

Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden

"A Historic Landmark"

ISSUE 7

May '09

Time to Celebrate!

Our biggest event yet – come to clip and celebrate the Re-Dedication of the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden on Saturday May 2. The Rose Garden has been transformed by hundreds of volunteers clipping, weeding, and planting over 800 new roses in conjunction with our newfound partnership with the City of San Jose. The renovation, restoration and renewal of the Rose Garden has been so impressive that the Rose Garden will be Re-Dedicated by the Mayor of San Jose, with the theme of **"Re-Discover the Rose Garden."**

To demonstrate the sheer power of our volunteers, we will begin the day at 9:30 am with deadheading, to prepare the garden for Mother's Day, the busiest weekend of the year. At 11:30 AM the festivities begin – speakers include **Chuck Reed, Mayor of San Jose, Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio and President of the All America Rose Selections, Tom Carruth.** After the dedication ceremony, about 12:15 PM lunch will be served (bring a picnic blanket for lunch among the roses.)

After lunch, our volunteers are invited to attend a special educational program. Ever wonder how roses are developed or how they come up with the names? Tom Carruth is a world famous rose Hybridizer and Director of Research at Weeks Roses, and he will be sharing the secrets in a talk just for our volunteers. This program will begin after lunch, approximately 1:30PM and be held in the Community Room of the Rose Garden Library.

Saturday May 2 Re-Discover the Rose Garden Event Volunteer Deadheading & Re-Dedication Ceremony

- **9:00 - Registration and Raffle Prizes**
- **9:30-11:30 Deadheading (bring shears and gloves)**
- **11:30-12:15 Ceremony, Presentations and Ribbon Cutting**
- **12:15 – 1:30 Lunch and Ice Cream**
- **1:30- 2:30 Rose Lecture by Tom Carruth (at Library)**

Be there, and be a part of HISTORY!



San Jose Muni becomes an AARS Test Garden

In past newsletters, I've described what it means for a rose to be an All-America Rose Selection winner. To recap, a winning rose has excelled in an extensive two-year trial program where it's judged on over a dozen different characteristics like disease resistance, flower production, color and fragrance, etc.

Now I will explain the two types of accredited AARS Gardens. Most common is the AARS accredited Display Garden. There are about 130 of these in the United States. These gardens grow many of the AARS award winners and have AARS judges visit throughout the year to confirm the garden is being maintaining to proper standards.

These gardens receive the AARS winning roses A YEAR IN ADVANCE to plant, without any name or marker. Then in July when the next years' AARS winners are announced, signs are put out in the rose beds and the general public can see these new roses in full bloom! Of course, they cannot purchase them until next year.

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If a garden is not in good condition, it is put on probation, and you could lose your accreditation, the full support of the AARS and ability to get the AARS roses in advance.

Then there are AARS Test Gardens. There are only 23 of these throughout the country, representing all the climate zones. These gardens receive 30 – 50 varieties which rose hybridizers chose to put in the testing process. It has already taken about 5 years to get to this point for these roses. The plants are identified only by numbers, such as 09R201 (09 being the year), and each garden receives four of each variety. As they grow, local trained judges watch over them and rate them on a dozen different characteristics; form, flowering effect, vigor, foliage, disease resistance, etc. This continues for two years. The score sheets are sent to the AARS and a winner(s) is determined. It still will take several years before the winning rose will be introduced to the public as enough of the variety will need to be produced. For example, *the winning roses in this years testing will be available to the public in 2013!*

For the most part, all these roses have “something new”, whether it’s a new color blend, ruffled petals or shape, but something special. Having visited a couple AARS Test Gardens in the U.S., one in Oregon and one on Connecticut I always went to the test beds first. It was great to see the potential winners and roses of tomorrow.

The AARS was so impressed with the how quickly the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden and the City improved the Municipal Rose Garden and their commitment to maintaining the momentum; they agreed to have San Jose become the newest AARS Test Garden! This will be the second test garden in California, joining one in Carlsbad.

