

# CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

## CEMETERY ROSE

### 2012 OPEN GARDEN

Planning is well underway for our annual Open Garden. Hardworking volunteers know it's going to be great this year as we celebrate twenty years. The garden is being groomed and the roses are getting ready for their April show. Tables and canopies are ordered, sales roses are being readied, shirts and other goodies ready for sale and tours are being rehearsed.

Each year, our event expands a little and attracts people from farther afield. As with the last few years, both the Hamilton Square Perennial Garden and the Native Plant Demonstration Garden will participate, offering tours and sales of native plants. Last year, we attracted visitors from around Northern California and we've already heard from some rose aficionados at some distances, who are planning to make the trip. This year will be a special celebration of twenty years of the Historic Rose Garden. The event will start at 9:30 a.m. and run until 2:00 p.m.

This is our annual fundraising event and while the majority of funds generated are expended on caring for the roses (compost, irrigation, etc.), we also purchase mortar to repair plot surrounds, employ professionals to repair headstones and even trim trees. The Garden is an important collection of roses, and we never lose sight of the importance of maintaining this historic site and respecting those laid to rest.

### FALL SYMPOSIUM

We're also getting ready to celebrate twenty years of the Historic Rose Garden with a special event October 12-14. We're inviting those who participated in the original planting so we can celebrate their efforts and all who have contributed time and effort over the years. Barbara Oliva will receive special recognition for her twenty years of effort.

Our event will include a day-long symposium, a special evening tour and an opportunity to tour the Historic Rose Garden with rosy friends. The Saturday symposium will be held at the California Auto Museum, just down the road from the Garden and will include: Gregg Lowery speaking of hybrid chinas; a panel of Rose Garden founders (Fred Boutin, Barbara Oliva, and Jean Travis); Darrell Schramm discussing how roses came to California; Fred Boutin speaking of roses yet to be found. A reception will be held on Friday night that will include a lantern tour of the Cemetery.

The symposium will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Heritage Rose Foundation and is co-sponsored by the HRF, the Heritage Roses Group and the Old City Cemetery Committee.

Registration and event details will be posted on the Cemetery Rose website soon. ([www.cemeteryrose.org](http://www.cemeteryrose.org).)

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## TWENTY YEARS LATER

What does 20 years actually signify? First, if you figure an average of six or seven workers, twice a week for three hours...add it all up and it represents the equivalent of a full-time person in the garden. Over 20 years that equates to nearly a million dollars of value to the City. And that's just garden work.

If you also include time spent on other activities related to the Historic Rose Garden (this newsletter, event planning, conducting tours, etc. etc.) that doubles it.

Then we need to include the roses—finding, rustling, identifying, photographing, record-keeping, planning the garden to make sense of the history of these plants—a thoughtful, thorough approach to our object to preserve these roses.

These efforts were led over these twenty years by Barbara Oliva and in recent years by Garden Manager Anita Clevenger. There are many, many more who have played important roles in developing and maintaining this garden—too many to list here.

The result is an internationally recognized garden of roses representing California's early gardening heritage, planned, executed and maintained by volunteers—and that's well worth celebrating.

*Comments, questions, concerns*  
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## OPEN GARDEN SCHEDULE





## OWLS IN THE CEMETERY

BY JUDY EITZEN

Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*) are found throughout the state of California. Their appearance is distinctive with a white heart-shaped face and dark eyes. They are generally rusty-brown or cinnamon colored on their backs with lighter under parts. These nocturnal foragers of mice and small birds hunt primarily by sound, using their asymmetrically placed ears to triangulate position of prey. Their specially adapted flight feathers make their flight almost soundless; a very effective hunting mechanism.

These owls have adapted to human activity and can be found in suburbs, farmland and even urban settings. As reported in last September's issue, three new owl boxes have been installed in the cemetery; one in the elm tree at the corner of Ivy and Laburnum. We encourage owls in the cemetery in an effort to reduce the population of burrowing rodents.

How to find these nocturnal cemetery dwellers? These owls roost primarily in trees and can be located in daytime by listening for flocks of small birds noisily mobbing a roosting owl. The boxes in the cemetery are provided primarily for nesting. Barn owls nest in the spring. Check beneath the box from time to time for regurgitated pellets of fur and bone. A volunteer recently found one in the Broadway bed near plot 26.

