



CEMETERY ROSE

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



Volume 6, Issue 1
September 2006

Inside this issue:

What's Next	1
Go Forth & Multiply	1
Stop To Smell...	2
Editorial	2
Maintenance	4
Latest Rose Rustle	5

Cemetery Rose Garden Activities and Dates

Propagation at CRC
September 8, 11 & 15

Deadheading At Dusk
September 19

Mini-Rose Rustle
September 22

Cemetery Rose Rustle
September 29

**What's Blooming at
the Cemetery**
October 21
*With Anita Clevenger and
Barbara Oliva*

**Fall Color in the Rose
Garden**
November 18
With Anita Clevenger

What's Coming Next

Propagation

Rose Garden volunteers will begin taking softwood cuttings in September to grow new plants for the plant sale at next April's Open Garden. We'll be working with Consumnes River College's Horticulture program coordinator, Dave Andrews. We will propagate on Sept. 8, Sept. 11 and Sept 15 at 11 a.m.

Deadheading

Deadheading At Dusk will be held on September 19 at 6 p.m. in the Rose Garden. It will be a lovely evening of preparing the roses for their fall flush and spending time with rose lovers. Bring your pruners and gloves, volunteers will provide the rest (including refreshments)

Mini Rose Rustle

Friday, September 22 will see Rose Garden volunteers and friends on a mini-rose rustle in Grass Valley & Nevada City. We'll be leaving early to spend the

Go Forth and Multiply

Eight volunteers and supporters attended a propagation workshop at the Historic Rose Garden conducted by Cass Bernstein of Gold Coast Heritage Rose Group.

Cass recommended using a translucent Rubbermaid covered tub, with a translucent top filled with willow water to place cuttings. Willow water is prepared by taking pieces of willow branches 3" long, cut in half lengthwise, and steeping them in a quart of boiling water overnight.

by Judy Eitzen

day searching out abandoned and neglected roses in the Gold Country.

Hometown Rose Rustle

On Friday, September 29 we will walk the Historic City Cemetery looking for roses throughout our site that may need rescuing.

HRF Conference

The national Heritage Rose Foundation conference is scheduled for October 11-13. Check details on HRF website: www.heritagerosefoundation.org/

What's Blooming

Rose Garden Maintenance Manager and Master Gardener extraordinaire Anita Clevenger will lead a tour extolling fall blooms through the Cemetery on November 18 at 10 a.m. Tour begins at the main gate.

Please call Barbara Oliva (443-2146) to participate in the local events.

by Anita Clevenger

Willow water induces rooting and serves as a natural disinfectant. Cuttings placed directly in willow water can be kept for several days when necessary. Cass carries two pairs of clean pruners and disinfects them between roses. She uses Lysol or other spray disinfectants.

Softwood cuttings may be taken any time after the first bloom, up until October if there is warm fall weather. Softwood bends easily. The "perfect cutting," ac-

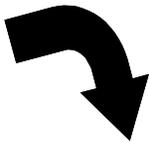
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Untidy Gardens?

editorial



Check this out!



Pruning Clinics

Barbara Oliva is planning two pruning clinics.

December 2 and
December 16.

Join her at 10 a.m.
in the Rose Garden on two Saturday mornings for hand-on training in pruning antique roses.
Free!

I've visited many gardens and viewed lots of landscaping. To my mind, there's no comparison. Okay, looking over a well-tended park can be a soothing experience—especially if there's lots of soft green or cool blue water to be seen in our hot valley. But...

Personally I prefer gardens to landscaping. Start with the definitions. Garden: *a plot of land used for the cultivation of flowers, vegetables, herbs, or fruit.* Just think of all the activity that goes into that cultivation, whatever one is intent on growing.

On the other hand, landscaping may be defined as: *an expanse of scenery that can be seen in a single view.* Now scenery can be beautiful and gardens can be untidy (or vice versa). But gardens seem somehow more hands-on, more alive. There's activity in a garden that is lacking in a mere landscape.

Stop To Smell The

Rose gardens come in many shapes and sizes, planned, unplanned, or formally landscaped; large, small or pots on the patio. With a little thought, the right roses and companion plants can be fitted into whatever garden space is available. The primary ingredient needed is a little time. We're often so busy weeding, deadheading, weeding, pruning, weeding, raking and still more weeding, that we become focused on the "trees" and may forget to look over our "forest."

