




CEMETERY ROSE



Volume 3, Issue 1
September, 2003

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*Cemetery Rose
Garden*

Activities and Dates

Saturdays 9 am
deadheading and old
rose shaping

September 27

Antique Rose Sym-
posium

Fall Classes

October 14, 21, 28
Belle Coolegge Library

Fall Classes Announced

October is the time to set aside a Tuesday evening for a class on identifying roses: *How to tell a Tea Rose from a Hybrid Perpetual*.

Classes will be conducted by Rosarian Barbara Oliva and held at the Belle Coolegge Library Community Room.

Barbara is well known for her expertise in locating, identifying and preserving old garden roses. The classes will help those who attend to learn what to look for when observing roses in gardens and in the field.

Each class will last for two hours, from six to eight o'clock. They will be held on October 14, 21, and 28.

The Belle Coolegge Library is located at 5600 South Land Park Drive in Sacramento. The Library is on the southwest corner of the intersection of South Land Park Drive and Seamus (at Fruitridge).

Barbara will focus on the roses found in the Historic Rose Garden of the Old City Cemetery and on antique roses in general. Tea roses, chinas, noisettes, and hybrid perpetuals are just the beginning.

Fall Symposium Approaches

Rose Preservation: Reasons, Resources and Rustling

This year's antique rose symposium sponsored by the Heritage Rose Group is just about here. If you haven't yet reserved a spot, it's not too late.

The symposium will be held at the Harbor Light Lodge in Ft. Bragg on Saturday, September 27, 2003. Registration begins at 8:30 and programs are scheduled

throughout the day. Lunch is included and sessions will explore the importance of preservation of old and unidentified rose varieties.

Workshops will include hands-on demonstrations of how to propagate the roses you're preserving. Slides, stories and socializing! Participants will have access to the Mendocino Coast Botanical

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Summer of the Hawks

editorial



Nature is amazing! Our home is in an suburban tract with ordinary-sized yards with trees that are pretty well grown. Late in the spring a pair of rather large birds set up housekeeping near the top of a backyard redwood tree.

We became aware of them gradually; seeing the pair more and more often in or near the top of the tree. When eggs hatched, we heard the young making high pitched calls. We could tell they were raptors; not being birders, we needed more information to learn which.

I did a little research and learned they are White-tailed Kites, a type of hawk with a diminishing range pretty much limited to the Sacramento Valley. These reclusive birds do not usually nest close to people. What a treat!

We checked them out through binoculars of course, but spent most of the

time watching with naked eyes.

Papa would find dinner, give it to mama in mid air—their hovering ability is why they are called 'kites'—mama would feed chicks.

We watched all summer as the youngsters grew—learning for the first time that there were two when flying lessons began. Parents flew to nearby trees and called to the young who flew staggering flights at first, then swifter and straighter as they grew stronger.

Things have quieted down now, but the chicks are still hanging around, putting on a show. Visiting cats must get cricks in the neck from looking up. Even in a suburban yard, nature is amazing!

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

Roses on Arbors

Judy Eitzen

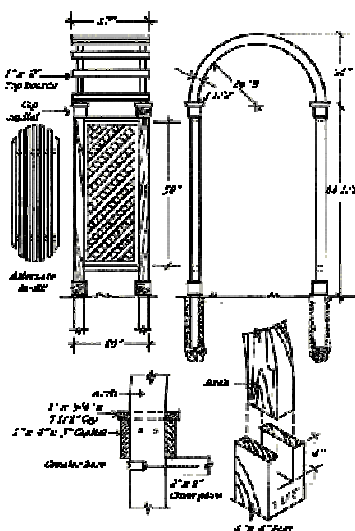
Affordable, pre-fabricated structures make it easy to install.

Some roses are destined for structures. They look so beautiful on trellises, arbors, pillars, fences, gazebos...even that old garden shed in the corner of the yard. At the Heritage Rose Garden, a number of old roses have been encouraged to climb over simple iron rod arches, making a beautiful show. Others climb into trees and over fences. Simple decorative structures can fit into your garden as well.

make prime structures for roses and other climbing plants. Even a small yard can support a simple arch or arbor. Don't forget the fence as a striking rose structure when covered with a blanket of blossoms.