Also native to this region are Short Eared Owls (*Asio flammeus*) which tend to move south during the winter. They prefer open areas and can sometimes be seen hunting by day when prey is scarce. The Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*), noted for its large ear tufts ("horns") is the most widespread owl in the United States, thriving throughout California. It hunts using



excellent vision, swooping down from high perches on rodents, skunks, porcupines, birds, snakes, etc. The Western Screech Owl (*Megascops kennicottii*) tends to roost in trees where its distinctive mottled coloring blends with the bark's color and pattern. A sit-and-wait predator, this small owl feeds primarily on insects and can catch some in mid-flight. It prefers open areas, but can be found in urban and suburban parks. Also found in open areas, the burrowing owl (*Athene curicularia*) tends to roost next to its burrow during the day, popping into the burrow when threatened.

### MORE INFORMATION

Two websites have lots of information about the owls which call our cemetery home:

***The Owl Pages:***

<http://www.owlpages.com/index.php>

***Sacramento Audubon society:***

<http://www.sacramentoaudubon.org/clowl.html>

In addition, you can learn about building your own owl box at

<http://www..scvas.org/pdf/cbrp/BuildingBarnOwlBoxes.pdf>



## ROSE GARDEN MAINTENANCE REPORT

BY ANITA CLEVINGER

There were no excuses to keep us from pruning this winter. We had very little rain in January and February, and lost just one work day due to wet weather. Record-setting January high temperatures, however, made us feel as though we were in a race. Usually, the sap starts to flow and roses start to leaf out around Valentine's Day. This year, some varieties were doing so at the beginning of February.

Have we pruned all of the roses? Of course not. Despite the wonderful turnout of volunteers at regular workdays and for the Pruning Party, the roses still outnumber us. However, we did almost all of the higher priority work.

How do we decide what to do? We try to prune all of the established Hybrid Perpetuals and Hybrid Teas during the winter pruning, and to cut out dead, damaged, diseased and unproductive wood throughout the garden. Some of the old, woody canes now harbor boring insects, and it's good to remove them altogether.

The newest roses need very little intervention. Miriam Wilkins wrote, in an article reprinted in the Feb 2012 Heritage Roses Group *Rose Letter*, that "every expert" advises to let roses grow unpruned for the first three years, to let them establish their "inborn size and form." Barbara tells us that is what happened when the cemetery roses were first planted, partly by plan, and partly because there just weren't enough volunteers to do it.

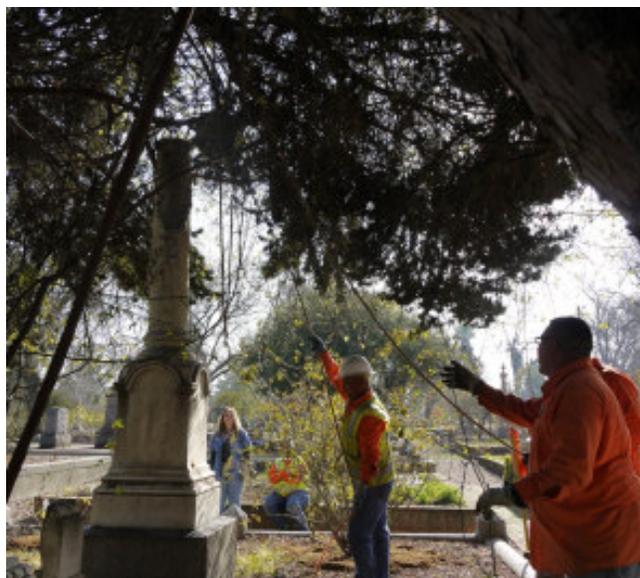
We don't prune some roses every year, especially if we have done a major pruning fairly recently. For example, 'Minnehaha' was pruned to a few canes last year. This year, we took out a little bit of dead or weak growth, but it really didn't need attention. We also tend to work on individual Teas and Chinas every few years.

Trimming and shaping the once-blooming roses is a lower priority, although we are rewarded with more shapely plants and better bloom if we shorten some canes during the winter. We are waiting to renew some of the once-bloomers after bloom. We saw the good effects of cutting out much of the old wood on centifolia 'Fantin-Latour' last summer. It responded with a number of new, fresh canes. There is one final old cane that I'm itching to cut out, but it's going to bear many flowers, so we will wait! Other once-blooming roses, such as both plants of

'De la Grifferaie,' are on our list for summer renewal.

We tackled a number of "project roses" this winter, reducing the number of canes on most of the roses on the Broadway fence and tying them in firmly to the fence. They would like to grow in a spreading fashion, but it's better to keep them espaliered horizontally so we can walk and weed on the garden side and, so passers-by are not threatened on the sidewalk below. We kept most of the growth on 'Ramona' and 'Easlee's Golden Rambler,' and plan to cut out some old canes and train them further after their spring display.

