



CEMETERY ROSE

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

Pruning Is The Name Of Our Game

by Judy Eitzen



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Inside this issue:

Pruning is the Name of Our Game	1
HRF in Texas	1
High and Tight	2
Editorial	2
Pruning Time?	4
2007	3

*Pruning Clinics are set for
Saturdays:*

Dec. 2 and Dec. 16 at 10 a.m.

December is here and with it our plans for Pruning Clinics and an all-out pruning effort in January and February.

Here's your chance to learn first hand from the experts all about tending and pruning antique roses (and modern shrubs, too). If you missed the December 2 clinic, it will be repeated on December 16.

Barbara Oliva, Anita Clevenger and other volunteers will demonstrate techniques for pruning teas, chinas and other antique rose types at the pruning clinics.

Practice, Practice

Each clinic will be followed by an opportunity to practice on the Cemetery's roses, working with one of the Rose Garden volunteers.

Bring your hand pruners and heavy gloves and wear your least favorite long-sleeved denim shirt or sweat shirt as some of these beauties will snag your clothes no matter how careful you are.

Rose Garden volunteers will be pruning in the garden on Saturday and Wednesday mornings beginning December 30 and continuing through January and into February. We generally stop pruning when "the sap rises" and plants begin to leaf out. It de-

(Continued on page 3)

Historic Rose Garden

Activities and Dates

*Pruning Clinic
December 16*

*Pruning every
Wednesday and Sat-
urday morning
through mid-
February*

HRF Travels to Texas

by Judy Eitzen

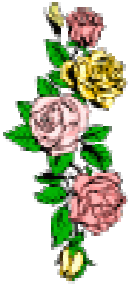
This year the Heritage Rose Foundation held its national conference in Dallas, Texas on October 10-12. Four locals from the area flew back to Texas for the event where we listened and learned, were wined and dined, visited gardens and antique rose nurseries and generally had a great time.

Two of us flew to Houston a couple of days before the conference, rented a car and drove to Brenham to visit Mike Shoup's Antique Rose Emporium

(antiqueroseemporium.com). After touring this wonderful nursery, we headed to Tyler through the beautiful Texas hill country. At Tyler, we visited Chamblee's Nursery (chambleerose.com), where we were given a private tour of the nursery including their propagation efforts.

We learned much from these visits, especially what it takes to run a successful nursery and picked up some propaga-

(Continued on page 3)



Fall and Winter Color

I don't know how many of you take time to look at your gardens in the fall, except to see what needs cleaning up and to get things ready for winter. This year, it seemed to me that fall color was exceptional. Several roses in the Historic Rose Garden showed brilliant color—Banshee's bright yellow foliage, Canina's brilliant orange hips and the dark red new growth on a number of roses caught my eye in October and November.

Also, because I drive my mom out and about, I actually looked up as we drove on several short trips and noticed that the Liquidamber, Pistache and Ginko trees were especially colorful this year. In the cemetery, we were blessed with great fall color and this brought out 24

High and Tight

A few months ago, Officer White, who is in charge of the Sheriff's Work Project crew assigned to the cemetery, made the rose garden an offer that we couldn't refuse. He had noticed that many roses were greatly overgrown, spilling over paths and blocking headstones. He would assign a small group of hand-picked crewmen, he said, and we could work with them to clean things up. Officer White likes things orderly. "High and tight," he says - just like a military haircut.

In fact, Barbara and I tried to refuse. We are very reluctant to let untrained people loose with clippers, lest roses be damaged, and diseases be spread. The Historic Rose Garden serves many functions, but closely trimmed, orderly growth has never been our objective. We've not had enough volunteers to do rigorous sum-

editorial

people for our November Fall Color tour led by Anita Clevenger. We'll have more of these tours in the spring (and of course next fall) all throughout the cemetery and I encourage everyone to attend. They are well-thought out and thoroughly enjoyable. Trained volunteers like Anita put a great deal of time and effort into these tours and it really shows.

In the meantime, I urge you to take a walk through the cemetery, our local "sculpture garden", and see winter's beauty in the form of rose hips, colorful foliage and, yes, a few blooming roses.

