



# Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden

*"America's Best Rose Garden"*

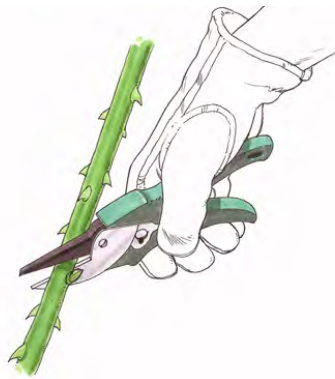
Issue 18

December 2011

## Annual Pruning – Sat., Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 a.m.

**'Tis the season to prune roses!**

Sharpen your clippers, grab your gloves, for the big event – pruning. We'll be using our fast and easy method of pruning. All ages & abilities welcome.



Your participation makes a difference. Pruning rejuvenates the roses – providing beautiful blooms throughout the year. Volunteers



take pride in the spectacular garden – full of roses – knowing they helped create such beauty. It's a great sense of accomplishment.

Once again Star Roses is a generous sponsor of this event. **The first 200 volunteers will receive a free bare root rose.**



Watch the FSJRG video "Pruning For Maximum Display" - the most popular rose pruning video on YouTube!  
<http://tinyurl.com/pruningroses>



Mark your calendar for Sat., Jan 7<sup>th</sup> and bring a friend. (Rain back-up date is Sat., Jan 14<sup>th</sup>)



[www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org](http://www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org)

### Inside This Issue:

New Roses - Quick & Easy Pruning Method - Volunteer Spotlight – Soil Test –Garden Gifts – Let's Celebrate! Pruning the Climbers–

PRUNING FLYER – *please print and post.*

Founders Beverly Rose Hopper & Terry Reilly



**Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden** is a non-profit 501(c)(3) all volunteer group dedicated to preserving the Historic San Jose Municipal Rose Garden



## New Year – New Roses!

*Making a list and checking it twice,  
going to find out who's naughty and nice.*

Though we love all the roses in the garden, on occasion we have to get rid of the old to make room for the new. As an organic no-spray garden, it is important for roses to be disease resistant. And as a public display garden, flower power is equally important. After careful evaluation, several beds were identified for replacement. We're fortunate that by having the Test Beds, we were able to try out new varieties to see first hand what performs well in our climate.

Here's some of the new beauties that are coming our way in 2012, courtesy of our generous friends at **Weeks Roses** and **Star Roses**. Many of these new varieties are not officially available to the public until 2013, and we are delighted the Municipal Rose Garden will offer visitors the opportunity to enjoy them in advance.

### Sparkle & Shine



This bright yellow floribunda was one of our favorites in the Test Beds. The yellow blooms shine like droplets of sun are living “bling” for the landscape. Abundant clusters of flashy, bright yellow, gently ruffled blooms that hold their color. Rounded, bushy plants with extremely glossy leaves that are very disease resistant. Moderately fruity fragrance. Hybridizer: Bedard, Weeks Roses 2013.

### Ebb Tide



Soooo mysterious in its color (And soooo powerfully perfumed) it is certain to attract attention. Dusky deep purple buds swirl open to very double old-fashioned flowers of velvet plum washed with a haze of sultry smoke. The intense clove fragrance can nearly bowl you over. Deep green foliage. Ebb Tide is a winner of the Fragrance award at Rose Hills International Rose Trials. A recent introduction in 2006, Ebb Tide is available at better nurseries. Hybridizer: Carruth at Weeks.

## Yabba Dabba Doo



When it comes to flower power, this rose will have you shouting with pleasure. Humongous clusters of flirty flowers almost cover the bright green leaves. Hundreds of pointy buds open into huge hydrangea-like heads of orange-pink with little 'eyes' of yellow. Weeks Roses 2013.

## Oh My!

For many, there's just no other color that says 'rose' than velvety red. This floribunda delivers great clusters of bright red blooms against a backdrop of glossy dark red-green leaves. Bred from City of San Francisco x Crimson Bouquet, by Weeks Roses 2013.



## Cinnamon Dulce

Vigorous, upright plants, exhibition quality blooms of brick red speckled with deep pink. The extremely fragrant blossoms appear continuously throughout the season above dark green, semi-glossy foliage. Excellent disease resistance to mildew and rust make this a good choice for West Coast gardens. Fragrance: Strong. Hybridizer: Meiland International/ Star Roses 2013.



