



CEMETERY ROSE

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



*Volume 5, Issue 1
September 2005*

Inside this issue:

Rose Garden Maintenance	1
Activities	1
Elm Trees	2
Editorial	2
San Jose Roses	2
Pruning Thoughts	3
Rosy Readings	4
Restoration	6
Gardening Tip	6

Rose Garden Maintenance

By Anita Clevenger

When you work regularly in the Historic Rose Garden, your perception of its condition goes in and out of focus. On one hand, it looks the best it has in the three years I've been volunteering there - on the other hand, there are so many weeds, so many chewed leaves, so many out-of-control roses, that it's easy to feel overwhelmed. We've all heard every gardener's lament - so much done, so much to do.

The Heritage Rose Foundation's Kent Krugh, who visited the cemetery in May, says this tension "keeps our vision fresh, and inspires hope. Never quite done in the garden, yet still satisfying in its present state."

are looking good. Last fall, we identified roses that needed winter pruning or clean up. We estimate that about 80% of those roses were completed. This spring, we identified once-blooming roses that needed summer pruning and clean up. While we didn't come close to completing those roses, we did more summer pruning than ever, thanks to a regular Wednesday morning work crew of four or five volunteers, two of whom recently joined our ranks as a result of the Sacramento Bee article about Barbara. Years of diligent hand weeding and mulching has finally begun to discourage weeds, particularly those lining Ivy Ave. in the Broadway bed. Several out-of-place pine and diseased elm trees were removed from that bed, opening it up to light and air circula-

(Continued on page 3)

What's been done?

So, let's first focus on what has been done in the cemetery, and why things

Upcoming Activities

We're planning special autumn activities this year and hope you can all join in the fun. Questions? Please call Barbara Oliva 443-2146.

Propagation Class

September 17, 10 a.m. in the rose Garden. Barbara Oliva and other volunteers will talk about getting free new roses by successfully taking cuttings from old ones growing in the Cemetery. Learn about the Rose Garden's efforts to propagate roses for sale at our Spring event.

by Judy Eitzen

Pruning Clinics

October 22 and November 19 at 10 a.m. in the Rose Garden. Barbara Oliva will conduct a hands-on demonstration of rose pruning and trainees can practice on real roses.

Rose Garden Meeting

On September 19, Rose Garden volunteers and all newsletter recipients are invited to a pot-luck and meeting at the Belle Cooledge Library (Fruitridge/Seamus and South Land Park Drive) at 5:00 p.m.

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- *Activities* •
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- *November 19* •
- *Pruning Clinic* •
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The Case For Rose Hips

editorial

In the fall, many Valley residents head for Apple Hill in pursuit of the perfect apple (or apple something) pie, fritters, jelly, cider. Apples are, of course, members of the rose family (or is it the other way around?) Anyway, roses produce hips, which though smaller than apples, are similar botanically. Like apples, rose hips appear in fall and winter when many of us are performing garden maintenance, but not really admiring how our gardens look. I'm here to make a case for including rose hips in your garden this fall.

We select landscape plants for beautiful blooms or the color and texture of their leaves, but rarely do we select for the color, size and shape of the fruit. Rose hips come in many different shapes, colors and sizes - from plump and round to long and slender; from bright red-orange to a dark red;

from shiny, berry-like to bristly. Some Rugosas produce hips that are as large as crab apples and, in the fall they turn brilliant colors of red and orange, and sometimes even purple. They provide color, texture and interest to what could be an otherwise dull winter garden. Birds and squirrels love them. Humans use them as the richest source of Vitamin C on the planet.

We work hard to keep our roses clean and re-blooming by removing spent blooms throughout the season. This year, try leaving the last blooms of late summer or fall on your plants to provide beauty in your garden while the rest of your plants are resting for winter.

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

Judy Eitzen

What's wrong with the Elm Trees?

The elm leaf beetle has returned in force to the cemetery this summer. Adult feeding causes shot holes between the major veins of leaves. The larvae do the most damage, feeding under leaves causing skeletonization. Damaged leaves dry out and turn brown. Some of our trees are so heavily defoliated that it looks and feels like fall. We've been spotting the yellow, black-striped beetles on the roses. They are not damaging the roses, but are certainly weakening the elm trees. The City has treated the elms and will follow up in the fall. They also have plans to remove two more elm trees from the Cemetery (outside the Rose Garden area).

