

SPRING EVENTS IN THE ROSE GARDEN

Rose Garden volunteers have a variety of events planned for this spring. We expect the garden to be at its best because of all the hard work done pruning and primping over fall and winter.

The **Early Bloom Tour** is scheduled for March 31 at 10:00 and is a great opportunity for visitors to see the early blooming roses. If you miss *Rosa banksia normalis* climbing up the pine tree near Broadway (mid March), there will be plenty of roses in bloom for this directed tour. After the tour would be a good opportunity to visit the Native Plant and Hamilton Square gardens to see what's blooming there.

April 14 is the date of our largest event—**Open Garden**. This event includes tours of the garden, sales of roses and other items and an opportunity to reconnect with many rosy friends. The event begins at 9:30 in the morning and runs through 2:00 p.m. This is our primary fundraising effort in support of the garden and the garden should be a peak bloom. A list of roses for sale will be posted soon on www.cemeteryrose.org. Roses will also be offered for public sale from 11 a.m.—1 p.m. on Sunday.

A special evening event is scheduled for April 21; **Romance and Roses**. Costumed docents will lead you through the garden at dusk to hear romantic stories of roses and days gone by. Tickets will be available from Brown Paper Tickets for \$20; this popular event is expected to sell out.

We're trying a new approach to learning about old garden roses with three walk and talk sessions on Sunday afternoons in April and May; each covering different classes of roses. And, of course, everyone should plan to attend **Deadheading at Dusk**—yes, there's work to be done, but in a lovely spot that enchants at dusk.

Spring in the Historic Rose Garden includes something for every rose lover.

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EDITORIAL

Hardworking Rose Garden volunteers have attended to more roses this winter than ever before and we are awaiting spring bloom with great anticipation.

Our cadre of volunteers has grown in recent months and we look forward to sharing the fruits of their labor this spring. A number of events are planned for the primary bloom season beginning with our Early Bloom tour in March and continuing through June. We are thankful for our newest volunteers and know they will be gratified to see how their efforts bloom!

Volunteers have also been working hard to propagate and tend baby roses for our Open Garden sale and we are grateful for the opportunity to grow these roses at Consumnes River College with the support of Dave Andrews and his staff.

Despite all the time spent this winter to shape and prune the roses and propagate new ones, we know that spring will be our busiest time. There's plenty to do to get ready for our many spring events. In view of all our busy efforts, we encourage all volunteers (and visitors) to stop to see the garden. We tend to focus on the job at hand, but there is something beautiful to observe nearly every day. Remember that old aphorism, "stop and smell the roses"? Well, in this garden, you can do just that.

*Questions, comments, fusses,
Judy Eitzen, ed.
verlaine@citlink.net*

Spring Events - Historic Rose Garden

- *March 31—10:00 a.m.—Early Bloom Tour*
- *April 7—morning—Primping Party*
- *April 14—9:30-3:00—Open Garden*
- *April 21—6:00 p.m.—Romance & Roses (\$20 donation)*
- *Sunday, April 22—1:00 p.m. Old Garden Roses—Teas, Chinas, Noisettes*
- *Sunday April 29—1:00 p.m.—Old Garden Roses—Hybrid Perpetuals & Bourbons*
- *Sunday, May 6—1:00 p.m.—Old Garden Roses—Gallicas, Damasks, Albas & Centifolias*
- *Monday, May 7—6:00 p.m.—Deadheading at Dusk*
- *Monday June 4—6:00 p.m.—Deadheading at Dusk*



CURATOR'S CORNER

Anita Clevenger

The past few months have been a blur of activity. Rose canes have been flying as volunteers snip, saw and sever old and unwanted growth. We enjoy the elegance of roses reduced to their essential framework, feel excitement in seeing buds swell on the bare canes, and enjoy anticipation as we await spring bloom. Will our pruning work as we had hoped? We will review what we've done and continue to learn as we go. While there is science in how plants grow, there is also an art to growing the wide variety of roses that our garden preserves.

We opted not to do a Pruning Party this year because we have built a good corps of volunteers, the dry weather allowed us to prune whenever we wanted, and we hosted two rose pruning experts, Stephen Scannello and Tom Liggett, who helped us get some major work done while sharing their expertise. We missed the camaraderie of gathering together over roses and lunch, and hope to resume the tradition another year.