We also cut back a number of overgrown roses. Several people pruned the modern red roses that grow next to 'Lamarque' in the West Bed. There were days of effort expended on cleaning out dead and old canes from some of the climbing roses that grow in huge mounds at the west edge of the Broadway Bed. "Mendocino #1," "Mendocino #2," 'Garisenda' and "Sarah's Grandmother" all look much more open and tidy as a result. A



decade ago, the west end of the Broadway Bed felt like a no-man's land. Now that the weeds are under better control, the walkways trimmed, several brick surrounds repaired, and the roses pruned, it feels like a well-tended part of the garden.

*(Continued on page 5)*



## MAINTENANCE, CONT.

*(Continued from page 4)*

Roses in trees were an issue this year. Many species of roses grow as understory plants, and naturally climb up into trees seeking the sun overhead. Following the tradition of English gardens, we encouraged many of our roses to do so, and rejoice in their beauty. In particular, Banksiae roses growing up into pine, cypress



and yew trees have been one of the outstanding features of our garden. Unfortunately, the *R. banksiae banksiae* in the West Bed grew around the monument in the center of its bed, and the tree branches and rose canes knocked the top of the monument askew. It was cradled by two rose canes, so did not fall to the ground. The City tree department happened to be trimming the cemetery trees at the time, and managed to bring the large, heavy marble piece safely down to the ground.

That was the good news; the bad news is that the City crew returned and cut off all of the rose canes in order to trim the yews. The rose will recover, but we will lose most of its beautiful bloom this year, and will never again let it grow so close to the monument. We worked out an agreement with the city to do as little as possible with other roses in trees, and to not touch the *R. banksiae normalis*, an icon of our garden as it grows up the pine tree by the Broadway fence.

The viewpoint of arborists and rosarians are not the same. We rose-lovers believe that roses can co-exist

with the trees for a very long time, because roses do not cling to the branches like many vines, and develop strong canes that support their weight. However, arborists point out that they shade out leaves and add weight to trees, so there is a reason for concern. Like so much in life, we have to seek a balance, and accept that some things have to change.

We have done all that we can to prepare the roses this winter, including providing some irrigation, and having crew members from the Sheriff's Work Project spread composted manure. We plan to apply alfalfa, and to add organic fertilizer to selected roses that appear to need a further boost.

Will all of this effort lead to the best spring bloom ever? It's simply not in our control. We don't know what spring weather will be, and the effect of the lack of winter rain, warm high temperatures, and chilly nights remains to be seen. We've certainly done our best, and look forward to seeing the results. Let spring begin!

### PHOTOS COURTESY ANITA CLEVENGER

*Previous Page:* City crew at work

*Above left:* Monument finial caught in branches

*Below:* safely on the ground.





# ‘LADY MARY’

BY JUDY EITZEN

While we like to think all our roses are interesting with stories to be shared, some stand out, generate controversy, serve as prolific progenitors or have special attributes. This rose has all of these and more. In plot 006 in the Broadway Bed is a rose originally found growing in Angels Camp, California. It was given the study name, “Whittle-Beyer Light Pink” (AKA “Whittle Light-pink Tea”) and is most probably ‘Lady Mary Fitzwilliam’.

Henry Bennett was a late nineteenth-century English cattle-farmer turned rose-breeder and one of the first to practice controlled hybridization exclusively. ‘Lady Mary’ was bred in 1882 and generally greeted with derision. One writer of the day sneered, “A weaker and more unsatisfactory grower it would be impossible to find.”<sup>1</sup> It tends to put much strength into forming perfect flowers at the expense of growth, and therefore it delighted rose exhibitors as the plant was derided by others.

This 19<sup>th</sup> century Hybrid Tea was named for a granddaughter of King William IV and has become a most important ancestor of many modern garden roses. It has lovely, fragrant blooms in soft pink with pale green, matte foliage. ‘Lady Mary’ blooms in flushes throughout the season. “Between 1879 and 1890, Bennett succeeded in raising several distinct cultivars from a deliberate program of crossing Teas with HPs and, in his lifetime, raised well over thirty new roses.”<sup>2</sup>

There are so few early records of the origins of roses (those that exist often list only the seed parent), much of what we know is guesswork based on characteristics,



habit, growth, etc. Additionally, seedlings raised from hybrids often show a tendency to revert to the form of one of that hybrid’s parents, further confusing things. Today, precise records are kept by hybridizers and DNA testing can give some clues on older varieties.