(Anita Clevenger)

San Jose Heritage Rose Garden Trip

by Anita Clevenger

*Call Anita Clevenger
to join the upcoming
visit to the San Jose
Heritage Rose Garden
this fall
455-7561*



Barbara Oliva, Lonnie Ratzlaff and Anita Clevenger visited the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden on August 12 to study how they manage their collection of nearly 5,000 roses.

We reviewed their maintenance and irrigation techniques, data base management, and propagation and nursery operations. We learned a lot about maintaining such a large collection of roses. It truly is a year-round effort on the part of many individuals.

This garden is a joint venture of the City of San Jose, the Friends of the Guadalupe River Park & Gardens, the Santa Clara

County Rose Society, the South Bay Heritage Rose Group, and many volunteers who propagate, fertilize, prune, weed, catalog and care for this large collection of roses.

We are planning a return visit in the fall to see many of the repeat bloomers in their autumnal flush. This garden is a "must see" for rose growers.

Please let Anita Clevenger know if you'd like to join in the trip. We plan to car-pool down and back in one day with a stop for lunch (and possibly dinner) along the way. Anita: 455-7561.

Maintenance, Cont.

by Anita Clevenger

(Continued from page 1)

tion. Lonnie Ratzlaff and I, with the help of some Americorps members, have worked to eradicate weed trees that spring up everywhere in the cemetery, often in the middle of roses. Americorps volunteers and the Sheriff's work crew have dug out suckering roses that were choking out other roses and covering up monuments. Our first two "Deadheading at Dusk" events were attended by about two dozen volunteers, who removed spent blossoms to encourage rebloom, tied up some of the climbing roses, and generally spruced up the area.

Job Jar and Maintenance Plan

In order to plan the deadheading events, we made up a "Job Jar" list of roses to be dead-headed or otherwise maintained. That evolved into an idea: what if we put a Job Jar list in the Rose Garden mailbox? When volunteers come to the Cemetery to work, they could just look at the list, pick some jobs to be done, and check them off when they are done. The only problem with that idea is that it's labor-intensive to make and maintain the list, so it's evolved further into a month-by-month maintenance plan, based on a similar plan developed

by the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden. We will be discussing this plan further at our September meeting. In the meantime, check for the Job Jar in the mailbox if you are at the rose garden and want to do a little work.

What's yet to be done?

Weed control is a continuing issue, not only in the plots but also in the paths. Many of the paths are in poor condition, with uneven surfaces and animal burrows. Irrigation continues to be a problem, and we really need someone to help us monitor and maintain the system. Some roses are struggling due to weed-eater damage, lack of water, sunburn, or other problems. The Fuller Rose Weevil chews a lot of leaves, which reduces the vigor of already-stressed roses. We will soon be identifying roses that will need attention this winter. Even with the additional volunteer help that we've received, we still have too few people to do the work that needs to be done. We'll continue to work on ways to do our jobs more easily and effectively, and hope that some of you join us on Wednesday and Saturday mornings, from 10 am to noon, or during special maintenance events.



"Never quite done in the garden, yet still satisfying in its present state."

Kent Krugh,
HRF

Some Thoughts on Pruning Roses

by Barbara Oliva

There are about as many methods of pruning as there are people with some form of cutting tool. Some national cultures are accused of being *secateur*¹ mad – with a passion for amputating trees. This is a result of a Gallic passion for order; “as if time spent on informality was time squandered”². Others have equally valid reasons for their style of hard pruning. For example, to achieve one or two perfect, long stemmed blooms for exhibition.

If, on the other hand, the rose plant is grown as a flowering shrub in a garden with other flowering plants, a different method is indicated. And for the heritage roses, especially in our climate, there are some very strong arguments for a different approach than that so commonly found in the popular literature.

The word ‘pruning’ can cover a multitude of approaches to cutting and cutting back, from grooming and deadheading to hard winter pruning. Roses being the vigorous and forgiving plants that they are, we can get away with almost any treatment, especially in the short term. However, most of the time less is best.

