

SPIRIT OF THE PIONEER

A newsletter for the families and friends of
the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery
(Across from McArthur Court)

SPRING 2013

MASTER GARDENER WORKSHOP HELPS HERITAGE ROSES IN OUR CEMETERY

Quentin A. Holmes, EPCA President

Most of the rose bushes in our Cemetery are more than 75 years old. Many of them are here because of an old tradition wherein the grave of a departed family member was graced with a cutting from a favorite rose bush. On Friday, April 5th, Master Gardeners Leigh Wells and Carroll Oakley (from OSU Extension Service) gave a workshop at Eugene Pioneer Cemetery on Pruning Heritage Roses. Board members Tim King, Helen Liu, and Quentin Holmes took part, as well as seven other folks. Amazingly, on a cold, blustery day for which the weather forecast read "RAIN", the heavy rain held off until early afternoon.

As a small boy, Master Gardener Leigh Wells got his start playing in the dirt. His mother told young Lee he mustn't do that – and, you can see now just how well Leigh minded his mother! Leigh Wells began the workshop by showing commonly used pruning tools, and demonstrating how to properly care for them. Interestingly, even here, there are strong differences of opinion among Master Gardeners (e.g., should you, or should you NOT, use WD-40 when storing cutting tools away for an extended period). Master Gardener Carroll Oakley chimed in occasionally with her knowledgeable guidance.

Next, Wells gave us an overview of the yearly growth cycle of a rose bush and explained how pruning fits into it:

- Rose bushes get their energy from sunlight left to their own, the canes on a rose bush will grow toward their source of light.
- Starting in August/September a rose bush begins storing nutrients for the following year down inside its root system.
- Each year, the root system of each rose bush only has a certain amount of energy to expend.
- In February – ideally around President's Day– pruning should be done to provide "guidance" on how that energy will get spent during the coming year.
- One may choose to prune a rose bush: for shape, for rose production, to control the direction the rose will grow, or some combination of these three.
- When first approaching the plant to be pruned, it's wise to remove any dead, damaged, or diseased plant material before making any other cuts.
- Canes that are retained should be cut diagonally ~ ¼ inch above a growth bud that is pointed in the direction you would like this cane to grow.
- How many canes can the root system of a rose bush effectively support?
ANSWER: Depending on root system size, a rose bush can support from 3 canes to as many as 6 canes.



Carroll Oakley, Master Gardener



Leigh Wells, Master Gardener

What's in this issue?

Page – 1

Master Gardener Workshop helps Heritage Roses in our Cemetery

Page – 2

Master Gardener Workshop helps Heritage Roses in our Cemetery (Cont.)

The Oldest Rose Bush in EPC

2013 Work Parties Scheduled

Page – 3

Resetting Toppled Grave Stones in the Cemetery

Seen Recently in the Cemetery

Page – 4

Upcoming Events:

Combined Annual Meetings

Memorial Day Ceremony

Any Comments or Questions?
Please write or phone us!

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(Cont. on Pg. 2 MASTER GARDENER ...)

MASTER GARDENER... (Cont. from Pg.1)

A pruner's task is to identify and sort out those 3 to 6 canes. Removing others along the way, and carefully trimming the retained canes – always with an eye to improving the overall health of the rose bush.

The majority of rose bushes in our Cemetery were planted in an era before there were large, stately conifers around. Today, many of our heritage rose bushes are surviving in a tree-shaded spot where they really don't want to be! Our job was to help these roses do the best that they can.

Next, Master Gardeners Wells and Oakley walked us over to the McCully Lot. There they put on a lengthy hands-on demonstration wherein Leigh and Carroll talked and answered questions as they thoughtfully worked their way through pruning three large rose bushes. Again and d again, Leigh Wells reminded us that a rose bush grows each year, and pruning simply provides guidance. "We prune, the rose bush responds by growing; and then next year we, and the rose bush, can revisit the result."