Instead, we offered impromptu rose pruning demonstrations during our usual work days, welcoming some new volunteers into our midst. Much as we love our experienced volunteers, new volunteers are our lifeblood. Their enthusiasm, fresh ideas, questions and observations keep us on our toes!

We have done more pruning than ever before in the garden. I worry about overly taming our garden, which is famed for the exuberant way in which roses are allowed to reach their full potential, but we need to ensure that monuments are visible, paths are clear, and that old canes are removed to encourage new, vigorous growth. We strive to maintain the right balance, never easy in any garden and harder yet in an aging collection of heritage roses in a historic cemetery.

We turned on irrigation early this year because there has been virtually no rain. In the process, we discovered leaks where risers or underground pipes have been broken. We continue to rely on an irrigation system that only Rube Goldberg could fully appreciate, originally installed with Sheriff's Work Project crew when the garden was founded over 25 years ago, and modified repeatedly throughout the years using Historic Rose Garden funds. City-funded irrigation improvements are planned for the cemetery irrigation infrastructure, and funds and plans are not yet in place that will change how our garden is watered. Therefore, we will continue to improve our system based on three battery-operated irrigation timers, twenty five valves, and over 500 heads at the base of the roses. Fortunately, we've had help from some knowledgeable crew members and dedicated oversight from volunteers Charlie Wingo and Jim Atwood. Other volunteers, including Lynda Ives, Haru Ruuth-Sanchez and our high school intern, Grayson Kelly, patiently check the moisture of selected roses, especially newly planted ones and others along the fence.

The Sheriff's crew has applied over half a ton of alfalfa pellets to our roses. We will soon be fertilizing, and are also maintaining perennials, weeding and removing dead growth and spent blossoms from our roses.

The good (or bad) news is that there is always something to do in any garden, but especially in our cemetery garden, where the number of plots, roses and weeds will always be greater than the volunteers. It's a good thing that the cemetery is so beautiful, and that simply being there with like-minded volunteers lifts our spirits and leavens our work with joy. Spring is approaching, and the payoff for our labor awaits. Let the explosion of blooms begin!

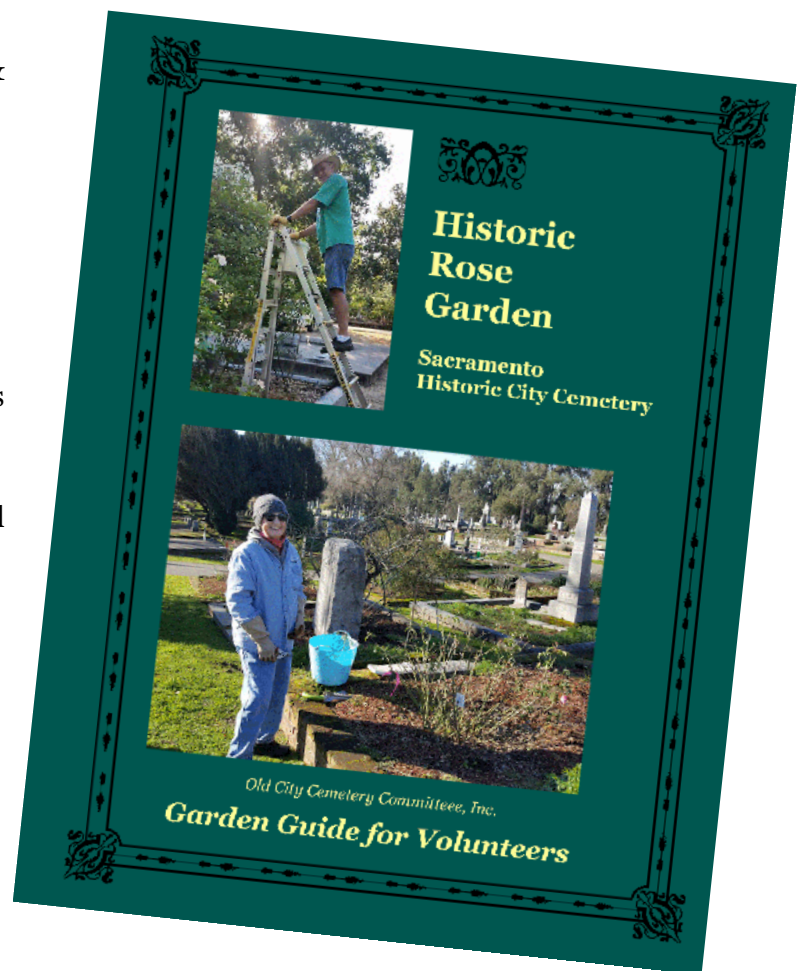
HISTORIC ROSE GARDEN VOLUNTEER GUIDE

Haru Ruuth-Sanchez has coordinated the development of the first Historic Rose Garden Volunteer Guide, intended to orient new Rose Garden volunteers, document best practices, and serve as a foundation for our volunteer efforts.