How long will a rose live if it is repeatedly cut almost to the ground? If its decline or death will make space for the newest offering in the catalogs, and that's what you want, that's one thing. But in a garden setting, especially in the Historic Rose Garden, do we want a shortened lifespan for the plants in our collection?

Time considerations have an effect on what we do,

(Continued on page 5)

Rosy Readings (and Gardening, too)

by Judy Eitzen

Some of the latest and best reading for gardeners.

Gardener's Latin by Bill Neal isn't really new (2003) but it is one of the more interesting publications for those who want to know more than just common names. It's a great source for learning just why and how a particular plant received a particular Latin name. Anita Clevenger reviewed this book for Amazon and said in part, "For lovers of plants, language, and beautiful books, this is a perfect book...The sketches, marginal notes and quotations, layout and size of the book make it a pleasure to use."

Garden Insects of North America: The Ultimate Guide to Backyard Bugs by Whitney Cranshaw (2004). Here's a cheery thought: more than 100,000 species of insects and related garden pests reside in North America. Whew! Sometimes it seems that most of them are eating, crawling, and buzzing through my garden! This guide helps teach what's doing damage and how to control the pest. The information is organized according to the type of damage inflicted. Host plants, range, appearance all characterize insects. Control methods, an appendix and 1,400 color photos are included as is a chapter on beneficial insects.

Passion for Roses: Peter Beales' Comprehensive Guide to Landscaping with Roses by Peter Beales was published this Spring. Peter Beales is the world's most acclaimed professional rose grower, and this book is the distillation of his 50 years of experience and knowledge into one essential volume. Within these handsomely illustrated pages is Beales's unequalled advice on landscaping with roses as well as care and cultivation.

The first part of the book explains the six different major groups of roses and profiles his choice for the best cultivars in each category. Interwoven throughout are his charming yet fascinating personal observations and reminiscences recalling experiences with roses, notable gardeners, and important breeders.

The last section of the book is an encyclopedic directory of roses that includes full color close-up pictures of each rose in full bloom, detailed descriptions, planting suggestions, hardiness factors, and information on care, cultivation, pests, and diseases. This sumptuously illustrated volume by Peter Beales will be the definitive guide to gardening with roses for years to come.



Best Rose Guide: A Comprehensive Selection. Roger Phillips, and Martyn Rix are the coauthors of 25 other books. In this one, 850 of their favorite roses are described and are divided into 25 categories--wild roses, tea roses, climbing roses, floribundas, ramblers, miniatures, and shrub roses, for example. Within each category, the authors offer information on their history and number of species and give a general description of the flowers. Each entry includes the rose's scientific and common name, country of origin, a detailed description of its flowers and leaves, hardiness, flowering times, color, height, and the conditions in which it will perform best.

The Infinite Rose by Harold Feinstein, who is widely admired for his vivid and breathtaking close-up photographs of flowers. Posters and prints of his works have become highly collectible. This delightful collection of rose images showcase the tremendous variety of these beloved and romantic flowers. The book is perfect for anyone passionate about finding beauty in nature and in color photography of the highest order.

Jackson & Perkins Rose Companions : Growing Annuals, Perennials, Bulbs, Shrubs and Vines with Roses. This volume written by Heritage Rose Foundation President, Stephen Scanniello was published in February this year and is the first book devoted expressly to the exciting variety of plants that can be grown with roses in the garden. Today's roses offer an impressive array of characteristics that make them ideal plants for many landscape uses, including form, color, and fragrance. *Rose Companions* will give gardeners of all levels the information they need to create a beautiful landscape.

Roses, written by this year's Great Rosarian Peter Harkness, was published in March by Abrams, the well known artistic publisher. One review, published in Booklist stated, "A rosarian of international renown, Harkness brings an ardent proclivity for the queen of flowers to a fascinating effort bolstered by the lyrical beauty of rare artworks."

Roses are treasured for many reasons: their enchanting beauty and sweet fragrance, their fascinating history, their value as the most versatile of garden plants, their symbolic power. The quest to create roses, and the flowers that have resulted, are the subjects of this splendid book. It charts rose culture from its ancient origins through the horticulture of

(Continued on page 5)

Rosy Reading, continued.

(Continued from page 4)

the 19th century to hybrid breeding in modern times.

