

Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden

"A Historic Landmark"

Issue 2

April '08

Master Volunteer Program

On the volunteer sign up sheet, we have asked if you would like to volunteer during the weekdays or if you'd like to become a Master Volunteer. Nearly 150 of you replied.. Because of this, we developed the Master Volunteer program. In order for you to come and assist in the garden during your own time, we needed to address two items. First, the city staff would like to provide some training on procedures to follow when working in the garden, such as where to dispose of the cuttings, how to check in, and how to log your time volunteering, etc. Second, we wanted to make sure that volunteers are easily identified, so park visitors would not get the idea that they can start picking roses as they see you deadheading.

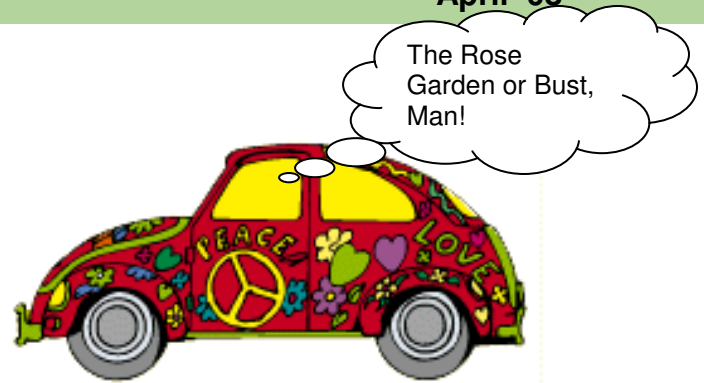
We have addressed these two points by scheduling Master Volunteer training days which should take no longer than 60 minutes, and once certified, you would be provided with a stylish vest which would identify you as a volunteer.

In addition, as a Master Volunteer, you could have an integral role in the massive volunteer days helping the less experienced should you so choose.

We've scheduled the first couple training days for weekdays, but after a short trail period, we will consider a weekend program as well.

Tuesday, April 23rd, 10a.m. & 11a.m.
Wednesday, April 24th, 10a.m. & 11a.m.

If possible, please go to the web site and RSVP on the Master Volunteer Page, so we get an idea of how many people to expect.



Deadheading & Weeding

May 3rd 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Bring out your tie-dyed t-shirts and headbands for the big "Deadheading and Weeding Day" on May 3rd at 9:00 a.m. as we prepare for the biggest weekend of the year, Mother's Day Weekend! And no, the rumors of the Grateful Dead showing up are just that! But feel free to wear their t-shirts!

If you were one of the 215 that came out and pruned on January 12th, come and see the blooms of your labor. Provided we get the typical wonderful San Jose weather, the garden should be filled with plenty of blooms! You may want to work on the bed that you pruned. There will be an opportunity to adopt beds at this event. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy afterwards!

As a special treat, the Rose Garden's Central YMCA will provide Popsicles and Klondike bars. "Some of the greatest work to strengthen our community is accomplished solely by volunteers" said Barbara Cardenas, Executive Director. "We are happy to show our support to another volunteer-driven effort."

So bring the family and/or friends and come on out for a great day of volunteering!

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ADOPT-A-BED

Many volunteers have expressed interest in adopting a specific bed or beds of roses such so they could have their “own little piece of the garden”. We listened and developed an “Adopt-bed” program. To adopt a bed, we would like you to go through the Master Volunteer certification program described in this newsletter and on our website since it is expected you would be coming to the garden to work on your own time. In order to do that, you must go through the simple certification training. Don’t worry, there will be plenty of opportunities for training dates.

There are a couple of benefits to adopting a bed. First, you really get to see how some specific attention can improve the condition of the roses. Second, you get the satisfaction of knowing that you have made a difference to a specific part of this historic landmark.

Because it is a Historic Landmark, policies prohibit additional signage in the rose beds; however, we will post a map of the garden, with the names of the proud adoptee listed on the bed online. We will have a map of the garden at the May 3rd Deadheading and Weeding event, so you can sign up there, as well as sign up for the Master Volunteer training days.



Gardener Lance Loveday and groundsworker Mike Azevedo help spread mulch with the volunteers

MORE ABOUT MULCH

Mulch is an important feature for a healthy garden. Mulch is a topical dressing applied to the soil. Mulch in its broadest terms can be almost anything: compost, redwood bark, cocoa hulls, pine needles, pebbles, and even shredded newspaper. What type of mulch to select depends on what is available, what fits your budget and what you want to achieve.