## Twilight Zone



Mysterious color and powerful perfume...it's Ebb Tide in another dimension. Clusters of deep, velvety magenta blooms overlaid with a wisp of smoke spiral open in old-fashioned, very double form and infuse the air with their intense fragrance of clove and lemony citrus blossom. Glossy foliage, sultry color and alluring fragrance which is strong, spicy clove and lemon. Hybridizer: Carruth, Weeks 2013.

## Love Song



Large classic high pointed centers, medium-pale lavender blooms. We fell in love with this floribunda in the Test Beds, and it will win your heart too. Weeks Roses, introduction 2013.

*Plants, photos and some descriptions courtesy of Weeks Roses & Star Roses*

## SOIL TEST

Recently FSJRG arranged for a soil test for the Rose Garden. Sometimes soil can get out of balance, so it's a good thing to periodically have a check-up. **Soil & Plant Lab** partnered with FSJRG to provide the testing – and the results are in. A manganese deficiency and slightly high pH was causing a type of chlorosis (yellow leaves) compounded by cooler weather conditions. The results and recommendations have been passed along to City of San Jose Parks Dept., and we will be working together to make adjustments.

For further info on soil testing procedures and rates contact Soil & Plant Lab at [www.SoilandPlantLaboratory.com](http://www.SoilandPlantLaboratory.com)



2012 will be the 5 year anniversary of Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden. Wow! What a journey it's been, and we couldn't have done it without YOU. The Municipal Rose Garden has been transformed into America's Best Rose Garden, because **our volunteers are the best.**

Join us Sat Jan 21 at 3 PM in the Rose Garden Library Community Room for a **Volunteer Celebration**. If you'd like, bring a small bite or snack to share –hors d'oeuvres, goodie or treat. Beverages will be provided. Friends and family always welcome.

The **Rose Garden Community Room** is located on the ground floor of the Library, located across from the Municipal Rose Garden at the intersection of Naglee and Dana Avenue. The Library will be closed, however we will have access to the Community Room for our group.

**Save the date**

**Jan 21 @ 3 pm**

**Let's Celebrate!**

# Volunteer Spotlight

## Marti Peters



Marti Peters after receiving her commendation from the City of San Jose for achieving over 100 volunteer hours in the Municipal Rose Garden.

### *Roses and Me*

By Marti Peters

I didn't realize I got hooked on roses when I was a child and heard my mother and grandmother talk about Chrysler Imperial and Peace roses back in the early 1950s.

I started at the Rose Garden in the Spring of 2010 when my previous volunteer position tending Mary's Garden at Queen of Apostles School ended because of a major re-landscaping project during which the

roses had been given away.

What I found at the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden was a sense of community, shared love of roses, more roses than I ever dreamed of, and more people to talk with about roses. I've received more education about roses than I had ever learned from listening to my mother and grandmother talking about roses from Jackson and Perkins and the vagaries of bare-root roses planted in the coldest of winters in St. Louis, Missouri.

Some days I also get to hear children running and playing hide and seek among the rose beds. Other days couples walk hand in hand sniffing roses trying to decide which roses would look the nicest outside their just purchased home. What could be more joyful than helping a couple make a decision about which rose to choose? Asking which direction their house faces. How many hours of direct sun a rose bush needs for the most beautiful blooms? How much water a bush needs a week. Roses can't just be a pretty face without needing some attention.

Some days I find peace weeding the rose beds and listening to the walkers pass by on the sidewalk outside the fence as they discuss the most mundane topics. Children chase after butterflies around the Garden. One Saturday, a boy had his friends completely fooled. He had told them he had seen a snake. All thoughts of butterflies stopped. It got very quiet. I stood up to see what was going on when a parent came over to see the boy. A conversation commenced in another language. I don't think he saw a snake after all, because the butterfly chase resumed.

# Our Quick & Easy Pruning Method

We use a simplified pruning program at the Rose Garden. Volunteers can quickly get the job done – on average **3,500 rose-bushes have been pruned in about 2 hours!** Plus the bushes are much stronger and produce more bloom throughout the year.