Structures made of wood, painted or unpainted, wrought iron, cedar, copper pipes, heavy duty molded plastic or even a dead tree add a vertical element to the garden and brings plants to eye level. Structures lure visitors into the garden and heavily scented roses at nose level have a special appeal. Arbors are one of the most common ways to vertically display roses; all it takes is a little planning and time.

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At your local nursery or garden center, you will find affordable prefabricated structures that makes it easy to install. Rose structures can be as simple as a pillar or as grand as a gazebo. Pergolas and arbors over patios and seating areas are common in the Sacramento Valley sun and

Fall Meeting—Oops!

Barbara Oliva

Well I really blew it! When I planned our fall meeting, I didn't think about the fact it was the last summer week before Labor Day; or that lots of people would be out of town for the summer.

There were only a couple of people who could come—plenty phoned their regrets. The weekend before, I decided there would be too few of us to make it anything but a pleasant social get-together, and called it off.

I will schedule another date, at a different site, as the library isn't available for the next several weeks. One possibility would be in the ceme-

tery. It's lovely in the evening this time of year. No kitchen, but tables and chairs are available.

We'll plan for propagation, weed control, and winter pruning and we'll have a preliminary discussion about next Spring's Open Garden.

Please do get back to me with your feelings, suggestions and ideas.

Barbara Oliva

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Fact or Fiction? Debunking Some Gardening Myths

Some gardening practices become embedded like fossils. Others have the sanctity of all things learned at our mother's knee and we continue to believe even though science tells us otherwise. Here are some examples of such folk "wisdom," Have you checked your assumptions lately?

1. Watering on a sunny day can burn plant leaves. Have you seen this in the wild? Summer thunderstorms are often followed by sunshine and plants are well adapted to deal with it.

The real reason not to water at high noon is that the moisture supplied will be lost much more quickly to evaporation. Do water whenever you notice that plants need it. Ideal time is in the morning when water actually has a chance to reach the roots.

2. Remove lawn clippings or they'll make thatch. Actually thatch comes primarily from the misuse of strong fertilizers and pesticides. This is because earthworms and other lawn fauna are needed to keep thatch to the appropriate amount (about ½ inch or less) and strong fertilizers and (especially) pesticides are harmful to these helpful creatures.

Fertilize only if the lawn really needs it.

3. When planting trees and shrubs, the more compost, peat moss and other amendments you can mix into the ground, the better. Studies back in the 1970s at Oklahoma State University showed that roots of ornamental trees and shrubs were consistently larger in unamended soils. Amendments seem to encourage roots to stay in the vicinity of their planting holes, leading to stunted root systems.

4. When pruning always cut tree branches flush to the trunk. A truly flush cut does serious damage to a tree or large shrub. Leave the 'collar' around the base of each limb. This helps preserve tissue and confine decay to a small area, preventing it from moving into the core of the wood.

5. When planting a bare-root plant, prune away enough branches to balance the top with roots lost when the shrub or tree was dug. Not necessary because when a bare-root plant begins to grow, it limits new shoot and leaf growth to the capacity of the root system on its own. Pruning takes away some of the healthiest buds and robs the tree of stored energy.

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*Remember:
September 27,
2003
Harbor Lite
Lodge
Ft. Bragg*

Fall Symposium, Cont.

Gardens and tours of private rose gardens are available on Sunday. Your \$40 registration fee covers all.

Register with Joyce Demits: 16831 Mitchell Creek Dr., Ft. Bragg, CA 95437, (707) 964-3748
Or email at: aflores@mcn.org

The Harbor Lite Lodge offers a special rate for Heritage Rose Group members. Book in advance at Harbor Lite Lodge, 120 N. Harbor Dr., Ft. Bragg, CA, 95437, (707) 964-0221. Mention that you are attending the Old Rose Symposium to get the special rate. (All proceeds benefit the rose collection at the Botanical Gardens.)

Garden Myths, Cont.

6. Put a layer of gravel in the bottoms of pots to provide drainage. What's really needed is a drainage hole. A pot with gravel but no drainage hole will become waterlogged even faster by reducing the volume of potting soil as well as making everything heavier than it needs to be. A small fragment of terra cotta over the drainage hole will keep the soil from slipping out.

Keep reading, learning and looking for real reasons for what you do in the garden. Remember, if you don't keep growing, neither will your garden.