More frequently than planning new gardens, we find ourselves renewing gardens as plants grow old or diseased or as structures change over time. Removing a hedge or tree may bring sunshine to a formerly shady spot and give room for more roses. Though few gardeners can scrap the whole thing and start over, just a few changes can make a big difference. The most important tools here are a little time and observation. Plus,

Yes, I know someone has to plan, plant and maintain the landscapes and parkscapes we see, yet gardens (often as part of parks and landscapes) are to my mind more people places.

Perhaps that's it—people-places. When you pick a tomato or smell a rose or prune raspberry bushes you know it's a place for gardeners. Just look at all the community gardens that appear in vacant spaces...not landscapes, gardens.

So call it personal prejudice, but I'd much rather spend time in my garden (or anyone's garden) than sitting down with a book on a lawn manicured within an inch of it's life...no weeds, no thorns, no pizzazz...boring. Give me roses (thorns and all), tomatoes (worms included) and that overlooked giant zucchini any day.

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

by Judy Eitzen

of course the willingness to pull out that monster that you lovingly planted last year as a foil for the plant it now completely overshadows.

Look at your garden from your favorite seat - inside or outside - and note what you see. (Never mind the weeding to be done and flowers needing to be dead-headed.) Look at the overall picture. Is it pleasing? Or is that climber you couldn't resist completely covering the lovely miniature you bought last year? Are Altissimo's brilliant blossoms overpowering the pale pink and yellow David Austin roses growing nearby? How much sun do you have now that the tree has been removed? Move around your garden with pencil and paper and take some notes. Jot what you like and don't like about your garden.

Many deciduous shrubs add variety. A number bloom at the same time as roses

(Continued on page 3)

Stop, Cont.

(Continued from page 2)

while others bloom when roses do not. Buddleia (Butterfly Bush), Cornus (Dogwood), and Potentilla (Cinquefoil) all serve as soft-colored perennials that are good rose companions. One of the most common companion plants for roses is of course, Clematis. These come in a wide range of colors and growth habits (some evergreen, some deciduous) and are often planted with climbing roses for contrasting or complimentary color.

Some tips for replanning your garden.

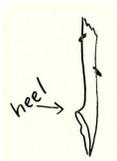
- ◇ Combine flower and leaf colors that go well with each other.
- ◇ Use the roses to set the tone for the colors of garden beds. Other plants act as accents.
- ◇ Climbing roses can be great in small gardens; give them something to climb on and they will take less space than shrub roses.
- ◇ Many companion plants work well as under story for taller roses, keeping roots shaded and cool in our hot summers.

- ◇ Find ways to bring height to the garden with arbors, pillars or tripods for roses to climb.
- ◇ Solitary plantings of shrub roses are good focal points for the garden.
- ◇ The dark foliage of evergreens brightens soft colors of shrub roses planted in front of them.
- ◇ Cluster smaller roses for a big effect.
- ◇ Uses grasses to provide texture, boundaries or focal points.
- ◇ Annuals are not just for summer; check out the fall and spring annuals available at your local nursery.
- ◇ Try to avoid growing a monoculture; when something goes wrong, it may affect your entire garden. A mixture of annuals, perennials and shrubs will help extend the life of all your garden plants. Besides, just roses can be as boring as just lawn.
- ◇ Plan for all seasons; roses with bright canes and hips can be a focal point in an otherwise dreary winter landscape.

Finally, just because your garden already exists, doesn't mean it can be improved with a little planning.

Multiply, cont.

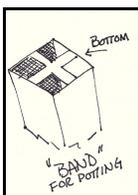
According to Cass, is not cut at all. She prefers breaking flowering wood off as a "slip" from a cane, leaving intact the "heel" which attaches a lateral branch to the main branch. Softwood will root readily in hot weather, so long as it is kept hydrated and out of direct sun. Cuttings should be long enough to have three buds under the soil, and at least two above. Teas and other roses with long internodal spaces may require long cuttings, which should be rooted in a larger pot. Cass likes to take tea rose cuttings with a "y" branch, burying the "y" and at least one node in the soil.



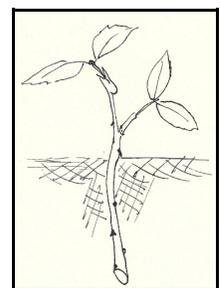
cup, the size used for beer, or water bottles may also be used, so long as holes are punched in the bottom, and the cup or bottle is buried in soil. She pointed out that the bottoms of cuttings prefer dark, while the tops prefer light. Clear containers have the advantage of showing root development.