McCully Lot – BEFORE Pruning Heritage Rose Bushes



McCully Lot – AFTER Pruning Heritage Rose Bushes

Following that demonstration we moved over to the nearby Buchanan Lot. There our entire group collaboratively worked our way through pruning a huge, jungle-like rose bush that stood over seven-feet tall! Talking, snipping, then standing back to look & decide what to do next; and asking lots of questions along the way. All-in-all, it made for a very informative time.

Shortly before noon, the two master gardeners sent us out individually to try our hand at pruning a heritage rose bush of our choosing. Afterwards, Leigh came by to see our individual handiwork and chat with us about our thought processes during this pruning. Closing words of Leigh Wells to me were, "Remember... next year, you and your rose bush get to do this again."

We had an informative, productive, and very enjoyable morning! Bless you, Helen Liu for organizing this rose care session.

NOTE: For a more extensive coverage of pruning, brochures may be obtained by calling the Master Gardener Hotline at OSU: (541) 344-0265.

THE OLDEST ROSE BUSH IN EPC

The Cemetery's oldest rose bush is on the Moon Lot. This rose bush resembles a tree, and covered the entire Moon lot before being pruned back by Helen Liu. Neither of the Master Gardeners have ever seen a rose bush quite like it!

2013 WORK PARTIES SCHEDULED

by George C. Beebe, EPCA Director

We have two work parties scheduled this year. These have to be set up months in advance with the Lane County Sheriff. We get crews of ten people - men and women - from the Lane County jail. These folks do an excellent job for us. They regard it as a privilege to be outdoors and helping the Cemetery. A week or so before, several of us "walk-thru" and reach an agreement on what needs to get tackled during the upcoming work party.

One work party will be just before Memorial Day:
Walk-Thru: Thursday, May 16, 2013 at 11:30am
Work Party: Friday, May 24, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The second work party will be in September:
Walk-Thru: Thursday, August 22, at 11:30am
Work Party: Friday, Aug. 30, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Please, come join us if you can, we can always use help!

RESETTING TOPPLED GRAVE STONES IN THE CEMETERY

Quentin A. Holmes, EPCA President

Eugene Pioneer Cemetery is an open and inviting green space in a busy urban surround. On a given day, several hundred visitors visit, or pass through, our Cemetery. That's great! However, the flip side of this is that our Cemetery also experiences a certain amount of vandalism – grave stones toppled, tops of markers broken off and stolen. EPCA keeps a running list of downed and broken markers. A few of these are from natural causes, but the majority are the result of human misbehavior.

In 2011, EPCA Boardmembers George Beebe and Dorothy Brandner engaged stonemason, Bruce Palone, from Portland, Oregon to reset a number of the toppled stones. Bruce and his daughter, Melody, reset 9 toppled markers on November 5th, 2011. They returned November 26th, 2011 and reset 5 more toppled markers. To Yours Truly, this was heartwarming progress.

However, new entries keep getting added to our list of downed and toppled markers! This month we had Bruce Palone and his daughter return again. Working in the rain on April 5th, 2013 they reset 7 more-recently toppled markers.



11/26/2011

Haines Family Marker – AFTER Righting & Resetting
(This huge family marker weighs over 1,500 Lbs.)



11/5/2011

Preparing a Marker's Base for Epoxy Adhesive
(Melody Palone)

SEEN RECENTLY IN THE CEMETERY



4/5/2013

John S. Colwell's Marker – AFTER Righting & Resetting
(Located in the Civil War Plot)



4/1/2013

A Flowering Tree in Bloom at The Eugene Pioneer Cemetery

UPCOMING EVENTS

Combined Annual Meetings of Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association and Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Endowment Fund, Inc.

Will be held Saturday, May 11th, 2013 from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

LOCATION: The First Congregational Church
1050 E. 23rd Street
Eugene, Oregon.

Memorial Day Services at The Eugene Pioneer Cemetery

A Memorial Day Service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, May 27th, 2013 at the Civil War Veteran's Plot. This formal service will feature members of the Sons of Union Veterans dressed in full Civil War military uniforms, and a musket salute in honor of the heroes who are at rest in the G.A.R. Plot. The inspiring Shasta Middle School Band and Choir will perform music from the Civil War era. Please Come!

Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED