

FALL & WINTER ACTIVITIES IN THE HISTORIC ROSE GARDEN

Anita Clevenger will conduct a special tour on November 22, "Fall Color In The Rose Garden". What will be seen on this informative tour will depend on plants in bloom and those with colorful foliage, and it is always an enjoyable event.

While the once-blooming roses are trimmed and prettied up in summer when they finish blooming, a large portion of the garden requires attention in winter. We are planning pruning workshops on Saturdays in January (10th, 17th, 24th, & 31st). These hands-on workshops will focus on various rose classes each week; climbers, hybrid teas, floribundas, hybrid perpetuals, chinas and tea roses.



Tom & Karen Jefferson
tackle 'Sombrieu'

In this issue:

Activities	1
Editorial	2
Curator's Corner	3
Visitors	4
Chuck Hatch In Memorium	5
Deadheading	6
DVD showing	7
Garden Tip	8

Historic
Rose
Garden

EDITORIAL—MANY THANKS

Seasons come and go; it seems like summer just began and Autumn has now arrived. As many of you know, my husband fell ill in June and I've been focused on his recovery from open heart surgery. He is coming along despite a bad hip, but I've not been able to give as much attention to the roses, the website nor this newsletter as I would wish.

Thanks to all for your heartfelt and much appreciated notes and cards. Thanks to all our volunteers who worked so hard over the summer to deadhead and clean up the garden. Thanks to our new volunteers who came out for deadheading and got hooked. Thanks to those on the propagation team getting ready for next spring's Open Garden (BTW, put April 18 on your calendar).

Finally, a very special thanks to Anita Clevenger for keeping it all together and especially for providing much of the copy for this newsletter!

*Comments, suggestions, questions,
Judy Eitzen
verlaine@citlink.net*

Good pruning is invisible. It looks as if everything grew to the right size and stopped.

Cass Turnbull, founder of Plant Amnesty, 1990

Historic Rose Garden Events

Fall Bloom in the Rose Garden

Saturday, November 22

10:00

Tour led by Anita Clevenger

Hands-on Pruning Classes

Saturdays in January

(10, 17, 24, 31)

10:00

Pruning Party

January 10 (rain date: Jan 17)

Lunch included

Work Days:

Tuesday and Saturday mornings

9:30–12 (or about)

Bring tools and wear gloves

CURATOR'S CORNER

Anita Clevenger

The rose garden has been looking good despite the drought and the usual summer slowdown of bloom. We have continued to irrigate the roses one day a week, cutting the total irrigation time to half as much water as we used last year.

Less irrigation has discouraged some nut sedge, although it still grows thickly around the bubblers and in a few plots. We have asked the Sheriff's Crew to dig it out repeatedly in several of the East Bed plots, and hope that removing the top growth and as many of the nutlets as possible will gradually reduce its infestation.

I've heard it said that an unmade bed can make Buckingham Palace look like a slum. Shaggy pathways do the same in a garden. Sheriff's crews mow and edge the rose garden paths periodically, and have scraped away or pulled many of the weeds. Dirt paths can be slippery in winter. We used to spread wood chips, but found that they are a hazard for string trimmers and mowers. We may try sowing some annual ryegrass in bare areas this fall and hope that winter rains will come and germinate grass instead of weeds.

We've added two more rebar arches to support 'Pink Mermaid' and our new "Phillips and Rix Pink China Climber." We want to add some more tripods and arches. It's wonderful to walk with roses stretching overhead, not having to duck and dodge as we go.

We had the pleasure of hosting distinguished visitors from New Zealand and China. Murray and Noelene Radka are with Heritage Roses of New Zealand, and have worked to find and register all heritage roses in their country. Dr. Jean Wang is a rose lover who is on the Faculty

of Landscape Architecture in Southwest Forestry University, Kunming, China. It is always interesting to share our garden with people from around the world, and to get their thoughts and insights to our roses and how they are grown.



We talked to at least two hundred people during the Sacramento County Master Gardener's annual Harvest Day, and signed up seventeen more people for our newsletter and volunteer lists. When we first started bringing an information table to this event, very few people were aware of our rose garden. Now, most of the people in attendance know about it, have already been there or are "dying to come to see it." We assure people that isn't necessary, and that live people can visit the garden whenever the cemetery is open.

