




CEMETERY ROSE

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



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Open Garden Event Scheduled for April 15

Showy and special roses will be in full bloom at the annual Open Garden event scheduled for Saturday, April 15 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

With nearly 400 plants in bloom and spring well begun, the garden should be spectacular. Anita Clevenger and her crew of merry worker bees have pruned, deadheaded, mulched, weeded, spruced and otherwise readied the Garden for public viewing.

Once-blooming roses should be at their peak and repeat-blooming roses should be in the midst of their first flush of blossoms. The heady scents alone will make you glad you came. Tours will be offered:

- 11 a.m. Barbara Oliva, "Introduction to Old Roses."
- 12 p.m. Anita Clevenger, "My Favorite Roses"
- 1 p.m. Judy Eitzen "History of the Rose Garden & Cemetery"
- 2 p.m. Barbara Oliva "Care of Old Roses"

Rose cuttings from the Garden have been propagated and will be available for sale at the event, together with donated roses from antique rose nurseries, rose-related items and a raffle of donated items. Proceeds will go toward continued maintenance and improvements of the Rose Garden.

Cemetery Rose Garden Activities and Dates

Open Garden
April 15, 2006
10 a.m.—3 p.m.

Summer Pruning Party
June 24
8:30—11:30

Are Roses High Maintenance? Not our heritage roses

by Anita Clevenger

People are amazed when we tell them we don't fertilize in the cemetery HRG. Well, actually, we did several years ago, but didn't really see that it was worth the effort. I have puzzled over why our roses do so well. First of all, we grow primarily found roses, which have survived for decades with very little water or care, if any. Secondly, we started out with good, well-drained soil, and have mulched it heavily for the past ten years. Our

wonderful, loose, worm-rich soil has high levels of humic acids, that can increase the microbial and mycorrhizal activity while enhancing the nutrient uptake by plant roots. There's some research that indicates that intensive application of traditional fertilizers reduces the microbes' function. But the biggest reason that we don't need to fertilize, I've come to believe, is that we don't prune heav-

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Editorial Title

editorial



A stroll through the Historic Rose Garden is a delight for both the eye and nose as these old charmers display their wonderful colors and send their myriad scents wafting through the springtime air.

Okay, perhaps I am waxing somewhat poetical, but it's really something to experience, and I get that way when I think about the heady results of all our labors.

One can never say enough about volunteers and over the past year, the Rose Garden has benefited from a group of dedicated individuals, ably led by Anita Clevenger. These hardworking souls come out in good weather and bad, morning, noon and (in summer) night-time, too. In addition, Americorps and the Sheriff's

Work Crews have both benefited the Rose Garden. They've handled some of the heaviest work; tree pruning, weeding stubborn Bermuda and Nut sedge, placing ground cloth and re-mulching plots. One Saturday, a team of Americorps volunteers tackled Fortune's Double Yellow—a fast-growing plant that had covered a 20x20' plot in just three years. It's now under control and the headstones are visible, too.

So, as you walk through the Rose Garden this year, lift your glass (you do have a glass, right?) to those dedicated people who've made it all possible. Salut!

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

Great Rosarians of the World

by Judy Eitzen



"Share your roses—that's what they're for."

Ralph Moore

This year's Great Rosarians of the World event at the Huntington Botanical Garden in San Marino honored Girija and Viru Viraraghavan of India. A number of people interested in antique roses attended for the weekend where we participated in various rosy events. Both honorees spoke on Sunday, culminating with an excellent talk on Viru's hybridizing. (A number of his roses are available in the U.S through *Roses Unlimited*.)

As in past years, the weekend included a "private" dinner with the honored guests—private being about 30 people. It was a great opportunity to meet and talk with Viru and Girija. Yes, they became "Virus" and

"Girija" very quickly.

A long weekend spent with rose lovers discussing roses; propagating techniques, landscape planning, favorite roses, books and other resources and roses, roses, roses. Ahhhhh.

