Old Rosers' Digest

Fall - Winter 2026

Interim Editor:
Kristina Osborn
510-542-7149
kmosborn@earthlink.net

Biannual Bulletin for the Heritage Roses Group Bay Area

https://www.celebrationofoldroses.org/

Remember to check your email subject line and renew your subscription and membership before it expires!

Fall Member's Meeting

Saturday, Sept 19

See page 4 for details

Annual Autumn Rose Sale!

Saturday, Oct 3

See page 4 for details

Russian River Rose Field Trip

Read all about it on page 3 !

Celebration of Old Roses

Recap and fun pictures on page 4.



R. foetida bicolor (Austrian Copper)

Autumn is Almost Here!

Fall Tasks in the Garden

See details on page 5

Member's Meeting & Propagation Demonstration - Saturday, Sept 19

See details on page 4







Notes From My Garden

Kristina Osborn, Convenor

Hello rose friends. I hope everyone is enjoying these last days of Summer. A brief time to relax and enjoy your garden before beginning the winter prep and clean-up, and then the pruning and planting. The cycle continues.

In my own garden this past Fall I took down a dozen Avocado trees that had gotten totally out of hand. The original 5 (which were there when I purchased my property 30 years ago) had produced babies and all had grown to over 25 feet tall. The green foliage was lovely, but they dropped leaves twelve months of the year and their roots were tearing up my driveway and my neighbor's walkway. Well, without the full leafy canopy, my garden is now so full of sun I need to wear sunglasses and everything is growing and blooming like mad. Roses that used to give me only a few blossoms each year are now constantly in full bloom! This year I was actually able to grow tomatoes and peppers! The downside is that I now need to water two or three times each week. I am exploring drip systems options.



Did you know wasps can be very useful in the garden? In the Fall 2024 ORD I wrote about watching a wasp eat one of the nasty green rose slugs that chew up the undersides of my rose leaves. I saw it again this Summer! I just happened to be in the exact right spot and watched as a wasp landed on one of the rose leaves that had a hole chewed in it. The wasp then reached into the hole and pulled out the little green slug and proceeded to eat it! I wish I was fast enough to get a video of it, but it was over so quickly. This picture is from 2024 when I was quicker with the camera. Has anyone else seen this activity in their garden? Another interesting fact is that this rose slug is actually the larval form of stingless wasps called sawflies. Is this cannibalism? Amazing what you can learn doing a little research.



Joan Connelly and I, along with Scott Starrat, are deeply involved in propagating roses for next year's Celebration. We have been collecting cuttings from many gardens and hope to have several new varieties available next year. Propagating roses is such fun. Collecting cuttings and then crossing my fingers until I see little roots peeking out of the bottom of the bands. It is so satisfying. Of course, it is disappointing when the cuttings don't take, but that is just more reason to try again.

Are There Any Budding Editors In Our Group?

Currently the Old Rosers' Digest contains just what I am able to cobble together, but it could be so much more in the right hands. The ORD goes out only two times a year and includes information about roses, gardening and fun activities people might enjoy knowing about. Being Editor of the ORD is really not difficult and it would not be a solo project as I am always available to assist. It truly is a fun job with unlimited possibilities. But I am just not that creative. Is anyone interested in expanding their creative expressions and helping guide the ORD to new heights? Please reach out to me at any time and we can chat about what is involved.

Field Trip to Russian River Roses

On May 2nd a small group of HRGBA members visited Russian River Roses for a tour of the amazing garden and to participate in the distillation of the roses. We had such a wonderful time. Jan Tolmasoff, the founder and owner of Russian River Roses, personally gave us a tour and shared the history of the garden with us. The Rose Allee of arbors were stunning and her garden truly lovely. Among her many roses she has planted numerous irises and other companion plants. She has recently added a beautiful butterfly garden.