The full guide will be posted on our website in the “members only” section, and a slightly edited version that deletes personal contact and code information will be posted for public access. Copies will be sent electronically to all volunteers, and paper copies will be distributed to volunteers upon request.

Contents include:

- Background
- Key Contacts and Information (Bathroom & Shed Codes, Work Days)
- Security and Work Safety
- Parking
- General Landscape Practices
 - In General
 - Red Stakes
 - Keeping Paths Clear
 - Visibility of Monuments, Headstones and Markers
 - Weeds, Weeds, Weeds
 - Companion Plants Requiring Special Handling
- Rose Care & Maintenance
 - In General
 - Pruning Instructions
 - Deadheading
 - Labels and Ties
 - Fertilization
 - Mulch
 - Irrigation
 - Pests (the non-human kind...)
 - Diseases



It has taken many months to develop this guide, and we expect to revise and expand it over time.

This project has been a prodigious effort, and we thank Haru very much!



TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE—UPDATE

Judy Eitzen

The City’s Technical Advisory Committee held its first formal meeting October 25, 2017. Participants included

- Carson Anderson, City Preservation Officer
- Shannon Brown, Parks Department Manager
- Chris Conlin, Assistant City Manager
- Marcia Eymann, City Historian
- Samantha Minor, Councilmember Hanson’s office
- Caru Bowns, Preservation Commission member
- Rob Taylor, Pioneer Society
- City staff and a number of Cemetery volunteers, including Anita Clevenger and Judy Eitzen.

Attendees were presented with an overview of the Parks and Recreation Department’s ⁽¹⁾ responsibilities for managing the cemetery including potential employment of a contracted cemetery manager, overall maintenance responsibilities and volunteer recordkeeping.

We discussed policy directives from the City Council including adoption of the Cemetery Master Plan in 2007, additional funding approved for infrastructure, the need to address artifact damage and development of an overall management plan.

The City’s new cemetery overlay and data bases were demonstrated; one covering physical facilities on site and the other a burial index based on the Marsh index covering 1849-2000. Though it is a work in progress, it can be seen at <https://www.cityofsacramento.org/ParksandRec/Parks/Specialty-Parks/City-Cemetery>

Irrigation is a priority and there is City funding to begin to address this issue. Participants were asked for input and were encouraged to ask questions. The next meeting is planned for April when a draft cemetery management plan will be reviewed by the TAC members.

Minutes of the meeting have been issued and posted online at:
www.cityofsacramento.org/-/media/Corporate/Files/ParksandRec/Specialty-Parks/CityCemetery10-25-17_TACTeamMinutes.pdf

(1) Note that the Parks and Recreation Department has since been renamed to Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment.



TOM LIGGETT TEACHES PRUNING

Anita Clevenger

Tom Liggett spent two days in the Historic Rose Garden to demonstrate his pruning techniques and tackle some of our largest specimens. Over a two-day period, he pruned the two giant 'Perle d'Or' roses in Mayor Swift's plot (the original Adopt-a-Pioneer site), and pruned a dozen other roses ranging from small, struggling 'Poulsen's Pearl' to huge 'Smith's Parish.'

Tom wields a power lopper designed to prune three-inch orchard canes, so he made short work of taking off many large branches to reveal each rose's structure and to encourage new growth to emerge lower down in the plants. Our jaws dropped as gaunt skeletons emerged from formerly huge, dense plants, and we are eager to see how the plants respond.

While much of the pruning appeared rather drastic by Historic Rose Garden standards, Tom left some tall canes and worked to keep new breaks intact. Each rose was treated individually, working with its condition and growth habit.

