



CEMETERY ROSE

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



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Spring Events 2007

by Judy Eitzen

Open Garden—316 People!

That's the number who visited the Rose Garden on April 21 this year. We're so pleased that so many found time to visit the garden at it's best. And the roses were bee-u-tee-ful! The only other Cemetery events that bring in so many are our nighttime lantern tours, and we were very pleased at the results of our hard work.

The success of this event is due completely to the cadre of volunteers who helped before, during and after the event. Thank you and congratulations!

The roses put on quite a show despite rain and wind in the previous week, and tours of the garden led by Barbara Oliva, Anita Clevenger and Judy Eitzen were well attended and well received.

More roses were propagated for sale this year and these sales, together with donations, raffle and the sales of shirts, etc. brought in nearly \$4000. After subtracting costs, we should be able to purchase materials and equipment needed to maintain this garden.

Ann Mansker worked hard to put together a successful raffle, acquiring donated items and staffing the booth. Additionally, we held a silent auction for some special roses that was so successful that we're planning to do it again.

Guests were greeted by volunteers at a welcome booth and volunteers fed at a hospitality tent. The day was overcast, but the rain held off until we were ready

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CEMETERY ROSE GARDEN

ACTIVITIES AND DATES

**DEADHEADING AT
DUSK
JUNE 11 & JULY 9
6:30 P.M.
CALL 443-2146**

WHAT'S BLOOMING TOURS

**JUNE 16—SHARON
PATRICIAN
JULY 21—FRAN
CLARKE**

Understock Survivors

by Anita Clevenger

Many of the roses that we find in historic cemeteries and homesites probably began life as understock, upon which a desired rose was budded. Over time, the budded roses disappeared, but the understocks (often referred to as rootstocks) survived. While they may not be the original rose planted to mark a grave or to grow in a garden, many of them are tough, attractive, and historic in their own right.

On my first rose rustling trip, my eye was drawn to a big, healthy rose bush, covered in pink blossoms. The newbies in our group charged up the hill to take a closer look.

Experienced rustlers intent on saving their strength simply shrugged. "I'd know 'Manetti' at one hundred paces," said Mel Hulse, director of the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden. Mel recognized it by its reddish new canes, its fountain-like shape, and its pink double flowers that open to display yellow stamens. There's no reason to collect this rose, or study it further, because it's a commonly found rootstock.

Since the beginning of the twentieth century, most large-scale American rose-growers have grown budded roses, putting them

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A Weed Is A Weed Is A Rose?

editorial



The most common definition of “weed” is something like, “A weed is a plant that’s growing where it’s not wanted.” My question, when faced with the seemingly overwhelming problem of controlling weeds is, “Where were these weeds yesterday, and how did they get here?” It always amazes me how they can spring up fully-grown overnight.

I’ve learned that weeds are also tenacious. Another way to tell if it’s a weed might be to tug on it. If it’s hard to remove, it’s a weed. If it comes out easily, it’s a plant. Boy, ain’t that the truth. How do they get that way anyway?

And, back to the real question...What’s really a weed. How do I tell? Well, did I plant it? Okay, sometimes birds plant valuable plants and I let them stay. Another way to look at this perpetual problem is to think of weeds as plants that have mastered all the survival skills except learning to grow in rows. (This makes it easy to spot them in the veggie garden!)

Finally, some roses are considered by some to be noxious weeds. Not just weeds, but *noxious* ones! Specifically several Midwestern states have declared *Rosa multiflora* a noxious weed because it’s invasive and very difficult to control. Like many tenacious plants, it grows best on rough ground that is hard to reach with mechanical means and is readily spread by birds or tip layering. Some botanists are considering introducing Rose Rosette Disease as a biological control. What worries me is that RRD could easily escape to harm other roses.

It’s hard enough to master the weeds I’ve already learned about in my garden without adding good plants to the list! (But I guess I’m glad that *Rosa multiflora* is happily growing at the Cemetery, not taking over my garden.)

Contributions, complaints, greetings: verlaine@citlink.net or call me at 685-6634.
Judy Eitzen

Maintenance Report

by Anita Clevenger



“Cardboard is cheap and biodegradable. We will test it’s effectiveness in several plots.”

Untold hours of meticulous pruning, weeding, mulching and grooming of the roses paid off in a few glorious weeks of bloom this spring. The rose garden has never looked better, with the exception of many roses suffering from powdery mildew. This year’s mild, dry weather provided the perfect environment for mildew to grow. In the worst cases, entire canes and leaves were coated with a thick layer of mold. We considered spraying with baking soda, which is reputed to combat the mildew by changing the Ph of the leaves. Since consistent temperatures over ninety degrees will cause the mildew to go away, we decided simply to wait for summer.

