



# CEMETERY ROSE

## *Historic Rose Garden Preserving California's Heritage Roses*

Volume 1, Issue 4

June, 2002

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### Announcements

**Rose Care Class**  
Barbara Oliva will  
present a class on  
caring for old gar-  
den roses

Saturday, July 27  
At 10:00 a.m.  
In the Historic  
Rose Garden

Propagation classes  
and rose propaga-  
tion in the Garden  
Saturdays in the  
Fall

Pruning classes will  
be held in winter.  
Dates to be  
announced

## The 2002 Open Garden Saturday April 20, 2002

From all perspectives, the 2002 Open Garden was very successful. We gained several new members and potential volunteers and earned more than \$1,000 from the plant sale. Not so incidentally, it was a beautiful day and the roses were great!

Of the more than 200 visitors that day, many stated that they were visiting the Heritage Rose Garden for the first time and were quite impressed with the beauty and variety of roses and with the work that goes into creation and maintenance of such a special public garden. Great work, everyone!

Highlights of the day included special tours of the roses presented by Barbara Oliva and Fred Boutin. These Heritage Rose Garden founders and rose experts have a special affinity for the garden and willingly shared this with tour-goers. A brief photography tour was offered by Judy Eitzen in which we discussed the best way to photograph roses to preserve their ephemeral beauty.

The plant sale offered more old roses than last year, and the Rose Garden will greatly benefit from their sale. Many of these roses were donated by B&B Nursery of Wil-lows and many propagated by vol-unteers. Thanks!

## LA Times Declares We're The Best!

A photographer and reporter from the Los Angeles Times photographed the Historic Rose Garden and interviewed Barbara Oliva and Fred Boutin during the Open Garden event. A very nice spread appeared in the LA Times on April 25, "Mourning Glories: The best place to see historic roses in the state may be at a Gold Rush-era cemetery in Sacramento." Catchy title, yes? The article touted the Historic Rose

Garden as the best place to see these roses because, "they are not crowded together as they are in botanic garden collections. Instead the roses have room to grow to their natural size, to spread their wings, so to speak." Both the reporter and photographer were impressed with the garden and the roses. We know this is an important garden, now many others know it, too. Thanks, LA Times!

## Editorial: Keeping Up Our End *by Judy Eitzen*



Yes, we all have to deal with weeds, those invasive, tenacious, unwanted pests. I just finished watering my garden (still do some by hand) and as usual, I'm reminded that I don't get out there enough to weed and care for my roses and other plants. I've tried saving all the jobs for the weekend, but then find that I've only so much energy and end up short-changing some tasks. I tried reorganizing my work area and tools, but that just took energy away from *real* gardening.

I've tried 15 minutes at the end of each day, but my brain shuts down about 3 o'clock and I forget what needs to be done. Next time, those weeds are more

prolific than ever. I hate to use herbicides; too many cats find my yard a safe haven (no dogs around!).

Sooooo...I made a list. Right, it sounds like it would take even longer. But no. I use a dictation notebook (hangs in the shed by those spiral thingees) and write down exactly what I've done when I've finished. Two things happen. First, I feel good about what I did get done, and second, I know what needs to be done next time. Try it, you may like it, too.

Contributions, complaints, greetings: [verlaine@inreach.com](mailto:verlaine@inreach.com) or call me at 685-6634.

*Judy Eitzen*

## Australian Rosarian Visits California *by Barbara Oliva*

Pat Toolan is an old rose and iris enthusiast from the wine growing country of South Australia that resembles Central California in terrain and climate. This nurserywoman is a beautiful young lady, who no one would believe, has eight children! She is daring and ready to try everything new. Last year she competed for and was awarded a Winston Churchill Fellowship to study preservation of roses in cemeteries. The grant covers her air ticket and some of her per diem expenses. She is in the midst of a round-the-world exploration of cemeteries, old roses and the people who tend and grow them. At the end of her trip, Pat will prepare a written report describing all she's seen and learned.

Last June Pat emailed me wanting to see our Historic Rose Garden. Via e-mail, with California rose enthusiasts, an itinerary was planned designed to show Pat the widest range of methods for finding and preserving old roses, particularly those in cemeteries.

Pat's 10 week itinerary began with five days in the Los Angeles area where she lectured at Huntington Library's OGR conference. She then visited Northern California, and went on to a Texas trip from Dallas to Houston, Portland for the Rose Festival and surrounding cemeteries, the New Jersey area under the care of Stephen Scanniello, Edinburgh, Scotland, Italy to visit Prof. Finechi's garden, Rosaraie de l'Hay-Paris, Normandy, Sangerhausen-Germany, London and surrounding gardens and finally home.

