



# CEMETERY ROSE

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



Volume 7, Issue 4

June 2008

**Inside this issue:**

Hearst Event	1
Deadheading	1
Editorial—Spring	2
Open Garden	2
Early HTs	3
Garden Maintenance	4

## Preserving Not So Old Roses At Hearst Castle

*by Judy Eitzen*

With our focus on 19th century cultivars, we may overlook early versions of modern roses. Many of these roses don't quite meet ARS judging standards of today and aren't old enough for many historic gardens. One garden dedicated to these very roses is the rose garden at Hearst Castle.

The garden has now been brought back to it's former glory when William Randolph Hearst and architect Julia Morgan planned the people spaces around the rose spaces. The roses here include those popular in Hearst's lifetime from gorgeous specimens of Climbing Peace,

Cecile Brunner and Charlotte Armstrong, to tree roses and shrubs like Gartendirektor Otto Linne and General MacArthur.

In celebration of this garden, the Heritage Rose Foundation held a very special conference at the Hearst Castle visitors center. This day-long meeting was surrounded with opportunities to visit the Hearst gardens and tour the Casa Grande.

The highlight of the event was a sunset reception held on the Neptune Terrace overlooking the outdoor Neptune Pool. As we stood and chatted, wine glasses in hand, sharing rose stories, we were treated not only to a glorious sun-

*(Continued on page 3)*

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

**Deadheading at  
Dusk  
6:30 p.m.  
July 7  
August 4**

**OCCC General  
Meeting  
June 21 11 a.m.  
Fireman's Plot**

## First Deadheading Party A Success

*by Anita Clevenger*

Fourteen volunteers enjoyed a pleasant spring evening in the Historic Rose Garden on Monday, May 5th, removing spent roses and enjoying the opportunity to be in the cemetery after the gates are closed. Efforts were focused on the East Bed, primarily Hybrid Teas, Hybrid Perpetuals, and Bourbons, which rebloom more quickly if the hips,

which contain seeds, are removed. Teas, chinas and polyanthas tend to rebloom whether or not hips are removed, but we sometimes deadhead them, too, just to tidy up their appearance. The roses to be worked on were tagged with bright orange plastic tape. As volunteers completed each rose, they removed its tape and moved on quickly. We

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Endless Spring

Sacramento folk tend to laugh about our “three days of spring and fall” between freezing and frying, but this year was the exception that proved the rule. Yes, the average temperature in Sacramento is really 70°F and this spring we actually had many 70° days.

What with the weather, traveling and roses, roses, roses, this spring went on forever! The ceanothus were in bloom in the Cemetery prior to and during the Open Garden in April. We saw more of this California native along the roadside as we traveled to the Hearst Event later that month and again in May when we visited Nevada City to scope out the roses there.

Likewise the roses were, are and will continue to bloom just about everywhere! The latest excursion was to Quarry Hill Botanical Garden in Glen Ellen for their annual spring celebration.

This is a wonderful Asian woodland garden over many acres with plants, including roses, you won't see just anywhere. A number of roses were in bloom and some early bloomers had already set hips for us to enjoy—tasty! This special even is held each spring and the garden is open for tours the third Saturday of each month (call for reservations). We

## editorial

heard John Simmons of Kew Gardens speak before a wonderful luncheon served with local wines (of course!) The plant sale didn't hurt, either.

I can readily recommend stretching your spring next year by attending this event. Information can be found on the Quarry Hill website, [www.quarryhillbg.org/](http://www.quarryhillbg.org/).



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

## 2008 Open Garden

by Judy Eitzen



*Many thanks to all  
 those who  
 volunteered and  
 attended our Amazing  
 Rose Garden this  
 year!*

**NOTE**  
 Plans are underway  
 for next year's  
 event—if you're in-  
 terested in volun-  
 teering for propaga-  
 tion or planning,  
 call 685-6634  
 or email to  
[verlaine@citlink.net](mailto:verlaine@citlink.net)

### *Amazing!*

That's the only appropriate word for this year's Open Garden event held on April 12. The weather was great, the sale roses looked fabulous, tours were crowded, sales were brisk, the raffle drew lots of ticket-holders (pardon the pun) and the garden was primped and preened and the roses looked...well, amazing!

After months of planning, organizing and propagating, and hours of setting up and arranging, the event was brought off smoothly by all those great volunteers. It is a cliché to report that, “we couldn't have done it without our volunteers” etc., but it's a cliché because it's true. There were many meetings and joint

projects and there were also those who worked alone preparing things behind the scenes.

One of these is Jeri Jennings from Southern California who prepared the Sales Catalog and all the rose sales tags. Other rose lovers brought and donated roses for our sale and still others lent their expertise to us for the day. Many thanks to all our volunteers. (See insert.)

The event is our one fundraiser each year and this year we raised over \$3000. These funds will be used to purchase gardening tools and supplies and now we have enough to purchase additional cement and mortar for the Work Crews to repair plots in the Rose Garden.

