

2013 OPEN GARDEN—APRIL 20

This year's Open Garden may be the best ever! The Garden is looking great already, and as of this writing, it's still February. We're planning a great day filled with tours of the garden, sales of roses and rose-related items, a silent auction and much more.

The event runs from 9:30 to 2:00 with scheduled tours and sales throughout the event. Rose Garden volunteers will be on hand to talk about favorite roses, share information about growing our roses and visit with rosy friends.

We've added some new roses and have plans to expand even further in 2013. This is a once-a-year opportunity to purchase roses grown from cuttings of these special plants. Funds generated from this event support our continuing efforts to preserve California's heritage roses.

Come and join in the fun!

SEEING COLOR — TEA, ANYONE?

BY JULIE A. MATLIN

Beautiful in their irregularity, distinct in their properties, unique in appearance, we confess that we admire them above all others, and that their charms for us would depart were they aught else than they are. As well we might complain of the diversified surface of the landscape, as of the graceful irregularities in this charming group of roses. (*William Paul, 1849*)

"We have...a numerous family separated from the China roses, solely by their scent, which the French, with their usual nicety of perception, have compared

very appropriately to Green Tea." (*Henry Curtis, 1850-1853*) "They bewilder the susceptible rosarians by their exquisite elegance of form, delicacy of colour, and peculiarly refreshing fragrance, which, though likened to that of a new-opened sample of the choicest tea, is really distinct, and we will venture to say, unlike all other odours, whether flowers or leaves, and the most refined and blessed fragrance obtainable in the garden of the world." (*Shirley Hibberd, 1874*)

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Julie Matlin is a Master Consulting Rosarian with the American Rose Society who has, over the last ten years, undertaken the restoration of the Rose Garden at the Bidwell Mansion in Chico.

Historic
Rose Garden

EDITORIAL

Rose Garden Volunteers are working hard to continue to improve the Historic Rose Garden, to provide a place for heritage roses to grow and to educate ourselves and visitors about these wonderful plants.

The Cemetery is an important historical site, but that doesn't mean that we can't do everything possible to bring us up to date. We share information on our website and Facebook, we maintain a database of roses, recording everything about each found rose that we can learn, and communicate with volunteers via email.

Some still receive this newsletter via the US Postal Service, and I urge those who do so to request email delivery. The cost of printing and mailing comes out of our budget and, though not onerous, does reduce the amount we can spend on improvements to the Rose Garden.

Please consider changing from printed, mailed newsletters to the email version. To do so, just send a request to me at the address below and I'll switch your subscription to email.

Thank you,

Judy Eitzen

Questions, comments, suggestions
verlaine@citlink.net

There is nothing more difficult for a truly creative painter than to paint a rose, because before he can do so he has first to forget all the roses that were ever painted.

Henri Matisse

Events in the Historic Rose Garden

Early Bloom Tour—March 30

Open Garden—April 20

Deadheading at Dusk

May 6

June 3

July 8

August 4

September 9

GREAT ROSARIANS OF THE WORLD 13

BY ANITA CLEVENGER

For the past thirteen winters, the Huntington Library, Art Collection and Botanical Gardens in San Marino has honored those who have contributed significantly to the world of roses. This year's Great Rosarians are two American scientists: Dr. Walter H. Lewis, Botanist Emeritus of the Missouri Botanical Garden, and Dr. Malcolm Manners, Professor of Citrus and Horticultural Science, Southern Florida College.

Dr. Lewis

Dr. Lewis' doctoral thesis was on North American rose species. He took a long break from studying roses, but recently returned to develop the rose section for a 30-volume work, *Flora of North America*. Dr. Lewis has grown many of these species at home, seeking a real record of what they look like in the totality of their form. This is much better, he says, than studying a dead specimen in a herbarium, captured at one time in a plant's life cycle.

His talk was titled, "Complexities of North American Roses: Taxonomy to DNA," and it was a bit challenging for the non-scientists in the audience. It covered native species, related species, introduced species and naturally occurring species hybrids.

He began talking about subgenus *Hesperhodos*, section *minutifolia*. Mostly found in Baja California, there is one population of *R. minutifolia* in San Diego County. He thinks that it is possible that this is the oldest rose species in the world. He also discussed *R. stellata*, which he believes is very ancient and needs more study. It is found in several separated areas, which indicates that it was once in a much wider inclusive range.