From whence came ‘Lady Mary’? Henry Bennett saw the merit of the Hybrid Tea as a new class of roses beneficial to both the florist industry and the home gardener as cut flowers. The British public had poo-pooed the idea of this new class because the first of these (‘La France’, 1867, Guillot fils) was a French development. Bennett announced that ‘Lady Mary Fitzwilliam’ resulted from a cross between ‘Victor Verdier’ (Hybrid Perpetual) and ‘Devoniensis’ (Tea – in our garden, plot 547). This would make it a Hybrid Tea. However, additional controversy erupted when ‘Lady Mary’ was once awarded a prize as the best *Hybrid Perpetual* in an exhibition hall. The judgment however was subsequently reversed, on the alleged ground that ‘Lady Mary Fitzwilliam’ was *not* a Hybrid Perpetual. Thus the question: what is a Hybrid Perpetual?



Hybrid Perpetual roses were a deliberate attempt to produce long-flowering roses by crossing European types (particularly Gallicas, Bourbons and Portlands) with repeat-blooming China roses. Many HPs do bloom repeatedly, but tend to short flower stalks, so breeders kept trying. Crossing HPs with Tea roses (longer but weaker flower stems) eventually resulted in modern Hybrid Tea roses. HT’s have the repeat blooming characteristics of HP’s with the longer flower stems of the Teas. Because HT’s were not immediately accepted in Britain, ‘Lady Mary Fitzwilliam’ was often shown there as a HP, but readily classed as a Hybrid Tea in the U.S.

Unlike the virtually sterile ‘La France’, generally considered the first Hybrid Tea, ‘Lady Mary Fitzwilliam’ gave rise to many satisfactory, even great modern roses.

(Continued on page 7)



## LADY MARY, CONT.

(Continued from page 6)

Jack Harkness once stated that the rose should be classed as a '*stud Hybrid Tea*' because it was the pollen-parent of no less than 1,300 Hybrid Teas.<sup>3</sup> A sampling of her descendents include:

'**White Lady**' bred by Arpad Mühle in 1927 is a Hybrid Tea which some consider an artistic advance over 'Lady Mary'. *HelpMeFind* lists it as a white or white blend rose with moderate fragrance. The rose has medium to large double blooms in small clusters and blooms in flushes throughout the season.

'**Margaret Dickson**' – a white Hybrid Perpetual, gets the white color from 'Merveille de Lyon'. An inveterate grower, this Irish-bred rose (Alexander Dickson II; 1891) has a tendency to expend its strength in the production of superfluous wood; this and an occasional lack of compactness in the center, are its only limitations. Still, a sweetly beautiful rose more than makes up for these limitations.

'**Mme Caroline Testout**' – Located in plots 033, 435 and 504 in the Cemetery, this Hybrid Tea bred by Joseph Pernet-Ducher in 1890 carries that wonderful Damask rose fragrance in her makeup. Blooms are pink with a darker center and silvery outer petals. Blooms in flushes throughout the season. She was named for a well known French dressmaker from Grenoble, the proprietor of fashionable salons in London and Paris. Mme Testout often purchased silks from Lyon and came to know Pernet-Ducher. Recognizing a good opportunity, she asked him to name a rose for her. The resulting publicity served her (and Pernet-Ducher) well. This rose became so popular in the US that it was the rose planted along streets in the city of Portland in 1905 as part of the Lewis and Clark Centennial Celebration.

'**Crimson Glory**' also carries the fragrance of Damask roses, even stronger than 'Mme Caroline Testout'. 'Crimson Glory' was bred by Wilhelm J.H. Kordes II in 1935. Strongly fragrant blooms have 30 to 35 petals in a cupped form. It also blooms in flushes throughout the season.

'**Ena Harkness**' too carries a strong Damask fragrance and blooms throughout the season in flushes. This Hybrid Tea was bred by Albert Norman in 1946. She has full crimson, high-centered blooms.

'**Josephine Bruce**', a Hybrid Tea grown by Alfred James Fraser in 1950 has dark red to crimson double flowers with a mild damask fragrance. Blooms in flushes throughout the season.

'**Antoine Rivoire**' is another Joseph Pernet-Ducher Hybrid Tea from 1895. Blooms are light pink, with carmine-pink shading and reverse with yellow undertones. Fragrance is moderate. This rose blooms in flushes throughout the season with blooms borne mostly as solitary roses on upright stems.

