



CEMETERY ROSE

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

Open Garden Planned for April 12 *by Judy Eitzen*



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Inside this issue:

Open Garden	1
Pruning Party	1
Maintenance	2
Editorial	2
Powdery Mildew	3
Mel Hulse	4
Rose Events	5

April may bring showers, but it also brings the Historic Rose Garden's premiere event, the Open Garden.

This year promises to be fantastic. The main purpose for the event is to show off the roses during their best blooming period. This year, the roses have been mulched, fertilized, pruned and in general coddled into blooming with perfection. Tours of the roses will be held throughout the day with an electric cart available for those who find walking problematic.

Another important reason to attend this event is to see what's available for planting in your own gar-

den. Plants have been propagated and are growing into healthy, lovely specimens. We've got the most often requested plants as well as some of the more beautiful rosy specimens.

There'll be a raffle, a silent auction and sales of rosy items—all designed to appeal to rose lovers with receipts going to continued support of this fine garden.

Please plan to attend this great event in the rose-lover's calendar. Saturday, April 12 from 9:30 to 2:00. If you can't make it on April 12, do plan to visit the Cemetery in during April just to enjoy the roses.

Cemetery Rose Garden

Activities and Dates

Open Garden April 12

9:30–2:00

Pruning Party Picks Plenty

by Anita Clevenger

We scheduled our third annual Pruning Party for January 19th, but watched with concern as the rains pounded Sacramento day after day. Fortunately, the day dawned cold and clear. We dressed in layers, and headed off to the cemetery, where the ground was covered in frost. People began arriving before the appointed start time, eager to get to work (so long as it was in the sun!)

A total of 21 people worked for at least part of the day. We sent them off in

teams. One enthusiastic group tackled one of the more neglected plots, all the way to the west along Broadway. There they worked on 'Capt. Thomas,' and the big polyanthas 'Perle d'Or' and 'La Marne.' These big polys are the sort of rose that you can spend hours cleaning out, and we can imagine the roses breathing a sigh of relief to have so much dead and congested growth removed.

Other people worked with Cass Bernstein,

(Continued on page 3)

Cultivate What You Want To Grow

editorial

I've heard that hard work doesn't harm anyone, but I don't want to take any chances. I've learned to plan what needs doing, gather my tools and equipment and *then* get to work.

too daunting is yelling at me from across the garden. Every time I try to focus on the task at hand, I see it out of the corner of my eye. Yes it is possible to feel guilt while gardening.

The next thing that becomes apparent is that if it takes five tools to do what I've planned, four of them will be easy to find. The fifth...well, Murphy has struck again.

Puttering is my favorite thing to do in the spring garden. Even with all my planning I soon am reminded that when all the gardening chores are done, the avid gardener will invent new ones—and sometimes not finish the planned chores.

About half-way through my spring gardening tasks, I am forcibly reminded that knees are devices for locating rocks.

After all is said and done, a hell of a lot more is said than done. This time of year it can also be more fun.

The roses I've pruned are looking great, red-tinged glossy new leaves popping out, canes gracefully disposed—ah, spring. Soon the one I allowed to ramble for two years because the job is just

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



Maintenance Report

by Anita Clevenger

In much of the country, winter gives respite from gardening chores. In colder climates, it's a time to huddle by the fire, with gardening magazines and seed catalogues in hand. Here in Sacramento, it's pruning season. Mother Nature's clock is ticking, and there's only a short period between when the roses go relatively dormant, and when the sap begins to rise and the roses push out new growth. Gardeners need to bundle up, go outside and get to work.

While our intentions were good, Mother Nature had other plans for some of our usual Wednesday and Saturday workdays. Even on days when it was not raining, the foliage was often waterlogged. We try to avoid pruning wet roses out of concern that we might spread fungal or bacterial diseases. That may be scientifically valid, or just a good excuse to avoid working in the wet.

Even with the reduced number of workdays, we got a lot done. We pruned about a third of the roses in the collection, including almost all of those we considered priorities. We focused on removing dead or unproductive old growth, and reducing congestion in the center of the roses. We trained them along structures, and pegged them to the ground.

(Continued on page 4)

Disinfecting Tools

During the Pruning Party, Cass Bernstein told us about her research into the best way to clean pruning tools. Disinfectants require the tools be clean, and labels direct that the disinfectant remain in contact with the pruners for 10 minutes. Cass has found a 3 to 5 minute soak is usually effective. She recommends using a substance that both cleans and disinfects, containing quaternary ammonium chlorides, or Quats.

(Cass recommends not using bleach which is corrosive to cutting edges, or alcohol which is not fully effective.)

Two readily available household cleaners are Lysol All Purpose 3 in 1 Cleaner, diluted at a rate of 1 part concentrate to 10 parts water, or Clorox Disinfecting Floor and Surface Cleaner, diluted at a ratio of 1 to 8.

Cass also advised that when she is dealing with a serious plant pathogen, she uses *Physan 20*, the only product labeled for use on pruning tools.