He then moved to the subgenus *Rosa*, "where the action is." There are seventeen native and six

introduced sections of *Rosa* in North America. He grouped them by their numbers of chromosome sets. Lewis explained this is an old-fashioned way of looking at rose species, but helpful.

The Diploid species of North American roses, with two chromosome sets, include *R. blanda*, which has no prickles. *R. woodsii* is the biggest grouping, with six subspecies. He also mentioned *R. pisocarpa*, *R. palustris*, and *R. foliolosa*, the smallest rose in North American and the only one with a white-flowering form. Also diploid are group two species, notable for their aciculi (small needle-like prickles), including *R. nitida* and *R. gymnocarpa*.

Polyploidy (see box p. 5) roses include *R. carolina*, with two new subspecies identified. It is a 4x ploidy, derived from *blanda* and *palustris*. *R. virginiana*, once called *R. lucida*, is also a 4x, derived from *nitida* and *palustris*. Dr. Lewis said habitat for these roses is disappearing. *R. arkansana*, in the *blanda/woodsii* group, is possibly autopolyploid, which means that all of its chromosomes are derived from the same species. Dr. Lewis had an interesting anecdote about the origin of *R. nutkana*. Native Americans told the ships to "nutka," or "come around," to shore. *R. acicularis* can be 6x or 8x. It is the furthest stretching rose species in the world.

Dr. Lewis then spoke about *Synstylae* roses, which are usually referred to as *Synstylae*. These roses have a projecting column of fused styles at the center of the flower. The only native American species is *R. setigera*. Dr. Lewis posed the question; how

did it get to the center of the Midwest? It was unknown in the Eastern US until recently found in Maine. *Setigera* chromosomes are almost twice the size of other North American rose species.

Six introduced, naturalized species include *R. laevigata*,

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L-R, xxxxx, Clair Martin, Pat Shanley (VP ARS), Dr. Lewis, Mrs. Lewis, Dr. Manners

GROW, CONT.

(Continued from page 3)

widely found in North America and even Hawaii, all of which have descended from one or two originally introduced plants. *R. caninae* is a “mess,” he says, with multiple ploidies and sub-species. It is an ancient cross including species that no longer exist. (*R. canina*’s name comes from its use in ancient Greece to treat dog bites.)

Dr. Lewis described three sub-shrub species, *R. pinetorum*, *R. bridgesii*, and *R. spithamea*. He also talked about eight new nothospecies, a natural hybrid of two species.

(NOTE: (Information about *R. californica* and other California species—contributed by Barbara Ertter— can be found at: <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/ina/roses/roses.html>)

Dr. Manners

Dr. Malcolm Manners then spoke about “Thirty Years of Roses at Florida Southern College”. He included studies of the musk rose, (*R. moschata*). Three types have been found: *R. moschata*, *R. moschata* ‘Plena,’ and “Temple Musk” (which appears to be a more double form of ‘Plena’). Dr. Manners also described work done with the Bermuda Mystery Roses and the Heritage Rose Foundation’s Heritage Rose District in New York City.

Many roses for the NY project were grown at Florida Southern, and Malcolm and his students have helped plant and taught propagation classes.

Dr. Manners described his decades of work with Rose Mosaic Virus (RMV). While there are several related viruses that fall into this disease, 95% of infected roses have Prunus Necrotic Ringspot Virus, which somehow crossed into roses from plum trees, possibly by somebody trying to graft a plum to a rose rootstock, and reusing the stock after it was infected. This virus became very widespread in the United States due to use of infected rootstock, with 90% of roses sold in the 1970s infected with RMV.

It’s now believed that less than 50% are infected, and there are over 300 cured or certified virus-free cultivars available. UC Davis has focused on modern roses, while Dr. Manners is working with heritage roses. One way to eliminate RMV is through heat treatment, which also can reinvigorate some varieties. Heat treated plants are toughened up, a version of Navy Seals training for roses, Dr. Manners said. “Plants should be unhappy but not dead.” Not every variety of rose can be successfully heat treated, however. Some respond to the heat by growing more vigorously and then dying.