As Tom worked, he shared his knowledge and rose pruning philosophy:

- Cut and remove cut canes immediately so severed canes don't end up lodged in the plant.
- Don't pull out cut canes because the prickles (thorns) act as saws and may damage canes. Cut them into smaller pieces and remove carefully.
- Be sure to clean out the crown of a plant from soil, leaves, mulch. Make it visible.
- Each cane must be tipped so that auxins (growth hormones) are focused where you want them. The exception are tender new canes that have recently been produced - let them grow.
- Leave something growing on all sides of the plant to encourage growth.
- Prune to encourage strong basal canes. Tom's goal is to have them break no more than 6" from the base of the plant. Many of our roses have breaks on canes much higher in the plant. Tom views basal breaks as an "opportunity," and wants us to spare them by cutting off the growth further out on the cane. He pointed out that some of our roses had "gone to twig," rather than producing strong new growth. This is a sign of a rose in decline.
- Spent nodes (places where crowded growth has emerged all around a node, usually as a result of being pruned) should be removed or cut to reduce the number of canes coming out of it.
- Tom leaves stubs rather than cutting too close to a growth node. He pointed out several "bad cuts" on the





roses on which he worked in which the cane had died back or produced weaker growth as a result of pruning cuts that were too close to the bud eye.

- Do not be concerned about powdery mildew. Tom shares my opinion that the condition self-controls in our summer heat and is usually only a problem in certain conditions in the spring and fall.

Almost all our repeat-blooming roses have Chinese genetics in them to a greater or lesser degree. The growth in some of them is very pithy and canes do not age or seal themselves well. Tom left some inflorescences in place because he was concerned that they would not survive being cut back. He also does not object to crossing canes on roses that exhibit a lot of China heritage, such as Teas, Chinas and polyanthas. He reminds us that this is how they grow as an understory plants "in the jungles of Burma." They are seeking sunlight, and the crossing canes do not necessarily cause damage or block air or light circulation.

In some cases, a rose is dead in the center and growth is coming up from the roots around it. Tom calls this "stooling out." 'Poulsen's Pearl' is a good example of this.

Tom recommends sealing large cuts with agricultural paint. In our cemetery garden, we need to be careful that it not be unsightly or drip on any cemetery features. We are considering using it to protect exposed canes, such as those that readily sunburn along the fence.

Tom recommends increased watering and regular fertilizing for a rose that has been decisively pruned. He recommends Apex time-release fertilizer for a garden such as ours, applied once after pruning, and again in June.



In addition to donating hours of his labor and time, and generously sharing his expertise, Tom left a box of his book, [How to Prune, Train and Tie Rose Plants](#), for rose garden volunteers. We will offer some of them for sale during our Open Garden. Tom also donated several roses for our collection and plant sale.

We cannot thank Tom enough for his support.

Tom Liggett has had a varied career as a chemist, cook, boilermaker, farmer, electrician and nurseryman and is best known for founding the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden. Working with volunteers he grew some 3,000 rose for that garden in 1995.



WALK AND TALK ABOUT OLD GARDEN ROSES

Many gardening and other events vie for our attention on Saturday mornings, so we have decided to lead a series of leisurely, informative strolls on Sunday afternoons to enjoy and learn more about our heritage roses.

At 1 pm on April 22nd, 29th and May 6th, we will walk through the garden to focus on various classes of roses. The first session will discuss Teas, Chinas and Noisettes. On April 29th, we will feature Bourbons and Hybrid Perpetuals. In May, we will highlight once-blooming European roses, including Gallicas, Damasks and Centifolias.

The tours will be led by rose garden volunteers, including garden curator Anita Clevenger, who will share knowledge and enthusiasm for their favorite types of roses. On Sunday morning, you may elect to go to church, sleep in, visit the Farmer's Market or have brunch. Then, come join us in the garden!

OLD MAGAZINES GET NEW LIFE

When volunteer Theresa Studstill saw some old copies of "American Rose" magazine at last year's Open Garden, she had an inspiration. Their beautiful rose photographs were perfect for decoupage projects. What if she took them to Oakmont of Carmichael, where she works with the residents, to make items to sell at next year's event? The magazines had belonged to our former curator, Barbara Oliva. We loved the idea of giving them a new life.

Oakmont artists enthusiastically set to work embellishing boxes, frames and other items, and donated the results of their labors to the Historic Rose Garden.

Theresa had another idea. What if we scheduled a tour for the artists so that they could see the garden and cemetery? We were happy to oblige.

Just before Thanksgiving, Nancy Laran and Anita Clevenger gave Oakmont residents a tour of the rose garden and cemetery, including visiting the Mortuary Chapel. We cut roses for them to see, touch and smell. The day was pleasant, the cemetery full of fall color and bloom, and everybody had fun. We hope to host them again in the spring.