Contributions, complaints, greetings: verlaine@citlink.net or call me at 685-6634.

Judy Eitzen

by Anita Clevenger, Maintenance Manager

mer and winter pruning. As a result, the roses have grown huge, which is one of the best features of the cemetery. There are very few places where you can see a rose such as 'Mons. Tillier' in its full size and glory, growing as big as a Hummer. Other roses are just about as big, and we like them that way. However, Officer White was persuasive, so we decided to give it a try.

The four men delivered to us by Officer White were just about as wary of us, as we were of them. We handed out clippers and disinfectant, and began to instruct them. I picked out a couple of climbing roses that had grown into mammoth piles, and we got to work at clearing out dead wood and trimming roses back from the path.

We worked systematically, first tackling gi-

(Continued on page 5)

*"High and tight...
just like a military
haircut"
(Officer White)*



Pruning, cont.

(Continued from page 1)

depends on weather and how much pruning we can get done.

The Garden is beautiful in winter with colorful hips on many roses and winter color on the foliage. This is your chance to help out with the work and

view the results of your efforts next spring.

It's amazing how well the roses respond to our efforts. All are invited to the Pruning Clinics. If you wish to volunteer to help prune, please call Anita at 455-7561.

Rose Garden pruning begins officially on December 30 and continues through January and into February on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. Come and join in the fun!

Historic Rose Garden Planned Events for 2007

At an informal meeting recently, a number of activities were identified for 2007 in the Rose Garden, so mark your calendars. Note, too, that volunteer assistance is needed for these events; please send an email to verlaine@citlink.net to volunteer or call Judy Eitzen at 685-6634.

Jan-Feb - Pruning on Weds and Sats	May 19 - Tour—What's blooming?	Sept 15 - What's blooming?
Jan 20—Pruning Party	June 11 - Deadheading at Dusk	Nov 17 - Fall Color in the Rose Garden
April 21 Open Garden	July 9 - Deadheading at Dusk	Dec 1 - Pruning Clinic
May 14 - Deadheading at Dusk	Sept 8 - Propagation Clinic	Dec 15 - Pruning Clinic

Check the website for more information: www.ceeteryrose.org.

HRF in Texas, cont.

(Continued from page 1)

tion tips.

At the Conference itself, we learned of plans to hold regional mini-conferences in an effort to increase attendance by providing events closer to members.

Mike Shoup of Antique Rose Emporium gave a talk in which he emphasized that, "The old garden roses are really garden plants and should be planted with other garden plants. It removes the burden of being the best plant when planted with other perennials."

Gregg Lowery (Vintage Gardens) led a discussion on the merits of establishing national collections of specific plants (i.e. roses). Etienne Bouret talked about the continued preservation efforts for hybrid perpetual roses a Rosarie de l'Hay near Paris.

Mark Chamblee (Chamblee's Rose Nursery) discussed the importance of hybridizer Griffith Buck's roses to

rose growers and Dr. Steve George talked about Earth-kind Roses. Both speakers emphasized the importance of roses being easy to grow for the average gardener.

Dr Buck selected his parent plants for their high fertility, remontancy, fragrance (most are spicy, some are floral), and disease-resistance. When asked for his favorite rose, he said, "Whichever one I'm looking at. Like one's children, it's best not to have favorites."

The two-day event was followed by a day of touring rural Texas gardens. We saw many different roses and ways of gardening with roses. Photographs of these gardens will appear on the Cemetery Rose website, so check it out.

This event, though somewhat light in content was a great way to get together with fellow enthusiasts from around the U.S. and spend a delightful week talking about those plants we love.

Y'all come back now, hear?

Pruning Time?

It's the time of the year when we begin to look at our roses and wonder, "It's winter, should I prune this rose?" Checking printed information in books, articles and on the web can be confusing with different sources often offering different recommendations. What seems a difficult job, becomes nearly impossible. This article will not tell you how to prune, but will give some pointers on finding appropriate guidance to help you do so.

How can we sort out the many conflicting opinions? First, disabuse yourself of the notion that there is just one correct way to prune roses. The best method for your plant depends on a number of things. The type and condition of the cultivar, the age of the plant, what you want it to look like, and the microclimate in your garden are all factors to be considered.