Dr. Manners stated that in thirty years, no rose certified RMV clean has ever shown symptoms. He also described studies that show that it cannot be spread by pruners or insects. While there has been some evidence of root grafting from very closely planted roses in test conditions, there has been no record of it occurring in garden conditions. The only reliable way to spread RMV is to propagate an infected rose, or to graft a clean rose onto infected rootstock.



Clair Martin and
Dr. Malcolm Manners

Only about sixty people were in attendance at the lecture, which in the past attracted hundreds of rose lovers. While it was nice to see rose friends old and new, and to meet and talk with the speakers, everybody in attendance hoped that the program will continue and re-energize.

Author’s note—————

My thanks to Jill Perry for putting her notes about the lectures on her blog, Ramblings of a Rose Maniac.

We grow many of the rose species mentioned in the cemetery garden.

SO MUCH DONE, SO MUCH YET TO DO HRG MAINTENANCE REPORT

ANITA CLEVENGER

It's hard not to have a split personality when working as the rose garden manager. One minute, you are thinking how much has been accomplished, how well pruned the roses look, and how tidy most of the garden is looking. The next minute, all you see is work yet to be done. You vacillate between pride and despair.

In fact, these two thoughts are not incompatible at all. We have indeed done more work this year than ever before, building on a foundation of decades of effort to control weeds and grow the roses well. The care that we volunteers, assisted by the Sheriff's crew, have lavished on the garden is apparent. But the amount of work to be done has grown as the collection has increased in size and our standards of care continue to rise.

When I started volunteering ten years ago, we had about 400 roses. Over the years, we've removed some duplicate and modern roses, and taken out others that were dead or diseased. We've added many more found roses and a number of species. Today, we have over 500 roses in our collection, many of which are

climbers that are trained on the Broadway fence or over structures, a labor-intensive job. In the early years of the garden, the roses were pruned every few years. Some of the biggest roses were simply hedged (cut back straight from the path), or cut to the ground on occasion and allowed to regenerate. Now, we strive to prune all of the Hybrid Perpetuals and Hybrid Teas annually, and to remove dead wood and shape most of the other roses throughout the year. We've added many more companion plants such as acanthus, calla lilies, iris, paludosum daisies and scabiosa, which require occasional care to keep them neat. We've adopted the corner plot behind the "Historic Rose Garden" sign, and maintain roses, perennials and annuals there. We now oversee maintenance of the area along the Broadway fence, keeping bushes trimmed back and removing weeds. We also supervise crew in weeding, mowing and trimming the pathways. The Sheriff's crew spreads composted horse manure and alfalfa. We diligently trim the roses so that they don't obstruct pathways and monuments. Volunteers and crew weed the plots, too, discouraging weed growth through solarization and use of weed fabric and cardboard sheet mulching. We hang new tags on the roses every year.

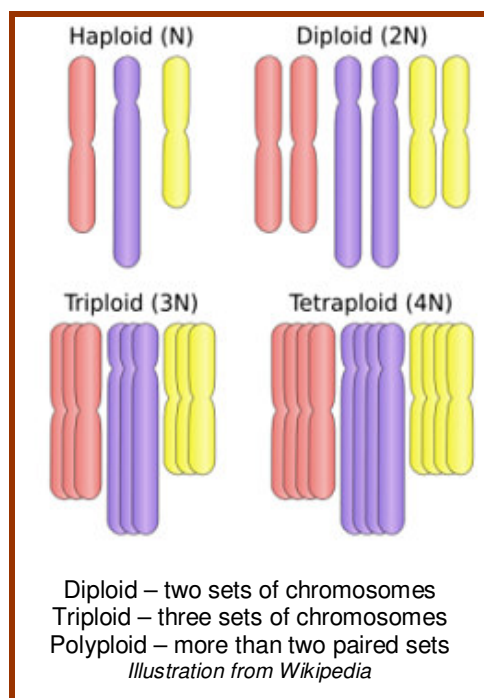
We haven't increased the volunteer work force at the same rate, unfortunately. Some of our regular workers have moved on to other things, so we are constantly recruiting and hoping that people will come out to help whenever they can. The pruning parties and deadheading events have helped us to keep up with the work, and the Sheriff's work crew has become an integral part of our efforts. Over the years, we've used Ameri-corps teams and other community groups as well, but those opportunities are rare.