A good tip is to use more than one pair of pruning shears; one to soak in a freshly mixed disinfectant solution, and one to hand. Cass uses a plastic take-out container with an X cut through the top, putting the pruners in to soak after use on each plant (or changing pruners between cuts when working on a clearly diseased cane). She also notes that if a serious pathogen is present in extremely high concentrations, no disinfectant is 100 percent effective.

Mitigating Mites and Mildew

By Pat Schink

Several rose bushes including Duchesse de Brabant, Mme Lombard and relatives, Ellen Poulsen, Frau Hedwig Koschel, Mme Jules Boucher, and Baretta St. Amber have been noticeably affected by powdery mildew in the Historic Rose Garden. In our climate, this problem is observed mostly in the spring and fall, when temperatures between 70 and 90°F encourage its growth. Powdery mildew does not kill, but is unsightly and damages leaves and canes.

After reviewing the University of California Integrated Pest Management (UC IPM) pest note guidelines for powdery mildew, we decided to test the least toxic management practices recommended by the pest notes on these roses.

As a control, Mme. Lombard and one Duchesse de Brabant were selected to receive no treatment so we could compare results of the treatment with untreated roses of the same variety. To date, we have pruned, defoliated and cleaned the

mulch beneath the infected bushes. In addition, we have sprayed a potassium bicarbonate solution ("Remedy") on selected plants before temperatures rise above 70° F for an extended period and the dormant spores come back to life. We sprayed on February 17 and February 26, 2008. (Many thanks to the Ameri-corps crew for their assistance.)

The pest note suggests three treatments before the weather warms up and so we will continue to monitor the roses and re-spray if weather conditions remain favorable. Volunteers Pat Schink and Jennifer Holden are taking the lead in this study and will report results as they become available. A garden as large as ours contains multiple plants of the same cultivars, which gives us a perfect opportunity to learn the merits of one treatment over another.

(Continued on page 5)

Pruning Party cont.

who conducted an informal pruning clinic throughout the day. She moved from Tea and China roses to the Hybrid Perpetual "Pink Cup," one of our 'La Reine' clones. "Old Town Novato" got a minor clean up, all that was needed on the healthy new plant. Cass also directed actions on a massive Tea-Noisette, "Manchester Guardian Angel." Before the day was out, she was on the ground under a huge species rose, R. souleiana, working to restore it to the arching, beautiful shape that it usually achieves in the wild.



Teams of volunteers cleared out old growth from some of the climbers, including 'Garisenda,' which had been badly damaged by a weed eater. Others worked on Teas and Chinas in the Broadway and East Beds. We systematically checked off roses from the master list, and hauled big stacks of trimming along the road.

We broke for lunch, enjoying soup prepared by Jewell and Arlene, and my chili. If there is ever a soup cook-off in Sacramento, I think that we'd win! We basked in the sun, ate a few cookies and brownies, and drifted back to work.

When the day was done, we'd completed over forty roses, some of which were huge "project roses" that take a village of volunteers to figure out and prune. We also took impromptu tours of the cemetery, learned a lot about pruning, enjoyed the beauty of the cemetery, and felt the sense of accomplishment that such an endeavor creates. Is it false advertising to call such a workday a "party"? I think that all participants would agree that it was a party in more than one definition of the word - both "a social gathering especially for pleasure or amusement," and "a group of people who have gathered to participate in an activity." (Definitions courtesy of answers.com) It was a fine party, indeed, and we are already looking forward to doing it again next year.

A man with a passion for old roses

Mel Hulse, curator of the Heritage Rose Garden in San Jose passed away in January after a long bout with cancer. Many who knew Mel attended a memorial service on February 15.



Mel with Lupe's Buttons

Mel brought a passion for these old beauties that resulted in his becoming very knowledgeable about them. He worked hard on behalf of the Heritage Rose Garden, becoming its strongest voice and building the collection into one of the largest rose gardens. His focus on the found roses and their preservation was instrumental in saving many cultivars that would otherwise be lost.

Friends and colleagues posted remembrances on Help-MeFind. Those comments can be seen at <http://www.helpmefind.com/rose/ezine.php>.

Maintenance Report, cont.

We had the Sheriff's work crew defoliate most of the Hybrid Teas and Hybrid Perpetuals, and rake up the old leaves beneath them in an effort to reduce disease. The work crew also spread new wood chips on the paths throughout the garden. We purchased three loads of composted horse manure and had the crew spread it under selected roses. The crew also helped clean up the branches and limbs that fell during the January 4th storm, which did very little real damage to the roses or grave-stones throughout the garden.

We worked with an Americorps team to refresh the numbers on the PVC pipes that we use as plot markers, and to replace those that had been broken or removed. They also applied alfalfa pellets to a number of roses. Research has shown that alfalfa breaks down when in contact with soil organisms, producing triacontanol, a naturally occurring alcohol that promotes plant growth and encourages production of new basal canes. We debated the amount of alfalfa to use, and decided to use one cup for small roses, two for medium-sized, and four for the huge ones. The team scratched the pellets in with a small rake, and the pellets swelled and disintegrated within a few days.