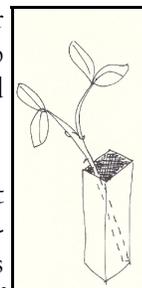
Cass uses Supersoil, which she has found to be superior for propagation. She tears open the bag and moistens the soil in the bag. She fills a band with soil, then pounds it to compact. Clear plastic



Cass does not use rooting hormone. She may nick the bark of the cane with her fingernail, exposing a little of the cambium layer. She washes the cuttings, either in the willow water, a 10% hydroxide solution or plain water. She removes any hips and other growth above the highest bud, and strips the leaves off the buds that will be under the soil. Leaves at the top will sustain the cutting, and encourage growth.



Cass sticks the cuttings in at an angle. After all of the cuttings are stuck, she inverts the terrarium over the top of



(Continued on page 5)

Maintenance Report

by Anita Clevenger, Historic Rose Garden Maintenance Supervisor

Weed by weed, plot by plot, the weeds are losing their stranglehold in the rose garden. We've stepped up our offensive. Volunteers and the Sheriff's Work Crews have continued to pull weeds and mulch heavily, blocking seeds from germinating. On beds overgrown with Bermuda grass, crews have secured commercial-grade landscape fabric to block its growth, and spread several inches of mulch on top.

Solarization

We're also trying soil solarization on several plots. First, we removed old mulch and weeds, smoothed and graded the surface of the plots, moistened the soil, and spread thin, clear plastic over the plots. Weed roots, seeds, and soil were left to cook in the sun. We will keep the plastic in place until mid-September. Then we'll mulch the beds, and evaluate how well it worked. Research indicates that soil solarization is most effective on annual weeds, but can also be moderately effective against our nemesis, Bermuda grass.

Bermuda Grass

Why is Bermuda grass so bad? Not only is it highly persistent, spreading from roots, stems and seeds, it also grows right up through the roses. It's unsightly, and competes with the roses for water, air and nutrients. Even worse, many roses have been damaged by weed eaters and other tools as crews and volunteers tried to clear the grass away.

Several roses now have crown gall, a disease that produces corky lesions on roots and canes, weaken-

ing, and sometimes killing the rose. The bacteria may reside in soil without causing damage, but will strike when roots or canes are damaged.

'Chromatella' grew in a plot badly infested with Bermuda grass. This rose had not been strong for several years, but declined and died this summer. When we carefully dug it up and examined the roots, they were, as suspected, infected with crown gall. We disinfected our tools, bagged and disposed of the rose, and felt a new resolve to fight Bermuda grass.

Spider Mites

We've continued to spread wood chips on the paths, to keep down weeds and to make it easier to walk. However, the weeds served as nature's companion plants, and the lack of beneficial insects and increased dust from all of the mulching may have triggered a massive spider mite attack that occurred during July's heat wave. The mites were worst on species roses such as *R. nanothamnus*, *R. soulieana*, and *R. eglandaria*. "Petite Pink," which probably is closely related to a species, was entirely shrouded with webs.

We learned to spot mite damage from a distance, looking for yellowing, dry leaves. Up close, the backs of the leaves showed webbing, but the mites were too small to spot without knocking them onto a piece of paper and examining them with a magnifying lens. The cure was fun. We blasted the roses several times with a powerful spray of water, refreshing ourselves and the roses, too. The mites are now under control.

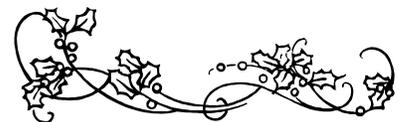
Elm Tree Removal

If you haven't been to the cemetery recently, be prepared: we've lost eight more elms, three of them from the rose garden. The trees were removed by the City, as they became weakened by age, disease and insects. The roses will benefit from the increased light, but the birds, squirrels and humans miss their welcoming canopy.

Deadheading

Not all of our maintenance efforts have been focused on pest control. We've also found time to deadhead many of the roses, to work on clearing roses from the paths and monuments, and to prune some of the once-blooming roses. Eight volunteers at the June and July "Deadheading at Dusk" parties, helped tidy things up considerably. We are hopeful that we can double that attendance at our last party, scheduled for September 19th. This will be a good opportunity to remove old hips and to maximize the final fall flush of flowers.

