

Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden

"A Historic Landmark"

Issue 6

March '09

Renovation Project Update

In the September '08 Newsletter, I spoke about the renovation project being planned for the winter, and mentioned that we may be planting upwards to 150+ new roses in the garden. Well, the project has taken off and as you know the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden never do things small, and as I write this, we have planted 653 new roses in the garden!

The project entailed replacing old tired beds with new varieties, planting new roses where some have died, and filling out beds that should have been planted with more of the same variety.

The roses have been planted by the Master Volunteers over the past two months, and a majority were secured through generous donations from **Weeks Roses** and **Star Roses**. Additionally, Coiner Roses donated a bunch and Regan's Nursery in Fremont supplied us with a dozen plants. Others were purchased through mail order with donations from our volunteers. As of press time, we are still waiting on about 100 more plants - some we will purchase, others that will be donated. You can read about the exciting new varieties in this issue.

Though this project is still ongoing, it couldn't have been possible without the assistance of Lance Loveday, the city of San Jose Gardener who organized his crew to make sure the rose beds were prepared for planting, and that we always had all the soil we needed. He and his crew dug the majority of the holes with an auger, which made the planting by volunteers much easier.

You can see pictures and track the progress at: FriendsSJRoseGarden.org/renovation_project.html
- Terry Reilly



Upcoming Volunteer Days

Saturday, March 28th, 8:30AM - Rose Bed Preparation (Weedcloth, mulching)

Tuesday, April 7th - Rose Garden's 78th Birthday - Workday - Detail to come

Saturday, May 2nd, 9:00AM - Volunteer Day and Special Event!

March 28th - Last year, the Rose Garden hosted the local Kiwanis Club for their National Volunteer Day - also called Kiwanis One Day. They had so much fun, and found it so rewarding, they decided to return again this year! But why limit this day just to the Kiwanis? So on March 28th, anyone is invited to help put down weed cloth and spread mulch, which proved to really help the rose beds last year.

April 7th - The Rose Garden's 78th Birthday! We will schedule a work party, details to come via e-mail! *Yes, there will be cake!*

May 2nd - Volunteer Day and Special Event. This volunteer day, one week prior to Mother's Day, is the season opener. There will be some deadheading to do, and general clean-up to make the garden look nice and spiffy for all the traditional Mother's Day visitors next weekend. This will be your chance to see all the new varieties and improvements made in the garden. A special event is being planned, but details will be revealed later..... A MUST ATTEND!

We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses. - Abraham Lincoln

Mulching in the Rose Garden

Mulch is a critical component to any garden. By definition, mulch is a covering, such as straw, compost, or bark, spread on the ground around plants to prevent excessive evaporation or erosion, enrich the soil, inhibit weed growth, etc. Having 2-3 inches of mulch is extremely valuable in the Municipal Rose Garden for a number of reasons.

It prevents moisture evaporation, which this year is extremely important. It adds organics into the soil, and improves soil texture. Mulch reduces weeds and if weeds do grow, they are easily pulled up.

Last year, Beverly and I convinced the City to mulch a several areas of the garden on a trail basis to gauge the effectiveness. They agree this practice is good for the garden and will continue the program this year. The mulch used in the garden comes from the garden recycle program residents put out on the curb. It is provided FREE to the city of San Jose, another great benefit! So after seeing the great results obtained in the Rose Garden, isn't it time to mulch YOUR garden? - *Terry Reilly*



Quick Guide to Fertilizing Roses

By Beverly Rose Hopper - Master Rosarian

When it comes to fertilizing roses, my mantra is "Do What Fits Your Time and Budget." There's a program to fit everyone and every garden. It also depends on how passionate (aka crazy) about roses you are!

FERTILIZER PROGRAM FOR THOSE WHO "LIKE" ROSES

NOW OR AS SOON AS YOU GET TO IT:

- Apply time-release fertilizer such as **Osmocote** to each rose. Throw a handful or two around base of each rose and till into soil. Super lazy method - blast it into soil with water from garden hose.

FERTILIZER PROGRAM FOR THOSE WHO "LOVE" ROSES

EARLY-MID MARCH:

- **Osmocote** as base.
- Apply **fish emulsion**. Very stinky stuff but roses love it. Give each bush about one gallon of diluted emulsion (1 tbsp per gallon of water) if you have a lot of roses mix it up in a plastic garbage can.

LATE MARCH OR WHEN ROSES LEAFED OUT:

- Apply a granular fertilizer such as **Bandini** or similar **Rose Food**. Re-apply at the end of every bloom cycle until September.

EVERY ONCE AND AWHILE IF YOU FEEL SO INCLINED:

- Feed the roses with **Miracle Gro**. Standing among the roses gently spraying them with Miracle Gro is a pleasant way to spend time on a sunny afternoon.