We Want To Hear From You

This newsletter is mailed to those who have expressed interest in the Heritage Rose Garden at Sacramento's Old City Cemetery. Please send ideas, suggestions and address changes to Judy Eitzen.

If you have an email address and have not yet sent it to add to the mailing list, please do so. We may be working with antique roses, but want to keep in touch in the most modern way.

Please send email to verlaine@inreach.com.

OLD CITY CEMETERY HISTORIC ROSE GARDEN—PRESERVING CALIFORNIA'S HERITAGE ROSES

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CEMETERY ROSE

Rose Arbors, continued

Building an arbor from 2x4 lumber isn't that difficult—unless it's room-sized; then you need serious carpentry skills and probably a building permit. An arbor should be at least 7 feet tall to accommodate those who walk inside; it may be just a couple of feet deep (e.g. next to a fence or wall) or 12 feet or more to hold a seating or dining area.

Arbor sides can be left open or include lattice or wire to support plants. Sturdy lumber should be used on top to support the plants which can be heavy. Use joist hangers to attach the arbor to the house and use a barrier to the soil to keep termites from entering your home through the arbor (cement, metal or pressure-treated wood.).

Climbing roses can be 'trained' to climb over a simple arbor. Prune to encourage some very long canes; drape them over an arch or lay them on top of an arbor. Tie them in place and the laterals will give you many blossoms across the top of the structure. With a seating area beneath the arbor, you've created a fragrant, colorful, shady room. Small arbors can also be used to highlight the entrance to a house or garden or divide the garden into outdoor rooms. Growing roses on an arbor attached to a doorway is a simple alternative to training roses up a wall and over a doorway espalier fashion.

Roses on arbors tend to bloom heavily across the top where they get the most light. This can leave bare vertical canes on the sides that are not at all attractive. When pruning, stagger the height of canes to promote some to bloom along the sides of the arbor. One or more canes may also be zig-zagged horizontally to encourage growth on the sides. Cut weak, one-year canes back to 18 to 24 inches; a slightly stronger one-year cane to about 3 feet; and a more vigorous one or two-year cane to 4 feet. Allow vigorous, older canes to reach the top and form the horizontal stems. All the canes



w i l l p u t
out new growth that will flower the following season.

Careful selection of roses for arbors will enhance the effect. Both climbers and ramblers can be effective, but their different habits require different techniques and produce different results. Most climbers are rebloomers with stout, vigorous canes that tend to keep growing straight up. If tied to the top of an arbor, they throw strong vertical laterals which will bloom heavily the next season.

Ramblers have slender, flexible canes that more readily bend over and hang down with blossoms visible from below. Their laterals are lax and are perfect for arbors, forming graceful draping canes with blossoms. Most ramblers are once bloomers however, and need to be paired with other plants for a continual show.

Combining several roses on a single arbor can be very effective. Use a rambler up one side and over the top and cover the bare trunk with a shrub rose. Add a climber twined with the rambler for a season-long show. Coordinate colors (e.g., shades of pink) so they blend together or use contrasting colors for a bold effect (e.g. white and red).

Fall is the time to begin planning for construction of an arbor for roses. Look at the garden and decide now where a strong vertical element could be used to enhance your garden and begin making



OLD CITY CEMETERY
HISTORIC ROSE



CEMETERY
ROSE

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WE'RE ON THE WEB
[www.home.inreach.com/
verlaine/roses/](http://www.home.inreach.com/verlaine/roses/)



Perks

Historic Rose Garden volunteers receive more benefits than one might think. Not only are volunteers able to spend time working on a project that benefits the entire community, we get to spend time learning about roses with others interested in antique roses, their history and horticulture. Volunteers are good company! Volunteers are the first to try growing roses from the Rose Garden in home gardens. Join in!

Quick Garden Tip:
It's a Dirty Job But...

Any gardener knows that weeding and planting is dirty work. So make your work a little cleaner by spritzing cooking spray on your hoe, shovel and other gardening tools before you go to work. This prevents soil from sticking to them and makes your gardening and cleanup go much easier!



Rose Quote:

How can roses with names like Space Invader and Electron presume to compare with the likes of Duchesse de Montebello?

Clare Ansberry, "War of the Roses" Wall Street Journal, July 1, 1991