We already have the 38 new varieties (152 roses) planted in a special “**Test Garden**” area, located near the Dana Ave. entrance. You can see pictures of the Master Volunteers planting the roses on our web site. It is quite an honor to be selected an AARS Test Garden, and a lot of responsibility. Rose Societies and Garden Clubs throughout California will be scheduling field trips to the Rose Garden just to see the test beds. I know they will be impressed with what the volunteers and city staff have accomplished - *Terry Reilly*

Organic Fertilizers

Last month in the article “Quick Guide to Fertilizing Roses” Beverly mentions the use of Mill’s



Magic Rose Mix. Our friends **Daniel Joseph at Regan Nursery** and **Ron Kanemoto of Yamagami’s Nursery** agrees on the use of organics in the garden. They informed us of a two other organic rose products which are quite popular in the

area - Dr. Earth Organic Rose and Flower Fertilizer and E.B. Stone Organics Rose and Flower Food.

Both have donated some of these organics fertilizers to the FSJRG for use in the garden. We have been using them exclusively in the

new plantings this year with excellent results. There are several reasons to use organics in your garden say’s Daniel “First, the fertilizer is non burning, slow release, and long lasting. Second, it does not promote fast growth, and the soft tissue that results. This type of growth makes the plant much more susceptible to insects and diseases. The slow, firm cell growth that results from organic fertilizers is much more resistant to such problems. And third, you have that great feeling of not contributing to phosphorous run-off into our streams and bay, reduced pesticide use, and absolutely fantastic roses.”

I’d have to agree. Remember what Beverly said about using too much Miracle Grow – you can get foliage like elephant ears – you will not get that using organics.

Thanks to Ron at Yamagami’s and Daniel at Regan’s for their continued support!

Master Volunteer Training Opportunity

You've seen them at the Massive Volunteer Events – they are the ones with the stylish green vests. They are the **MASTER VOLUNTEERS**.

They have completed a short training session and put in 5 hours of individual volunteer time during Park Staff hours to get their vests.

With their vests they get to come to the

garden **ANYTIME** and deadhead, rake, or weed - do anything that suits their fancy. Come after din-



ner on a beautiful summer night, or in the morning before rest of the world wakes up, the flexibility

is quite liberating.

But wait, there's more! As a Master Volunteer, visitors often approach you to:

1. Tell you how great the garden is looking
2. Thank you for your hard work
3. Ask how to volunteer
4. Ask rose related questions.

We also have the occasional [Master Volunteer Pizza Nights](#) where we gather at the Gar-

den, work for about 2 hours, then socialize and eat pizza donated by the FSJRG!

We are having four Master Volunteer Training Sessions in April:

- **Monday April 20th 10:00 AM**
- **Monday April 20th 1:00 PM**
- **Tuesday April 21st 10:00 AM**
- **Tuesday April 21st 1:00 PM**

This is your opportunity to become a Master Volunteer before our big May 2nd Event.

Please go to the web site to register. If you forget to register, just show up if your schedule allows. However, it would be nice to get a feeling for how many people to expect. See you at the Garden! –

Renovation Project Complete!

732, 733, 734, 735..... Whew! We are finished! **735 roses**, that's how many we planted with the renovation project initiated by our group. I still remember the look in everyone's eyes when we suggested this project. But, knowing the team we were working with, our volunteers and the city staff, we were confident it we could make it happen. And that we did.

The final rose was planted March 30th with the help of our trusty crew as seen in the photo.

Special thanks to all that donated to this project. Many volunteers donated that helped us purchase some of the roses needed, and a large portion of

the roses came from generous donations from *Weeks Roses* and *Star Roses*. *Coiner Roses* and *Jackson & Perkins* were able to help out and *Regan Nursery* in Fremont donated some hard to find varieties.

You can see photos and videos of this project by going to our web page. - *Terry Reilly*



City Provides Storage

Over the past year, one issue that arose was the problem of having access to tools, trash cans, wheel barrels, and buckets that assist the efforts of our Master Volunteers.