**Stakes** are put in each bed and marked at the height to cut. **Volunteers are told prune to level marked, but not below.** Then remove all foliage and clean up debris. *So easy anyone can do it!* Instruction is provided on the “classic cut” – ¼ inch above an outward facing bud eye at 45 degree angle – but we don’t sweat it if the cut is not exact.



Our goal is **Pruning for Maximum Display**. Lots of canes are left on the bush – more than in traditional pruning. We want big bushes because that means big masses of bloom all season long.

What about crossing canes, thin and spindly growth, etc? In the weeks that follow *Master Volunteers can help with selective pruning or Fine Tuning Pruning.*



Pruning training videos on our website [www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org](http://www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org)

**Join us on Sat Jan 7<sup>th</sup>. Bring a friend!**

## Simple Steps to Prune Roses

1. **CLASSIC CUT** - Make cuts about 1/4 inch above an outward facing bud-eye, at 45 degree angle.
2. **REMOVE 1/3 - 1/2 HEIGHT** - No more . . . hard or severe pruning is hard on the rose bush.
3. **SPINDLY, DEAD STUFF TAKE OUT** - They're not going to produce flowers.
4. **REMOVE ALL LEAVES & HIPS** - Snip or pull off all foliage removes over-wintering fungus.
5. **CLEAN UP DEBRIS** - Pick up all fallen leaves, and any mess. Keep area around base of rose clean.



# Gifts for the Gardener

## FSJRG T-Shirt

Go green this holiday with the fashionable Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden t-shirt. Perfect for the garden or black tie events. \$20.



## Felco Pruning Shears

The gold standard of pruning shears. Expensive but worth it – with care will last a lifetime. Several models to choose from including Felco loppers and folding pruning saw. \$50 - \$120.



### The Holster

Keep your shears handy. \$13.95



## Barnel Pruning shears

As a Felco fanatic I hate to admit it, but *there is another choice*. The ergonomic pruner from Barnel is small but mighty. Two step lock system with low resistance; an ideal pruner for those with arthritis or other hand aches. My 83-year old Mother converted to Barnels several years ago and made a believer out of me. \$45.

## Gauntlets

The glove worn by many of our volunteers is the West County Rose Glove. Several styles and a range of colors to brighten your day. Made of synthetic suede which stays flexible even after washing. About \$36.



## The Original Muck Boots – Daily Garden Shoe



Waterproof and durable. Almost every day for the

past 10 years I've worn either the clog or shoe and they're still serving me well. The shoe is great for winter or heavy duty chores and the clog to slip on for quick zips outside or during warm summer months. \$65

## Felco Electronic Pruning Shear

Quite possibly the “ultimate” pruner, is the Felco 810 aka the FELCOtronic. Designed for commercial pruning needs such as vineyards, it would make fast work of your rose garden. This electro portable pruning shear can be yours for a cool \$2600. Hmmm . . . maybe not.



# Pruning the Climbers

by Tom Liggett

Editor's Note: Tom Liggett is Founder of the Heritage Rose Garden and internationally recognized Rosarian. In addition to volunteering at the Municipal Rose Garden, Tom is in charge of the re-propagation effort at the Morcom Rose Garden. Tom is a wealth of rose knowledge and happy to share it with others.



If I were pressed to use one word to describe the plants in The San Jose Municipal Rose Garden, it would be “vigorous”. When you look at the plants in that Garden, they are almost universally large, healthy and in bloom (a good trick for late December!) For the purposes of this article, I will be writing only about the fence line Climbers.

There is no universal way in which Climbers must be grown. There are many varieties which are multi-purpose in their

individual natures. They are equally suited to being grown as an unsupported arching Shrub, a fan-shape on a Trellis, or trained up over an Arbor or Pergola. In many cases, it all comes down to how they are trained.

The San Jose Municipal Garden fence line Climbers are being grown as Espaliers. An Espalier is a tree or shrub that is grown on a fence or a wall in a flat plane. They are espaliered because there is not room for them to spread out and assume their huge natural shapes. Simply put, long, thorny canes sticking out 10 or 15 feet laterally from any Rose plant are a menace to passers-by and maintenance workers. Growing those Climbers as Espaliers allows for the best of both worlds, that of having large, dramatic plants in a confined, formal-type setting. But there is a price for having such plants in The Garden, and it must be paid in the form of regular, knowledgeable pruning.