Mulch is valuable because it serves 3 main purposes:

1. Improves soil texture (especially when it is composed of organics)
2. Conserves water (by reducing evaporation)
3. Weed control (smothers weeds and makes it easier to pull new ones out)

One of the many goals of Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden was to encourage the city to apply mulch to the rose beds for the reasons listed above. Because of the positive working relationship we have developed with the city, we have been able to move forward and achieve several of our goals, including beginning a mulch program for the garden.

On February 21st about a dozen volunteers braved the rain and spread mulch on about 50 beds next to Emory. (Pictures can be seen on the web site under “news”) Rose Garden gardener Lance Loveday and groundsworker Mike Azevedo were on hand and assisted distributing the mulch with their electric truck, while volunteers worked with wheelbarrows, shovels and rakes to get the job done. In about 2 hours (ahead of schedule!) the 50 beds were covered with several inches of beautiful rich mulch. What type of mulch and where did it come from? It was free compost produced by yard waste recycling program and full of organics.

The beds that were mulched looked great, and even better was several beds had been previously underlaid with weed cloth which will provide even better weed control.

It was yet another example of volunteers making a difference. The beds looked clean and tidy, and the roses looked happy. Thanks to the volunteers and City for a wonderful team effort. It is indeed true that when you feed the soil, you also feed the soul.

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH DEADHEADING

By Beverly Rose Hopper, Master Rosarian

The Cycle of Blooms

Whether you prefer the casual slang term “deadheading” or the more polite and precise “removing spent blooms” – the goal is the same – removing old faded roses to encourage the rosebush to produce a bounty of new blooms. Roses, like many flowering plants, produce a flower as part of reproduction. Bees pollinate the blossoms, and the ripening ovary becomes a seedpod. The seedpods, or “hips” sends a message to the plant the goal of reproduction has been achieved so it is no longer necessary to produce additional flowers. In order to fool Mother Nature, old blooms and any hips that are forming are removed, generating another blooming cycle and more roses.

Snip or Snap?

There are two main ways to deadhead. One is to simply snap off the old blooms just under the bloom head or peduncle. This method does not require any tools other than your fingers and can be quickly done while taking a stroll among the roses. As just the bloom is removed (and not any stem) the rosebush often generates a repeat bloom quickly. However there are drawbacks to this method. One is aesthetic – there is no shaping of the bush and little leafless stems are left sticking up everywhere. The other drawback is that new growth can only be as sturdy as the growth left behind, which means either smaller blooms or blooms that may be floppy as thin stems are not sturdy enough to properly support new blooms.

The method preferred by most Rosarians is to snip - cut off not only the bloom but part of the stem also, generally at a point at an outward facing five-leaflet leaf. The cut is made at a point where the cane is sturdy enough to support new growth AKA a nice big bloom. Usually the cut is made at the first outward facing five-leaflet leaf, but sometimes the stem at the point may be too

thin to support the next big bloom, so the cut needs to be made further down where the cane is more sturdy. *Remember the new stem can only be as big as the stem where you made the cut.* Deadheading by this method not only produces bigger flowers, it also gives the gardener the opportunity to shape the bush. Keep in mind that the lower down you cut, the blooms may be larger than by cutting up high but it will take the bush longer to rebloom. Do not confuse this type of deadheading, also sometimes referred to as “summer pruning” as the same type pruning done in the winter. Though similar principals are used, such as making cuts at outward facing bud eye/leaflet and cutting at a 45 degree angle, the pruning is much lighter than what is done during winter dormancy.

Reblooming, Recycling Roses!

In Santa Clara County, the first flush of blooms is mid-late April in the warmer regions, early May in cooler areas. After the roses have bloomed, removing spent flowers or deadheading helps the rosebush to produce another bloom cycle. In our mild climate, we can enjoy a bloom cycle on average about every 45 days. Some roses are fast repeaters, and will rebloom in as little as 30 days, while others especially heavy petalled roses take up to 60 days. Please note that this discussion pertains to modern repeat blooming roses – hybrid teas, floribundas, miniatures, modern climbers, etc. as found in the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden (and probably your own gardens), not the antique, heirloom, or old garden roses as found in the Heritage Rose Garden, many which only have one natural bloom cycle per year (that’s another article!)