Mike Will, City of San Jose Parks Manager, agreed to supply the FSJRG with what we affectionately call "the cage" - a storage area that houses the necessary tools and supplies our volunteers may need. It is quite useful when the City garden staff is not available and we need rakes, or cans, etc. It is currently stocked with many items that we need, including a recently purchased "dump cart" to assist in the delivery of mulch to the rose beds. You will also find a first aid kit hanging from the wall.

The cage is secured with a combination lock. Master Volunteers who have come to recent events have been provided the combination. If you find you need and special tools that are not in the cage, let us know and we will see if we can get it. Thanks to the City's Parks Department of recognizing the need of the volunteers and providing the cage!

Controlling Aphids

Right now you should see a lot of healthy, new growth on your roses. It is possible you may also find some critters feasting on this new growth. Usually these little green or light yellow insects will be aphids and can do a great deal of damage to new growth. There are several ways to get rid of them, but you must decide to either go organic or chemical insecticides.



Chemical insecticides cannot be used in the Municipal Garden and with so many organic methods available to the home gardener; we will review those options in this article. There are so many problems with chemical insecticides, one being they kill beneficial insects.

One of the easiest methods of getting rid of aphids is just taking a hose and just spraying them off. It's good enough to knock them to the ground. Aphids are poor climbers, and most likely will not get back to the tender growth before getting eaten by a natural predator. Spray your roses down a couple times a week during the infestation season and this

should do the trick. You can also just squish them with your fingers. I take great satisfaction in this.....

There are many other home remedies using a soap solution, some add pepper, others garlic. The soap solution breaks down the insects' protective coating and causes it to dehydrate and die. The soap solution only works on the aphids that actually get sprayed. Adding the garlic and pepper makes the aphids not

want to return – or so they say. A commercial product is called Safer's Insecticidal Soap. Insecticidal soap is different than your normal dishwasher



Municipal Rose Garden began experimenting with Neem oil last year. A Neem oil spray program will be implemented this year. Neem oil has also shown to help prevent black spot and rust.

One fun method that I'd like to try is the use of ladybugs. There is nothing ladybugs like more than a gourmet dinner of aphids! These beneficial insects have an inexhaustible appetite and multiply like, well you get the picture. If you would like to "adopt" some ladybugs, we currently can purchase 7200 for ~ \$100. This will cover about .5 acre, and we have about 2.5 acres. You can donate on our web site. Green Lacewings can also be used, and are quite popular with vineyards.

During the ladybug release, I'd like to get some of the younger volunteers involved to help out. In small gardens, these ladybugs can just fly away, but with 4000 roses, they fly to the next rose!

No matter how you plan on controlling the pests in your garden be sure to think about the environment, and try not to harm the beneficial insects. - Terry Reilly

Just Squish them with your fingers!

soap in that it doesn't contain dyes or perfumes and is made with fatty acids, formulated to kill insects.

Another method to control aphids is the use of Neem oil. Neem oil is a botanical pesticide made from the extract of the plant *Azadirachta indica* which originates in South-east Asia. The San Jose

What's the Deal with Deadheading?

By Beverly Rose Hopper, Master Rosarian

Purists refer to it as **removing spent blooms** but more commonly it's called **deadheading**. Whichever term you prefer, the action is the same – snipping off old blooms to encourage a new cycle of roses.

First simplified rose anatomy: Petals surround the reproductive organs of a rose (stamens, pistils, ovary, anthers), which sit on the top part of the stem called the peduncle. If pollination occurs, the peduncle swells up forming fruit, seedpod, or hip. The petals fall, the hip grows fat and orange while seeds ripen inside. Development of hips results in the rose bush going somewhat dormant because it has achieved reproductive success. Removing spent blooms or hips sends a signal to the rosebush to get busy and produce more flowers in hopes of another chance of reproduction!

To keep your roses frisky and blooming, where and when do you deadhead?

Use the classic pruning cut – about ¼ inch above an outward facing five-leaflet leaf, at a 45 degree angle, but make the cut much higher on the cane than winter pruning. Choose the first five-leaflet leaf under the bloom unless the stem at that point is too thin to support a new bloom. Keep in mind where you cut will produce the same size or smaller stem. If the stem/cane is too spindly go down another leaf-set or two if necessary.