Anita Clevenger and I traveled together and had the distinct pleasure of meeting with our guests and a number of rose-lovers at Sequoia Nursery in Visalia on the way home. Sequoia is the home of Ralph Moore, world-renowned breeder of roses, particularly miniatures. Meeting this elderly gentleman (he's 99!) who is still actively hybridizing new cultivars was a distinct honor.

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High Maintenance? Cont.

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ily. Roses don't have to put their energy into pushing new canes and leaves before they ever get around to producing flowers. Our roses can just get on with producing thousands of blossoms, not necessarily exhibition size or quality, but magnificent in their abundance.

We don't spray our roses for disease in the cemetery, either. Sacramento's hot, dry climate discourages the pathogens that cause black spot and powdery mildew. Rust may appear late in the season, and the new spring growth is clean. I believe that giving the roses room for air to circulate, and intermingling other plants (including nature's companion plants: weeds), means that we don't have to deal with the problems of monoculture that many rose gardens create.

By breaking the pruning/feeding/spraying cycle, we reduce the amount of succulent new growth, which attracts aphids. (We don't see many aphids on our roses in the cemetery.) We en-

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Mr. Moore spoke of his breeding techniques and we had the opportunity to tour his greenhouses and have lunch together.

He told us to "share the spirit of the roses" and also said, "Share your roses—that's what they're for." He encouraged people to keep breeding roses, and wished that they would have "many surprises." As we were ready to leave, he told us to remember that every innovation has two parts, "the thinking part and the doing part," and he advised us to remember the thinking part before we got to the doing part.

We felt truly privileged to have had this opportunity to spend time with Viru and Girija Viraraghavan and Ralph Moore.

courage beneficial insects and birds, too.

We *do*, however, believe in pruning to shape a plant, to remove dead wood, and to rejuvenate the old plants by cutting out the oldest, least productive canes. I used to be afraid of removing giant canes, because I am a chicken-hearted pruner. Watching stout new canes emerge at the base of 'Maman Cochet' and other tea roses last year, after we cut out a few enormous old canes from each, has converted me.



Website Changes

Judy Eitzen

Our website has a new look and updated information and photographs of the Rose Garden and our events. There are new sections:

- *Favorite roses*—submitted by visitors and volunteers, this section focuses on specific roses.
- *Garden structures* focuses on pillars, arches, pegged roses and other structural elements that show our roses at their best.
- *Newsletters* in pdf format are included on the site.
- A section on *volunteers* focuses on the variety of tasks and opportunities by and for volunteers.

Check it out at

www.cemeteryrose.org

What's in a Name (A rose by any other...)

by Judy Eitzen

The roses we grow and protect and love in the Historic Rose Garden are those we call "heritage roses" because we believe that we are preserving some of the historically significant botanical heritage of California. Among many lay persons (all those gardeners who have not been smitten by "our" favorite roses) the term *rose* refers to modern hybrid teas, miniature roses, David Austin and the like while *antique rose* means a spring-blooming shrub that stays green most of the year, looks like sticks in the winter and therefore has little value in the garden.

I would like to clarify and settle once and for all the issue of what to call our roses. Ha! There are a number of terms commonly used interchangeably both by the ignorant and knowledgeable, all of which have slightly different interpretations by different people.

Oddly enough, the most commonly used phrases to describe these plants are not readily found in dictionaries or phrase-books. Apparently they are well-known to some, but not to the world at large.

To wit...

- *Old garden roses* – these are the roses that are still growing in gardens maintained by the elderly.
- *Historic roses* – these are roses that have been placed on the national register. They may not be torn down or moved from their present sites.
- *Antique roses* – these are roses that have been bought and sold on "Cash in the Attic" or "Antique Roadshow."
- *Vintage roses* – most often grown in California's wine country, these roses are used by vintners to impart a special bouquet to sweet wines.
- *Old-fashioned roses* – these are roses that look modern when you buy them but turn into Cecilé Brunner after the second year.
- *Once-blooming roses* – this is simple; they just bloom once and then remain green for the rest of their lives.
- *Tea roses* – no one is really sure, but it is believed if you make a tea from the leaves and petals of this rose, you can be transported back to Woodstock.