'**Kaiserin Auguste Viktoria**' – a Hybrid Tea from Peter Lambert (1891). These white or white blend roses have a yellow center and moderate fragrance. Bloom form is large, and very double, blooming throughout the season. 'Kaiserin' can be found in the Historic Rose Garden in plot 481 near the entrance to the garden.

'**Souvenir du President Carnot**' is the third offering by Joseph Pernet-Ducher from 1894. This Hybrid Tea is light pink in color with full, high-centered blooms and a strong fragrance. 'Souvenir' blooms in flushes throughout the season.

As you can see, the majority of these roses are strongly or moderately scented. Indeed, it was the belief of Wilhelm Kordes that 'Lady Mary Fitzwilliam' was the most potent of all donors of perfume that led to the revival of this almost-extinct old variety. While he did not hybridize the first Hybrid Tea, Henry Bennett did make people see the value of this new class of roses and is called by many, "Father of the Hybrid Tea." Thus 'Lady Mary Fitzwilliam' deserves a place in the Historic Rose Garden

<sup>1</sup> Phillips, Roger & Martyn Rix, *The Ultimate Guide to Roses*, NY, Macmillan, 2004

<sup>2</sup> Beales, Peter, *Classic Roses*, NY, Henry Holt & Co., 1985, 1997

<sup>3</sup> ©2000-2005 Daphne Filiberti,  
[www.RoseGathering.com](http://www.RoseGathering.com)

*Photos courtesy of Jeri Jennings*



## MITIGATING MITES

BY ANITA CLEVINGER

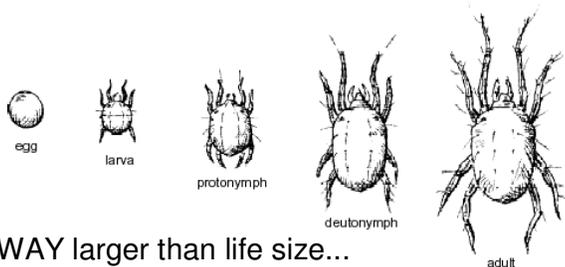
As I was pruning at home this winter, I kept seeing little red specks scurrying on the rose canes. I knew that they were red spider mites, and wondered why I never see them in the summer. Finally, I looked at the UC Pest Note on Spider Mites, and learned they are overwintering pregnant web-spinning spider mites, waiting for warmer weather when they start feeding and lay their eggs.

Spider mites spin tell-tale webs and suck leaves, causing them to “stipple” or become yellow. They like hot, dry conditions. I’ve never noticed much, if any, spider mite damage in my home garden. In the cemetery, conditions are more favorable for them, and certain roses are “mite magnets.” Some years ago, we had several weeks of triple-digit July weather which drove us gardeners inside and created a perfect storm of spider mite reproduction. When the conditions are right, “a generation can be completed in less than a week,” according to UC. When we finally got back into the garden, we found several roses, especially “Petite Pink” and *R. soulieana*, shrouded in webs, with their leaves yellow-brown.

In the summer, it's hard to see mites with the naked eye, but if you hold a piece of paper under a suspected leaf and shake it, you may see little specks scurrying about. Under magnification, you can see the mites and their many pearl-like eggs on the leaves. It isn't necessary to identify which specific species of webspinning mite is infesting your garden. The Pest Notes say that they all do the same damage, and have the same life cycle.

Water is the main weapon against spider mites. You need to provide adequate irrigation, rinse dust off roses and water down walkways, and blast the undersides of leaves with a forcible spray of water to knock off eggs and mites.

We begin hosing off the “mite magnet” cemetery roses in June, watch for yellowing leaves and webbing, and have managed to avoid another major infestation.



WAY larger than life size...

## 7TH ANNUAL PRUNING PARTY

BY ANITA CLEVINGER

This was the seventh annual pruning party at the cemetery, and we have it down to a science. Americorps came in for a day in early January, and defoliated many of the Hybrid Perpetuals and Hybrid Teas for us. (It's much easier to see what needs to be pruned when the leaves are gone.) Everything else went like clockwork. Ribbons tied onto roses to indicate what should be pruned? Check! Sign in sheets? Check! Short pruning demo? Check! Coffee, tea, oranges, chili, soup, and desserts? Check! Smiling faces on willing workers? Check! Group photo? Check!