In addition, this beautiful volume presents some of the most sublime rose specimens ever created, drawn and painted by renowned botanical artists such as Pierre-Joseph Redouté, Henry Andrews, and John Lindley. The captivating illustrations are from the Royal Horticultural Society, home to one of the world's finest archives of horticultural art. This spectacular volume of roses of every description, also in a reduced format with an incredibly affordable price, is certain to capture the hearts of gardeners and art lovers alike.

A revised edition of **Botany for Gardeners**, by Brian Capon was published in February, 2005. It was written for those who would like to do more than simply 'get by' with intuitive knowledge about plants. It has now been expanded and updated, and includes an appendix on plant taxonomy and a comprehensive index. Two-dozen new photos and illustrations make this new edition even more attractive than its predecessor.

California Gardening Rhythms by Bruce Asakawa, Eric Asakawa, Sharon Asakawa is the perfect companion to *California Gardener's Guide*. (published in 2000 by the same authors). The Asakawas are among the most highly respected gardening experts in California, and appear on the "Garden Compass"

Pruning, continued

(Continued from page 3)

especially in the Historic Rose Garden. Weather during pruning season, available help, types of roses and many other things force pruning decisions in ways that may not be the best. But it is well to stop and take a careful look at what we do, and consider what we ideally should do.

One further point: tea roses and china roses do not need (or appreciate) hard pruning. They should be pruned lightly, and for that matter, none of the old roses should usually be hard pruned.

There will be a couple of pruning clinics this fall; October 22nd, and November 19th. I hope many of you will be able to attend one of these. Perhaps you will be inspired to come down and help with our late win-

radio program.

The authors share their unparalleled expertise in all phases of California gardening, from ornamentals, to fruit and vegetables, focusing on developing a rewarding home landscape through properly timed maintenance

California's Wild Gardens : A Guide to Favorite Botanical Sites edited by Phyllis M. Faber showcases the splendid abundance of California's native plants in their natural settings--from foggy rain forests and rolling grasslands to high alpine meadows and parched deserts. The book offers a close-up look at more than one hundred special sites in the state, highlighting their distinctive ecology, the rare and unique plants found in them, and some of their more familiar botanical treasures. With its spectacular color photographs and lively writing by some of California's best biologists and ecologists, *California's Wild Gardens* is the perfect introduction to the state's remarkable botanical diversity.

Wow, a travel guide for California gardeners!

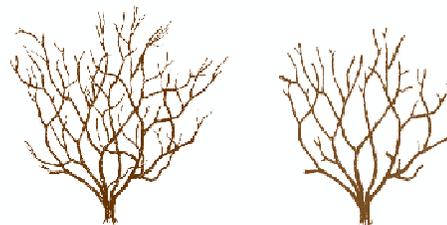


by Barbara Oliva

ter, early spring pruning. Even one or two visits will be a great help to the garden.

¹ Pruning shears, British usage from the French *sécateur*, from Latin *secare* to cut.

² Mirabel Osler "The Secret Gardens of France"



China rose before and after pruning
Image courtesy Gold Coast Roses



OLD CITY CEMETERY
HISTORIC ROSE



CEMETERY
ROSE

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WE'RE ON THE WEB
www.cemeteryrose.org

Restoration Ahead

The ongoing maintenance on headstones and monuments is finally moving into the rose garden area.

Restoration volunteers and Rukula Monument staff will be surveying the "Center Run" and the Rose Garden area this fall to identify stones that need repining and repair.

If you see a headstone that looks like it needs repair, a flat stone being buried by weeds or broken structures (gate, coping, fence, trellis), please tell Barbara or Judy or leave a message on the Archives voice mail (448-0811).

Quick Garden Tip: Clean Up Roses

This year's weather created a perfect environment for black spot, powdery mildew and a number of sucking and chewing pests. This makes it doubly important to clean up the area around your roses as you ready your garden for winter. Remove mulch, clean up fallen leaves and blooms and replace with fresh mulch. This will help keep pests and diseases from wintering over and reappearing next spring to spoil the show.



*Nobody ever
said,
"A marigold is a
marigold is a
marigold."*

*ARS statement during
lobbying effort to have
the rose named as the
national flower.*