Now seriously folks, whatever we call them, we love 'em the best.

Pegging Roses

by Anita Clevenger

Roses grow with "apical dominance." In other words, the growth is directed to the apex, or top, of the plant. If you bend a cane horizontally, all of the buds along the cane will be at the top. Lateral growth will emerge at each bud eye, topped with flowers.

Many roses naturally fountain and arch, and often produce masses of bloom from their laterals. Others grow rather stiffly and wave their meager display of roses high above our heads. In either case, we can fool Mother Nature into producing many more flowers by pegging and self-pegging.

Pegging is a technique of pulling the canes out to nearly their full length, and fastening them down to pegs on the ground. There are a few problems with this technique. The rose looks a bit ungainly, and takes up a lot of space. Since roses want to grow up, any part of the cane that is pointing down may die back to the highest point. It's also possible that the exposed cane will get sunburned. However, if you have the room, and the right type of rose (Bourbons and Hybrid Perpetuals are good candidates), you can

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Rose Garden Maintenance Update

by Anita Clevenger

Winter pruning was a great success this year. The mild winter meant that we were able to prune on every scheduled workday.

On January 28, we had our first annual *Winter Pruning Party* where 17 volunteers pruned enthusiastically. They tackled giant, neglected roses such as 'Perle d'Or,' made sure that hedges and modern roses were tidy, and tamed some of the climbers. In all, more than 40 roses were pruned. We took a break to enjoy some chili and other goodies, then got back to work. Some people were still working when Barbara and I were ready to call it a day!

We have worked this season from a "job jar" listing that we developed in the fall. All of the high priority roses have been completed, as have many of the "nice to do" jobs. We will continue to keep the "job jar" (actually, it's a red notebook, not a jar!) in the mailbox. If you wish to volunteer in the garden, and there is no one to ask what to do, pick out a task (or two) from the listing. Be sure to annotate

Pegging, con't.

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increase the amount of bloom many times over. Pegged canes may not last more than a season or two; then they should be cut out and new canes tied down in their place. It's best to do this fairly early in the pruning season, before the new growth gets stiff.

Self-pegging is a techniques of tying the canes to one another. It only works with relatively pliable canes. Stiffer roses do better trained around a pillar, with the canes pulled at an angle. We don't peg many roses in the cemetery because our space is limited, but we have self-pegged a dozen or more. Be on the lookout for them!

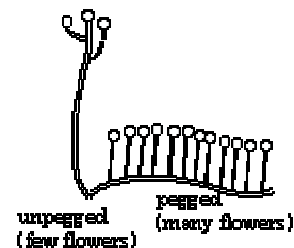
what you've done before you leave the cemetery.

We will be working on Wednesdays and Saturdays in March and April to ensure that the garden is looking its best for the Open Garden. Priorities are weed removal and deadheading.

Speaking of deadheading: we will have deadheading parties once again this year: June 20; July 18 and September 19. In June and July, we will be deadheading from 6:30 - 8:30. With September's shorter days, we'll start at 6:00 and end at 7:30.

We are also going to initiate a summer pruning party. We have a number of overgrown once-blooming roses that need our attention. We plan to conduct a workshop about pruning once-blooming roses, and then grab our pruning tools and get to work. If you want some practice pruning Moss, Damask, Albas, Centifolias, Gallicas or rambles, this is your chance. The summer pruning party will be on June 24, from 8:30 - 11:30.

Note: Liz Druitt has good illustrations and explanation of pegging in her book, *Landscaping with Antique Roses*, Taunton Press, 1992





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. 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:
It's a dirty job but...

Any gardener knows that weeding and planting is dirty work. So make your work a little cleaner by spritzing cooking spray on your hoe, shovel and other gardening tools before you go to work.

This prevents soil from sticking to them and makes your gardening and cleanup go much easier!



*My wild Irish
Rose, The
sweetest flow'r
that grows.*

Chauncey Olcott

