



CEMETERY ROSE

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



Volume 10, Issue 4

June 2011

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Cemetery Rose Garden

**Deadheading
At Dusk
June 13
July 11
August 8
September 12**

See page 7 for additional events.

2011 Open Garden

Though a cool rainy spring made us a little nervous, this year's Open Garden was held on a perfect spring day. More than 500 people attended from all over California (and a few from out of state as well). They arrived to see some of the early bloomers still going strong while Teas and Chinas were off to a great start.

We had concerns about selling our roses due to potential contamina-

tion of Light Brown Apple Moth (see *March issue of Cemetery Rose*) but inspection by the County Agricultural Commissioner's folks declared our roses clean of pests. All our roses were sold by 1 p.m. on the day of the event.

Since this event raises funds for the entire year for the Rose Garden, we were delighted with sales of roses, t-shirts, aprons, etc. and our silent auction items as well.

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Rose Garden Maintenance

by Anita Clevenger

The roses were reluctant to bloom this year. Who could blame them, with the chilly, wet, windy weather that we've been having? At the time of the Open Garden, the banksiae still had blossoms, and only the Teas and Chinas were in full bloom. The other roses were worth waiting for. When they finally opened, they were phenomenal, with bigger, longer-lasting, more intensely-colored flowers than we usually see. The Gallicas, Damasks, and Albas especially seemed to thrive with last winter's chill and this spring's English-like rain and cool temperatures.

Our garden resembled an English garden in other ways, particularly the meticulously-edged, well-trimmed green pathways. Chuck Hatch and the Sheriff's crew put many hours into mowing and trimming them, and it was lovely to look down the aisles to see a carpet of green. In the plots, we are growing more and more companion plants, and finally getting the weeds under control. All of the years of weeding, mulching, and solarizing are paying off.

In 2010, the cool, wet spring produced much more rust and blackspot than usual. While some roses still had dis-

(Continued on page 4)



Cemetery

Rose

Ten Years and Counting

Ten Years—What's next?

This issue completes 10 years of my editorship. In that time, lots of roses have come (and a few have gone) as have many rose articles. It's time to take a look at what we've done in that time and talk about what's coming in the future.

The Rose Garden has grown to nearly 500 roses, with many types of roses from many sites around the state. It has also received local recognition from the City Council and international recognition as one of just two recipients the Great Rose Gardens Hall of Fame award.

We now have a presence on the web and on **Facebook** (which didn't even exist ten years ago).

It's time to update the newsletter format—and perhaps the website too. Look for those changes with the new editorial year beginning in September.

The twentieth anniversary of the founding of the Historic Rose Garden will be celebrated in 2012. To help celebrate we're planning to publish a compilation of articles from this newsletter with information from our classes and seminars. Not sure yet about format, availability, etc., but watch for it next year. Please let me know if you've got ideas, suggestions or information to be included. I want to hear from you.

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

editorial

Connecting the Generations

by Anita Clevenger



'Perle d'Or'

When Robert DuFresne moved to his house in Vancouver, WA, in 1943, there were two bushes of 'Perle d'Or' growing there which had been planted seven years earlier. Every Sunday that the roses were in bloom (and they bloomed a lot), he pinned a 'Perle d'Or' bud to his lapel. This continued for the next thirty-four years, until he fell ill. His wife lived in that house until 2002, and the roses thrived. Their granddaughter, Lisa Noelle LeGare, was married there, and had 'Perle d'Or' roses on her wedding cake.

The family was heartbroken when the new owners of the house tore out the roses. Lisa and her mother, Miriam LeGare, didn't know how to spell the rose's name or where to find it. However, their search ended when Miriam visited my garden recently and encountered 'Perle d'Or.' I told her possible places to buy it, and offered cuttings. A week later, once of my unlabelled "pot ghetto" roses, left over from the cemetery rose sale, bloomed – it was 'Perle d'Or'! I contacted Miriam,

who excitedly purchased it to give to Lisa to grow in her garden. It will be her first rose, one which brings back very special memories.

When I told this story to the cemetery volunteers, Laura Hughes shared a similar tale. Her grandfather, Cyrus B. Newton, a San Francisco actor, always wore a bud of "Cecil Brunner" on his lapel. (Of course, we know it as 'Mlle. Cécile Brünner.') Cyrus moved this rose when he changed residences in San Francisco, and took it along when he later moved to Burlingame. There, the rose grew to be enormous. Laura's family lived with her grandfather for a few years. They, too, took the rose along when they moved to Menlo Park. Years later, when Laura and her sister Delia decided to grow a few old roses on their apartment's balcony, the first rose that they chose was "Cecil."

Old roses have a special way of bringing people together, eliciting memories, and linking generations.



