

Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden

“A Historic Landmark”

Issue 3

June '08

July 12th Deadheading Day

The July 12 deadheading day may be the most important of the year. The Rose Garden is at a critical stage in the judging process and Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden are needed to come out in force to insure the garden is in good shape for evaluations. At the pre-Mother’s Day deadheading event, many of the beds were just coming into first bloom so there weren’t a lot of spent ones to remove. However, by now all of the roses have bloomed at least once, and every bed will have spent blooms to cut. The roses are in the middle of their growing season, and deadheading is crucial to encourage and maintain each bloom cycle, which is typically 6 – 8 weeks.

Though the garden is looking better than it has in years, thanks to the renewed focus of city staff and tremendous efforts of volunteers, keep in mind AARS Judges have a much more critical eye than the casual park visitor. Since the garden is still on probation, we may look at judge evaluations as sort of a “parole hearing”. We have no doubt they will see improvements compared to years past. *But will it be enough to get our AARS Accreditation back?*

In previous years, the latest an AARS judge visited the garden was late August. A big turnout on **July 12** is especially important as the next “mass volunteer event” is scheduled for early September. July 12 may be our last organized volunteer day to spruce up the garden for the judging season. Our Master Volunteers will play a vital role filling in the gaps between the volunteer days.

Come July 12th 9am, and bring along a friend!



Master Volunteer Training (Phase Two)

The first phase of the Master Volunteer Program has been a success with 60+ people participating. They have put in over 300 hours in the first six weeks. That’s more 50 hours a week, it’s like adding another full-time staff person, just working on the rose beds! **Mary Lou Azevedo** and **Pat Pemberton** both have logged over 30 hours, and **Richard Borrison** has logged over 20. It is making quite a difference. The city is thrilled with the dedication of all the Master Volunteers. They agreed to expand the program.

As a Master Gardener, you play an integral role in the care of this garden. After an initial one hour training, you are certified to come in the garden on your own time. Evenings, weekends, anytime! You are identified by a stylish green vest which is yours to keep. Our Master Volunteers often mention they have visitors coming up to them saying how great the garden is looking. Be a part of the ongoing effort! We’ve schedule two dates and times to choose from:

Tuesday, June 17th, 10a.m. or 11a.m.
Thursday, June 19th, 10a.m. or 11a.m.

Go to friendsjrosegarden.org/Master_sign_up.htm to register or just show up!!!

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Summer Rose Tips IN YOUR GARDEN

by Beverly Rose Hopper, Master Rosarian

“Anyone can grow beautiful roses in the spring, but it takes a true gardener to grow beautiful roses in the summer”

Spring rains and moderate temperatures provide ideal conditions for our roses to thrive and bloom. Even in sites where rosebushes are neglected or forgotten, like old cemeteries or alongside a country road, after winter rains the roses burst forth in celebration of spring. Gardens that are carefully and lovingly tended to reap additional benefits, but let us not forget. Alongside our own hard work Mother Nature is working her magic.

Summertime is not so easy. As temperatures climb and rainfall ceases, roses need our help if we want them to rebloom. Cutting off spent blooms, or deadheading is necessary to encourage fresh cycles of bloom. Even more important, is making sure your roses have plenty of water to get through hot summer days. Water, and plenty of it, is the key to good rose growing. Water creates big beautiful blooms, long stems, and lush foliage. It has been my observation that many gardeners simply do not water enough, which is why their roses look good in the spring (courtesy of spring rains) and become blah in the summer.

How much water do roses need? A general guideline is roses need at least 7 gallons of water a week. In Santa Clara County, that translates to watering roses spring and fall about twice a week, and during the summer about three times a week. This applies to roses planted in the ground; roses in containers may need to be watered daily. In my opinion, *you cannot over water a rose if you have good drainage*. For many years I was one of the top rose show exhibitors, one of the “secrets” of my success when preparing for a competition or to prep my garden for a tour was to water every day two weeks before the event. Remember, water, water, water, is the key to growing award-winning roses.

Water is also an excellent tool in the garden for controlling pests. Hosing off rosebushes once a week washes off dust, smog and insects. Clean

and healthy foliage is important for photosynthesis, the process of building strong plants and good roses. Happy leaves make happy roses! Hosing off plants can also be helpful to wash off powdery mildew spores; the best time to do this in the morning or early afternoon. Water can also control outbreaks of spider mites, which may occur during the summer. Spider mites suck the juices out of leaves, causing the foliage to appear dry and looking burnt. To check for spider mites, observe the undersides of leaves for webbing; mites appear as tiny flecks resembling salt and pepper. To get rid of mites, get out the hose, or even better a water wand, and wash the undersides of the foliage. If you have an infestation, this should be done at least three days in a row to break the life cycle of the mites. On a preventative basis, once a week works wonders. Interestingly enough, spider mites are more of a problem in gardens where insecticides are used on a regular basis; so don't resort to chemicals as treatment. Insecticides kill not only bad bugs but also beneficial insects including natural predators of mites. In addition, be aware that most insecticides don't kill spider mites anyway; you need a miticide for that! So rather than break out the chemical warfare, better to simply get out the hose.