The next most important thing to learn is that if you make a mistake this time, it can be probably be corrected in the future (short of shovel-pruning the entire plant). Doing it "wrong" may result in scraggly growth, poor bloom or die-back of some canes, but it will probably not kill the plant.

The next thing is to get advice from knowledgeable sources in your locale. People resources can be a friend or a Master Gardener or a professional - the key here is that the individual must know about antique roses and how they differ from their more modern cousins. Your American Rose Society buddy down the street may not be the best resource.

Print sources can be very helpful, but one must sort through to find those appropriate to both antique roses and California's very unique climate. A well-respected book on antique roses written by Great Britain's John Scarman¹ describes pruning once-flowering old roses three times a year, "...with the object of improving both the shape and the productivity of the plants." He describes the goal of producing a dome-shaped plant rather than a cone shape and advises pruning once-bloomers in early summer to remove vegetative growth that hides summer blooms, a second time in late summer for architectural appearance and a final pruning anytime between autumn and spring for deadwood and to thin canes and to control the overall height of the plant.

First, this sounds like way too much work (and could well be) and second, he is writing for his garden in England where the climate and the cultivars are very different. Thirdly, he assumes that all once-blooming roses need to be shaped like domes. (Really!) The point is to be sure that the print source is appropriate for your garden or make appropriate adjustments to the advice. For example, even the timing of the Scarman advice would be different in California where many once-flowering roses bloom well before summer.

By Judy Eitzen

Old-fashioned and David Austin Roses by Barbara Lea Taylor (Firefly Books, 2004) includes a short section on pruning with some very general advice. It's a good start. The majority of the book describes old-fashioned and English roses with wonderful photos. The author states, "...and I have listed a few roses that are not quite old enough to qualify but are too beautiful to leave out."

David Austin himself, says in his book *Shrub Roses and Climbing Roses* (Antique Collector's Club, 1993) that, "Pruning is not difficult... It is something of an art and it can be interpreted... according to the type of growth that is required. Used in this way, it becomes an interesting and enjoyable task." He describes general pruning methods for shrub roses, climbing and rambling roses, species roses and hybrid teas and floribundas.

Historic Rose Garden's Maintenance Supervisor recommends *The Organic Rose Garden* by Liz Druitt (Taylor Trade Publishing, reprint 2004) as being, "...the best American reference on growing old roses that I've found."

Peter Beales' wonderful guide to antique roses, *Classic Roses* (Henry Holt, 1985, 1997), includes a chart for pruning times according to region, training climbers and ramblers, ways of training weeping standards, etc. as well as pruning techniques for varieties of roses. He also describes how to approach a neglected rose and includes guidelines for deadheading with clear illustrations.

As with print materials, websites must be viewed with consideration. Mike Shoup of the Antique Rose Emporium states on his website that "Old roses...can sulk and refuse to bloom if pruned too hard." The site includes some general pruning information. (www.antiqueroseemporium.com)

One of the best websites with actual photos of actual pruning being done in an actual garden in California is Vintage Gardens Nursery. The website includes step-by-step photos of pruning large modern shrubs, medium shrubs, damasks, galls and roses on arbors along with descriptive text. (www.vintagegardens.com)

Finally, this recommendation: when in doubt, leave it alone. As stated on the Texas A&M horticultural website, "Proper pruning enhances the beauty of almost any landscape tree and shrub, while improper pruning can ruin or greatly reduce its landscape potential. In most cases, it is better not to prune than to do it incorrectly." (<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu>)

¹ *Gardening With Old Roses* (HarperCollins Publishers, 1996)

High and Tight, cont.

(Continued from page 2)

ants growing in the East Bed, including *R. roxburghii*, *R. soulieana*, and *Alba odorata*. They tied 'Silver Moon' around a tripod of ten-foot tree poles and cleared out much of the dead wood from 'Climbing Jackie.' The crew removed some big roses, too, such as 'Climbing Queen Elizabeth' and "Not Narrow Water," one of several odoratas in our collection. They tied up the climbing roses. One of the men had the idea to fit pieces of hose around the rebar, protecting rose canes from damage by rubbing against the iron.

