

PROPAGATION CLASS & FALL TOURS

Join us Saturday, September 8 in the Historic Rose Garden to learn about propagating roses from cuttings. The class will be presented by Kathryn Mackenzie, who will share her techniques for successful propagation.

It will be held on Laburnum Avenue and begins at 10 a.m. The class is free and all are welcome.

On October, 13 a free tour will be offered in the Historic Rose Garden to show off the bounty of roses blooming in early fall. The Beautiful Bounty Rose Garden Tour will begin at 10 a.m. near the front entrance of the Cemetery.

Fall Color in the Rose Garden Tour on November 17 will include those roses still in bloom and visitors will see a wonderful display of colorful foliage and rose hips.

Each of these events is free to the public. Public parking is available on the street.

HRF ANNUAL MEETING IN TEXAS

A number of west coast rosarians are expected to travel to the Antique Rose Emporium in Brenham, Texas this fall. While this is not an official Heritage Rose Foundation conference, the event includes a garden tour, several talks, good food and an opportunity to meet and talk with rosy friends. It will be held in conjunction with the Antique Rose Emporium's Fall Festival of Roses November 1-4. If you have not been to ARE in Texas, now is the time as you are in for a treat!

The garden tour includes a visit to Peckerwood Garden (Garden Conservancy in Hampstead) the Round Top Festival Garden, Peaceable Kingdom Organic Gardens, and Dr. William Welch's Garden.

Details are available on the Heritage Rose Foundation website: www.heritagrosefoundation.org.

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Historic
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Garden





EDITORIAL

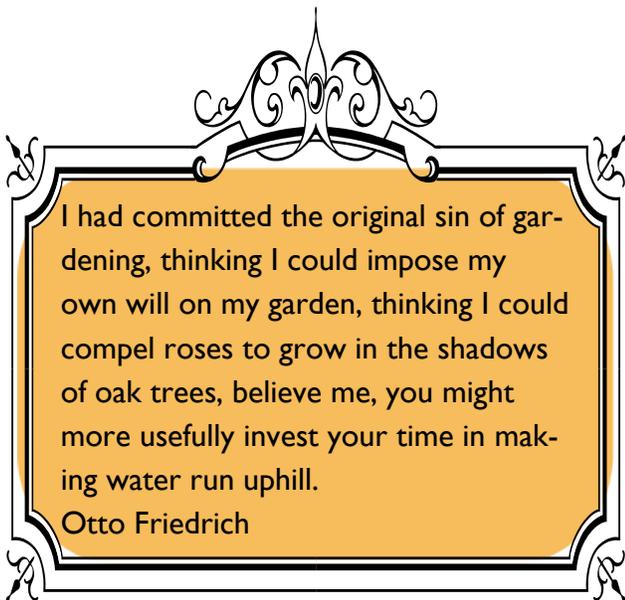
Volunteers spent the summer working hard in the Historic Rose Garden despite the hottest July on record and poor air quality. Time was spent keeping things neat, irrigated and weed-free (or at least weed-reduced).

The efforts of volunteers are much appreciated by visitors who tell us they like what we're doing and by city staff who recognize that without volunteers the cemetery might appear as it did prior to establishment of the Rose Garden, Hamilton Square, Native Plant and Adopt-A-Plot program.

Seeing the results of your labors can be rewarding, and I am delighted each time I get to the garden. Though it is not enough to say, 'thank you', I wish to commend every hard-working volunteer.

Sharing information via this newsletter, our website and Facebook page is important, and I encourage volunteers to share your experiences, too.

*Comments, questions, concerns,
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***Events in the Historic
Rose Garden***

***September 8, 2018
Propagation Class***

***October 13, 2018
Bountiful Beauties
Abound***

***November 17, 2018
Fall Color in the Rose
Garden***



CURATOR'S CORNER

Anita Clevenger

Where did the summer go? Some of it was lost in a haze of smoke, as the Mendocino Complex Fire, the biggest in California's history, burned near Clear Lake and darkened skies in much of our area. There were days when the sun was an eerie orange disc in a gray sky, and nights when not even the moon was visible. Sacramento's air was better than in many neighboring communities, and was often fairly good in the morning. Still, ash floated in the air and coated everything as it fell. Some garden volunteers stayed home, and others came early to get work done before air quality became hazardous.

We know that people's health is threatened by particles in the air. What about the roses? An abstract of a Japanese study states, "Dust cover on leaves is considered to affect photosynthesis directly, mainly by shading leaf surface, increasing leaf surface and plugging stomata."⁽¹⁾ Dust also encourages spider mites. We've noticed that ash stuck onto the more resinous leaves. Once the smoke clears, we plan to pull out our fireman's nozzle and get to work rinsing off leaves.