The weather was good this year, and 27 people came for all or part of the day. They got to work very quickly. They didn't want to mill around – they wanted to prune roses! The party was scheduled to run from 9-3, but work began by 8 am, and a few were still trimming, nipping, tucking and tying as the security guard shooed us out at 5 pm. Karen and Tom Jefferson and Debbie Ferrier came from Livermore, while most others live in the surrounding area. It was a wonderful gathering.

We all took great satisfaction in the huge piles of rose trimmings and how neat the roses and their surrounding plots look. There's a quiet, expectant beauty in a pruned winter garden. However, much as we love the garden in January, we can hardly wait until our efforts are rewarded with the spring explosion of bloom.

Thank you to everybody who participated, to the city staff for setting up and taking down equipment, and to the Sheriff's Work Project for raking up and hauling trimmings.



## FRAGRANCE JUST FOR FUN

BY JUDY EITZEN

I had the opportunity to attend a food and wine pairing class at the Culinary Institute of America last week where we examined A. C. Noble's Aroma Wheel and applied it to the wines and food items we tasted. It occurred to me that a similar process might be applied to rose fragrance. This led me to ask, "What if rose fragrance elicited the same sort of response from so called 'experts' as wine?"

A wine snob can sit judgmentally as a bottle is presented at the table, watch as the bottle is decanted, poured and swirled in the glass. She can look at the color, smell the aroma, sip carefully and declare, "Complex, anise and cherry on the nose, with fresh cut grass and a long, tannic finish," and everyone sighs as the "expert" describes what they are about to drink.

While it's true that we taste more with our noses than our tongues, we don't have to taste the blooms to develop a nose for rose fragrances. When sampling fragrance from multiple roses, clear your "palate" between each variety by sniffing coffee beans. (Oops, better get some for my pocket!) Also, it's best to sample fragrance early in the morning, before fragrance oils evaporate and when temperatures are between 65-70°F.

Now, to some scented descriptions to look for in the Historic Rose Garden...the rose with which to begin is, of course, 'Autumn Damask'. This rose has been used for centuries in the distillation of attar of roses and has a distinctive 'damask' fragrance. So, how would a fra-

grance snob describe this heady scent? Perhaps by saying that the fragrance of this rose is quintessentially old rose, reminding one of grandmothers, hand-cream and nostalgia with strong overtones of spice in the finish.

'Blush Noisette's' scent might be described thus, "Blush Noisette's powerful fragrance combines an intense green character, which can be described as smelling of cut grass and banana skins...with an over sweet, somewhat marshmallow-like character." In fact, 'Blush Noisette' is often described as clove-scented, but this elusive fragrance appears only just as the stamens reach maturity.

*Rosa gigantea's* unique scent combines two elements, perhaps described by saying that the fragrance of this rose gives a vigorous impression, slightly tary and humid as in a greenhouse with a sweet finish of violets.

Though each is slightly different, Hybrid Musks such as 'Cornelia' and 'Buff Beauty' open with a sweet rosy scent that evolves into a delicate, yet lingering musky scent, as basic and earthily subtle as a deer marking its territory.

Okay, it's easy to get carried away into becoming a rose fragrance snob to join in with wine and food snobs. In fact, we can even take it one step further and describe the appearance of these great roses as well. An appropriate description for 'Grandmother's Hat' for example, could be, vigorous, well constructed, even a little bosomy.

<sup>1</sup> Robert Calkin, "Fragrance of Old Roses" article in the HRG spring 1999 Historic Rose Journal issue.

### PRUNING PARTY SNAPS



# CEMETERY ROSE

## Garden Tip—Benches

Some thoughts about using a garden bench from M.E. Keeble's *Tottering in My Garden*

A sturdy place to sit to weed and plant and work on pots. "Knees wide apart, toes turned out, bend forward from the big hinges where legs meet torso (you do not have a hinge below the small of your back). Let your chin drop and rest on your chest. When reaching for a tool beside you sit up and walk yourself around, still seated, then bend again keeping the back straight. Don't lift your chin while reaching—it's straining and twisting that get us into trouble."

She also recommends a timer—when it goes off, stop work, ready or not. Good way to keep from overdoing things in the garden.

## Upcoming Events

**March 31—Early Bloom Tour**

**April 21—Open Garden (9:30—2)**

**May 3—Old Roses Class (10 a.m.)**

**May 14—Deadheading at Dusk**

**June 11—Deadheading at Dusk**

**July 9—Deadheading at Dusk**

**September 8—Propagation Class**

***Special Event:*  
Celebration Symposium  
October 12-14**



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