



# CEMETERY ROSE

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



Volume 2, Issue 4

June, 2003

**Inside this issue:**

Landscaping With Roses	1
Open Garden 2003	1
Pesky Pests	2
Editorial	2
Rose Preservation Symposium	3
Transplant Tip	6

***Cemetery Rose  
Garden  
Activities and  
Dates***

**Saturdays 9 am  
deadheading and  
old rose shaping**

**September 27  
Antique Rose  
Symposium  
(details on page 3)**

## Landscaping With Antique Roses

In Elk Grove, the Fire Department headquarters has a number of roses in a formal plot, each in it's own little circle of raised earth designed to direct water to the plant's roots. There's nothing between the plants and, although the roses themselves are quite pretty, to my eye the overall effect is not. In the Capitol and McKinley Park Rose Gardens, the formal, row-by-row arrangement of roses somehow says, "Here we are. Look at us." While the arrangement makes these roses easier to care for, it does nothing for one's aesthetic sense.

A recent issue of **Fine Gardening** told of a different approach. In-

stead of creating a rose garden, *plant a garden that contains roses.* Now, that makes sense. This is especially true now since our favorite antique roses are stronger, more disease-resistant and fragrant than highly bred modern roses.

Planting and displaying roses in perennial borders, cottage gardens and raised beds with other plants will emphasize their beauty. Antique roses climb, ramble, trail and grow into small and large shrubs, bringing variety to planted beds. With all the color varieties one can plant them with complimentary or contrasting perennials and annuals to show off all at their best.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Rainy Day Open Garden Was Big Success

"It's raining, it's pouring..." While rose enthusiasts arrived in satisfactory numbers, volunteers worked hard to make the day successful despite the rainy conditions.

Two shelters were erected so that raffle items and goodies were kept dry. They also provided a place to huddle when it showered hard.

When skies are cloudy, the subdued light brings out colors and, while

somewhat soggy, the roses were very colorful. *Sally Holmes* blushed quite pink this year because of the wet spring and a number of darker roses that usually bleach out in sunny days were beautifully rich with color and heavy with perfume.

More than 100 attended and many stood in pouring rain while Fred Boutin and Barbara Oliva toured them through the garden.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Spring? Really?

*editorial*



There's an often expressed comment about Sacramento area seasons: while the average annual temperature may be around 70 degrees, the actual number of comfortable days is limited to one week in spring and one week in fall.

I didn't notice the one comfortable spring week this year. Winter went away with a few mild days and then the relentless rain returned. We actually had an ice storm (okay, hailstorm) one week and 90 degree temperatures the next! Hard enough on people, but what about the roses? And what are we in for this summer?

One of the reasons we like old garden roses is their survivability—many of these plants have lived more or less successfully on their own through long years of varying weather conditions. We

just need to watch gardens carefully to be sure that the plants are getting the right amount of water.

You've worked hard to bring beauty into your life, so do take time to enjoy. The cool of morning and evening may be the best time to 'stop and smell the roses.' If you are employed, as I am, that may be the only time. Visiting the garden does renew the spirit and calm the soul. I know, it's a cliché—but how do things become clichés anyway? Because there is truth in them. Enjoy your summer and when a (relatively) mild day comes along, take time to spend it with the roses.

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

## Pesky Pests

Certain garden pests will sometimes visit even the best-tended rose garden and this should not dissuade you from growing and enjoying your roses. If you're not planning to exhibit roses, there's no reason to worry too much about pest control. The best approach to good garden management is to prevent plant problems before they start by giving your roses optimum growing conditions:

- Conditioned soil
- Enough sunlight
- Water in the right amounts
- Fertilizer
- Clean conditions around plant bases

Good practices will keep your roses healthy enough to resist most pests. Inspecting roses daily is a good way to head off pest problems before

they get out of hand. One bug can be squashed (or drowned or whatever) before a group of them can chew their way into your plants. A strong stream of water will remove many without resorting to strong chemicals.

An organic method of control, such as insecticidal soap can work well when pests appear. This keeps the garden safe for children and pets as well as you and your neighbors who might be caught up in some of the more toxic sprays. Common rose pests include:

- **Aphids** appear early in spring. These tiny little monsters are practically born pregnant and proliferate quickly, eating all the tender shoots and buds on your roses. Organic approaches include knocking them off with a stream of water or you

*(Continued on page 5)*

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## Landscaping With Antique Roses, continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

As a youngster I first learned to garden by propagating and planting geraniums (sometimes called "poor man's roses") and was initially successful because these plants are so easy to grow. I still like growing them and mix geraniums and roses in beds. In one bed, an old fashioned zonal geranium provides cooling shade for the roots of "New Dawn" climbing up a trellis. In another, a trailing scented geranium provides greenery between two large shrub roses. This turns the roses into focal points and the whole bed appears lush.

Antique roses have lots of foliage, and billow with color and fragrance when in bloom. Even in containers, they become attention-getters in the context of other plants. Climbing antiques add the finishing touch to trellises and structures that contain other plants at ground level. Specimen roses that are stunning alone become even more spectacular when planted together. Large roses like *Eden*, *Old Blush*, and *Odorata* form great backdrops for smaller roses and other plants when permitted to climb and ramble along fences and trees. *Lady Banks* and *Climbing Cecilé Brunner* soften straight lines of garden buildings and add drama to distant spaces. When clematis or other climbing vines are planted nearby the effect can be quite spectacular. Some of the smaller roses make excellent borders and just need shape pruning to maintain their general demeanor.