Just as we start to wilt when temperatures rise, so do roses. Bloom size decreases in summer heat. If stressed by lack of water, fertilizer or high temps, rosebushes can lapse into “summer dormancy” which means the plant is shutting down to conserve energy as a means of self-preservation. Most varieties can easily handle temperatures in the 80's or 90's, but if the mercury hits 100 will look like they've been hit with a blowtorch. Fortunately this typically only happens in Santa Clara County once or twice a season. It's best to try to keep your cool and cut off the melted blooms once its over. In parts of the country that suffer an entire summer of intense heat some rose fanciers install temporary bloom covers over their roses to provide protection from the burning rays of the sun. And don't forget your own sun protection – sunscreen and a hat.

Gardening requires lots of water - most of it in the form of perspiration. ~ Lou Erickson

Pre-Mother's Day Deadheading and Weeding Day recap.

Great weather greeted the countless volunteers who showed up May 3rd to prepare the garden for the onslaught of visitors on Mother's Day weekend. Though some beds had not yet bloomed, those that did provided enough work for the volunteers. Gardener Lance Loveday and groundsworker Mike Azevedo were on hand along with many other city staff to assist the volunteers.

In addition, our newly formed crews of "Master Volunteers" with their spiffy green vests were available to help the new volunteers in the methods to deadhead in a public garden. Finally, we had the "sucker patrol" go around and get rid of the clearly identifiable root stock (suckers) that were overtaking many of the roses.



District 6 Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio, who encouraged the formation of the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden, pitched in and once again pulled his weight in weeds. To begin the morning, coffee fueled the volunteers, donated by Starbucks at Park and Naglee along with Bagels donated by Noah's in Willow Glen. Our local Rose Garden Central YMCA provided popsicles and ice cream for volunteers to enjoy, and Zanotto's provided water. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped. We've posted a video and photos of the event or all to enjoy, just go to the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden site http://friendssjrosegarden.org/photo_gallery.htm.



4th of July Rose Parade

Everyone loves a parade so after many, many decades, the Fiesta de Las Rosas is returning to the Rose Garden area. It started in 1896 on The Alameda and called The Carnival of Roses. In 1901, it hosted President William McKinley. During the '20's the parade continued as the Fiesta de Las Rosas Parade and historians recall it being quite a spectacle. *It's time to bring it all back to the Rose Garden neighborhood!*

Enjoy the excitement like many generations before us have as floats, Boy and Girls Scouts, kids, , wagons, pets and local dignitaries parade by.

Materials will be available for kids to be in the parade to decorate their bike, wagon, or pet! A good old fashioned street festival will be held at the conclusion of the parade. The event is sponsored by the Alameda Business Association. Volunteers and sponsors are needed for this event. **For lots more information including the parade route, visit <http://www.the-alameda.com/parade.html>**

AARS and Probation Update

The All American Rose Selections Public Garden Committee recently notified the City of San Jose that they have decided to keep the garden on probation for the fourth year in a row. We look at this as good news, as they ultimately did not drop the garden from the program. In their letter, they state they recognize the new staffing changes that occurred and the great amount of community involvement to restore the garden. The AARS decided to keep the garden in the program because of these efforts. They are expecting a letter describing the efforts being made to improve the conditions in the garden for review at it's August meeting.

Let me explain how the gardens are evaluated. During the growing season, two anonymous evaluators three times each, for a total of six visits. They evaluate whether the recent AARS roses are labeled and easily identified, overall condition of all roses, if they are free of disease and insects, if the beds are free of weeds, if dead canes and old blooms have been removed, and if the roses are growing and blooming are typical for the area. The evaluations are gathered up and the December meeting, decisions are made if a garden continues its accreditation, is put on probation or is dropped. In springtime, the letters are sent out to all the gardens. There are currently a little more than 130 accredited public rose gardens in the U.S. To see the copies of the letters the AARS sent to San Jose in 2005, 2007 & 2008, visit <http://friendssjrosegarden.org/Founding.htm>

Last year, most of the evaluations happened during the peak of summer, before August. That's why our **July 12th volunteer day** is so important. In addition, the expansion of the Master Volunteer program will play a vital role. As Mike Azevedo, the gardens groundsworker recently said to a visitor admiring the roses, "every bloom you see out there will be dead in a month and will need to be deadheaded." It's a lot of work. It's crunch time and we and our partners in the city need to make sure the judges see a garden worthy of AARS accreditation.