At what stage should you deadhead? Some people can't stand to see petals on the ground (*personally I think a petal strewn garden is lovely*) and snip off slightly aged blooms before the petals drop. That may keep a garden tidy but it is premature for our

purposes. In the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden we want maximum color and display. As long as the rose is hanging on to most of its petals, has color and is not totally wilted do NOT cut it off! **Deadhead when it's really dead**, and not before.

Our goal is to have a mass display of blooms, so cut conservatively. The more you leave on the more blooms there will be, and the repeat cycle will be shorter.

Speaking of repeat, how often do roses need to be deadheaded? Roses that repeat bloom throughout the spring, summer and fall (*most modern roses and some old garden roses*) have a bloom cycle of 30 -60 days. Factors that influence repeat bloom include culture, petal count, and weather. Lightly petaled roses (*24 petals or less*) repeat much faster than heavily petaled varieties (*60+.*) Stress impacts bloom cycles, whether it is from lack of nutrition, water or a sudden heat wave. When the temperature spikes a rose will often “shut down” to conserve energy until more moderate temps return. Because of the sheer volume of roses, our volunteers can usually find something to deadhead all season long.

Deadheading Hybrid Teas that produce one bloom per stem is simple enough, but what about sprays (*multiple blooms per stem*) or cluster blooming Floribundas? As the center bud usually blooms first, and the surrounding buds open later, simply snap off the blown bits and do the proper deadheading when the entire spray is finished. Though you may opt to disbud sprays at home, as our goal at the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden is maximum display leave all buds on to bloom. More roses for all to enjoy!

DATES TO REMEMBER

- April 20 - Master Volunteer Training - 10am and 1pm
- April 21 - Master Volunteer Training - 10am and 1pm
- May 2 - “Re-Discover the Rose Garden” Volunteer Event and Celebration
- July 4 - Rose, White and Blue Parade (Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden will have a booth - info @ <http://www.the-alameda.com/parade.html>)
- July 11 - Volunteer Day

What's a Few Hours Between Friends?

By Myles Tobin, Master Volunteer

The Rose Garden is one of a few organizations where I volunteer within the community. I have found that the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden have many elements that are important to me and keep me coming back as a volunteer. Not that the other organizations don't but the garden is a good fit for me as I have been a gardener since I was a child and roses have always been a passion of mine. Working in the garden gives me an opportunity to make a positive hands-on change in the community and have a beautiful setting to view at the same time.

Because of the way that the volunteer group is organized, I have been able to manage my time spent in the garden participating at all different times of the day depending upon my own schedule. It's nice to end the day unwinding in the garden on the way home or start the day getting the kinks out to greet the day. Gardens are constantly changing so I see something new every time I come to the garden. I am also able to see the results of the work I did at my last visit.



Meeting other volunteers with similar interests provides the opportunity to learn new things while developing new skills and knowledge in areas that I'm interested in. Working with all the enthusiastic folks that volunteer with such great energy and smiles on their face is contagious. In turn, I hope I pass the same on to others - that's the best kind of energy, a pure energy - one that asks for nothing in return.

Many times the park visitors will approach me with questions about their own garden or want to offer a positive comment about the garden. This always seems to lead to a good garden story. I believe the biggest joy is when I hear comments from not only local visitors but those from other cities, states and countries that express the garden to be one of the most beautiful that they have seen. It makes me proud to be one of the many who have helped create

that experience. I have had the pleasure of meeting the people that use the garden every day for their walks, daily runs, picnics – and some come by to just say hello. I'm truly grateful to the City of San Jose and their partnership with the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden for the privilege of being a part of this special little piece of paradise in my city.

Why do I volunteer? Why wouldn't I?

