



CEMETERY ROSE

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



Volume 3, Issue 2

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Heritage Rose Foundation Annual Symposium

The Heritage Rose Foundation annual symposium was held in early November on the campus of Florida Southern College, a small private liberal arts school in the middle of Florida. Barbara Oliva and I attended the two-day symposium that included sessions offered by the members from Bermuda, a world-renowned keynote speaker and several clinics and tours of the campus roses and of the 43 campus buildings designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

We arrived on Thursday evening for a congenial reception in the ballroom of one of the campus residences. Attendees included resi-

dents of several states, Bermuda, England and the Virgin Islands. This was quite an eclectic crowd with one common interest; antique roses. It was interesting to meet and speak with some only met prior to that event via mail or email or by reputation. Talk ranged through politics and current events, personal stories and, because this was a gathering of rose folks after all, discussions of the weather conditions and identity of the roses provided by local residents to decorate the venue.

Friday morning saw us gathered for a morning session presented by the

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Cemetery Rose Garden

*Activities and Dates
Propagation:
Wednesdays and Satur-
days in December
10 a.m.-12 p.m.*

*Pruning
Wednesdays and Satur-
days in January and
February
10 a.m.-12 p.m.*

Fall Activities Began With Identification Classes

Barbara Oliva spent three evenings discussing rose classes, varieties and cultivars at the Belle Cooleedge Library in October. With actual roses, books and diagrams, Barbara described how china and tea roses came out of Asia to add remontancy to European roses.

We examined noisettes and teas, hybrid perpetuals, HTs, hybrid musks and mosses. We talked about propagation from cuttings and seeds. In

general, we learned enough about a number of roses to make good selections for our gardens.

In November and December, volunteers will meet in the rose garden to propagate plants for next spring's Open Garden. Please join us any (every) Wednesday or Saturday through December between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. (weather permitting). Pruning begins in January.

We Need Your Help

editorial



Having the Heritage Rose Group spring symposium in Sacramento is very exciting. It will give us all a chance to meet rose lovers from around California and share ideas and plans. It also gives us a chance to show off a little.

The Open Garden will be held that weekend and the symposium will bring lots of visitors. This means extra work for Rose Garden volunteers, especially Barbara Oliva who has taken the lead on Rose Garden activities.

Barbara will need help from as many of us as can assist. Because the two events are concurrent, we'll need to have some volunteers at the cemetery and at the symposium to help with logistics.

The main thing we'll need are volunteers to help ready the garden for viewing by so many visitors. Last year, we accomplished a lot with winter pruning and clean-up. The Old City Cemetery Com-

mittee continues to perform stone and plot restoration activities and the Sheriff's crews help keep the cemetery spruced, working alongside City staff.

I urge each reader to spend at least one morning in December, January or early February pruning roses. There are now over 400 roses in the garden and a number of them haven't been touched in a couple of years. We just can't seem to get to each one each year.

Barbara Oliva or I can be found in the garden most Wednesday and Saturday mornings (10-12) propagating and pruning. Do bring pruning shears, clippers, etc. and heavy gloves to protect from prickles. Dress warmly and do come join us!

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

Spring Symposium To Be Held in Sacramento

Plan now to be there on April 16 and 17 for the Heritage Rose Group Symposium

Scheduled for next April 16 and 17, the Heritage Rose Group Symposium will be held in Sacramento. The event is co-sponsored by the Yolo and Beyond Chapter of the Heritage Rose Group and the Historic Rose Garden of the Old City Cemetery Committee, Inc. Barbara Oliva and Sherry Berglund of B & B Nursery in Willows are working hard to put it all together.

The two-day event will include guest speakers, guided tours of the Historic Rose Garden and other gardens in the area as well as plant sales, raffles and other fun activities.

The event will be at the Clarion Hotel in Sacramento. Guests may re-

serve rooms there or at the Holiday Inn across the street. A number of large hotels are also within walking distance of the Clarion (16th and H Sts.).

Details will be posted in this newsletter (March edition), various mailings and the HRG newsletter. ***Do set aside the dates now.***

The event will bring visitors from around California and will be a great opportunity to get together and talk roses. Volunteers are needed to help with tours, Open Garden, and help get the garden ready. Please call Barbara Oliva (443-2146 boliva@macnexus.org) or Judy Eitzen (685-6634 verlaine@inreach.com) if you want to help with events in the Rose Garden.