We spread some composted horse manure on most of the roses in the East Bed, as well as newly planted roses. We will assess whether we see any benefit to the roses, and whether weeds seem to have been imported by the manure. We are also considering applying fertilizer to selected roses that lack vigor, or whose leaf color indicates nitrogen deficiency.

In mid-winter, the weeds appeared to be under control. That illusion has been shattered. Volunteers and the Sheriff’s Work Crew have been pulling weeds throughout the garden. We have noticed very few weeds in the three plots that were solarized last year, and weeds were reduced nearly everywhere that we laid newspaper or cardboard over the soil and covered it with mulch. This technique is called “sheet mulching,” and we are going to continue using it as a weed barrier. Cardboard is cheap and biodegradable. We will test its effectiveness on several plots, including one with annual weeds, one with Bermuda grass, one with nut grass, and one with bind weed. It will be interesting to see how effective the cardboard proves to be.

We are tying orange ribbons onto roses that need deadheading. Volunteers can simply bend and snap the dead flowers off wherever they see a ribbon. It will soon be time to embark on some summer pruning of the once-blooming roses, as well. A gardener’s work is never done, which gives us a good excuse to spend time in the rose garden.

What's in a Rose? Now, We're Learning

by Judy Eitzen

If you pay attention to rose talk, you will have overheard a lot about identifying roses. We're talking not just about the found roses, but about previously identified cultivars, too. For example, in 2003 Malcolm Manners (Florida Southern College) published initial DNA forays into Champney's Pink Cluster, the first U.S.-bred hybrid. What's all the fuss about anyway? Don't we already know where these roses came from? Well, sort of. Here's the thing.

The earliest recorded attempts to classify *rosa* date back to the 16th century. Roses were identified as either wild or "gentle" species and further divided based on color of the petals. In his turn, Linnaeus (see p5) classified all rose species known at that time based on the shape of the hip. In the early 19th century, German Botanist Carl Ludwig Willdenow suggested prickles and gland form and presence as being relevant to *rosa* taxonomy. From then on, the numbers increased rapidly to thousands of described species.

Some botanists stated their uncertainty about the diversity of roses so described. They may have been able to describe roses, but there was little insight into their evolution. Natural populations can provide identification of botanic species, but horticulture changes that and roses have been hybridized for so long that natural populations may not be natural. As early as the 18th century Johannes Herrmann wrote that species had merged so that they may no longer be recognizable. He was also concerned that very few phenotypic characteristics were being used to firmly identify *rosa*. The lack of characters has been the source of several attempts based on different markers to get insight into genetic relationships within the genus. Breeders were hybridizing like

"Roses were identified as either wild or 'gentle' species..."

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Understock Survivors, cont.

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onto a variety of rootstocks, which gave them added vigor, resistance or hardiness. Budding makes it quicker to bring roses into production, since all that is needed to create a new rose is two or three budeyes, and some rootstock. An article by Dr. Griffith J. Buck, *Varieties of Rose Understocks*, was published in the 1951 American Rose Annual, and is now posted on the Heritage Rose Foundation website. Dr. Buck's list of understock roses includes a number of roses in our cemetery collection, such as 'Manetti,' *Rosa multiflora*, 'Gloire des Rosomanes' or "Ragged Robin," *Rosa odorata*, 'De la Grifferaie,' *Rosa eglantaria*, and *Rosa canina*.

Japan's *R. multiflora* was one of the first roses widely used as understock in America. Not only was it vigorous and hardy, it often grows prickle-free. We have *R. multiflora inermis* (unarmed) in the cemetery, where its huge sprays of fragrant, single white flowers cascade over the walkway every spring. It's healthy, but it blooms too briefly and grows too vigorously to be much of a garden plant.

Our collection includes several specimens of an old Bourbon rose, 'Gloire des Rosomanes,' often called "Ragged Robin." Another one grows in the Pioneer section of the cemetery. It's fragrant, has bright red flowers, is disease-resistant, has relatively few prickles, and blooms most of the year. It's easy to imagine it being planted in the cemeteries based on its own considerable merits, but most likely these specimens are rootstock survivors.