We are working to expand the rose garden to the plots to the west of Eg-lantine, but will be careful not to take on more than we can manage. There is still some space within the existing garden boundaries for new plantings. We've added about a dozen more roses to the collection this winter, including more climbers along the Broadway fence. We are aggressively collecting found roses, cognizant of our mission to preserve them for the future, to make them available for study, and to beautify the cemetery.

As our spring flush approaches, we will also take time to enjoy the results of our labor. With so many chilly winter nights, we expect the once-blooming roses to be especially glorious this year. We are excited about our climbing roses, particularly the ones along the fence which have reached maturity and promise to be splendid. Many of these roses bloom later in April and into May, but the earliest bloom will begin in mid-March as the banksiae and early bloomers like 'Ramona' are covered in flowers, soon followed by the Teas and Chinas, then the Hybrid Perpetuals, Noisettes and Polyanthas. The only way to enjoy the full effect is to come to the garden again and again.

Volunteer work days are on Tuesday and Saturday mornings from 9:30-noon. We will also be "Deadheading at Dusk" at 6:30 pm the first Monday of each month. There is much to see, and much to do!

If you have questions about volunteering, call Anita on her cell phone at 916-715-7294.



TEA ROSES, CON'T.

(Continued from page 1)

Tea Roses, the progeny of two ancient roses, one creamy white and one pink, were the darlings of the English and the French from the early 19th Century through the early 20th Century. This new class of roses, crosses between '*R. chinensis*' and '*R. gigantea*', whether natural or man-made, was given its name not because of its possible origin in the Fa-Tee Nursery in China, not because its parents were aboard the East India clipper ships loaded with spices and tea, but because this new class would introduce an exciting but peculiar new fragrance in roses, the scent of wet, black tea.

Nursery advertisements for these new roses were enticing to the Victorians as this new novelty of scent was a huge seller. But it wasn't only the intrigue of the fragrance of crushed tea leaves that induced the Victorians to buy these new Teas. It was also their profuse and exotic range of color, from coral to purple, copper to bronze, and every hue in between; their ability to bloom profusely and often; and their exquisite refinement of form - horticultural seduction at its Victorian best!

Unfortunately, there was just one major problem with these new Teas. They, like some other new class introductions, hated the cold! They simply could not thrive in the cold northern European climates, and had to be grown under glass in many areas. Well known nurseryman, breeder and writer William Paul advised gardeners to grow the Teas next to a south or east wall, or in pots that could be moved indoors when the weather changed. He even recommended placing beehives on tripods over standard teas to keep them from freezing – he never said if it actually worked! Garden writer and roasarian Rose G. Kingsley also observed:

It is curious to look back on one's childhood and recall the awe with which Tea roses were regarded – things too delicate and precious for any place but the conservatory (*Eversley Gardens and Others*, 1907)

If Tea bushes hated the cold, so did their seeds. They simply refused to ripen in the cold, and it was only in the warmth of the southern French nurseries that the most famous teas were bred and introduced. Enthusiastic French breeders such as Guerin, Descement, Desprez,

Pernet Ducher, the Guillots, Robert and Moreau, Vibert, Laffay, Cels, and Hardy had a field day developing new Tea varieties over a hundred year period, from 1810-1919. In France these roses thrived, reaching as many as 300 varieties by 1845, with the 1880's beginning the great surge of Tea popularity: "The tea-rose is the spoilt child of

the family...Their colors, so rich, so warm, so pure, so true and tender, are of infinite variety...they are highly esteemed in the gardens of the aristocracy, and dear to the brush of the artist." (*Gemen & Bourg*, ca. 1908)

Color in roses is a major characteristic by which they can be identified, compared to other roses in their own class, to their ancestors, and to other classes. Color range in the Teas established them as a class distinct from other re-blooming roses and is a unique attribution to that class.

Color, like scent, is another major attribution that makes them so special today, almost 200 years after their introduction. For the Teas, their color bearers were their forbearers, mainly the multi-colored Chinas, but also the Bourbons and Noisettes.

