



CEMETERY ROSE

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



Volume 3, Issue 3

March, 2004

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Spring is the time for the Open Garden

This year, the Cemetery's Open Garden event will be coupled with the Heritage Rose Group Symposium being held in Sacramento. If you can't go to both events, do plan to come to the Cemetery on Saturday April 17 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. The plant sale will begin at 10 with raffles, tours and goodies available throughout the event. Volunteers to help at the event are always welcome.

A determined group of volunteers have worked hard to make the garden beautiful and March's warm spell is pushing the roses into fine bloom. Volunteers propagated a number of roses last fall and, to-

gether with roses donated by B & B and other local nurseries should give quite a selection for the plant sale.

This event is a fund-raiser and we will also have rose-related items to sell and to raffle.

Other events are also planned for the Cemetery that morning; commemoration of the first African-American graduate from Stanford University at 10:00 a.m. and a historical tour at 11 a.m. Rosarians will also conduct Rose Garden tours throughout the event. Bring your friends, your sunscreen and your camera and plan to enjoy a wonderful day in the Cemetery.

Heritage Rose Symposium

Roses all weekend! The Yolo & Beyond Chapter of the Heritage Rose Group will conduct a symposium in Sacramento the same weekend.

There will be two evening programs and buffet dinners. Speakers include a rose book author, several heritage rose garden curators, and nursery owners talking about the history, preservation and gardening elements of historic roses and unique plants. A bus tour of important regional gardens is also available. Plant and

garden book sales will be offered. The Yolo & Beyond Chapter of Heritage Rose Group and the Sacramento Historic Rose Garden sponsor this event.

The Symposium will be held at the Clarion Hotel, 700 16th Street, Sacramento on Friday, April 16 and Saturday, April 17, 2004.

For hotel room reservations, phone the Clarion prior to March 29, 2004

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*Cemetery Rose
Garden*

Open Garden

Saturday,

April 17, 2004

10:00 a. m -

3:00 p.m.



Horticulture—Back To School

editorial

Last fall I took an introductory horticultural class at Consumnes River College. It was so enjoyable that I registered for a class in plant identification this spring. This class requires students to accomplish many things; collect, press and display specific plants, learn their botanical names, characteristics and uses in the garden and be tested on this information each week. The group is generally a happy bunch and can be seen wandering the dark campus on Wednesday evenings armed with flashlights, pruners, spray bottles and small plastic bags.

I thought that if I could learn particulars about many types of plants then learning how roses are organized and classified should be a piece of cake. Ha! First I discovered that roses (*Rosa*) belong to the *Rosaceae* family. So far, so good. Also belonging to the *Rosaceae* family are apples, pears, plums, peaches, strawberries, and raspberries plus other ornamental trees and shrubs. Already, I'm confused...what are the commonalities between apples, roses and strawberries? It turns out there are quite a few. The leaves generally alternate on the stems; flowers generally have five segments (or multiples of 5), with many stamens. These plants all produce edible fruits—though

we don't usually pick hips for muching.

Okay, ignoring anything that we don't think of as a "rose," learning the classification and relationships and origins of various rose cultivars should be, if not easy, at least doable. Not.

The modern cultivars of *Rosa* are of extremely complex hybrid origin, often involving at least 7 different species. This is even true of the roses we commonly call "antique" or "old garden" roses. Though their ancestors may number fewer than seven, their origins are still complex. Roses cultivated in the 17-19th centuries were derived from hybrids between two basic groups of plants: species native to Europe that are very winter hardy and produce blooms just once a year in early summer and species from Asia that are not particularly hardy, but do carry a recessive gene for remontancy (re-blooming).

This project may take longer than I thought!

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

HRG Symposium, continued



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and mention the Heritage Rose Group for rate discount for the event.

Speakers include Barbara Oliva, curator of the Sacramento Historic Rose Garden; Fred Boutin, botanist and rosarian; John Whittlesey from Canyon Creek Nursery; Mel Hulse from the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden and Bill Grant, author and rosarian.

An optional guided tour of exceptional area gardens is available. The tour will include the Sacramento Historic Rose Garden, California Native Plant Society's demonstration garden, and Hamilton Square at the Sacramento Historic Cemetery.

