

Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden

"A Historic Landmark"

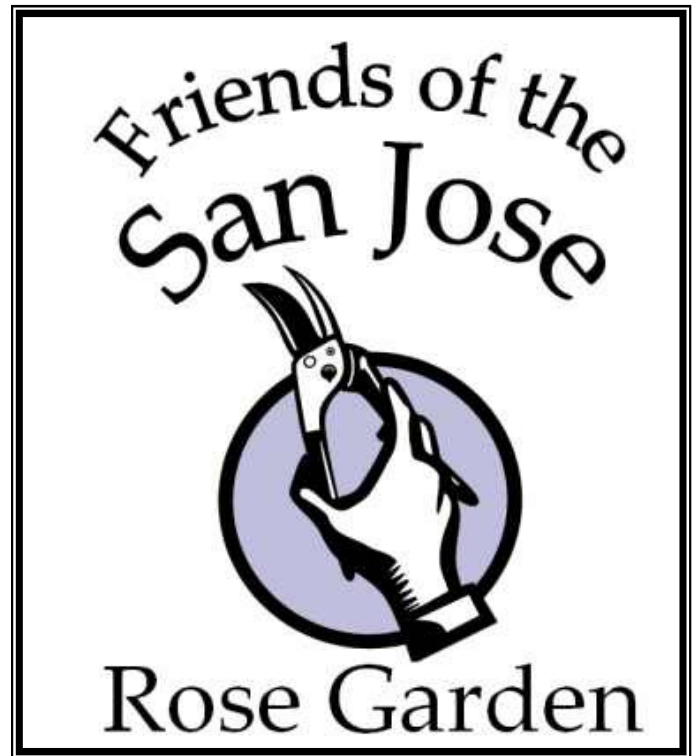
Issue 4

Sept. '08

Sept 6th Volunteer Day

The recent heat of the summer has been both a blessing and curse for the garden. It will help produce a good fall bloom cycle, but it has also accelerated the need for deadheading and weeding.

On **Saturday, Sept. 6th @ 9am** we will have another volunteer day devoted to deadheading and weeding. This will be the last massive volunteer event apart from a few special projects that will come up in the latter part of the year. If you haven't had a chance to come to the other events this year, it would be a great time to visit and see the results. We've heard some good things from the judges that have visited the garden this year. So please mark your calendars for Sept. 6th, and bring a friend.



Upcoming Projects – Donations Needed

The second phase of the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden is now being planned. The first was to utilize new rose care techniques such as lighter pruning, use of weed cloth, composting, building a volunteer base, and developing the Master Volunteer program. The second involves renovating rose beds and signage.

We would like to replace many old, tired rose beds with new roses. Master Volunteers and city staff have been tasked with indentifying rose beds which could be ripped out and replaced. This would involve reconditioning the soil and preparing them for bare root roses. It is quite possible that we would be planting upwards to 150+ new roses. I'm looking at ways to get new roses wholesale or by donation, but we'd like to raise some funds to help any and all of our efforts to improve the garden. If you would like to donate, you can do so on our web site at: <http://FriendsSJRoseGarden.org/donate.htm>

In addition, I'm working with Brandon Chapman, a Boy Scout in Troop 390 who is interested in doing his Eagle Scout project in the Rose Garden. You can read about his exciting project in another article in this newsletter. – *Terry Reilly*

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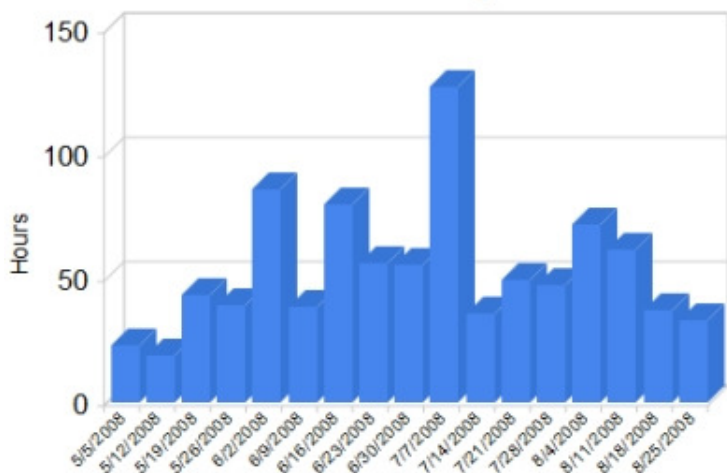
What is the essence of life? To serve others and to do good. - Aristotle

Master Volunteers Make it Happen

Along with the massive volunteer days, the next one to be held on September 6th, we have the Master Volunteer program. This program has become a huge success, and is integral to the revitalization of the Municipal Rose Garden.

Volunteer Days serve as “shots in the arm” for the common goal of preparing the garden for Mother’s Day, mid-summer and fall bloom cycle. Up to 200 people come out with excitement and the community spirit to work side by side for these common goals.