The first of the better known French teas were 'Bougere' (1832), 'Bon Silene' (1835), "Triomphe du Luxembourg" (1835), and 'Adam' (1838). As the Teas became bred and cross-bred with the Chinas, Bourbons, and Noisettes, they became a harder class of roses. They also became a disparate class of roses that could be grouped by type. By the turn of the 20th Century when the Hybrid Teas took over as the roses of choice to grow, the Teas could be divided into three distinct groups, or Tea families, and compared and evaluated within their own class of family traits, color being one trait.

There were around 65 Teas dating from before 1830, most of which are attributed to French breeders and nurserymen. It is thought that the pre-1830 Teas are probably extinct, but 'Caroline', bred by Guerin in 1829 was one Tea of several that was influential in the breeding of the Teas after 1829.

(Continued on page 7)





'Caroline' heads the *first* Tea family and what Phillip Robinson of Vintage Gardens refers to as the Caroline Family or Tribe. He further divides this Family into three subdivisions with a total of 16 roses affiliated with 'Caroline'. Perception of color is subjective, but the rose colors within this group are referred to as shades of pink, often flushed with a yellow glow that can be called coppery. Lots of fun for writers of rose catalogs! 'Caroline' is called "rosy-flesh, deeper towards centre; blush suffused with deep pink; bright rose color; place rosy-pink; and lilac-pink." The 'pinks' with her group include the beautiful pink toned 'Duchesse de Brabant' (1857) with its 'Caroline' bush and color characteristics; "salmon-pink; pink-shaded with carmine-rose; light silvery-pink; pearly-shell pink, pale-gold coloring at the base of the petals; soft-rose pink; and delicate-flesh pink."

The striking 'Rubens' (1859) lives in the second subdivision of 'Caroline' affiliated roses and is described as being; "rosy-flesh, deeper at center; white shaded with rose; white-washed with pink and not flesh; and creamy white with pale gold base, very double... blushing pink on edge."

'Princesse De Sagan' (1887) listed in the third subdivision blooms; "velvety-crimson, shaded with blackish-purple and reflexed with amaranth; strawberry-rose with amaranth-purple shades; dusky rose-pink; dark red; deep-cherry red, shaded maroon." (*All above in quotation, Dickerson; Old Rose Advisor, pp 39-41*)

The *second* Tea family is headed by 'Adam'. Bred by Adam in 1838, it is regarded as the "first" Tea by many rose scholars. This family consists of eleven roses all affiliated with 'Adam'. Color family traits for 'Adam' are often referred to as "salmon and fawn; blush-rose; and lilac-pink." Although the color descriptions are varied, all are described, like the 'Caroline' Family, within a pink range. My 'Adam' is a clear pink and salmon, very beautiful and long lasting on the bush. However, when it rains, or is cold, this cold-sensitive rose turns a deep, solid dark salmon; an amazing color!

There are a number of well-known roses in this Family. The beautiful 'Mlle. De Sombreuil' a large Bourbon-Tea (1851): "...white, tinged with pink," has been extremely popular since its introduction; 'Catherine Mermet' (1869): "Pale-pink; a dull and dirty sort of cream; flesh-color with a silvery luster," is a beauty in the gar-

den; called the "Queen of the Teas," by writer F. R. Burnside in 1893. 'Souv. De Therese Level' (1882), a seedling of 'Adam,' is considered to be the first "crimson" Tea. "Crimson, shaded pink at the center; carmine-red blooms; and dark maroon-red with a blackish flush." (*Dickerson, Old Rose Advisor, p. 90; Tea Roses, p. 186*) In my garden 'Therese' is a velvety dark crimson color; a remarkable color and rose, much commented on.

'Caroline' and 'Adam' are linked by the color characteristic 'pink' and its variations and ranges from light to dark. What separates them from the *third* Tea Family 'Safrano,' is the absence of any true yellow roses. 'Safrano' (1839) is one of the first early Teas to introduce; "A pretty saffron-yellow; apricot yellow; bright fawn; fine saffron; dark yellow; and a fresh butter-yellow" into the class. 'Safrano' and the eight roses listed in its Family all share 'yellow' as their common color link.