'Mlle. Cécile Brünner'

Open Garden, Cont.

(Continued from page 1)

We raised enough to support garden maintenance, equipment, structures as well as funding some structural and headstone repairs in the Rose Garden.

Anita Clevenger and Jennifer Holden conducted tours of the Rose Garden, taking more than 100 visitors through the garden. Judy Eitzen took the cart throughout the cemetery, showing visitors the Native Plant and Hamilton Square gardens as well as giving some historical information. OCCC volunteers conducted history tours on request, too. One group of visitors arrived by bus from Nevada City just before opening and asked for a special tour. Though the tour was unscheduled, Judy and Jennifer toured them through the garden and the group was very appreciative.

One of the best things about Open Garden is the opportunity for all us rose lovers to get together and admire and talk about the roses, but during the event, there's never time to do that. So one

thing we started a few years ago is an morning-after-party, "The Afterglow".

We bring coffee and goodies to the Cemetery on Sunday morning and invite rose friends who have stayed overnight to visit with us and walk the garden and chat about the roses. After all our hard work, Sunday morning is a relaxing way to wind down and enjoy the Garden.



Celebration of Old Roses

by Judy Eitzen

This year's Celebration of Old Roses was held on May 15 in El Cerrito's Community Center. The weather was cool, even rainy early in the day, but that did not deter attendees. In fact, because of the cool spring, many roses usually finished by May were still in bloom and made quite a show.

Rose growers and gardeners from around Northern California bring roses for the show and demonstration vases of specific cultivars are set out on a large group of tables in the center of the auditorium. It's not a judged show (ala ARS) but is a great chance to examine and compare various old garden (and some modern) roses. Some visitors bring unidentified roses from old gardens and everyone gets in on the game of trying to identify them.

Vendors sell books, prints, and various rosy items—not to mention plants; roses from Vintage Gardens, iris, geraniums, etc.

This event is held each year on the Sunday after Mother's Day—if you missed it this year, plan now for next year.



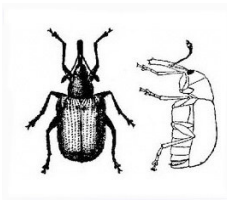
Large Vase of Old Garden Roses to honor Miriam Wilkins, founder of the event.

Rose Garden Maintenance, con't.

(Continued from page 1)

ease problems this year, it was not as bad, perhaps due to conditions and perhaps due to the care that we gave them. As we pruned this winter, we worked to open up the plants to improve air circulation, and asked the Sheriff's crew and Americorps to remove old foliage and to spread fresh mulch and compost.

We did, however, have plenty of insect pests. Because we prune and feed the roses lightly, we usually don't see many aphids on the cemetery roses. This year was an exception. (Aphids were much worse in my home



← Rose Curculios
Hoplia Beetles →
(Both larger than life size)



garden than the cemetery, by the way.) At home, I knock the aphids off with a spray of water and sometimes resort to using insecticidal soap. In the cemetery, we just wait for beneficial birds and insects to come to the roses' rescue.

This is the first year that I've spotted rose curculios in the cemetery. They look like dark ladybugs, but they are a weevil, with a sharp snout that pierces buds and stems. You can spot curculios by looking for their bits of black, tarry-looking excrement, and buds and flow-

ers riddled with little holes. They drop to the ground if disturbed, but if at all possible, we should catch and kill them. You can squash them if you are quick, or hold a bucket of soapy water under them so that they fall into it and drown. I found them on several roses in the Broadway Bed, including 'Golden Ophelia,' 'R. *cinnomea*,' and one of the 'Autumn Damask.' Curculios lay their eggs in buds, which then fall off. We need to remove spent flowers and infested buds to prevent a more major outbreak.

We also had hoplia beetles, which come like clockwork in April and early May. These brown, round beetles drill

holes into our flowers every spring. We removed infested blossoms from several roses, including 'Catherine Mermet,' and drowned the beetles in soapy water.

Both hoplias and rose curculios have just one generation a year and prefer white and yellow flowers. For more information about them, go to Baldo Villegas' website, <http://www.sactorose.org/rosebug/ianimalpests.htm> or the UC Integrated Pest Management site: <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu>.



Jennifer Holden setting up the tables at the Celebration of Old Roses



Some of the display roses at the Celebration of Old Roses

Heritage Rose District of New York City

by Anita Clevenger

In California, we expect that historic cemeteries will have historic roses. That isn't always the case in other parts of the country. Harlem's Trinity Cemetery, founded in 1843 adjacent to John James Audubon's farm, is known for its beautiful site overlooking the Hudson River and the famous people buried there. However, not a single rose was to be found when Stephen Scanniello, president of the Heritage Rose Foundation, went there to look for the grave of lawyer George Harison, breeder of the famed hybrid, 'Harison's Yellow.' Stephen learned that another famous rosarian, Daniel Boll, a 19th-century rose hybridizer and nurseryman, was also buried there. Stephen proposed planting several heritage roses in their honor, including 'Harison's Yellow' and a Hybrid Perpetual, 'Mme. Boll.' The cemetery management agreed.

