need winter pruning and will keep a copy of this list in the mailbox. ***Volunteers, please annotate what you've done and include the date so that we may track our progress.*** Some roses only need a few old canes removed, or deadheading and light shaping. Not all of our roses need heavy winter pruning, since some are once-bloomers that are best pruned in spring after blooming, and others are in relatively good condition. It's pruning triage: take care of the roses that need the most.

New Plantings, con't.

(Continued from page 3)

Boursault; which is a small group with a controversial history. Listed as descending from a cross between *R. pendulina* and *R. chinensis*; the chromosome count tends to contradict this. Dark stems and fine, colorful foliage make this once bloomer a handsome addition to the collection.

"New Oldfield HT" is one of the original plantings from Laura Knox, who collected mostly in the east Bay Area. A few years ago it had been dug out and tossed into a pile of weeds by a worker, and was rescued; living in my pot ghetto for several years before it gathered enough growth to chance replanting.

"David Wilson" was collected by Sherri Berglund in Cherokee Cemetery. Similar to 'Hermosa', but probably not that rose.

"Groveland Cherry Red Cluster" came from a street in Groveland, CA. Also lived in my pot ghetto; and almost died this summer when it was kicked over, probably by a neighbor's cat and didn't get water for a while. It may survive. All leaves are gone; but the canes are still green. Its sad story emphasizes the problems in keeping plants alive in less than optimal conditions.

"Ruth Norwood" probably = 'Archduke Charles'. Sherri collected this from Placerville Union Cemetery. A par-

ticularly handsome, slightly taller china.

"Rosa Davey" is a white tea from Placerville Union Cemetery - the name is the name on the headstone.

"Jackson Street White Tea" Fred Boutin originally found it in Red Bluff, but his cuttings didn't strike. He described the site to Sherri Berglund, who was unsuccessful in trying to find it. However, some time later, she told a woman in the Red Bluff Rose Society about her search. The woman said that she'd gotten cuttings before the mother plant was destroyed. Now we have a start of this elusive plant.

"Moser House Musk" is another from the memorable collection trip in 2002. This site in Mokelumne Hill is a home that was occupied by the descendents of the original family until recently; with a garden full of roses, several of which are unusual. The musk has a thick trunk with the rose growing high into a tree. Though similar to "Secret Garden Musk" it appears to be just as unique.

"Gilbert Plot North San Juan, Plot 19" arrived in a great big pot after the '05 Open Garden. I believe it was donated by Cass Bernstein. Sherri Berglund of B & B Nursery said we really should have it. We'll see what comes in the spring.

New roses and their plot numbers are listed on the back of this newsletter.



OLD CITY CEMETERY
HISTORIC ROSE



CEMETERY
ROSE

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WE'RE ON THE WEB
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**New Roses
In the
Cemetery**


459 NW	'White Rose of York'
467 SE	"Standiford Moss"
475 SE	"Cream/pink T/HT"
454 EC	'Inermis Morlettii'
475 SW	"New Oldfield HT"
453 SE	"David Wilson"
476 SW	"Groveland Cherry Red Cluster"
453 NE	"Ruth Norwood"
476	"Rosa Davey"
453 SW	"Jackson St. Tea"
453 NW	"Moser House Musk"
459 SW	"Gilbert Plot"

Quick Garden Pruning Tips:

Be sure that it's really time to prune that rose. Many once-bloomers should be pruned in spring after blooming, not now when pruning may reduce their spring show.

Less, not more may be what your antique roses need. Work to take off just what you must, no more and no less. Deadheading is all some roses need, while others benefit from thinning out and some cane reduction.

Please, do not take them to stubs like modern hybrid teas. They won't thank you.



The most serious gardening I do would seem very strange to an onlooker, fit it involves hours of walking around in circles, apparently doing nothing.

Helen Dillon, Garden Artistry, 1995