Master Volunteer Hours by Week



On the other hand, Master volunteers come to the garden and volunteer as they please, taking a more relaxed approach based on their own schedule. Some come in the mornings when it’s cool, others mid day when people are walking through the garden. They are trained to work alone, and find it quite relaxing. What is most amazing is since the program started this year, the combined number of hours Master Volunteers have put in the garden each week has totaled total over 50. That’s more that adding a full time person to the city staff, dedicated to the roses. These volunteers may be someone who comes out each Tuesday morning to put in 1.5 hours with their friends or a grandmother and granddaughter spending quality time together to a volunteer who puts in countless of hours each week. The dedication of these folks is astonishing.

After each 10 hours volunteering in the garden they receive a gold star to put on their vests. There are many reasons they volunteer in the garden. With their stylish green vests, the Master Volunteers are often approached by visitors of the garden. Recently, Master Volunteer Sydne Ross said “Appreciative

remarks and compliments are coming in regularly from visitors. They have strongly expressed positive reactions to the abundant bloom and improved conditions of the rose garden”.

We will be setting up some more Master Volunteer training sessions in the near future. If you would like to become a Master Volunteer, go to our web site and look for the Master Volunteer Link.

Movie Night in the Garden

Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio’s Movie Night in the Rose Garden, organized to honor the efforts of the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden, was a tremendous success. Nearly 200 volunteers, neighbors, and friends enjoyed a beautiful evening strolling the garden, picnicking with their families, and watching the BEE MOVIE. Kids had a great time climbing on the San Jose Fire Department’s Shark’s Fire truck and learned about fire safety. Crema Coffee Roasting Company treated everyone to some of their delicious house roasted coffee, and local Schurra’s Fine Confections had several treats for everyone to sample.



Prior to the movie, Councilmember Oliverio presented Terry Reilly and Beverly Rose Hopper with a commendation from the City for demonstrating the initiative in founding the Friends, and dedication of the group completing more than 2,000 volunteer hours working to restore the Rose Garden’s All-American Rose Selections accreditation. In addition, Master Volunteer Pat Pemberton was given a commendation for her 100 hours of volunteer service. “It was so great seeing the residents come out and enjoy the garden this evening” said councilmember Oliverio, “the park is a great asset to San Jose and the efforts of the volunteers are an example that can be replicated throughout the City”.

2009 All-American Rose Selections Winners

Since the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden is an official AARS Display Garden, we receive the AARS winners a year in advance, so when the AARS announce this year's winning roses, the public can view them in our garden prior to being on sale to the public. As you walk through the garden, you will see roses marked as prior AARS winners.

Each AARS winning rose completes an extensive two-year trial program in test gardens located throughout the country and representing all climate zones. New rose varieties in the AARS trials receive only as much care as would be given in the average home garden. This sophisticated evaluation process results in a new crop of AARS winning roses each year, guaranteeing that only the best make it into your garden. They are evaluated on vigor, fragrance, disease resistance, foliage, flower production, growth habit, bud and flower form, opening and finishing color, stem and overall value. In the San Jose Municipal garden, the winners are planted in winter, but only in the late summer are the bed identified with the names and winning labels.

2009 has three winners: Cinco de Mayo, a floribunda with clusters of a somewhat indescribable color, a smoky lavender with rusty red orange. It's a medium sized, round, bushy plant hybridized by Tom Carruth and introduced by Weeks Roses.



Carefree Spirit, a landscape shrub, has a mounding habit and produces huge clusters of deep red flowers with white accents. This rose flourished in test gardens for two years without any fungicide spraying to become this year's winner. This disease resistant rose was hybridized by Jacques Mouchotte, director of research at Meilland International and introduced by Conard-Pyle Co.



And last, Pink Promise, a long stemmed hybrid tea, with a cool pink center that blends out to a soft white. Set against its dark green foliage, this rose will provide a stunning display in any garden. The National Breast Cancer Foundation selected this rose to officially represent a continual blooming promise of compassion and awareness. For every Pink Promise plant purchased, a percentage of the sales will be donated to the National Breast Cancer Foundation to help extend women's lives through education and early detection. Pink Promise was hybridized by Jim Coiner and introduced by Coiner Nursery.



These roses are blooming in the garden and you can see them at our upcoming volunteer day on Sept. 6th. They are located on the northwestern portion of the garden, along Emory Street. You can see it on our map on the web page. In the winter, these roses will be available at the all better garden supply stores and nurseries such as Regan Nursery in Fremont.

Volunteer Day

Friends of the
San Jose



Rose Garden

Sat.

Sept. 6th,

9am

*Help Prepare the
Garden for the Fall
Bloom Cycle!*

Help us to restore the garden!

Master Volunteer Training will be available!

Bring gloves, clippers, hat and a picnic lunch to enjoy!!



Print and put on refrigerator!

New Garden Staff

There have been some changes with the Municipal Rose Garden Staff. Mike Azevedo has moved on to work on the trails of Guadalupe Gardens. Mike helped quite a bit in our Master Volunteer program, ensuring that the volunteers were following proper city procedures. I don't think the program would have been as successful without his dedication and passion. He had an intimate knowledge of where the roses were and we wish him the best in his new position.