Thank you, Theresa and Oakmont residents!

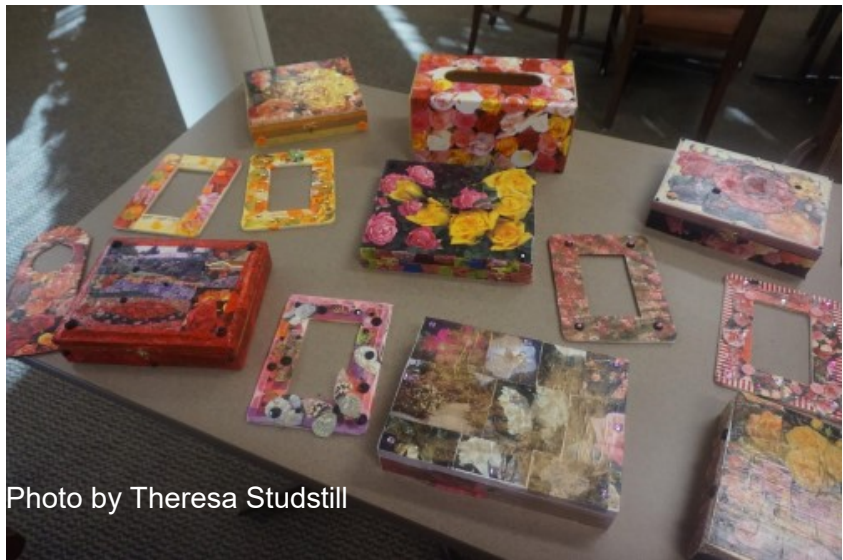


Photo by Theresa Studstill



SCANNIELLO EVENT DRAWS CROWD

Judy Eitzen

More than 150 people paid a \$10 donation to visit the Historic Rose Garden on a chilly, foggy Saturday in January to hear Stephen Scanniello discuss and demonstrate pruning techniques. Stephen, President of the Heritage Rose Foundation, and author of several books on roses and rose care is a dynamic and popular speaker. This was the fourth year he visited our garden to talk about pruning.

In the morning, Stephen's focus was on climbing roses; the afternoon session focused on shrub roses. As curator of the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden in the New York Botanical Garden and Elizabeth's Garden in Connecticut—the oldest public rose garden in the US—Stephen is familiar with techniques for working in a public garden.



Stephen reminded visitors of the importance of sanitizing and sharpening tools and is a proponent of using jute, a natural fiber, for tying up climbing roses. He keeps the spool of jute in his hip pocket, and pulls the string around his neck for easy access. (Note the string in the photo at left)

It's not easy to speak with your back to a crowd while climbing a ladder, but Stephen managed and kept folks interested by discussing each cut as he considered and then wielded his pruners. Attendees were also given an opportunity to ask questions and learn how to examine each rose with an eye to how it would grow after pruning for the best display of blooms in spring.

While in California, Stephen also met with and spoke to several local rose societies, telling of his experiences working with roses and meeting rosarians and celebrities around the world. We were delighted he could again visit the 'left coast' and share his expertise with us.

We collected more than \$1,200 at the event; funds collected from admission donations and sales were shared with the Heritage Rose Foundation.



CEMETERY ROSE

Garden Tip

After winter pruning, give your roses a head start on spring with a light feeding with an organic fertilizer.

This can be followed by a second feeding when bloom time begins.

Before putting your winter tools away, be sure to give them attention. Clean and oil loppers and nippers and re-sharpen blades ready for their next use.

Volunteer Activities & Upcoming Events

- March 31—10:00 a.m.—Early Bloom Tour
- April 7—Primping Party at the Rose Garden
- April 14—9:30-2:00—Open Garden
- April 15—11:00-1:00—Rose Sales
- April 21—6:00 p.m.—Romance & Roses (\$20 donation)
- Sunday, April 22—1:00 p.m. Old Garden Roses—Teas, Chinas, Noisettes
- April 28, Sacramento Rose Show
- Sunday April 29—1:00 p.m.—Old Garden Roses—Hybrid Perpetuals & Bourbons
- Sunday, May 6—1:00 p.m.—Old Garden Roses—Gallicas, Damasks, Albas & Centifolias
- Monday, May 7—6:00 p.m.—Deadheading at Dusk
- Sunday, May 20—Celebration of Old Rose—El Cerrito
- Monday June 4—6:00 p.m.—Deadheading at Dusk



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