Antique roses belong with other perennials, annuals, and woody shrubs that fill today's gardens. Since they don't need to be sprayed and fussed over, these roses become just another player in the overall palette of garden plants. When the roses are in bloom, the garden is beautiful. When the roses are not in bloom, the garden is still beautiful because its diversity creates interest year round. *Judy Eitzen*



*Eden, Old Blush  
and Odorata form  
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ramble...*

### Rose Preservation: Reasons, Resources and Rustling

The planning for this year's antique rose symposium sponsored by the Heritage Rose Group is well underway. It 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 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](mailto: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)

### Open Garden, continued.

As the rose garden has grown in size over the years (now over 400 roses), there's more to see and learn about from these two who, with the support of the Old City Cemetery Committee and the City of Sacramento, planned and planted the original antique roses.

We sold roses that had been propagated and wintered-over by volunteers. Each year volunteers attempt to select those that potential customers request and these were snatched up quite early. This year, we also had a number of donated miniatures—easy to sell because everyone can fit one more of these little beauties into the garden! Unsold roses were offered at a small

table the following week during the Cemetery's Jazz Funeral and added a few dollars to the kitty.

The raffle included roses and a variety of rose-related items and helped bring the total sales to \$821.50.

As always, this event would not be possible without the able assistance of a number of volunteers including, Anita Clevenger, Joan Darke, Judy Eitzen, David Kashuba, Lorretta James, Jane Lochmeyer Howell, Michael Larmer, Ann Mansker, David Morosa, Lonnie Ratzlaff, Dianna Ryan, Jean Travis, Elizabeth Wise. Many thanks to all.

*...this event would not be possible without the able assistance of a number of volunteers...*



### Update Your Information

This newsletter is mailed to those who have expressed interest in the Heritage Rose Garden at Sacramento's Old City Cemetery. Please fill out and return or send an email to [verlaine@inreach.com](mailto:verlaine@inreach.com).

Do you belong to the Old City Cemetery Association?

Are you willing to volunteer in the garden or at events?

Comments:

- Yes
- No
- Tell me more

- Yes
- No

Are you interested in writing for the newsletter or webpage?

The best way to reach me is:

- Yes
- No
- Tell me more

- Email
- Telephone
- U S Mail

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Address  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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**CEMETERY ROSE**



## Pesky Pests, continued

might sprinkle garlic powder if you don't mind the garden smelling like an Italian restaurant for a while.

- **Earwigs** are with us all year. They spend night-time chomping away, so even if you don't see them, you may see the results. Best way to get them gone is to break the breeding cycle of this pest by using a chemical soil drench around the base of the rose.
- **Cane borers** drill into the end of your rose canes, burrowing deep inside. Once the critter is inside, there's nothing you can do for the cane. You must cut the cane below the borer to stop this nasty pest. You can seal the end of your canes with Elmer's glue...now that's a big job!
- **Leaf-cutter bees** leave small, perfectly circular holes in rose foliage. They love old garden roses and attack them with impunity to get leaf cuttings for nesting. They often nest in natural hollows in wood or underground cracks, and line their nests with the cut pieces as a food source for their young. Since there's nothing to be done short of shrouding the plant in fine netting, let nature take its course. For the most part, these bees are a minor nuisance.
- **Rose slugs (AKA pear slugs)** are slimy, dark green and around a half-inch long. These **sawfly** larvae love to eat holes in rose leaves from the underside and can do a lot of damage in a short time. They can be squished between your fingers or sprayed with insecticidal soap (for the squeamish).
- **Rose weevils** have long snouts that bore into rose buds to feed and lay eggs. Removing the affected buds can control these tiny insects.
- **Scale** appears as tiny crust like formations on rose stems. Foliage is sometimes affected as well with sticky honeydew like excrement. Best defense is to cut off the affected foliage or stem.

- **Spider mites** are teeny hot weather pests that suck juices from the underside of rose foliage. The leaves turn yellow, dry and curl and eventually fall off. There will be little webs on the leaves. These pests appear mostly in hot, dry weather and can be washed away with a strong spray from a garden hose. Rubbing alcohol applied to affected leaves will also deter these guys. Note that insecticides do not work; these mites are arachnids, not insects.
- **Thrips** are eensy weensy sucking insects that attack buds; you can identify their damage when rose buds turn brown and don't open all the way. Thrips are hard to see in the garden. If you suspect them, take the bud and shake it over a piece of paper. They thrive in hot, dry conditions; so regular watering should do the trick.

The article above lists but a few of the pests to be found in Central Valley rose gardens. There's lots more information in gardening books and online websites. Try the *Sunset* publications to focus on pests most likely to live in western gardens and check out these websites for the latest information on pests:

**Baldo Villegas's Bugs and Roses Home Page**, which Baldo calls, "the buggiest rose website on the Internet." It covers garden pests and pest control as well as suggestions of which roses to grow and local events and shows. Check it out at: <http://members.tripod.com/sactorose/index.htm>.

**The University of California Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program** website includes information about the identification, life cycle, damage, management and lists of publications about pests throughout California. It can be found at: <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/selectnewpest.home.html>



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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:*  
**Protecting Transplants**

Want to transplant during hot sunny summer weather but worry about the vulnerability of transplants? While there are several solutions, here's a simple tip:

When setting out transplants in a bed or in pots, place an inexpensive plastic garden chair over the plant. Place the chair in such a way as to protect the tender transplant from direct sun during midday. The chair allows for plenty of air circulation, accommodates larger plants, is water proof and won't blow away like newspaper or netting. When plants are happily adjusted to their new environment, simply return the chair to the patio and sit a spell to enjoy your garden.



*"Pruning a rose bush is not unlike giving a home haircut to a small child: you do the best you can, secure in the knowledge that if it turns out odd-looking, new growth will quickly hide your mistakes."*

*-Liz Druitt, The Organic Rose Garden*