Please purchase tickets in advance; registration is limited to 60 participants.

Symposium fee is \$125.00 which includes two buffet dinners. (The fee increases to \$135.00 on registrations received after March 19, 2004). Optional bus trip for garden tour with sack lunch provided \$35.00

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A Visit to the Huntington

Henry Huntington began developing the Botanical Gardens in 1903. In 1913, he married Arabella and added the Japanese Garden as a gift to her. (Arabella was his uncle's widow, and that's another story...) The gardens cover about 150 acres with sweeping lawns and vistas interspersed with statuary, small temples, and benches. 15,000 kinds of plants from all over the world make up the botanical collections, many landscaped into a series of theme gardens.

Events, shows, seminars, and symposia focusing on botany and horticulture are held throughout the year and each January, the Huntington conducts a special event, inviting world-renowned rosarians to speak. This year, the botanical team of photographer and writer Roger Phillips and Martyn Rix spoke about collecting old roses from around the world. Barbara Oliva, Anita Clevenger and Judy Eitzen from the Cemetery along with Sherri Berglund from B & B Nursery attended the Sunday afternoon event and spent most of Saturday and part of Monday touring the gardens and museums. What a weekend!

After a Saturday morning flight to southern California, we drove to Pasadena, checked into our hotel and headed straight for the Huntington where we spent the afternoon touring the grounds. A quick change and we returned for a 'meet the speakers' dinner event in the botanical center where we were met by delightfully welcoming Huntington volunteers. Many of those we met that evening are rose garden volunteers or docents or both. We got a preview look at the new conservatory and children's garden (under construction) and a tour of the botanical center classrooms, laboratories and office space with five botanical libraries!

On Sunday, we arrived early for the rose sale and selected several plants - all items we felt could safely be carried onto the return flight. (That's a story in itself!) We joined our new friends for a Greek-style lunch and were taken on a private tour

by Judy Eitzen

of the art museum to visit *Pinkie*, *Blue Boy*, *George Washington* and other old friends. The museum will close soon for earthquake retrofitting and all the art works will be temporarily moved to another building on site. During preparation for this, engineers have discovered light wells for basement windows that had been filled in with soil and planted. These should be restored when the work is complete.



Roger Phillips and Martyn Rix told us later that they had not appeared jointly before, yet they gave a very interesting and well-planned program. Roger described how they came to write and produce a number of books together and how they developed a unique way of depicting specimens on the printed page so that all forms of each plant appear together. It was interesting to hear how they developed their specialties and came to work as collaborators on several gardening books.

That evening, we joined Roger and Martyn for a private dinner during which we learned more about their remarkable experiences locating and identifying roses and other flora. Roger described his own rose garden in which he simply plants roses among the trees in his orchard. Those that survive the partial shade, grassy paths and benign neglect get to stay!

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*We pruned 234
roses this winter!*

Hooray for us!



Report on the Roses

We now have 423 roses on the list as being alive and well in the Old City Cemetery. Eight were lost over the winter and early spring—most to weed-eater damage; nine more are struggling.

Volunteers bravely appeared over the winter and pruned 234 roses out of the 362 which need regular attention. This has been our best pruning season—nearly 2/3 of those that should have been pruned were gotten to. Not all of the remaining ones needed pruning this year—either they were still too small or had been dealt with last year and hadn't grown vigorously over the intervening months.

by Barbara Oliva

There are some 45 plants that could profit from a cleanup before the Open Garden in mid April if time allows.

Several plants have been pegged—these are ones which in the future would do best with a supporting structure. Others will be pegged in the near future. Three new support structures were installed this past year; all to the west of the main 'street' dividing the Rose Garden.

The irrigation system has some places that don't work and volunteers are working to put irrigation to rights.

A Visit to the Huntington, continued

(Continued from page 3)

The next morning, received a private tour of the desert and Japanese gardens by one of the desert volunteers and docents. It was a beautiful day, the grounds were closed to the public, and we enjoyed the tour thoroughly. I didn't know there were that many types of palms!