As fall approaches, we will be planting some iris and bulbs and continuing to cut out dead from the roses and trim them from the pathways and monuments. We will begin pruning in earnest in early December.



ROSE GARDEN VISITORS THIS SUMMER



Left: New Zealanders - Murray and Noelene Radka, with Gregg Lowery of Vintage Gardens

Below left: Ella Chen, Ms. Li, Dr. Wang, and Dean Chen

Below: Dr. Jean Wang admiring Secret Garden Musk



IN MEMORIAM
Charles R. Hatch
1947—2014

From his obituary: He was born May 17, 1947 in Downey, Calif. to Betty and Charles Russell Hatch. Chuck grew up in Grass Valley, Calif., graduating from Nevada Union High School in 1965. He received his degree of Bachelor of Science in Environmental Design with a major of Landscape Architecture from Cal State Polytechnic in Pomona in 1971. Chuck's career in landscape design spanned 43 years based in Mill Valley, Sacramento, Rocklin, and Roseville, Calif.

Many of you know how much Charles R. Hatch contributed to our garden in recent years. He quietly put his skills to work documenting and fine-tuning our irrigation system, adding companion plants, trying to convince the crew to not rake out oak leaves from the plots, and striving to keep the garden paths neatly trimmed. He was the author of "Trees of the California Landscape," and freely shared his expertise. His interest in California history led him to work with Dr. Bob LaPerriere in developing tours and in support of the Sacramento County Cemetery Advisory Commission. He died on June 14th of cancer. His contributions to our cemetery and its rose garden live on.

Contributions in honor of Charles R. Hatch may be made to the Humboldt Botanical Gardens Foundation at www.hbgf.org or HBGF, P.O. Box 6117, Eureka, CA 95501.

Left: Chuck autographed his book for Judy
Below: Chuck with volunteers Debbie and Colleen



OFF WITH THEIR HEADS!

Anita Clevenger

We have done more deadheading this summer than ever before in the rose garden. We added two “Deadheading at Daybreak” events to the five “Deadheading at Dusk” held on the first Monday of each month from May through September. A total of 125 people turned out to nip, trim, and tidy the roses this year. Our regular volunteers continued to tend roses on Tuesday and Saturday, too. As a result, the garden looked much neater and produced more flowers.

Conventional wisdom says to remove spent flowers and hips from repeat-blooming plants in order to encourage continued blooms throughout the season. Flowers bloom in order to set seeds; once that is done, the plant has done its reproductive work for the year and can rest until next spring. That is certainly true for modern Hybrid Teas and Floribundas and for Hybrid Perpetuals. We endeavor to deadhead them throughout the year to encourage their bloom. Some other types of old roses, such as Teas, Chinas, Polyanthas and Noisettes, continue to bloom whether or not the plant is festooned with hips.

Some roses “self-clean,” dropping their petals in a shower of confetti. Others, such as “Setzer Noisette” and “Roseville Noisette,” hang onto their unsightly dead flowers. We remove these “wads of used tissues” just to make the garden look better. At Mottisfont Abbey, one of the great rose gardens of the world, gardeners brush off spent petals. Many of their roses are once-bloomers, and more dead flower heads are removed when they cut out old and unproductive canes during summer pruning.

Last year, we experimented with ‘Gloire des Rosomanes,’ a repeat-blooming China/Bourbon AKA “Ragged Robin.” Our collection has several of these roses, which were often used as rootstock and survive in historic sites. “Gloire des Rosomanes” sets hips prolifically. We removed the hips from one of them in mid-summer, and left the hips on the others. The one we deadheaded did indeed bloom more profusely, and developed a fairly good crop of hips in autumn as well. On the roses where we left the hips, the repeat bloom was more sparse. Overall, the dead-headed rose looked neater and more colorful.

We don’t usually deadhead most of the China roses, but we recently cut back “Malespina Red China” to reduce its size, and were rewarded with fresh new growth and a brilliant flush of bloom. Many of the China roses are so double that they set few hips. “Bengal Fire,” a single red China often covered with bloom in December, has many large yellow hips. We are pondering what to do. We’ve never deadheaded it in the past, but it’s never had so many hips before. Should we deadhead it now to encourage the December display? Or wait to see if it repeats as well with the hips?