## Early Hybrid Tea Roses

by Judy Eitzen

We've all heard the story, that modern roses are all descendants of the first Hybrid Tea, an accidental cross between a Tea rose and a Hybrid Perpetual. Just which roses were involved in the initial find (*La France*) is open to discussion. To take it back further, one must consider the excitement when the first China roses came to Europe. Everyone took it into their collective heads to find a way to hybridize European roses that bloomed more than once. The results of this early 19<sup>th</sup> century breeding frenzy include Bourbons, Noisettes, Hybrid Perpetuals, and eventually Hybrid Teas and their modern kin.

The Historic Rose Garden subscribes to a Mission Statement regarding the addition of roses to the collection and many of us realize that the early Hybrid Teas fit smoothly into our collection. We also recognize the importance of the early hybrid teas in the history of rose development. The tenets we follow:

- 1) Roses known by historical evidence to have been commercially available in California between 1850-1920.

- 2) Roses collected from sites in California...the type of which shows the rose is similar to roses introduced or bred prior to 1920.
- 3) Roses deemed by association, or other significance, to be suitable for inclusion in the collection, for example, "Sutter's Gold."

This mission statement certainly includes the earliest Hybrid Teas which may be significantly different from their later companions and descendants. They are often more like their immediate ancestors, the old garden roses. This is because, in part, the early Hybrid Teas were derived from open-pollinated flowers of Tea roses. With the many variables consistent with chance pollination, the resulting hybrids were not uniform in characteristics and it took some years for rosarians to agree on a label for the class.

With the discovery in 1867 of *La France* in a patch of seedlings, Hybrid Teas began to move into new territory. Most assume *La France* was the first seedling produced by a natural cross between a Hybrid Perpetual and a Tea,

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Hearst, cont.

*(Continued from page 1)*

set but a dramatic moonrise over the Casa Grande. Wow! A lifetime memory.

The conference included Victoria Kastner, author and historian speaking about Hearst and Morgan and the Gardens of San Simeon. Burling Leong of Sequoia Nursery gave a propagation demonstration. Fabien Ducher of Lyon, France spoke on A Family of Rose Breeders.

We also heard from Eitenne Bouret who talked about Tree Roses and other Rose Topiaries in French Gardens and Jocelen Janon, photographer on Turn of the Century Tea Roses.

The return trip north was enhanced by a visit to the Monterey Adobe gardens, where we were treated to a tour by curator Frances Grate. We were further delighted by a visit to her Pacific Grove Garden with its beautiful camelias, succulents, fuscias and other coastal-happy plants. (She also has the very best potting shed!)

## Deadheading, cont.

*(Continued from page 1)*

asked the volunteers to ensure that their clippers were sanitized between each rose, and encouraged them to simply snap off the dead flowers at the abscission point to "leave the leaves" intact and thus reduce the risk of contamination. At the end of the evening, we enjoyed lemon sorbet and strawberries, and lingered until after dark. A fine time was had by all.

More deadheading parties are planned for July and August—first Monday at 6:30 p.m. Call 443-2146 to volunteer.



## Maintenance Report

by Anita Clevenger



*“It seemed that the rose season would never end, stretching from mid-March until early May...”*



What a payoff for all of the hard work! We had a long, glorious spring bloom. The weather was just about perfect for our roses this year. The chilly, wet winter encouraged the once-blooming roses to set flower buds, while the mild, dry spring ensured that flowers were able to open unspoiled. It seemed that rose season would never end, stretching from mid-March until early May, when suddenly the thermometer hit triple-digits and the remaining blossoms fried in the heat. The first flush was over, except for memories, photographs, and thousands of spent blossoms.

We almost always get high winds some time in the spring. Fortunately, this year's wind waited until May 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Several roses were knocked off their arches, and others flopped into the pathways. The old almond tree in the Broadway Bed lost a few limbs, although the tree survived. We have some work ahead to put the garden back in order, and difficult decisions to make. Do we remove major canes from 'Sally Holmes' and 'Manchester Guardian Angel,' for example, or just prop the roses back on the arches and prune them next winter? It's not the best time of year to remove major structural canes, but some of them are broken and rubbed, so it may be wise to prune now. For other roses, the decisions are easy. R. multiflora inermis is completely off its arch, blocking the pathway. We will cut away everything but a few new canes that are “keepers,” and perhaps one or two hip-bearing older canes. This rose is so vigorous that it will recover quickly.

We need to ensure that the roses are tied firmly onto their supports. It appears that much of this damage was because the ties snapped, or the roses were tied in too few places. We usually use nylon stockings, which can break, or Velcro strips, which can unwrap. The Montreal Botanical Garden uses foam-covered wire ties, which protect the canes, are strong, and can be reused. We are going to order some of this material, and evaluate its use.

We experimented with support frames, or “corrals,” to hold up some of the climbing roses. This has worked very well, encouraging the roses to grow in a controlled fountain shape, and we experienced no problems with them during the winds. We began with a wooden frame under 'Fortune's Double Yellow,' and then put two steel frames under “Vina Banks” and “Not Humes Blush Tea-Scented Rose.” These frames allow access to the bottoms of the bushes, making it easier to prune and weed underneath, while keeping the roses off the headstones. They can easily be unbolted and removed, too. We are going to add several more “corrals” to the garden. The frames are visible in the winter, but now are totally obscured by the cascading canes.

We are already planning summer pruning on some of the species and once-blooming roses. We need to cut out the dead and old canes, dig up suckers, and make room for the new canes to fill in.

Weed control is an ongoing issue, but we've had considerable success using “sheet mulch,” covering large sheets of cardboard with a thick layer of mulch. This suppresses even the most aggressive weeds such as Bermuda grass and nut sedge. We also plan to solarize two or three plots, spreading clear plastic over them to kill roots and weed seeds in the top six-eight inches of soil.

We've started spraying roses with blasts of water to control spider mites, which can become a problem when the weather turns hot. We noticed webs on 'R. nanothamnus' and decided it was time to break out Barbara's fireman's nozzle. We will continue spraying with water throughout the summer. Powdery mildew tends to subside when it's hot, and sprays of water are a good way to remove residual fungal spores and aphids, too.

There's plenty to be done, but overall, the garden is in great shape. Thanks to Carl DiStefano for making the “corrals,” Capital Corrugated for the cardboard, and all of the volunteers for their hard work.

## Early HT's, cont.

(Continued from page 3)

though the parentage is complicated by the "uncertain parentages" <sup>(1)</sup> of the day. *La France* combined some of the best characteristics of both types of roses becoming the prototype for the new breed. In *The Practical Book of Outdoor Rose Growing*, George C. Thomas, Jr. described *La France* as, "a rose as hardy, or nearly as hardy as the Hybrid Perpetuals - a rose that bloomed practically as often as the Tea and that had fine foliage and perfume."

It is generally agreed among rosarians that the introduction of *Peace* in 1945 marks the milestone that separates the elegant older Hybrid Teas from the ones of today. For purposes of the Cemetery collection, we will continue to focus on those developed by 1920. Many of the older varieties retain quite a bit of old world charm, and are considered classics. Many are very Tea-like in nature

Tom Carruth, considered by many to be the best known hybridizer in the U.S., commenting on early HTs said, "I don't believe any of our artificial classes are of any meaning at this point. If anything, they only prolong the mystique of the

rose. Nor do I agree with the English method of classification because a variety's flower size and ability to cluster is too often influenced by how well and where it is grown rather than just its genetic capacity." <sup>(2)</sup>

As pointed out by Bill Grant, "...most HTs disappear within ten years of their birth. The ones that survive must have something that gives them...quality." He goes on to say that he found the color, perfume and shape of these survivors being aesthetically pleasing. In addition, most are healthy.

So as stated by these experts (and the fact that early HT's are further back in time each year), we're beginning to look at these special roses with new eyes instead of a disdainful sniff, "Oh yeah, that's just a Hybrid Tea." They have become worthwhile study roses together with the older Albas, Gallicas, Hybrid Perpetuals, Chinas and Noisettes. Find a place for one or two in your garden.

- (1) Daphne Filiberti, [www.rosegathering.com](http://www.rosegathering.com)
- (2) Bill Grant, *Early Hybrid Teas*, Paul Barden, Old Garden Roses and Beyond.

### Some Early HT's Worth A Look

Antoine Rivoire  
Beauté Lyonnaise  
Columbia  
General MacArthur  
Hadley  
La France  
Lady Mary Fitzwilliam  
Los Angeles  
Madame Butterfly  
Mme. Abel Chatenay  
Mme. Caroline  
Testout  
Mme Ravary  
Mrs Wakefield  
Christie-Miller  
Ophelia  
Radiance  
September Morn  
Soleil d'Or

### New Book—Not To Be Missed

#### ***Tea Roses : Old Roses for Warm Gardens***

By Chapman, Drage, Durston, Jones, & Merrifield  
(The Tea Ladies from Australia)

Publication date is officially August, but the book may be ordered now from Ashdown Roses and pre-ordered from Amazon.com The list price is \$59.95 (US) and the publisher is Roseberg Pub. International Standard Book Number: 978-1877058677.

*Watch for a review of this wonderful book by Bill Grant in the next issue of Rosa Mundi due out in August.*







OLD CITY CEMETERY  
HISTORIC ROSE



CEMETERY  
ROSE

---

Judy Eitzen  
8698 Elk Grove Blvd.  
Suite 3, #271  
Elk Grove, CA 95624

Email: verlaine@citlink.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB  
[www.cemeteryrose.org](http://www.cemeteryrose.org)



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, 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:*  
**Type of Cutting and Time of Year**

To promote success when propagating roses from cuttings, learn about different types of cuttings and when to take them for best results.

**Softwood**—new shoot-tips taken in spring & early summer.

**Semi-ripe or Semi-hardwood**—new growth has slowed and shoots are firm. Take these in summer and early fall.

**Hardwood**—long lengths of fully matured young stems taken in fall and winter.



*I look at roses, short  
and tall,  
I take cuttings here  
and there,  
I like to watch 'em  
grow,  
I like to smell the  
roses,  
And visit on the way;  
I'm just a vagabond  
rose nut.*

*Ralph Moore,  
Thoughts of Roses*