'Etoile De Lyon' (1881) is regarded as one of the finest yellow Teas ever introduced; "Light golden-yellow; rich golden-yellow; deep lemon; brilliant yellow." The descriptions are endless! 'Isabella Sprunt' (1865), a sport of 'Safrano', displays flowers of: "...rich sulphur-yellow; brilliant yellow; light canary yellow; and lemonade yellow." (*Dickerson, Old Rose Advisor, p. 41*)

Rosarians over many decades have observed and written of the 'Safrano' Family: "We find in this group the yellow for which we have previously sought in vain." (*Dickerson, Old Rose Advisor, p. 40*). There is a group of eight, beautifully colored roses referred to as the "Late Teas". This specific group of roses bred from about 1850 through 1906, all show influence from all three of the Tea Families. However, their primary characteristics are derived from 'Safrano', and its sport 'Red Safrano'.

How color is seen in roses is subjective, but it is also affected by soil conditions, climate, time of day and light, and nutrients. The Tea roses, almost once completely over taken by the Hybrid Teas, have been again rediscovered and reclaimed as the OGR roses of choice for warm weather gardens. They are called "the roses for California" for a reason, they thrive here! These are the roses the pioneers brought with them, planted at their homesteads, and at gravesites. Seen in bloom, the colors expressed in the Teas are unparalleled. They have a direct connection to the past and evoke a strong emotional response with their colors.



WANT MORE BLOOM? TRY TIPPING AND PEGGING

BY ANITA CLEVINGER & KIM RUPERT

Some of the roses in the cemetery garden are "pegged," spreading out the canes horizontally to encourage lateral growth to emerge all along the canes rather than blooming just at the ends of the canes. To do that effectively, you need plenty of room to spread the canes out, and the right kind of rose. The cemetery garden gives us an opportunity to play with such techniques. We've learned that Hybrid Perpetuals and Bourbons respond especially well. Our prize pegged specimen is 'Mme Isaac Pereire' in Plot 534, with long canes spread out in all directions, studded with hundreds of fragrant flowers.

We also tip the ends of canes to promote lateral growth. In a recent GardenWeb Antique Roses Forum posting, Kim Rupert explained why tipping and pegging roses yields more bloom. He's given us permission to share what he wrote:

The capillaries taper as the canes taper. The adhesion factor of water makes it "sticky" so it rises above its own level in a tapered tube. Combine that with transpiration, where the stomata on the leaf reverses "sweat" water as well as the plant's using water for other processes, and you have sap flow and sap pressure at the highest points of the plant. That's what pushes new growth from the ends of upward growing plant parts.

Cut off the terminal end of the cane and you have new buds swelling to replace the "leader", like when you cut the top out of a tree and many new branches grow to replace it. There always has to be somewhere for the growth to "escape". Now, bending that growth off the vertical, even if it's only twisting it around a post, slows the sap flow, more evenly distributing it along the cane where it pushes many undeveloped buds into growth to replace that terminal leader.

It's also what permits you to grow espaliered apples and other fruits. The horizontal branches produce laterals which generate the fruiting spurs. Those laterals are replacing the leader, that horizontal branch, and have to be pruned back to push new laterals which then fruit

when they mature. It's all the same no matter what kind of plant you're dealing with.

"Pegging" differs from training climbers only in that climbers are traditionally fixed to some sort of structure, a fence, trellis, wall, etc. Pegging originally meant to bend the canes over and attach them to the ground by being tied to a peg or stake driven into the ground. Victorian and Edwardian landed gentry had gardening staff who spent their time tying the canes in place, grooming them to produce almost crop circle patterns of flowering rose canes on the lawns, as well as continual weeding and clipping of the grass which grew up through the bound and bent canes.



Self-pegging is accomplished by tying the canes to free-standing stakes then bending them back to themselves and attaching them so they make loops or even hearts. It isn't for everyone as it is rather labor intensive, but it can

provide you the ability to grow larger plants with tremendously greater quantities of flowers in less space. I don't do it at home because it's more work than I wish in my space, but have done it for others for work

Pegging illustration from
American Horticulture Society's *Pruning and Training*
by Christopher Brickell





A MODERN LOST ROSE

BY ANITA CLEVENGER

Fred Boutin gave Barbara Oliva a Ralph Moore Climbing Miniature rose, suggesting that she plant it in the cemetery. 'Orange Elf' is a cross of 'Golden Glow' and 'Zee,' the same parents as 'Jackie,' another of Moore's climbers that ascends an evergreen tree at the top of the rose garden's East Bed. Should we put this rose into our collection, some wondered? After all, it was modern, introduced in 1959. Also, it was orange, not exactly an old rose color. However, because Fred gave it to us, we planted it across from 'Jackie.'