After our tour of the garden we gathered near the outbuilding to learn from Jan's husband, Michael, everything involved in making rose oil and rose water. We originally thought it would be fun to also help with the collection of the rose petals until we learned that this activity begins at 4:30 am!! To protect the delicate oils in the petals, the collection needs to happen before the day begins to warm up. So, we decided that helping after the collection would be just as much fun. After filling the antique copper still with as many rose petals as would fit, we watched as Michael set up the still and started the distillation process.

After the demonstration, we were free to roam the entire garden at our leisure. Roses, irises and other plants were for sale along with small bottles of rose water and vials of rose oil. The rose water comes in a small bottle with a fine mist sprayer in the cap. I don't remember where I learned this, but I will share with you a fun way to use rose water besides as a cologne. Just spray just one short squirt of roses water into a tall champagne flute, then add chilled champagne. The bursting bubbles will envelope you with the lovely smell of roses! This does not change the flavor of the wine, just the bubbly fragrance as you sip.





When we had finished roaming the garden and buying plants to add to our own gardens, we drove to a local restaurant for a simple lunch before we headed for home.

"I have a garden of my own,
But so with roses overgrown,
And lilies, that you would it guess
To be a little wilderness." *Watts*

Member's Fall Meeting

Celebration Recap & Events Planning: **Saturday, September 19, 2026, from 1–3 p.m.**
All members are welcome. Please join us to share your thoughts about the Celebration of Old Roses and to help shape future field trips, outings, and events. Refreshments will be served.

After the meeting, stay for a propagation demonstration using the "burrito" method. Please bring your pruners. **Meeting attendees will be invited to take one or two cuttings from Kristina's garden to propagate at home.**

To help us plan seating, please email or text if you can attend: **kmosborn@earthlink.net** or **510-542-7149**.

Celebration of Old Roses



The Celebration this year was so much fun! We had new some new Vendors and more roses than ever. The Photo Booth was again a big hit and Scott assembled a permanent arbor for us. The Children's Table was continuously active. It is such fun to see the young people drawing, coloring, applying stick-on tattoos and picking out the rose plant of their choice. Thank you to Alexander Nursery for contributing roses to the Children's Table again this year.





The Raffle Table was a great success under the careful management of Lanore and Karen with so many lovely roses and prizes. Miriam's Corner, managed by Joan, generated lots of interest and sold lots of rose plants. Lana did a great job representing our group at our Member's Table and signing up 30 new members!! Many volunteers showed up and helped from set-up at the beginning, greeting guests during the event and helping with take-down at the end of the day.



A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped. The event ran so smoothly because we had so many wonderful and committed volunteers.

HRGBA AUTUMN ROSE SALE!!
Saturday, October 3, 10 am to 3 pm

HRGBA will be selling from our current stock of heirloom roses and a few modern roses, along with a small selection of companion plants and a few rose books**.** This is always fun and an opportunity to add one or two hard-to-find roses to your garden! The sale will be in the yard of Kristina Osborn's home, **818 Adams Street, Albany, CA** (Please no early birds unless you want to help with set-up and stay to help with sales!) **By request: A pruning demonstration will be at noon and a propagation demonstration at 1 pm!**

The list of Roses for the October 3, 2026 Sale is attached to the email. So, come early for the best selection. Please call Kristina Osborn, 510-542-7149, if you have any questions.

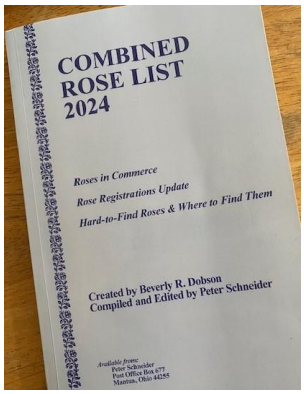
OLD Rosers' Calendar

Dirt Days in Sebastopol: Located in Sebastopol, California, the Friends of Vintage Roses (TFoVR) hosts one of the most extensive old rose gardens in the world. Check out their website **https://thefriendsofvintageroses.org/** for volunteer opportunities if you want to work and spend some time in a glorious rose garden! This is always fun and educational. For more information contact Gregg Lowery at **volunteercoordinator@thefriendsofvintageroses.org** if you are interested in participating.