Other than their dustiness, the roses have looked very good this summer. The roses pruned by Tom Liggett have grown and flowered very well. The fence roses continue to thrive under Lynda Ives' intense management. We believe our work to remove old, damaged canes, to better fertilize and water, and to identify and deal with disease has paid big dividends throughout the garden.

We've become much more aware of rose diseases, especially canker. We are vigilantly cutting out cankered canes as soon as we see them, making sure to use clean, sharp bypass pruners to cut at least several inches below the dead growth because the disease may have already spread into apparently healthy tissue. We ask volunteers to disinfect their shears between each cut of a diseased cane, and between all roses. This improved pruning and hygiene is important, not only to preserve the rare and historic roses in our collection, but to have them look their best.



The mid-August flush, mostly Tea roses, occurred right on schedule. Summer blooms are smaller and often lighter colored. We look forward to even more bloom, larger flowers and deeper tones later this fall.

To improve visibility and to reduce bulk, we've worked to reduce the size of some of the large roses, such as 'Fortuneana', "Phillips & Rix Pink China Climber", and 'Souvenir de Mme Leonie Viennot'. The axiom that 'pruning stimulates growth' proves true, however, and strong new growth usually emerges to take the place of that which we have removed. In many cases, it's better to remove some major canes altogether rather than trimming from the top.

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Occasionally, we decide that a rose is simply in the wrong place. We removed one of the ‘Russelliana’ roses in the Broadway Bed to give more room for neighboring ‘Jim Henley’ to grow and to make the paths more open. Beautiful as it was for a few weeks each spring, it was one of three identical ‘Russeliana’ in the collection and could be spared. We are continuing to cut back and evaluate.

Two recent visitors reinforced the value of all of our hard work. One thanked me and Jim Atwood for “taking care of this treasure.” Another told me and Judy Eitzen that the rose garden was “her favorite place.” Thank you to all of the Historic Rose Garden volunteers and supporters, and the City staff and Sheriff’s Work Project crew members who work with us, for making this possible.

- 1) *The Physical Effects of Dust on Photosynthetic Rate of Plant Leaves*, Takashi HIRANO, Makoto KIYOTA, Yoshiaki KITAYA, Ichiro AIGA, *The Journal of Agricultural Meteorology*, Volume 46, Issue 1

DEAD MAN’S FOOT

Anita Clevenger

What are those ugly, round, brown balls that we sometimes spot at the base of the roses in late summer? Are they harmful? Should they be removed?

Appropriately for a cemetery, they are a *Pisolithus* fungus often called “Dead Man’s Foot,” or even more revoltingly, “Dog Turd Fungus.” There are probably a dozen different species. In the past, it was called *P. tinctorum* or “dyeball fungus,” recognizing its traditional use as a dye for wool. Whatever you call it, the fungus is not stinky, not harmful and may in fact benefit the roots of woody plants. It is a mycorrhiza, and is often used by the forestry industry to initially inoculate tree seedlings. Many of the commercially-available gardening products that contain mycorrhizal mixes include *Pisolithus*.

Left alone, the fungus will gradually deteriorate. Since they do not harm and may actually do good for our plants, aren’t very noticeable, and serve as a great conversation piece, it’s best to leave them in place.





I LOVE THE BIRDS

Ann Young

I love my days working in the historic Rose Cemetery. It is peaceful and beautiful. There are many bird friendly plants and roses. The pollinators are very important.

One day I was honored to see Western bluebirds in the perennial garden. Another day a Yellow warbler posed for me. Mockingbirds sing sweet songs every day. I was pruning a rose one day and noticed a flock of Golden crowned sparrows. So lovely. Crows, of course are there every day. They are smart and noisy and very family oriented. Robins are everywhere. Worms, fruit and bugs are their food. Water is very important and you sometimes see birds near irrigation emitters. Black headed Phoebes are lovely and have a sweet call. Scrub Jays are a daily feature in the garden. They are loud and helpful as they snack on bugs and seeds. A very special raptor flew through when I was viewing a Climber being trimmed. A Northern Harrier. Love my job!



Some Cemetery Birds

Top: Mockingbird, Yellow Warbler, Northern Harrier
Middle: Western Bluebird, Golden Crowned Sparrow
Bottom: Crow, Scrub Jay, Robin





ROSES AT THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

Anita Clevenger

Interest in old rose survivors and a desire to collect, identify, preserve and grow them extends across the world. Often it began with one or two curious people, whose interest leads them into an almost never-ending journey of discovery. In South Africa, that person is Gwen Fagan. She first became interested in identifying the roses grown in the early days of the Cape of Good Hope Colony as part of her work as a historic landscape architect. In her book, *Roses at the Cape of Good Hope*, she says “My interest, thus stimulated, took leaf and blossomed into an obsession, though a most enjoyable one.”⁽¹⁾

Cape Town was established as a “half-way house on the trade route between Europe and the East Indies” by the Dutch in April 7, 1652. They established large gardens to grow fruits and vegetables to stock the ships’ stores, and vineyards from which to make wine. They brought plants from the East and West alike to grow in their gardens, including roses. The first Dutch rose, a Centifolia, was picked by Commander Jan van Riebeeck on November 1, 1657.