We then moved to the West Bed, and continued to tidy things up. Soon, the men were suggesting what should be done, and collaborating with us as we chose the best way to work on each rose. They also helped dig up and replant iris and narcissus bulbs, and trimmed some of the shrubbery. They dug holes and helped plant about fifteen new roses.

On to the Broadway Bed, where the crew cut back three 'Perle d'Ors' that were blocking the path and headstones, meticulously cleaned out *R. cinnamomea*, and reduced sprawling 'Garisenda' to a tidier heap.

It was a challenge to keep track of these "Rose Rangers," as they dubbed themselves, and all of the other crew members hard at work. At one point, we had more than 20 men working away. An irrigation crew was installing bubblers in the Broadway bed, replacing the old, unsatisfactory drip lines. Two brick crews were repairing the brick enclosures around plots, reclaiming old brick from the crumbling foundations, and rebuilding them to be attractive, safe structures that should outlast us all. A mulch crew was clearing and re-chipping the pathways. We also had about half a dozen other regularly assigned crew members, weeding, placing weed barriers such as cardboard, weed fabric and newspaper on the bare soil, and mulching the plots.

The City Staff kept the crew supplied with materials, and hauled away trailer after trailer full of weeds and trimmings. The place buzzed like a beehive.

All of this work culminated in the biggest project of all: taking 'Souv. de Mme. Leonie Viennot' off of its structure, greatly reducing its old growth, and getting it ready to be put up around a new, stronger structure. Cass Bernstein came up from the Bay Area to help us, and soon she, Liz Hall, Barbara and several of the Rose Rangers were strategizing how to tackle and tame the beast. It was just in time, too. Two of our regular crewmembers were finishing their time in the cemetery, and this was like their final exam. They passed, with flying colors.

Our Rose Rangers and the rest of the rose garden crew have made the garden noticeably neater. They are justifiably proud of what they've done. We are hopeful that they've gained personally from their time working with us, too. They've certainly learned a lot about roses and weeds, plant diseases and pests, and gardening.

We volunteers now have time to do what we enjoy best: care for the roses, in a garden that no longer seems overwhelmingly in need of care. We have the luxury of walking neatly tended paths, inspecting roses for problems that we need to correct. We will soon be pruning in earnest. Barbara and I will train new crewmembers to help us with the heaviest jobs, and to strip off old leaves. We anticipate that the garden will be in the best shape ever next spring.

By design, the Historic Rose Garden will never be "high and tight." We are aspiring to a lovingly maintained "large and loose" state. We've just about achieved it, thanks to our volunteers, Officer White, the Sheriff's Work Project, and the City Staff.

Another Opportunity

Vintage Garden's Gregg Lowery, and Phillip Robinson will be holding pruning clinics with Ron Robertson at Garden Valley Ranch in Marin County on December 9, and January 13 at 10 a.m. for a fee of \$25.00. On January 20, Stephen Scanniello (formerly of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and Heritage Rose Foundation past President) will speak and a hot lunch will be served at the garden. (\$45.00)

For information and reservations, please call Garden Valley Ranch (707) 795-0919 or email to info@gardenvalley.com.



OLD CITY CEMETERY
HISTORIC ROSE



CEMETERY
ROSE

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WE'RE ON THE WEB
www.cemeteryrose.org



Volunteers

The Historic Rose Garden needs you! Volunteers are needed to help with winter pruning and to assist with planning and conducting upcoming events, classes and tours.

See the website for information about volunteer opportunities at one of Sacramento's premier community and historic sites.

www.cemeteryrose.org

or

email to verlaine@citlink.net



Quick Garden Tip: Winter Weeding

Cool season annual weeds germinate in the fall, grow slowly & set seed in early spring. By the time we've finished pruning the roses, they're setting seed and ready to take over.

Get rid of them in winter by taking time to pull as you prune.

Or, take one or two relatively "warm" days and pull these babies while they're still babies and roots are shallow and weeds easy to pull. Be sure to bundle up and use a kneeling pad to keep warm. Your garden will reward you come spring.



Garden quote

A person who calls a rose by any other name has probably just been pruning.

Anon.