San Jose Heritage Rose Garden maintenance: Every Saturday from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Trimming, weeding, mulching, repairing irrigation and then planting in December. Join a friendly group on any Saturday and help maintain a wonderful old rose collection! Jill Perry, the Curator for the garden, generously lets us cut roses for the display tables at the Celebration.

"…if you would be happy all your life, plant a garden." *Chinese Proverb*

Combined Rose List 2025



The Combined Rose List is an International Rose Directory and an extremely valuable resource to have in your library! As more Old Rose nurseries close we need to support this resource more than ever! The 2025 issue is now available for pre-order. This single book lists EVERY rose (10,000+) that is currently available in commerce both nationally and internationally. Order this book right away to receive the pre-publication price. You can write directly to Peter Schneider, P.O. Box 677, Mantua. Ohio 44255. Send your check for $30.00+$4.50 for shipping today! Or you can preorder online at https://www.combinedroselist.com/freedom-gardens.html.

Garden Tasks for Fall

- Fall is the best time to take cuttings for propagation.
- Continue to water regularly until the rain starts.
- Apply a layer of mulch around the roses and landscape plants to protect for winter.
- Wait until the end of December to begin pruning and be finished by Valentine's Day.
- Clear out leaves and hips that have fallen around the plant to prevent disease.
- Check out the rose catalogs and purchase your roses for Spring delivery.
- Don't forget wonderful companion plants, too!
- Plant or move roses in November & December so that they can get established before they begin their Spring growth.
- Order or make rosy holiday gifts!
-

HRG LOCAL GROUPS CONTACTS and CONVENORS

Heritage Roses Group Bay Area Group Convener	**Kristina Osborn** 818 Adams Street, Albany, CA 94706 Email: kmosborn@earthlink.net
San Diego Group Convener	**Becky Yianilos** Email: hrsofsd@gmail.com
South Bay and Central Coast Group Convener	**Jill Perry** 829-32nd Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062 Email: Perry@calcentral.com
Yolo and Beyond Group Convener	**Anita Clevenger** Email: anitac@surewest.net
North Central Coast Group Convener	**Alice Flores** P.O. Box 601, Fort Bragg, CA 95437 Email: aflores@mcn.org
Gold Coast Chapter Conveners (Los Angeles/Ventura/Santa Barbara/ SLO Counties, CA)	**Jeri and Clay Jennings** 22 Gypsy Lane, Camarillo, CA 93010 Email: heritageroses@gmail.com
Central Sierra Conveners	**Lynne Storm** 209-786-2644 Email: storm@caltel.com **Bev Vierra** 209-754-5127
Bidwell Group Conveners	**Julie Matlin** 341 West Lincoln Avenue, Chico, CA 95926 530-893-5418 **Sherri Berglund** 2578 County Road, Willows, CA 95988 Email: rsericea@yahoo.com
Heritage Roses Groups National HRG *"Rose Letter"* Editor	**Darrell Schramm** Email: schrammd@earthlink.net

The HERITAGE ROSES GROUP was formed in 1975 and is now international. There are groups in most areas of California, which meet and hold rose events each year. The San Francisco Bay Area group sponsors the *CELEBRATION OF OLD ROSES* each year on the Sunday after Mother's Day. Next year, the Celebration will be on May 17, 2026 at the Veterans Memorial Building in Albany, California.

HRGBA Mission Statement

Our mission is to nurture the love and preservation of Heritage Roses, in all their extraordinary diversity, through public events that disseminate information on the history of these old beauties and through propagation. Our goal is to educate the general public, young and old, on the history of roses, particularly those roses that are older than 100 years, and to encourage others to grow them so that they will not disappear.