Heritage Rose Symposium, cont.

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Bermuda group. A number of roses were displayed on a two-tiered long shelf in the back of the room. Each appeared in a bud vase and was complete with an identifying tag. (Some labels indicated that the rose was found and not yet identified.) The roses were grouped more or less in chronological order – that is, in order by the general age of the class: species, centifolias, mosses, damasks, gallicas, etc. We learned that this is a regular part of Bermudan rose shows and is called a “Specimen Bench,” designed as a teaching tool. It made quite a display.

Another unique feature of Bermuda rose shows is the shadowbox. A picture frame is attached to the edges of a wooden box that has been painted black (inside and out). The box is set up as a shadowbox and a vase or container is placed inside and roses (and greenery) are arranged to resemble an old-European-style bouquet painting. Prizes are awarded. Three Bermudans described the process while arranging three shadowboxes for the audience to see. They made quite a show.

That afternoon, tours were offered of the grounds, rose gardens, citrus trees and greenhouses. (Florida Southern College is the only college in the US to offer an undergraduate degree in citrus.) Many of the roses were in bloom (weather was pretty warm and wet) and we could see some blooms on all but the single-bloomers. Malcolm Manners, horticulturalist and symposium host (he teaches at the college) guided the group through the campus gardens. There are a number of differences between Florida and our Sacramento Valley California growing conditions. The weather is first, of course—there’s no real chilly winter in Florida. The soil is quite sandy (unlike our clay) and the plants must thrive in high humidity (unlike our dry conditions.) There are nematodes that attack rose roots and so virtually all are rooted onto a nematode-resistant rootstock

(Fortuniana). The grafts are quite high (usually at least six inches above the soil) and this ensures that ground clutter as well as nematodes do not cause disease or permit infestations.

The next morning we heard the keynote speaker, Arthur Tucker, whose topic was **The Science and Romance of Roses circa 1450 BCE – 1774 CE**. He used slides and music to show early depictions of roses on Crete and discussed how this rose (and other plants) have been recently identified. It was fascinating to hear how many of these ancient plants first appeared and to learn some of the uses to which they were put. Early on, roses were collected for their medicinal properties and less so for their beauty.

Various growers brought a number of roses to the event and some were raffled off while others were sold during a lively auction that benefited the Heritage Rose Foundation. We spent the rest of the afternoon in propagation classes offered by Gregg Lowrey and Phillip Robinson of Vintage Gardens in Sebastopol and in a grafting and budding class presented by Malcolm Manners.

That night we attended a banquet which featured a humorous talk on the aroma properties of attar of roses by Arthur Tucker and concluded with a wonderful viewing of the lunar eclipse.

A day of post-symposium tours included two private rose gardens, a walk through a cypress swamp at a nearby state park and a visit to Bok Tower and Gardens, one of the premiere horticultural spots in Florida. This fit right in with our pre-conference horticultural tour of Disney’s Epcot Center. The only thing we did which was non-horticultural was to spend most of a day at the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral—but that’s another story.

Judy Eitzen



Choosing The Right Rose For Your Garden

Mail order houses like Jackson and Perkins ship bare-root roses in January and February.

Although roses can be planted in California most any time with care, late winter is the season for nurseries to stock and sell bare-root roses. Mail order houses like Jackson and Perkins ship bare-root roses in January and February. What does it take to ensure success?

Nearly all publications and rose experts list three “musts” for successful roses:

1. Purchase healthy, vigorous plants in varieties suited to your climate.
2. Locate and plant them properly
3. Supply their four basic needs: water, nutrients, pruning and pest control.

The first of these, selecting the appropriate rose, is a matter of selecting a reliable source, checking labels, and knowing about your garden and the spot where you plan to put the rose.

Begin by purchasing roses from a reputable nursery (on-line, mail order or walk-in) that you know sells guaranteed plants or will otherwise stand behind their stock. When you examine the label, look for an indication that it's a good quality plant. AARS (All-American Rose Selection) is a system of testing new varieties for a two-year period under widely varied soil and climate conditions. During this period, rosarians rate the test roses. Look for “good,” “very good,” or “excellent” ratings. Another rating

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Cemetery Rose Newsletter and Website Changes Planned for the New Year

Beginning in 2004, this quarterly newsletter will be sent to those who subscribe to the newsletter and to those interested members of the Old City Cemetery, Inc. After the first of the year, it will also be available on the Historic Rose Garden Website. We plan to have our own domain soon. (There will be an automatic referral on the current site.)