Another popular understock in California was 'Odorata 22449' or 'Fun Jwan Lo', an ancient Chinese garden form of *R. odorata*. This rose is somewhat tender, but well adapted to drought, and considered a superior understock for Hybrid Teas. It can be found again and again in old cemeteries, often growing as a climber. Odoratas bloom only once, producing double blooms, white blushed with pink. Its leaflets are pointed, with the bottom two pointing sharply down. In bloom, it's easily recognizable, but rustlers often think it's unique because of the variety of forms the plant can take. The Odoratas in our collection are all slightly different from one another. "Carlton Posey Plot Tea," for example, is a tidy small bush. Other Odoratas happily clamber into trees.

The most commonly used rootstock in California-grown roses today is 'Dr. Huey,' a dark-red climber that is very familiar to most of us because of its propensity to take over a budded plant. It can be seen at the base of several modern roses in the Historic Rose Garden, and may be spotted throughout the cemetery. 'Dr. Huey' is very pretty when blooming, although not often selected today because it's a once-bloomer that tends to mildew. If you find it growing at the base of one of your budded roses, break off the suckering canes or cut them off closely, and keep watch for future growth.

Even if many found roses are "only" rootstock roses, they bloom beautifully in old gravesites, homes and waysides. They may not be rare cultivars, but they deserve our respect and appreciation.

(A list of Historic Rose Garden understock varieties is on page 5)

Hoplias, Curculios, et al

by Anita Clevenger

It's easy to confuse all of the various insects that consider our roses a tasty meal. I recently spent a little time on Baldo Villegas' website to refresh my memory (<http://www.sactorose.org/rosebug/irosepests.htm>). Here's a quick review.

Several types of beetles chew on roses. In Sacramento, most likely they are hoplias. They are silvery brown, about twice the size of lady bugs, and they are true beetles, with hard shells that cover their wings and soft bodies. The adults emerge in the spring, chew primarily on white or light-colored roses, then lay their eggs and disappear. We often see them on Sally Holmes, Secret Garden Musk Climber, and other white or light-colored roses. You can knock them off into a bucket of soapy water, squish 'em, or cut off the infested flowers, bag them up, and throw them away. Reducing the adult population limits the damage to the flowers and the size of next year's infestation. The scrub jays eat them, but there are many more bugs than birds.



We also have weevils in the rose garden. Weevils have a distinct snout, good for boring into buds or chewing. Rose curculios resemble lady bugs without spots, but they are definitely not a beneficial insect. They will chew holes in buds, and may cause young buds to fail to open. Fuller rose weevils are gray, and seldom seen in the daylight hours. The ragged, chewed

NOTE: critters shown here are not to scale...ed.

Rose Trivia

Here are a few questions to test your knowledge—answers follow (don't peek).

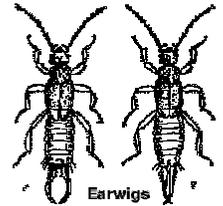
- The rose is native to which country:
 - Greece
 - United States
 - China
 - India
- How old is the world's oldest rose & where is it?
 - 500 years in Marseilles, France
 - 760 years on the Great Wall in China
 - 1000 years on the wall of a Cathedral in Germany
 - 175 years in Tombstone, Arizona
- In 1945 which rose society introduced the Peace rose?
 - San Diego
 - Pasadena
 - San Francisco
 - Berkeley



leaf edges that they leave behind are unmistakable.

We sometimes find roses with all of the stemns eaten away. Most likely, that is earwig damage. They also can make small holes at the base of the rose.

The cemetery harbors most, if not all, of the pests found in the Sacramento area. The list of other nasties that we've observed includes aphids, spider mites, thrips, scale, raspberry horntail, and borers. Fortunately, we only need to monitor for excessive damage, and not panic. We recently found some dead aphids, hollowed out by an attack by a beneficial insect. When we don't use pesticides, natural controls emerge. We can help them along with a few non-toxic techniques. Soon, we'll start spraying the roses with water, to dislodge mites and other pests, and keep the foliage clean. We'll also keep on hand-picking pests, and cutting off damaged areas to healthy growth. We'll also practice tolerance. We aren't



growing roses for the show table, so we can accept that a little bit of pest damage is just nature's way.

by Judy Eitzen

- What is the only rose class created in the United States?
 - Hybrid Teas
 - Polyanthas
 - Floribundas
 - Noisettes
- Which of the following rose species is native to California?
 - R. rugosa*
 - R. Roxburghii*
 - R. Stellata*
 - R. Gallica*

- Rose Trivia Answers*
- B U.S. fossils have been found more than 34,000,000 old.
 - C growing on a wall of Michael's cathedral in Hildesheim, Germany.
 - many.
 3. Pasadena Rose Society introduced the rose the day Berlin fell to end WWII in Europe. It was later presented to delegates of what would become the UN in San Francisco.
 4. D. Noisettes. John Champney crossed a china with *R. moschata* in the early 19th century and created Champney's Pink Cluster.
 5. C. Rosa Stellata is native to California and Baja.