Gwen’s efforts have been similar to what Fred Boutin and others have done in California, but the task is harder because the records of what was imported, sold and grown go back two centuries earlier than our Gold Rush history. Like our rose rescuers, she found many roses, “...that seem to grow only at the Cape – whether they might be the result of local hybridization, I have not been able to establish. Perhaps, like the last rose of summer, they are, after all, European hybrids which have managed to linger longer here at the Cape.” She has also found roses that are contenders to be the possibly-extinct ‘Humes’ Blush’ and ‘Park’s Yellow Tea-Scented Rose’, two of the four ‘stud roses’ that are said to be the ancestors of most modern roses.

Some of the South African found roses don’t look exactly like what we grow here under the same name. Do the roses express themselves differently in South Africa, are they slightly different clones, or are they different plants altogether?

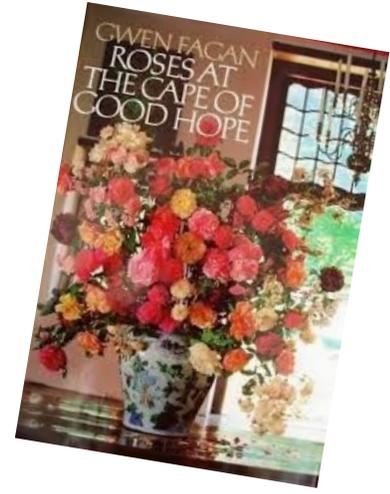
Gwen’s book is a treasure that every old rose lover should own. Fortunately, good used copies are available for about \$15 on-line. For that price, you get a large, 300-page, impeccably researched and beautifully photographed compendium that provides the background of all of the old rose classes and full-sized photographs of many of their cultivars. Gwen was unable to find a publisher for such a lavishly produced book. She was told that there was too much color, and the book was too large. Her husband, noted South African architect Gabriel Fagan, was the photographer. The two were convinced that his photographs must be printed in full color, in the size of the actual blooms, in order for the book to be useful to rosarians everywhere. They published it themselves in 1988. The book is now on its fourth printing.

I had the opportunity to spend time with Gwen and Gawie (as her husband is known) during a recent visit to South Africa. They are now over 90 years old, but still zoom to work together every day in Gawie’s red Fiat and climb the steep stairs to their architectural firm’s office. Their lives are a testament to what can be achieved with vision, scholarship, hard work and tenacity. They reflect back on many achievements, but also remember the roses, gardens, architectural projects and planning battles that they have lost. Undeterred, they look to the future, and work on.



Anita brought home a new, autographed copy of 'Roses at the Cape of Good Hope' that will be part of the Silent Auction at next year's Open Garden. On Feb 28, 2019, she is scheduled to talk to the Perennial Plant Club about the South African gardens and wildflowers that she visited.

1) Breestraat Publikasies; 1st edition, 1988—1989, reprint 1995



TAC UPDATE

Judy Eitzen

The Technical Advisory Committee met on July 11 to present draft recommendations from the consultant's assessment of the cemetery and cemetery operations. Their primary recommendation stated a need for a single authority for cemetery operations—a Cemetery Manager. The manager would report to the Parks Department and consult with the City Historian regarding the historical artifacts and aspects of the cemetery.

The next meeting is planned for October 3 by which time, city staff and the consultants will have further digitized burial records and continued mapping the cemetery to develop the interactive database for public use. They plan to review needed maintenance and equipment, identify costs and funding sources to upgrade irrigation. The primary irrigation issue is to learn if the mainline entering the cemetery is sufficient to adequately cover the entire property and how the use of hunter sprinklers might be reduced or replaced with localized plot irrigation. We also discussed bringing in an additional non-profit organization to support fundraising to support cemetery infrastructure.

Gary Hyden (chair) announced a subcommittee to develop horticultural guidelines for the cemetery. The committee will include city and volunteer representatives. It is expected that the subcommittee will report back to the larger group at the October meeting. Cemetery representatives include Anita Clevenger, Cassandra Musto and Judy Eitzen.



ROSE PETALS

Judy Eitzen

When we spend time tending the historic roses in the cemetery, we are reminded of those who grew roses in the past and of the many uses our ancestors made of these wonderful plants. Roses were grown for garden beauty of course, but also for fragrance both fresh and dried.

From ancient times, roses were used to make perfume by Egyptians, Greeks and Romans. Petals were distilled into essences placed in jars and used to perfume rooms, persons and as part of religious rites. During the age of exploration, trade in spices was expanded, providing Europeans with mace and nutmeg, cinnamon and cloves which were added to flower essences.