Whether it is important to you to solve a community problem, advance a worthy cause or to develop as a person, volunteering offers many benefits in appreciation for the gift of your time and expertise. Volunteering can help you:

- Make important networking contacts
- Learn or develop skills
- Teach your skills to others
- Enhance your resume
- Gain work experience
- Build self-esteem and self-confidence
- Improve your health
- Meet new people
- Feel needed and valued
- Communicate to others that you are ambitious, enthusiastic and care about the community
- Make a difference in someone's life

Please Donate!

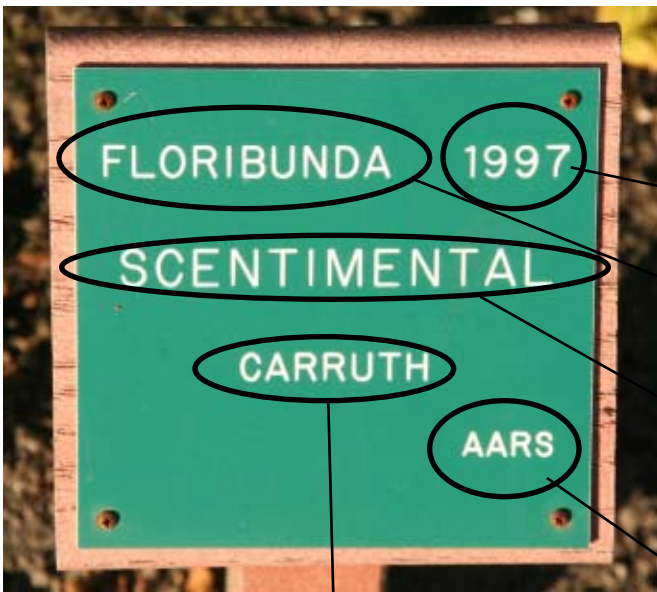
We are a 501c3 non-profit group that relies on donations to keep alive. Please donate to keep our summer programs going!

We have several levels of giving as shown below:

Rose Garden Buds: up to \$50
Rose Garden Blooms: up to \$100
Rose Garden Bouquet: up to \$1000
Rose Garden Patron: \$1000 and over
detail on our website

How to Read the Signs

We had some questions recently about all the information on the signs - so, here's the complete explanation!



Year rose introduced to the public

Type of rose

Name of the rose

Hybridizer of the rose, in this case (Tom) Carruth, who will be at our May 2nd event!

If the rose is a AARS Award Winner, it will display this

Happy 78th Birthday Rose Garden

On cloudy and slightly drizzly day, Master Volunteers Chris Tulin, Arlene Smith-Pearsall, Doris Livesey, Martha Orr, Mary Lou Azevedo and Mindy Salim celebrated the Rose Garden's 78th Birthday. We did this by pulling a few weeds, deadheading a bit, and when the sun peered out behind the cloud - ate some cake. And in the end - we sang Happy Birthday to the Grand old Dame.

It was on April 7, 1931 the President of the American Rose Society, J. Horace McFarland and John McLaren, famed architect of Golden Gate Park, broke ground. The first rose planted was a Castilian rose, thought to be a descendent of a rose brought to California by the Mission Fathers.

The original plan for the garden included a formal area for hybrid teas, an area for old fashioned and species roses, a rose nursery, and an

outdoor theater. It even included tennis courts and a baseball diamond!

When the dedication and ribbon cutting commenced six years later on May 15th, 1937, the park did not include the tennis courts of the ball field, but contained sections devoted to old-fashioned roses from gardens planted by early Spanish and American pioneers; a Mission plot which contains rose plants from thirteen of the old missions. The collection eventually would contain roses from all but 3 of the 21 missions, and a Martha Washington rose, a slip from the original planted by Martha Washington.

Though these roses are just history, we are all adding a bit of history of our own to this garden - from the resurrection to the AARS Test Garden status. And at the Gardens 100th Celebration, I'm sure this period will be more than a footnote.



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**Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden
Founders:
Terry Reilly & Beverly Rose Hopper**



Friends of the
San Jose



Rose Garden

What would you like to see in the next newsletter? And article on a certain topic? Need a question answered? Send me an e-mail. Terry Reilly - Editor
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