A casual mention of this rose created a stir among the Gold Coast Heritage Rose Group members. It turned out that 'Orange Elf' was one of the Moore varieties that was thought to be lost. It grows in the Carlo Fineschi garden in Italy and Germany's Sangerhausen, but there are no sources for it identified in the United States.

Ralph Moore's roses are now in the hands of Texas A&M under the leadership of Dr. David Byrne. We sent cut-

tings of 'Orange Elf' to Natalie Anderson of Dr. Byrne's staff last summer.

'Orange Elf' bloomed for the first time last year in the cemetery, and proved to be a very pretty, rather subtle orange blend. We will add it to our propagation list and make sure that others grow it, in the hopes that it will never again be a lost rose.

Natalie did not have success with the first set of cuttings, and has asked that we send some more to her. She has also asked for samples of the Centifolia roses which we have in the cemetery, to be used by a scientist visiting from Pakistan who is interested in studying the diversity in Centifolia roses in the US and comparing them to those found in Pakistan. We are glad that 'Orange Elf' has opened the doors for exchange with Texas A&M, and are looking forward to learning the results of this study.

SPRING ROAD TRIP?

JUDY EITZEN

Two events attract local rose folks to the Bay Area each spring; the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show (March 20-24) held in the San Mateo Fair Grounds and the Celebration of Old Roses (May 19) at the Community Center in El Cerrito. If you plan to attend either of these events, take a little extra time to visit one or more of these gardens which should be at peak bloom in the spring.

Morcom Amphitheater of Roses (700 Jean Street, Oakland). This 7½ acre garden has been named as one of the top ten municipal rose gardens in America. Laid out in 1933, the garden celebrates its 80th anniversary this year. It was founded as part of the City Beautiful Movement which called for the establishment of public parks. The garden is in a natural bowl shape and was named for Mayor Frank Morcom who planted the first rosebush.

In Berkeley, two gardens call out to visitors; the **Berkeley Rose Garden** and the **University of California Botanical Garden**.

The **Berkeley Rose Garden**, (1200 Euclid Ave) in a city park, is a terraced amphitheater nestled in a small canyon and offers stunning views of the Bay. More than 100 varieties of roses are represented.

The UC Botanical Garden (200 Centennial Drive)

features plants of documented wild origin from nearly every continent, with an emphasis on plants from Mediterranean climates. It is arranged in order by locale – continent by continent – and holds one of the largest and most diverse collections in the US.

Across the Bay, are two not-to-be-missed gardens, **Filoli** and the **San Jose Heritage Rose Garden**.

Located in Woodside (86 Cañada Road), **Filoli** is an historic site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and one of the finest remaining country estates of the early 20th century. Originally owned by the Bourn family (owners of the Empire Mine), Filoli has extensive gardens, including a rose garden.

The **San Jose Heritage Rose Garden** (Spring & Taylor Sts) was established in 1995 by a group dedicated to the preservation of old garden roses. Planned around a central hub, roses are grouped by class and include more than 3,000 varieties.

Of course, there are many others—**Japanese Tea Gardens** in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco and one in San Mateo's Central Park are just two more—take time to find them; it will be worth it.

CEMETERY ROSE

Early Spring Garden Tasks


1. pull weed seedlings now while soil is soft.
2. Prune frost-damaged plants after all freezing nights have passed...usually mid-march in Sacramento.
3. Start annual flowers from seed.
4. Turn on and check watering systems for problems
5. Look for early aphids and blast them with a spray of water

Volunteer Activities

Volunteers work in the Historic Rose Garden on Tuesday and Saturday mornings. We generally arrive around 9:30 and perform a variety of tasks; pruning, primping, planting, plucking, preening, and prettifying our roses.

It's very satisfying to work on a rose and enjoy the results when the plant responds with a wonderful display of blooms come April.

Come and join in the fun!



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