Anita Clevenger is a Sacramento County UC Master Gardener, and the Maintenance Manager of the Historic Rose Garden. You can learn more about the Integrated Pest Management techniques that she describes by visiting the Pest Notes at www.ipm.ucdavis.edu, calling the Master Gardeners at 875-6913, or coming to work with the volunteers during the deadheading and pruning parties, or on Wednesday and Saturday mornings.



Multiply, cont.

the bands, using it as a cover. Because water drains readily, she waters the cuttings every day while the weather is hot. If you find fuzzy mold on the top of your cuttings, (usually the first place to rot) spray it with Lysol or a Physan mixture.



Barbara Oliva described her experience using a closed terrarium. A mixture of potting soil and perlite seems to work better where the water does not drain freely. She sticks the cuttings in at an angle, at 3" centers. She leaves her lid closed, and does not open it up unless she sees that water droplets have stopped forming, or if she wants to check on the cuttings.

It is important to label the roses. Pull tags, which can be attached to the cutting, will stay intact when the cuttings are handled. Sharpies and other pens may fade. Cass uses nursery marking pens, which she buys on-line.

Place the cuttings in a place with bright, indirect, light. Roots will begin to form in as little as three weeks, or as long as two to six months. Let the cuttings develop plenty of roots before putting them out into the open. Allow them to harden off in a shaded spot for several days before potting them up into a larger container. At that point, you can begin to fertilize. Cass points out that you never kill a cutting by failing to fertilize, but can easily kill it by over-fertilizing. Cass advocates using a water-soluble fertilizer, mixed at half strength, applied half as often as the package recommends.

Suckering roses may be readily propagated by digging up new growth. Cass recommends waiting for growth to mature, so roots begin to develop.

We are grateful to Cass for sharing an enjoyable and informative morning with us. *If you'd like to join us propagating roses for next year's Open Garden fund raiser, please contact Barbara Oliva. (443-2146)*



This photo shows several stages of roses grown from propagated cuttings over several months.

The cutting at right is ready to plant in a pot or garden.

HRF Conference

There's still time to sign up for the Heritage Rose Foundation's National Symposium, which will be held in the Dallas area from Oct 11-13. Barbara Oliva, Judy Eitzen, Sherri Berglund and Anita Clevenger have already signed up to attend, and are looking forward to meeting old friends, making new ones, and spending several days in rose-immersed bliss. Thomas Christopher will be one of the speakers.

HRF Website:

www.heritageosefoundation.org/

The Latest Rose Rustle

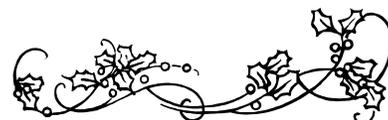
by Anita Clevenger

Liz Hall, Anita Clevenger and Barbara Oliva joined a dozen members of Gold Coast Heritage Rose Group in a Gold Country rose rustle in mid-June. The loosely-organized group (some likened the experience to herding cats) visited cemeteries and waysides in Nevada City, Camptonville, Downieville and North San Juan.

Downieville is one of the sites described in Thomas Christopher's *In Search of Lost Roses*, although we did not find many of the roses that he mentions. The cemeteries usually had at least one 'Mme Plantier,' pink or red China roses, and spectacular specimens of root-stock, such as 'Manetii' and 'Odorata'.

California native roses were in abundance along the roadsides and growing in people's yards. Several of the rustlers returned with cuttings of unusual or unidentifiable roses, and we hope to learn more about these roses as they mature and are studied.

A "mini-rustle" is planned by some of the Gold Coast members for the Nevada County area on September 22. If you are interested in joining in the fun, please email Anita at anitac@surewest.net or call her at 715-7294.





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:
Deadhead for Fall Bloom

Deadheading summer blooms promotes another flush of bloom in the fall.

Many antique roses produce clusters of blooms. Generally the central bloom fades first. Removing that bloom will encourage the cluster to bloom.

When all are finished, remove the entire cluster by cutting back to an emerging bud or fully formed shoot.

Removal of blind (non-flowering) shoots will both promote fall bloom and protect the shrub from winter wind damage that can occur with overly long canes.



Garden quote

Summer afternoon -
summer afternoon;
to me those have always
been the two most beautiful
words in the English language.

Henry James