Be sure to watch Beverly's Deadheading Video Tutorial which we will post on the web site about several weeks prior to our Volunteer Day on May 3rd!

<http://www.friendssjrosegarden.org/videos.htm>

SHEAR POWER!

On Saturday January 12 more than 200 determined volunteers descended upon the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden on a mission – to achieve what had not been possible last year – to prune the 4,000 bush rose garden.

In 2007 only 20% of the rose were pruned due to staff cutbacks and mismanagement. Weeds were rampant, and so was the public outcry. That was the bad news. The good news was that once word got out the people and city responded. The city brought in a new staff full of enthusiasm and a spirit of cooperation replaced the previous prickly relationship between city and volunteers efforts. The city council, with the encouragement of Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio, loosens rules to allow more volunteer work at city parks. Because of this, Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden was formed, and through private/public partnership with the city of San Jose embarked on adopting the park. A new era was born.

When Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden put out the word that help was needed to prune the roses this year, the response was gratifying, inspiring, and downright jaw dropping. Over 200 turned out to help, from tiny tots to



seasoned veterans. Swarming over the garden like busy bees, armed with an assortment of tools from Felcos to borrowed clippers, volunteers made fast work pruning the garden. Each bed had been marked with stakes spray painted at the height to which the roses should be pruned which made it easy for volunteers of all abilities to know how much to cut off. Pruning was done “high” for maximum bloom. And it was done in record time. 200 volunteers pruned 4,000 rosebushes in only 2 hours. ***That’s 33.3 rpm or roses per minute!***

Talk about shear power!

Thank you to all who came and pruned. Special thanks to Albert Balagso (Parks Director), Mike Will (Parks Manager), Lance Loveday (RG Gardener), Mike Azevedo (RG Groundswoker), Melissa Oleda, (Adopt-A-Park) and the many other city workers who came and helped out this day. They added to the success of this day tremendously. Walking through the garden afterwards the roses looked happy and healthy. What a difference a year makes. What a difference volunteers and partnerships make.

Friends Receive Grant

As you know, the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden operates on donations, which we list on our web page.

The bulk of our expenses are sending this newsletter to 500 homes to keep them informed of the events in the Rose Garden.

In order to assist in this effort, councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio has awarded the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden a \$1,000 grant. “I am very appreciative of your efforts in galvanizing volunteers to assist in revitalizing the historic Municipal Rose Garden Park” said councilmember Oliverio.

We thank Councilmember Oliverio for his support and volunteer work in the garden!

If you would like to donate, you can do so on our website.

Kiwanis Clubs Choose Rose Garden

A collection of 12 different Kiwanis clubs chose the Municipal Rose Garden as its service project for the annual “Kiwanis One Day”. The Kiwanis One Day is when Kiwanis around the world join forces with their community for a day of hands on service. They expect about 150 volunteers. Come join them if you can!

Sat. April 5th, 9 am – 12 pm Naglee entrance
Tasks will include removing suck growth, weeding, general clean up of the beds, putting down weed cloth, and spreading compost.

“We choose the rose garden for our Kiwanis One project because our clubs are comprised of members who have a desire to become personally involved in making their communities better places in which to live” said Jerry Neece, Division 12 Kiwanis One Coordinator. “With the volunteer efforts here, it seemed like a perfect fit.” To learn more about the Kiwanis Club, go to <http://home.comcast.net/~divtwelvekiwanis/>

For pictures of the event, go to our web site after April 5.

Upcoming Events

Sat. April 5

Kiwanis Club “Kiwanis One” Volunteer Day

Sucker growth removal, bed clean up, weed cloth, compost spreading.
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Tues. April 22nd

Master Volunteer Certification

10:00 am & 11:00 am

Certification training for volunteers to allow the to come in on their own time. Register on the web site or drop in.

Wed. April 23rd

Master Volunteer Certification

10:00 am & 11:00 am

Certification training for volunteers to allow the to come in on their own time. Register on the web site or drop in.

Sat. May 3

Pre-Mother’s Day Weekend Deadheading & Weeding

Massive Volunteer Event

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Sat. July 12

Summer Deadheading and Weeding

Sat. Sep. 6

Fall Deadheading and “Special Event”

Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden

www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org

1375 Emory Street

San Jose, CA 95126

Don't forget

**Deadheading
& Weeding
May 3rd!**

