

## Woodland Library Rose Garden Receives International Award

On June 1st in Lyon, France, the World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS) bestowed “The Garden of Excellence Award” to The Woodland Library Rose Club (WLRC) Public Garden. The award signifies the highest level of worldwide recognition given to a public or private rose garden. The Woodland Library Rose Club Public Garden represents a unique collection of heritage and modern roses, utilizing modern horticultural and sustainable gardening practices. Through the garden the Club hopes to share the enthusiasm for rose cultivation to the community and the world. The rose garden, located on the corner of First and College Streets in Woodland, boasts nearly 600 roses consisting of 232 cultivars and 23 varieties. The history of roses is displayed in: WLRC Memorial Garden, John Saltsman Garden, Price Amerson Historical Walkway, and the Perimeter Garden. Gregg Lowery, antique rose expert, remarked, “The Woodland Library Rose Club wanted to underscore the values of this small city by planting a beautiful garden of roses around their historic library. They might have simply planted a lovely display with no particular theme or mission. But they chose instead to educate and delight their visitors by offering a wide range of rose types and weaving them into a path of discovery and history. To this day their efforts have helped to preserve a number of roses that are very rare in public gardens. Their two plantings of *Rosa primula* represent the only correctly named specimens that I have encountered in gardens, both public and private, in the world.”

In 1989, Bonnie Freshwater, a founding member of the Woodland Library Rose Club provided the vision to beautify the area surrounding Woodland's Carnegie Library. As the Woodland Library Rose Club grew, so did its enthusiasm to expand the gardens. Over the years, a used car lot alongside of the Library was transformed into a scene of color, fragrance, and beauty. Jolene Adams, President of the American Rose Society (ARS), plans to make a formal award presentation to the Club in the near future. A plaque commemorating the award will be presented by Ms. Adams and permanently displayed in the garden. The community of Woodland and rose enthusiasts everywhere will be invited to celebrate this honor with a dedication in the garden.

Woodland is well known for its love of its history and its rich architectural heritage. The design of the rose garden displays the same pride for the history of roses. Some roses in the collection represent rare varieties from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and earlier. Each of the garden's rose identification signs provide the rose name, rose variety, breeder name, and the year of its introduction. Currently, QR codes are being added to each ID sign which will link the garden visitors to more information about each rose.

Yolo County Master Gardeners and WLRC members Marcia Nelson and Maryellen Mackenzie attended the 17<sup>th</sup> World Rose Convention in Lyon, France. At the closing ceremony, the Garden of Excellence Awards were presented to select gardens throughout the world. Marcia and Maryellen received the award on behalf of the Rose Club from WFRS President, Mr. Steve Jones. ARS President, Ms. Jolene Adams, was also present.

For further information about the Woodland Library Rose Club see: <http://www.cityofwoodland.org/gov/depts/library/roseclub/> or email the Club at [info@woodlandlibraryroseclub.com](mailto:info@woodlandlibraryroseclub.com)