What's In A Rose?, cont.

(Continued from page 3)

mad through the 19th and into the 20th century, developing new types of roses (e.g., hybrid tea, polyantha, etc.) thus further complicating the issue.

With the discovery of DNA in the mid 20th century, the stage was set for comprehensive identification of species through their DNA. In the 1990's a number of botanists began to use RAPD markers to elaborate the genetic details of *rosa*. (RAPD = Random Amplification of Polymorphic DNA. *Whew!...ed*) These markers amplify segments of DNA which are essentially unknown to the scientist - i.e., random. Results have been limited due to the limitations of this type of DNA testing.

In the early 21st century, scientists began to gather data using polymerase chain reaction techniques (see below) to see if further refinements in genetic history can be identified. However, results of these investigations remain contradictory due to the small sample of taxa investigated thus far

and the inadequate resolution of the markers. It is hoped that with continued refinement in techniques a comprehensive database of rose taxonomy can be created.

Investigations are also progressing into the DNA of various rose pathogens in an effort to produce roses resistant to them and into specific rose characteristics (i.e., scent) to breed specific traits into new roses.

It will be interesting to watch and see what develops. Whatever the results, it's apparent that there's a lot more to learn about these wonderful plants.

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For those who don't remember Science 101, Linnaeus was the 18th century Swedish scientist who laid the foundation for the modern scheme of nomenclature. He is known as the "father of modern taxonomy."

Want to know more?

For those who *really* need to know: polymerase chain reaction (PCR) is a biochemistry and molecular biology technique for exponentially amplifying DNA, via enzymatic replication, without using a living organism (such as *E. coli* or yeast). As PCR is an *in vitro* technique, it can be performed without restrictions on the form of DNA, and it can be extensively modified to perform a wide array of genetic manipulations. (*Want still more? Look it up!...ed*)

Spring events, cont.

(Continued from page 1)

to pack it in. The light was perfect for photographing roses, and the temperature just cool enough.

The best thing about this event is the opportunity to get together with like-minded folk to talk about the roses. As one visitor (*from Southern California!*) was heard to say, "Driving up here was more than worth it! Wow!"

Sacramento ARS Show

The Sacramento chapter of the American Rose Society held their annual show at the Shephard Gar-

den & Arts Center the following weekend and Rose Garden volunteers participated. We staffed a table with many samples of our roses that were happily sniffed and admired by ARS attendees.

Deadheading At Dusk

The first of three Deadheading Events was held on May 14 with 17 participants tackling the reblooming roses. Two additional events are planned for June 11 and July 9 from 6:30 to dusk. Call 443-2146 to sign up. All are welcome.

Historic City Cemetery Understocks

Understock	Plot location
<i>R. Canina</i>	552NW
<i>R. eglanteria</i>	089, 091
<i>R. multiflora inermis</i>	511 NE
<i>R. odorata</i>	028N, 053SE 066N, 060 061, 447SE
<i>R. x fortuniana</i>	471SW
<i>Manetti</i>	009S, 084
<i>Gloire des Rosomanes</i>	036N, 045N 105, 429NW
<i>De la Grifferaie</i>	546



OLD CITY CEMETERY
HISTORIC ROSE



CEMETERY
ROSE

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WE'RE ON THE
WEB
www.cemeteryrose.org



Perks

Historic Rose Garden volunteers receive more benefits than one might think. Volunteers get to spend time working in a garden that benefits the entire community, and time learning about roses with others interested in antique roses, their history and horticulture. Volunteers are good company! Volunteers are also the first to try growing roses from the Rose Garden in home gardens with free cuttings. Join in!

Quick Garden Tip:
Buggy Aid

Bugs getting you down? You can make your own insecticidal soap and save some money.

Simply take 1 teaspoon of liquid dishwashing soap (preferably clear and unscented) and mix into 1 quart of tap water.

Place it in a clean spray bottle and it's ready to use. Performs as well as most commercially available insecticidal soaps,



Garden quote

*A lawn is
simply a
rose garden
in waiting...*