Teas also will repeat bloom whether or not they are deadheaded, but they may rebloom more quickly if deadheaded. One of the later Teas, ‘Lady Hillingdon,’ (1910) sets many large hips and blooms more frequently if they are removed. We don’t usually deadhead ‘Mons. Tillier,’ but it too has large hips and is sleeping soundly right now. It usually has a few flowers in late summer and early fall, but then has a large flush in November. Next year, we will deadhead it regularly and see if we get more continuous bloom.



Jewel at work

Some people have the mistaken idea that roses will be healthier if their hips are removed. Encouraging new growth may renew a rose, but it may also cause awkward growth. To allow a rose to build gracefully in size during the first years of its life, a better choice may be just to snap the flowers off at the “abscission point” rather than cutting into the cane. This approach may be best for some older roses, too.

Teas can send new canes off at right angles. Both Chinas and Polyanthas have many latent growth buds. If a cane is cut, they will often produce “spoke” growth with a proliferation of canes. Making a “thinning cut” by cutting it where it branches, or removing it altogether, can guide more graceful growth. If you see a mess of new canes below a deadheading or pruning cut, you can simplify it by selecting a few canes that are growing in the right direction, and removing the rest.

(Continued on page 7)

DEADHEADING, con't.

(Continued from page 6)

Volunteers are taught in the cemetery garden to look for ribbons and tags to guide their deadheading effort. If a rose has a pink ribbon, deadhead it. If it doesn't, don't – especially if it has a “do not deadhead” sign!



There are many reasons not to deadhead, including retaining decorative hips, retaining as much wood as possible for propagation, or when in the presence of disease. We will be hanging fewer pink ribbons as fall approaches so our roses develop as many hips as possible, and stop producing tender new growth.

We plan to continue morning and evening deadheading events next year. Be on the lookout for next year's calendar, and plan to join us.

MOTTISFONT ABBEY CONFERENCE

Sherri Berglund and Anita Clevenger had the opportunity to attend the Heritage Rose Foundation conference at Mottisfont Abbey in England last spring. There, at one of the world's greatest rose gardens, they had the opportunity to learn about the garden and its roses from its gardeners, to talk to other rose enthusiasts from around the world, and to visit other gardens. Anita shared news of the Historic Rose Garden with conference attendees. A full report about the conference, along with other interesting articles, is in the latest Heritage Rose Foundation newsletter www.heritageosefoundation.org/#!news/c1fw6

DVD SHOWING AT COFFEE GARDEN

In August, a group of rose volunteers met Barbara Oliva and her children, Paul and Jean, to view the “Cemetery Rose” documentary at The Coffee Garden. Thanks to Michael Madsen and to Liz Hall for setting this up. Liz brought some beautiful roses for the occasion, including blooms of “Barbara’s Pasture Rose.”



Back Row left to right”
Lonnie Ratzlaff, Judy Eitzen, Liz Hall, Marty Stroud & Jewel Reilly

Front row left to right:
Laura Hughes, Barbara Oliva, Anita Clevenger and Crystal Bremer

Garden Tip

Revive Grandma's Rose Jars?

Old-time gardeners successfully propagated rose cuttings with nothing more than old canning jars.

Take a cutting of new growth, push it into good garden soil between other plants and cover with an upside-down glass jar. (If you don't have canning jars, glass mayonnaise or other jars will do.) The jar becomes a mini greenhouse.

The new plant gets watered when established plants are watered. You won't forget about them because you'll see them when watering. Established plants also give the newbies some shelter on sunny days.

Volunteer Activities & Upcoming Events

Work Days:
Tuesday and Saturday mornings
9:30–12 (or about)
Bring tools and wear gloves

Fall Bloom in the Rose Garden
Saturday, November 22

10:00
Tour led by Anita Clevenger

Hands-on Pruning Classes
Saturdays in January

(10, 17, 24, 31)
10:00

Pruning Party
January 10 (rain date: Jan 17)
Lunch included



Judy Eitzen, ed.
8698 Elk Grove Blvd.
Suite 1, #271
Elk Grove, CA 95624
Verlaine@citlink.net
www.cemeteryrose.org