Her Northern California visit began with a trip to the Heritage Rose Garden in San Jose and a number of private gardens. Mel Hulse then drove her to Ft. Bragg via Gregg Lowery and Phillip Robinson's home garden at Sebastopol. Pat stayed with Joyce Demitz for two nights, toured Joyce's 1,000 roses and talked rose collection. In the afternoon, a flying visit to the Mendocino Botanical Garden, then a meeting with Alice Flores which included an old rose walking tour of Mendocino.

“...no one would believe (she) has eight children!”

## Pat Toolan's Visit, Cont.

*(Continued from page 2)*

On the way to Sacramento, they stopped at Luther Burbank's home and Gardens, and Quarryhill Botanic Garden, an enormous collection of plants brought by seed from China; with a personally conducted tour by Garden Director Bill McNamera,

In Sacramento she stayed with me; saw our Historic Rose Garden in the morning, and in the afternoon we hosted a reception at SAMCC that included our history people, some of the Cemetery Alliance people, and many rose people. Ed Wilkinson, Fred Boutin and other rose rustlers exchanged stories of the roses in the Gold Country. The city presented Pat with a proclamation recognizing her worldwide effort to save endangered old roses.

The next morning Pat and I were joined in the Gold Country by Fred, Mel Hulse, Sherri Berglund, three wonderful women rosarians from the Mokulumne Hill area and a TV crew to record our wanderings. We visited four cemeteries, two old home sites and Judy Dean's woodland garden.

## Multiflora: from Promoted Plant to Problem Plant

The simple truth is that some plants are "better" than others. The Nature Conservancy and California Native Plant Society are both concerned about invasive, non-native plants. Characteristics of invasive plants:

- Establish easily
- Grow and proliferate aggressively
- Produce high numbers of offspring
- Disperse over a wide area
- Persist without cultivation
- Threaten biological diversity

One example exists (for now) in the Rose Garden. The multiflora rose was imported to the U.S. in the 19<sup>th</sup> century from Japan and China and is an example

Several highlights: seeing 'R. gymnocarpa' (I think), a wild rose, blooming in ditches in the back country, and several unique roses, 'Rainbow', an old HT; a moss with mossing even on the edges of the leaflets; a large plant of "Secret Garden Musk" and several unknowns. A magical experience!! That night, we were split between three of the local's homes. Such hospitality-they will remain special friends!

On Saturday we visited two more cemeteries and Bill & Murial Huminick's wonderful nursery/garden for lunch and a tour. On Sunday I drove Pat down to El Cerrito to the Celebration of Old Roses where she met Miriam Wilkins and many others. That afternoon I turned her over to Mel, who took her back to San Jose where she caught the plane for Texas.

It was very hard to say 'good bye' - she's a special person and a friend.



*It's hard to say  
'good-bye' - she's a  
special person and a  
friend.*

of a plant promoted as beneficial which turned out to be problematic. It was promoted in the 1930's by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service for use in erosion control and as 'living fences' to confine livestock. Later, state conservancy agencies discovered value in multiflora as wildlife cover for ground-living birds and small mammals and encouraged its use by distributing rooted cuttings free of charge. As recently as the 1960's, multiflora was planted in highway median strips to serve as crash barriers and to reduce automobile headlight glare. However...

Multiflora rose blooms in May or June after which individual plants may produce up to 500,000 seeds! The

*(Continued on page 4)*



## HISTORIC ROSE GARDEN



## CEMETERY ROSE

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## Invasive Multiflora, con't.

*(Continued from page 3)*

majority of seedlings emerge near the parent plant from which the seeds fell, though many are widely dispersed because of the large number of birds and mammals, which feed on the hips. The canes are also capable of rooting when in contact with soil. This is a dense spreading shrub with wide, arching canes and stiff curved prickles. Older plants may have a root crown of 8 inches or more and can reach a height of 15 feet. Its tenacious and unstoppable growth habit was eventually recognized as a problem on pastures and unplowed lands, where it disrupted cattle grazing. For these reasons, multiflora rose is classified as a noxious weed in several states and will be removed from the Rose Garden. If you see these plants or know of the existence of same in gardens or along roadsides, please do contact the Nature Conservancy or the

California Native Plant Society. This is one case where 'shovel pruning' is probably best; in fact, in most areas, multiflora rose is considered a nuisance weed, and cannot be sold or propagated.

### ***Quick Garden Tip:*** **Deadheading**

The term sounds gruesome, but now's the time to clip blossoms when they're finished to ensure another flush of blooming in a few weeks.

Leaving the last flush in September or October can result in beautiful hips for November and December, but that's for later. Get out there now, and nip 'em!



### **Essence of Roses**

Layer rose petals in a large stone jar with sea salt and press the layers well down. When the jar is full, seal it and stand it in a cool, shaded place for 40 days.

Turn the contents of the jar into a cloth and strain off the liquid, squeezing the cloth gently to extract it all. Put the essence into glass bottles until they are two-thirds full. Seal and leave to stand in the sun for 25 to 30 days to purify the essence.

*(Tracked down and reprinted at the request of one of our readers...ed.)*