Rose plants can easily live for many decades, because they have the wonderful ability to renew themselves, literally self-creating new plants from the old. Left unpruned, however, Climbers especially will grow up and outward semi-exponentially, building new growth upon the old. The usual result of such growth is that the plants will either become too large for their spaces, or they will lose vigor and slowly begin to diminish. The pruning of any Rose, Bush or Climber alike, comes down to knowing the variety, knowing from which family it comes and knowing how it will be maintained in the following year.

Since volunteers are not allowed to use ladders in The Garden, the Climbers must



be kept at a height where they can be trained and deadheaded standing at ground level. This last part is very important, since many of the varieties planted will not re-bloom well if they are not deadheaded religiously, but will “explode” with bloom if they are. In a visual sense, this means having the lower eight feet of the fence line densely covered with thriving plants that are in bloom much of the time.

Each Climber in the fence line is now being pruned differently, taking plant condition, location and variety into account.

When Roses are first planted, all of the new canes arise from a position that is right at the base of the plant. Over time, especially if the plants are not properly pruned, the height from which new canes are produced will migrate higher on the plant. With Climbers, that center of biological activity can be many feet higher than it once was. Look at the plants of Climbing Mademoiselle Cecile Brunner on the Arbor to see a good example of this.

The remedial pruning of overgrown Rose plants of any type is generally taken as a three-year project, with the object being to gradually stimulate the plant to make new canes that are closer to the ground. In many cases, it is not possible to get a plant’s level of new cane production as low as it is on a new plant, but lower and controlled is always better than higher and wilder.

In this first year of remedial pruning, the object is to reduce the plants without hurting them and to allow as many opportunities for new growth in 2012 as is possible. The second year will see the growth

of many new canes and will allow the plants to be taken lower still. The third year will see most plants taken to a level that is stable and sustainable into the future. It is from this third year onward that the pruning of the fence line Climbers will be easy to maintain, given knowledgeable pruning in subsequent years. It is also at this stage that the pruning of Climbers in general can be “de-mystified” and taught to a much wider audience.

I prune most of my plants with pneumatic shears. One reason I use this method is to minimize the debilitating aspect of my pruning thousands of plants per year. Another reason is that pneumatic shears make a much cleaner and exact cut which does not crush the canes. I do NOT recommend pneumatic pruning shears for anyone, anywhere, anytime, as they are quite dangerous to use.

**Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden is a 501c3 non-profit all volunteer group. Your donations are tax deductible, and helps fund our on-going effort to keep the Rose Garden in tip-top shape.**

**Sponsorship Levels**

<b>Up to \$50</b>	<b>Rose Garden Bud</b>
<b>Up to \$100</b>	<b>Rose Garden Bloom</b>
<b>Up to \$1000</b>	<b>Rose Garden Bouquet</b>
<b>\$1000 &amp; up</b>	<b>Rose Garden Patron</b>

**Donate online**

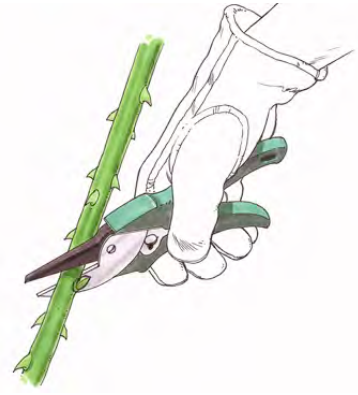
[www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org](http://www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org)

or send a check to:

**Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden  
1375 Emory Street  
San Jose, CA 95126**

Editors: Martin and Beverly Rose Hopper  
Beverly@FriendsSJRoseGarden.org

# Volunteer



## Rose Pruning & Demo Sat., Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

*(Rain date Sat., Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>)*

### Municipal Rose Garden

Corner of Naglee and Dana Avenue, San Jose

Learn our Easy Method  
All Ages & Abilities Welcome

Bring shears & gloves if have them, some provided



***FREE bare root rose courtesy of Star  
Roses for first 200 volunteers***

Sponsored by  
Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden  
and the City of San Jose PNRS



[www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org](http://www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org)