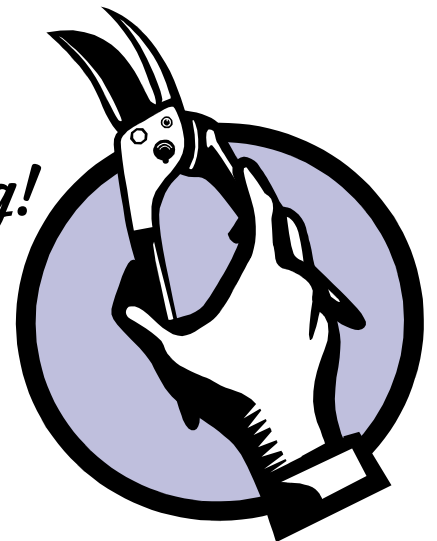
Volunteer Day

Saturday July 12th, 9am

Prepare the Garden for the Judging!



**Help us get our
AARS Accreditation back!**



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

Cut out and put on refrigerator!

Public/Private Partnership

The success of the public/private partnership between the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden and the City of San Jose is due to the recognition that there is a combination of strengths that create the right mix. There are differences, but similarities as well – our volunteers have a wide range of abilities and backgrounds, but share a common goal. City staff, which a little over a year ago did not have a cohesive plan for the Rose Garden, have come together with renewed spirit. By embracing a partnership of public and private, ying and yang, we've been able to work together, and leveraging the strengths of this partnership to help restore our historic landmark.



Groundsworker Mike Azevedo certifying a group of Master Volunteers

It is important as we work together to be a team, but it is also important to respect the differences. The Rose Garden is a public garden, and we have to keep that in mind. Yes, a public garden belongs to the public, and certainly when volunteers dedicate time, energy and passion in a public park we take ownership in it even more. That is part of the principle behind programs such as Adopt-a-Park and even the more specific Adopt-A-Bed, which we recently instituted in the Rose Garden. We want volunteers to take ownership; the garden needs volunteers to take ownership. However, we still need to recognize it is not a private garden. The Rose Garden belongs to all that visit it, all that cherish it, in the past, present or future.

Public gardens have certain challenges that are different from our private gardens. In our private gardens, we can choose to grow whatever we want no matter how obscure or how much pampering it will require. In a public garden, consideration must be given to what varieties are hardy, prolific, and disease resistant. Roses that are fussy simply won't last in a public garden, and roses that fail to bloom much or are full of disease will soon be shovel pruned. In a

private garden, the rose grower can make the personal decision to spray or not spray. A public garden is under intense scrutiny from the community (and rightfully so) to not use hazardous chemicals. This is a radical change from the past. At one of our volunteer days, a retiree from the Parks Dept told me they used to spray chemicals three times a week at the Rose Garden. Those days are over, and one of the achievements that Friends of the Rose Garden can be proud of is getting the City of San Jose to agree to stop spraying Round-Up. In the effort to kill weeds, Roundup was also killing the roses. You can see a video of Roundup damage at the video link of our webpage. This severe damage has been eliminated in the garden.

The San Jose Municipal Rose Garden is an All-America-Rose-Selection Display Garden. Let me repeat that, a display garden. That means its purpose is to display a lot of pretty roses to inspire the public to select roses to plant in their own gardens at home. Because it is a display garden, the goal is to have masses of blooms making a spectacular display. This is the precisely the reason instructions were given in January at our Pruning Day to prune high at achieve maximum blooms.



Enthusiastic volunteers were able to prune the garden in record time – two hours. This was radically different from pruning a private garden, where one might carefully examine the bush to decide where to make the best cuts, to shape the bush into ideal vase shape, employ spacers and seal all cuts. There were a few skeptics, but I believe they became convinced in our methods when viewing the sea of bloom this spring.

Two full time staff to care for 3,500 roses is an impossible task. The city's budget reductions over the years are primarily why the garden slipped into disrepair. With your help the garden is now rebounding. Together, we are making a difference.

Upcoming Events

- Tues. June 17th** **Master Volunteer Certification**
10:00 am & 11:00 am
Certification training for volunteers allowing them to come in on their own time. Register on the web site or drop in.
- Thurs. June 19th** **Master Volunteer Certification**
10:00 am & 11:00 am
Certification training for volunteers to allowing them to come in on their own time. Register on the web site or drop in.
- Sat. July 12th** **Volunteer Day**
Massive Volunteer Event
9:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Sat. Sep. 6th** **Volunteer Day**
Massive Volunteer Event
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden

www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org

1375 Emory Street
San Jose, CA 95126

Don't forget

Volunteer Day
July 12th!