From this modest beginning, the notion of a much bigger project to plant heritage roses grew. Scott M. Stringer, Manhattan Borough President, proposed to Stephen that the Borough and the HRF form a partnership to develop a Heritage Rose District at a variety of historic and cultural sites in Harlem and Washington Heights, beautifying them, raising their profile, and building community involvement and pride. On October 24, 2009, a variety of neighborhood volunteer groups banded together to plant the first roses. There have been three more planting days, all eagerly supported with volunteers and with donations of roses and supplies.

Historic sites across Northern Manhattan are now graced by over 400 heritage roses. Among them are five roses

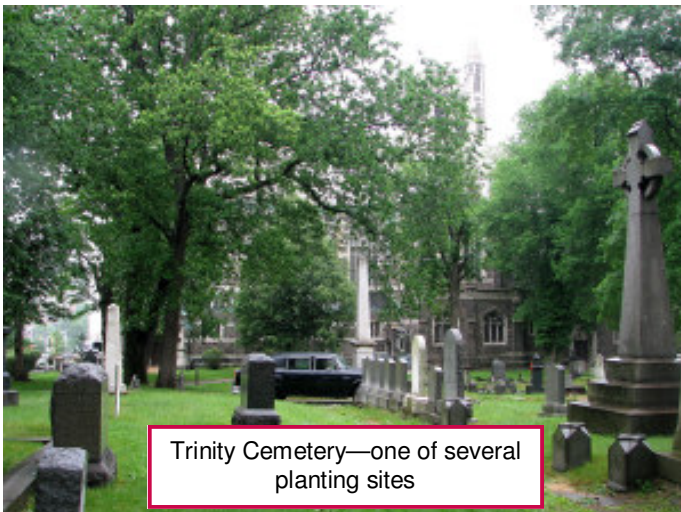


Stephen and volunteers preparing roses for planting

from the Sacramento Historic Rose Garden, including "New Orleans Cemetery Rose," "Elisabeth's Red China," "Forest Ranch Pompom," "Placerville White Noisette" and "Old Town Novato". We contributed them to show our support for this innovative project, and to signify the tie between our preservation efforts. Even though we are thousands of miles apart, we share common goals of preserving heritage roses and educating the public about them.

Most of the other roses planted in the Heritage Rose District are known to have been grown in New York City during the 19th century. Since we aren't sure of the identity of all our found roses, we can't be positive that they ever were part of Manhattan's horticultural heritage, but it's likely that many were. California's roses were brought West by wagon, train and ship, and often served as a reminder of the homes and families that were left behind.

We hope that our roses do well in winter snows and summer heat and humidity. They are tough, beautiful survivors here in California, and hope that they will do the same in the Big Apple.



Trinity Cemetery—one of several planting sites

For more information:
www.heritagerosfoundation.org

Become a friend on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/HeritageRoseDistrictNYC

Rose Fragrance

by Judy Eitzen

Many years ago Alice Morse Earle¹ wrote, *"The fragrance of the sweetest rose is beyond any other flower scent, it is irresistible, enthralling; you cannot leave it. I have never doubted the rose has some compelling quality not shared by other flowers. I do not know whether it comes from some inherent witchery of the plant, but it certainly exists."*

Roses are among the oldest garden plants. They have been found in Asian artistic motifs from 3000 BCE, and appeared in western culture about 2300 BCE. The earliest record seems to be rose leaves found in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado dating back 35 million years. They've had a long time to develop their complexities, including scent.

Rose fragrance was valued by the Romans; used to scent rooms and after bathing. Cleopatra supposedly filled a room over a foot deep with rose petals while wooing Marc Anthony. The roses most often used in Roman times were probably Damask and Gallica types with their strong "old rose" scent. In Medieval Europe, fragrant roses (and other flowers) were used medicinally or to hide bad odors. By Victorian times, flowers were grown merely for their pleasing fragrance and beauty. A portrait of Queen Victoria shows cut roses on her desk as cut flowers release more fragrance as they die.

There are actually over two dozen different sorts of rose scent with some roses having a mixture of these various perfumes. In the 20th century seven primary rose scents were accepted as scientists identified the chemicals responsible for these scents. These are: rose (damask), nasturtium, orris (similar to violets), violet, apple, lemon, and clove. Other scents include fern, balsam, moss, hyacinth, orange (fruit, not flowers), anise, bay, lily-of-the-valley, linseed oil, honey, wine, marigold, quince, geranium, pepper, parsley, carnation, sandalwood, camphor, and raspberry.