If you wish to continue to receive this newsletter, please fill out and return the subscription insert in this newsletter with your check for \$10.00.

Alternatively, you may elect to become a member of the Old City Cemetery, Inc. Members are individuals interested in supporting the preservation of one of Sacramento's important historical resources.

Members and volunteers perform and support a variety of cemetery activities; preservation of stones and plots, garden maintenance in the Rose Garden, Hamilton Square and the Native Plant Society's test garden, conducting tours and providing research in the cemetery archives.



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Choosing the Right Rose, cont.

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system is that by the American Rose Society. Each year members of the ARS rate new roses listed in the *American Rose* magazine and published in the *American Rose Annual*. These are rated on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being “perfect”.

Select plants that are suitable to your microclimate as well as your planting zone. A sun-loving variety may not do very well planted in dappled shade, or on the north side of the house exposed to cold winter winds. Look carefully at photos or descriptions of roses or visit gardens to see the actual rose in bloom before selecting. Waiting all year can be difficult, but may be worth it. Learn what type and color is right. Buds and flowers appear in a wide variety of colors, forms and petal numbers while plants are available from micro-miniatures to enormous rambling climbers. Select the right plant for the spot.

Next, place and plant the rose properly. Here are some tips from a Sunset publication, *Sunset's Visual Garden Manual* published in 1941 that gives information just as useful today as it was over 60 years ago.

1. The fact that roses will grow under various conditions and in many types of soil should not lessen one's effort to give them the best of care. This means starting with proper planting. Examine bushes upon arrival from the nursery. If dry, soak in water for a day or two or heel into the ground.
2. Dig a large hole, at least 2 ½ feet deep and as wide. Break up hard soil in the bottom and add coarse drainage material, if necessary. Put in 6” of rotted manure, then a layer of topsoil. If the subsoil is unusually heavy, the addition of gypsum will help break it up.
3. Before planting, look carefully for bruised roots and branches. Prune back cleanly

beyond any breaks, always making root-cuts slanting on the underside, and cuts on branches to an outside bud. This is to ensure roots growing downward and new top growth outward.

4. A cone-shaped mound in the center of the hole will form a perfect base on which the circle of roots can rest...Firm the soil around the small roots with the hand.
5. A little bone meal can be thrown in at this point. After the roots are covered and the hole is ¾ full, tamp down the soil with the ball of the foot. Leave a basin 6” deep so that plenty of water can be given to the newly planted rose.
6. In a few days, after the soaked soil has settled, fill in the basin with loose topsoil. In cold districts a mulch of straw or leaves should be put on after planting.

(Of course, the same publication describes spraying roses with a variety of since-banned substances...ed.)

Finally, take care of the rose by providing it with nutrients—a fertilizer heavy in phosphorous to encourage early root growth, for example—and water as needed. Not much pruning will be needed at first, just enough to deadhead spent blossoms during the first year. Next winter, initial pruning for shape and health should be done. Pest control will, of course, depend on the appearance of pests and/or disease. Mulching in the hot summers is important to prevent heat stress in sunny gardens; remember to keep the main stems clear of leaves. The best pest preventative is keeping things clean. Use insecticidal soap for aphids when necessary and cut away more serious invaders. Fertilize roses in spring before blooming with a fertilizer balanced for roses (see the label) and again in early summer. Use a time-release one-time fertilizer as a convenient alternative.

If you follow these steps, your rose garden will have healthy, new additions.



OLD CITY CEMETERY
HISTORIC ROSE



CEMETERY
ROSE

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WE'RE ON THE WEB
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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:
Tomato Cage?

No more room for roses? Try growing one vertically. A good way to start is to use a tomato cage. Because rose plants can be heavier than tomato plants, you might want to add wires to secure it in the ground. Spray paint in green enamel to hide the cage.

As the rose grows, twine the canes around the metal support. Bending the canes this way stimulates lateral growth, resulting in more blooms.

Carefully select a moderate climber for this approach. No rampant ramblers here!



Rose Quote

One of the worst mistakes you can make as a gardener is to think you're in charge.

Janet Gillespie