Hugh Lykins with Lance Loveday

Replacing him is Hugh Lykins, who actually is returning to the garden. He worked in the garden about 10 years ago when there were three full time workers (there currently are 2). He comes to the garden after working at Guadalupe River Park for several years. Hugh was selected for this position in part because of his reputation of being a very energetic worker. Employed 17 years with the city, he wanted to return because he "really enjoyed working with the roses". Of the volunteers that practically come on a daily basis, he said "it is really nice to have them around. They do a really good job." We want to welcome Hugh to the Rose Garden and look forward to a close working partnership.

Contact Us:

<http://FriendsSJRoseGarden.org/contact.htm>

To Donate:

<http://FriendsSJRoseGarden.org/donate.htm>

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

Eagle Scout Project

For several months, I've been meeting Brandon Chapman, a Boy Scout in Troop 390, who is interested in doing his Eagle Project in the Rose Garden. He has decided to replace all of the markers in the rose beds with one that is more durable. In addition, they will all be up to date with the proper rose varieties since over the years, varieties have been planted and no markers had been available.

I have known Brandon for more than a decade, and he currently holds the rank of Life Scout. As one of the Assistant Scoutmasters in Troop 390, which meets down the street from the Rose Garden at St. Martin of Tours, I've seen Brandon become very active in the Troop. He has backpacked through Alaska, making it to the Arctic Circle, built kayaks to circumnavigate Lake Tahoe, sailed through the Florida Keys, backpacked through Yosemite, and canoed the Great Lakes to Lake Superior.



New marker next on left, will have the same as old one on the right

An Eagle Project takes a great deal of time and planning. Brandon has met with us and the city to begin this ambitious project. There is still plenty of work to be done for this to be fully realized. But there will be a time when we need some help in installing them in the beds, and some financial support to purchase the materials. We will keep you informed of this. When asked why he chose the Rose Garden for his project Brandon said "I wanted to give back something to the neighborhood I live in". – Terry Reilly

The Make Over

By Dorothy Wall

The approach of autumn always brings with it for me, an urge to do some 'make-over' in the garden. This is the perfect time to make notes as to what worked and what didn't and evaluate how well the roses and other plants coped with our changing weather and drier than usual summer.

Spring's exuberance of new growth dims our memory of last years dismal performers, so it's advisable to take some notes that can be referred to before even going near a nursery! Someone once said when giving a talk on roses, that if you have a rose that has not once during the year made you stop and gaze in awe at its loveliness, then it should probably be taken out to make room for one that is 'awesome.' I think that is good advice. (So many roses - so little time!)

This doesn't only apply to roses, of course, but to all the other annuals and perennials that help fill in and make our gardens a delight. Much as I love roses, I find that their often bare bottoms need covering with a skirt of lavender, a fluffy border of sweet alyssum, a mound of yellow coreopsis or some of the newer and interesting plants available.

My goal this Fall is to simplify with the slogan in mind that "less is more." This also means there will be more space between roses which gives the added bonus of better air circulation and therefore less chance of fungal disease. When I first started growing roses, I thought I just *had* to have all the new varieties, even though it often meant cramming them in wherever there was a spare foot or two. Of course I learned that many times the 'new ones' do not live up to expectations and other than being the first one on our street to have them, there was little glory in being disappointed when I could have waited to hear reports good or bad, about whether they would actually thrive in our area or merely struggle to exist. I am more contented now to sit back and let someone else try out the new kids on the block to see whether they live up to the hype in the catalogs.

Sometimes just moving a rose to a better location makes all the difference. While it is possible to do this in the Fall, ideally, wait until the rose is dormant. This way it will not go into shock and have to take time out recovering. Prepare the soil

in the new spot now, so that later on during rainy weather it is a simple task to just pop it into its new home. Gardens are never static- as in life, change is inevitable. And that's good. I can't imagine a more boring garden than one that remains the same year after year. Try something different - a theme garden in one corner or an area with shades of just one color.

A garden make- over is probably most often done to try to save work on maintenance. The growers have hopped on to this demand by consumers, and so now we have a deluge of 'landscape' roses on the market. Granted, they do require less care, but it's hard to become ecstatic over a row of groundcover roses.

One of the reasons that gardening has been proven to be such a healthy hobby is the fact that we gardeners are always looking forward ... confident that next year's roses will be bigger, better and more well behaved., sure that the weather will be more temperate and the bugs and weeds less invasive. The excitement of trying something new fuels our energy and gets us going in the mornings, giving us enthusiasm and pushing our happy buttons!

Dorothy Wall is the Mother of Friends co-founder Beverly Rose Hopper and Editor of the Mother Lode Rose Society Newsletter from which this was reprinted.

AARS UPDATE

We've heard that the All-American Rose Selections, the governing board of public rose gardens, has been very pleased with the progress in the San José Municipal Rose Garden.

In fact, for the past several months, we've been working with the AARS on developing a case study that can use for other gardens that has been placed on probation. This case study outlines the challenges faces by the city, the formation of the Friends of the San José Rose Garden, the two tiered volunteer program we've implemented along with many tips that other cities can use to get community support to improve the conditions of its' Rose Gardens. We are pleased that the AARS has recognized our successful program and would like to see it replicated in other cities.