Rose fragrance comes from flowers, foliage and/or the glands of moss roses and is not necessarily meant for human noses, but for the pollinators of the flowers. Scent signals to bees and other pollinators to

come, so flowers release the most scent when ready to be pollinated, that is, when they are half-open. In general, the flowers of red and pink roses with thicker, more numerous petals more often smell like what we think of as "rose" fragrance, while white and yellow flowers give off more of a lemony scent. Modern orange roses often smell like fruits; oranges, lemons, apricots.



Rose fragrance will be strongest on warm, sunny days when the soil is moist because that is when the production of the scent ingredients increases. Temperature, humidity and the age of the blossom also affects how strong is the fragrance. Often, a rose that was fragrant in the morning is no longer so by late afternoon. Another interesting aspect to fragrance is that it is affected by disease. Mildew, especially, will cause a loss of scent.

The next time you smell a rose, try and discern some of the many possible scents and how they change over time and under different conditions.

¹Alice Morse Earle was an historian who wrote of the sociology of early American history.



Making Sense of Our Sense of Smell

by Judy Eitzen

Of the five senses identified by Aristotle - smell, taste, touch, sight and hearing - smell is the most primitive and is located in the same part of the brain that effects emotions, memory and creativity. We use our sense of smell to identify food, mates and danger as well as sensual pleasures like perfumes and flowers, (especially roses).

Smell and taste are so closely related that about 80% of what we taste is actually due to our sense of smell. In fact, the flavor of foods can be altered by simply changing the smell. Also, our sense of smell becomes stronger when we are hungry.

Aromas, scents and fragrances are odors, chemicals dissolved in air - generally at very low concentrations. Humans can distinguish over 10,000 different odor molecules. When inhaled, these odor molecules travel into the nose and interact with odor receptors. The odor receptors then transmit the information to the brain's limbic system.

We've all grown up learning about color wheels in art class (red-blue-yellow with violet, green and orange as secondary colors) and photography (red-green-blue with yellow, cyan and magenta). These colors are fixed because of their specific wavelengths. Likewise, sounds can be codified because they exist as particular frequencies. Orchestras tune their instruments to "concert A" at 440Hz, for example.

Aromas on the other hand, are more subjective, but are so important to our safety and pleasure that we try to codify them. Aroma and flavor wheels exist in a number of fields, and are used to identify the important characteristics of wine, coffee, beer, and even chocolate. It might be fun to design one for rose scents, too.

Odors are such a strong indicator of time and place that Disney's California Adventure attraction, "Soaring Over California" uses scents to enhance the experience - orange blossom when "flying" over orange groves, the scent of pines when over Redwood Creek, etc.



Upcoming Events

DEADHEADING AT DUSK

Join us for Deadheading at Dusk in the Rose Garden. Bring your pruners and gloves as we prune once-blooming roses and deadhead those that repeat bloom.

- June 13
- July 11
- August 8
- September 12

We start at 6:30 p.m. Please park across the street because the Cemetery Gates will be closed at 7 p.m. (We can exit via a one-way people door, but no vehicles). Refreshments will be served.

PROPAGATION CLASS

Saturday, September 10 at 10 a.m. in the Rose Garden, Kathryn Mackenzie and Janelle Michel (our most successful propagators) will conduct a class on propagation of roses. Visitors will learn

how to take rose cuttings, prepare and plant them.

ROSE CLASSIFICATION

On Saturday, October 8, Anita Clevenger and Bill Harp will hold the second seminar on rose classification. They will discuss various European and Asian roses and describe the distinguishing characteristics of roses in the Historic Rose Garden

TOURS

Remember that history tours are offered on the first Saturday of each month and garden tours on the third Saturday. These tours begin at 10 a.m. at the 10th street entrance to the Cemetery.

All these events are free.



CEMETERY ROSE

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WE'RE ON THE WEB
www.cemeteryrose.org



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, they 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:

Deadheading—A Definition

Simply defined, deadheading is removing spent flowers by pinching or cutting.

We do this to encourage rebloom of repeat-blooming roses. If left alone, many roses would put energy into the fruit and seeds (which is how roses reproduce in the wild). We can often 'fool' the plant into producing more flowers by deadheading.

NOTE: cutting back to the first side shoot is called 'heading'. This technique is used when one wishes to change the shape of the plant while removing blooms.



Garden quote

Don't wear perfume in the garden — unless you want to be pollinated by bees.

Anne Raver, NYT