During our visit, of course, the rose garden was not at its best. Though a few plants were showing a few blooms, most had already been pruned or were otherwise dormant. This rose garden is unusual in that it is arranged historically. You can trace the history of the rose over 1,000 years beginning with those cultivated in Medieval and Renaissance times. There are more than 1,500 cultivars in the rose garden alone. No wonder more than 400 people volunteer in the gardens and there's a call out for more on their website.

The Huntington gardens are certainly worth a visit - if you enjoy art and want to visit a world-renowned library, by all means make the Huntington a stop on your Southern California itinerary.



Species Roses Have Their Place

The rose is the most widely grown of all garden flowers, and though limited to antique roses, the Cemetery Rose Garden includes many types of roses; albas, noisettes, teas, musks, etc. etc. Some estimate there are more than 3,000 cultivars grown around the world. Roses are also among the eldest cultivated flowers with fossil evidence showing roses have been with us for some 30 million years. Many of the Cemetery plants are close relatives of these early types, commonly called wild roses. Some are species roses. Species is a term used to identify group of individual plants which have some common attributes and that differ only in minor details. Some Cemetery roses are sports and hybrids of species or wild roses..

Compared with the many thousands of rose varieties produced over the years, the number of wild species are very few—around 150 or so and just a few of these have been used as progenitors by hybridizers.

These are single flowering roses for the most part, that generally produce attractive hips and often have leaves of shape, color, daintiness and grace not seen in their more popular modern cousins.. Some people like these roses because the stamens are visible while others think them less important than roses with high petal counts.

Species and wild roses in the Cemetery include *Rosa rubiginosa*, commonly called Sweetbriar or *Rosa eglanteria*. This found rose came to America from Europe and thence to California. It's a beautiful single pink wild rose with a delicious apple scent in both flowers and foliage. It forms an arching shrub of better than 8' tall and need about that much width. Shiny bright red hips in abundance make this rose satisfactory in fall as well as spring.

Another is *Rosa cinnamomea plena*, commonly the Whitsuntide Rose or Rose du Saint Sacrement (France). This is the double form of *R. cin-*

namomea (Cinnamon Rose) and is an upright-growing, branching plant with greyish-green foliage and mauvish-purple stems. Early summer blooms vary from pale to mid-pink.

Rosa soulieana, introduced from China in 1896, is a vigorous, dense shrub with thin arching branches that can grow to 10 feet tall. The foliage is greyish-green and it's single white flowers are followed by oval, orangy hips in clusters.

Rosa roxburghii, plena a double-flowered version of the Burr Rose or Chestnut Rose has a long season of quite distinct, shell-pink blooms. The leaves consist of up to 15 small, firmly textured, light green leaflets.

Species roses have their place in the garden alongside their more modern counterparts, giving a lightness and delicacy to the overall appearance of the garden. Though most only bloom once a year, the shrubbery provides a great backdrop for summer flowering roses and other plants, while their hips late in summer and into the fall bring much needed color when summer blossoms have faded. Look over these special roses during the Open Garden to see which one may be right for your garden.

Schedule of Events

- Saturday April 17—OPEN Garden at the Old City Cemetery from 10 -3
- Friday & Saturday, April 16 & 17—Heritage Rose Group Symposium, Clarion Hotel, Sacramento (see p1 article for details)
- Ft. Bragg??
- November —National Conference—Heritage Rose Foundation, at the Antique Rose Emporium, Brenham, TX (details in June newsletter)



OLD CITY CEMETERY
HISTORIC ROSE



CEMETERY
ROSE

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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:
Propagation

Fall is a good time to propagate many perennials from cuttings. So, what's the first thing to remember when taking cuttings?

Stubs don't grow.

If you attempt to grow a cutting with a stub more than ¼" at either end, it will rot which makes it possible for disease to invade. Also:

- Rooting hormone can speed the process.
- Perlite in the mix helps keep cuttings moist.
- Two nodes up and two nodes in the soil is a good rule of thumb.



Rose Quote

My method is to wait until some small part of it annoys me and then take some action.

Helen Dillon

Garden Artistry: Secrets of Designing And Planting A Small Garden, 1995