Potpourri is probably of French origin, since the word is French; “pot” meaning jar or container and “pourri” meaning rotten. This is pretty much how such fragrant essences are made – putting fragrant petals in a container.

One such recipe, dating from 1895 states, “To a basin of dried scented roses add a handful of dried knotted marjoram, lemon thyme, rosemary, lavender flowers all well dried, the rind of one lemon and one orange dried to powder, six dried bay leaves, half an ounce of bruised cloves, a teaspoon of allspice. Mix well together and stir occasionally.”⁽¹⁾

A recipe from 1606, “A Comfortable Pomander for the Braine” combined Damask rose petals with clove, mace and nutmeg.⁽²⁾

Old Garden roses with the most fragrant petals make the best rose potpourri and autumn is a good time to harvest petals as both color and fragrance are deeper in the fall. If you have roses in your garden that rebloom in fall, you have the makings of fragrant potpourri.

Harvest petals in morning, after the dew is dry and from flowers that have just come into full bloom to ensure they retain essential oils. Pick a day when it will be warm and clear for the next few days. Dry petals in thin layers on screens in a shady corner of the yard. Be sure air can circulate around the petals but protect from breezes by using thin cheesecloth to keep them from blowing away.

Various recipes mix rose petals with other flowers, herbs and spices. Here’s a sample contemporary recipe using roses and lavender.⁽³⁾ “Place a quart of thoroughly dry rose petals and one half pint of dried lavender flowers in a large bowl, along with one tablespoon of crushed gum benzoin or storax, or crusted orris root.⁽⁴⁾ Gently and thoroughly mix petals and fixative.





Stir in one tea-spoonful of anise seed combined with one table-spoonful of mixed powdered clove, nutmeg and cinnamon. A table-spoonful or two of oven-dried orange or lemon rind stuck full of cloves and cut into bits may be included. Stir in five drops each of essence (oil) of jasmine, rose geranium, patchouli, and rosemary. Combine thoroughly, and place the mixture in a large crock, filling it two thirds full. Seal the crock and turn it or rock it two or three times a week for six weeks. By then the potpourri will be about cured, and can be transferred to small ornamental glass containers, and sealed. The perfume will remain for year.”



Rosemary and rose fragrances work well together and have been used for centuries in sachets. A simple sachet container can be made of a circle of cotton fabric tied with a colorful ribbon. “2 cups crushed dried rose petals, 2 cups crushed dried rosemary leaves, 1 tablespoon powdered orris root, 1 tablespoon crushed cassia buds or cloves.”⁽⁵⁾ Combine ingredients in a large bowl and stir gently. Cover tightly and set aside for a month. Uncover and toss or stir the mixture every few days to intensify the fragrance. Fill small cotton bags with the mixture. Tuck them into closets and drawers.

One final recipe for Musk Rose Water comes from 1675:

“Take two handfuls of your musk rose leaves, put them into about a quart of fair water and a quarter of a pound of sugar, let this stand and steep about half an hour, then take your water and flowers and pour them out of one vessel into another till such time as the water hath taken the scent and taste of the flowers. Then set it in a cool place a-cooling and you will find it a most excellent scent-water.”⁽⁶⁾

- 1) Victoria, *At Home With rRoses*, Jeanine Larmoth, NY, Hearst Books, 1997, p. 13
- 2) “A Potpourri Of Scents ‘n’ Spices In a Jar”, Jacqueline H. Hunter, *New York Times*, June 6, 1971
- 3) Ibid
- 4) Gum benzoin is a balsamic resin, storax is a natural resin isolated from the wounded bark of *Liquidambar orientalis* and orris root is a preparation of the fragrant rootstock of an iris, all available from a pharmacy.
- 5) Victoria at home...page 47.
- 6) Ibid, page 81

CEMETERY ROSE

Fall Garden Tip

In mild winter climates like ours, fall is the time to plant trees, shrubs and perennial companion plants in our rose gardens.

It's also time to divide overcrowded, clumping perennials, dig companion dahlias and amend the soil.

How much soil? Get out your calculator or pencil...

A small (1/2 ton) pickup truck holds about 1 cubic yard of compost (five wheelbarrow loads). Larger amounts can be delivered by nurseries.

For example, to add say, 2" of compost to a 100 square foot area, you need 2/3 of a cubic yard. For 3", 1 cubic yard, 4" = 1.25 cubic yard, etc. Do the math before purchasing compost.

Volunteer Activities Upcoming Events

Historic Rose Garden work days are Tuesday and Saturday mornings. Come join in the fun!

September 8
Propagation Class

October 13
Bountiful Beauties Tour

November 17
Fall Color in the Rose Garden

December, January, et al
Pruning Time!



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