Our crew of volunteers worked diligently, enjoying the teamwork, learning together, and taking delight in the flowers and hips decorating the plants even on the coldest days.

In balance, Mother Nature has been good to us this winter. The rains soaked the alfalfa and manure into the soil, and replenished the water table. This winter's chilly weather should be good for the roses, too. We observed a very good spring bloom last year after an unusually cold winter. Roses with European heritage, such as Gallicas and Albas, respond to winter chill. (UC Davis defines chill hours as those below 45°F.) Even though this year's winter had fewer days below freezing, we had nearly the same number of total chill hours. As of this writing (Feb 24), Sacramento had 928 chill hours in 2007/8, compared to 956 hours in 2006/7. Comparatively, in 2005/6's very mild winter, we had only 617 hours. Conditions are good for yet another exceptional spring bloom.

What's ahead now that pruning is "done"? We will continue to groom the roses, because we should remove dead, diseased or dying canes at any time. We'll continue to keep the roses trimmed off of the headstones and out of the paths. We will hang new identification tags on all of the collection, making sure that visitors will be able to learn the names of what we are growing. And, we'll watch the roses burst into bloom, taking time to enjoy the fruits (and flowers) of our labors.

NOTE: Chill hours are reported on UC Davis' Fruit & Nut Research Information Center, <http://fruitsandnuts.ucdavis.edu/chillcalc/index1.htm#S>

Upcoming Rose Events

March 13—Sacramento Chapter—ARS
 Michael Devencenzi
 Master Consulting Rosarian
 7:30 p.m.
 Shepard Garden & Arts Center, McKinley Park

April 27
Woodland Library Rose Club Home Tour
 Info on the City of Woodland website (look for Library) or 530-662-6735

April 26
Sacramento Rose Show
 Time: 6:00AM - 6:00PM
 Shepard Garden & Arts Center, McKinley Park

April 26
Guadalupe Garden Day
 Heritage Rose Garden located in Guadalupe Gardens in San Jose
[/www.grpg.org/SGG/index.html](http://www.grpg.org/SGG/index.html)

April 17 & 18
Heritage Rose Foundation Conference at Hearst Castle
Roses and Gardens in the early 20th Century ®
 This fabulous event includes a Sunset reception overlooking the Neptune pool, rose garden tours and presentations by Victoria Kastner (author of *Julia Morgan, William Randolph Hearst and the Gardens of San Simeon*), Burling Leong (Sequoia Nursery), Fabien Ducher (nurseryman of Lyon, France) Etienne Bourell (Friend of Rosarie de l'Hay-les-Roses) and Jocelen Janon (rose photographer). www.heritagerosfoundation.org

May 25
Carolyn Parker at Garden Valley Ranch
 Special one-day event with Carolyn Parker, author of the delightful *R is for Rose*, Carolyn will be teaching about having roses in the home. This hands-on event will be held in the historic Carriage House as well as in the garden, and everyone will learn the ins and outs of handling flowers, basic arrangement principles and just generally have a lot of fun! \$85 per person. www.gardenvalley.com/

May 18
Celebration of Old Roses
 11am to 4 pm
 El Cerrito Community Center
 Ashbury and Moser in El Cerrito, California

Russian River Rose Company
 Open Saturdays and Sundays in April and May. Special perfume picking and rose tour
www.russian-river-rose.com

Vintage Gardens
May 10
Gregg's Guided Tours of the Garden
 Two hour tour of the rose garden at Vintage Gardens at 10 am and at 2 pm, \$30 per person.
May 23
A day in the garden with Gregg
 10 am to 3 pm. Lunch included. \$150 per person.
www.vintagegardens.com

Powdery Mildew, cont.

(Continued from page 3)

In addition, four roses, *R. soulieana*, *R. nanothmnus*, *R. webbiana*, and Petite Pink seem to be heavily infested with spider mites. We will monitor the infestations and, as a preventative measure, we sprayed a light horticultural oil treatment on February 26 as recommended in the spider mite pest note.

Mites and powdery mildew can also be controlled with forceful overhead sprinkling when problems are observed, applied in the morning so that foliage may dry before night-fall. This knocks the pests to the ground, killing them in the process. We will employ this additional management approach if necessary.

(NOTE: UC Pest Notes can be reviewed at <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES>)



OLD CITY CEMETERY
 HISTORIC ROSE
 GARDEN



CEMETERY
 ROSE

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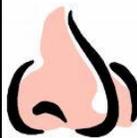
WE'RE ON THE WEB
www.cemeteryrose.org

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:
 Tip Title

To Smell As Sweet...



Have you ever wondered what gives the rose its delicious scent? Tiny perfume glands on the petals of highly scented roses can be seen under the lens of a powerful microscope.

Roses that have thick petals, such as Damask or Centifolia, produce a stronger scent than those of thinner petals. *Now you know which to choose.*



Garden quote

Some talk of William Kordes
 And some of Herbert Swim,
 Of Harkness and McGredy
 And Dot and Mallerin;

But despite the world's great
 breeders,
 Lens, Tantau and the rest,
 One knows the rose one
 raised oneself
 Is miles away the best.

Anon...