FERTILIZER PROGRAM FOR THOSE "OBSESSED" WITH ROSES

(You know who you are!)

START OFF WITH:

- **Osmocote** as base, work carefully into soil.

MID MARCH

- **Sequestrene**, excellent iron supplement for green leaves. Give each bush a couple of tablespoons per plant and water it in.
- **Alfalfa pellets** several cups per bush. Alfalfa contains triacontanol, a growth stimulant.
- **Mills Magic Mix** contains lots of goodies and organics. Some prefer **Mills Easy Feed**, a liquid version, but I like the original.
- Top it off with **steer manure, chicken manure or horse manure**.

PLUS EVERY 2 – 4 WEEKS:

Miracle-Gro, but don't overdo it or your foliage will look like elephant ears.

EVERY MONTH FROM MID-MARCH TO MID-SEPTEMBER:

Dry granular **Rose Food**, a generic or brand favorite like Bandini or Vigoro.

EVERY MONTH OR AS OFTEN AS YOU, YOUR FAMILY OR NEIGHBORS CAN STAND IT:

Fish emulsion.

THEN EVERY SO OFTEN JUST FOR FUN:

Mix up a batch of **Alfalfa Tea**. If you thought fish emulsion was stinky, this is even more odoriferous but oh, so good! Fill garbage can with water, add alfalfa pellets. Optional: add dry Miracle-Gro, Sequestrene, and Epsom Salts. Stir and secure lid. (*A lid is very important or your neighbor is sure to call the cops.*) Let sit for 3 days, occasionally stirring. Give each rose about 1 gallon or so of "tea."

STILL WANT MORE?

The truly committed may want to try **Plant Success Mycorrhizae, Monty's Joy Juice, Liquid Karma, Superthrive**, Seaweed & Kelp mixtures, Bat Guano and believe it or not, **Kricket Krap!**

Master Volunteer Training for '09

The Master Volunteer program has proven to be a resounding success. Being a Master Volunteer gives you the opportunity to help in the rose garden on your own time, and at your own leisure.

Our Master Volunteers often speak about garden visitors approaching them and talking with them about how wonderful the garden looks, often asking rose related or garden questions. They are the ambassadors of the rose garden. I'm sure you've seen them at the massive volunteer days in leadership roles.



We will be scheduling a couple of Master Volunteer Trainings in mid to late April. If you had made known your interest when you signed your volunteer form, you will be receiving an e-mail announcing the dates. If you don't recall checking the interest box, you can sign up on the web: http://www.friendssjrosegarden.org/Master_sign_up.htm and we will make sure you know when we schedule the trainings.

Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio Honors FSJRG

Every year at the Mayor's State of the City breakfast, San Jose's 10 councilmembers choose a person or group to honor for their commitment to the city.

This year, councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio chose the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden for this honor. 10 members of the FSJRG accepted the award in front of 3,000 at the McEnry Convention Center. "The Friends have really set the standard for volunteering here in San Jose" said Oliverio. "When the garden needed some help from the community, Terry and Beverly stepped up and made it happen"

This award made the front page of the Willow Glen Times http://www.friendssjrosegarden.org/willow_glen_times.htm We are pleased to have received this award and recognize the contribution of all volunteers to this success.

Really Love Roses?

If you want to learn more about roses, or just hang out with people who love roses, you may want to consider joining the local Rose Society. The Santa Clara County Rose Society has been around since 1927 and they meet every 2nd Friday from 7:30-9PM at the O'Connor Hospital Auditorium.

Each meeting they present an exciting speaker. They also have an big Rose Show, this year being held on Sunday, April 26th from 1-4PM at the Almaden Community Center on Camden Avenue, just off Almaden Expressway. If you never seen a rose show, it is a sight to behold. To learn more about this group, go to www.sccrose.org

Rose Garden Patron

Special thanks to Terry and Carol Austen for their \$1,000 donation. They have become "Rose Garden Patrons". This will certainly help to maintain the momentum we have through 2009. If you would like to donate, go to our website! We are a 501c3 non-profit, donations are tax deductible.

New Roses in the Garden

As part of the renovation project, we received many new varieties from Weeks Roses and Star Roses and a few from David Austin Roses. Below is what you will find this year. Check the map online to see the locations.

Weeks Roses:

Legends – MOSTROUS buds and HUMUGOUS blossoms of rich ruby red. Oprah Winfrey was involved in the multi-year evaluation and final selection of this rose chosen to pay tribute to the wonderful women honored during Oprah's Legends weekend.



Shockwave – There is no rose that is “yellowier”... and no foliage that's any greener. This floribunda has a pure neon yellow bloom that holds its color till the very end.



Over the Moon – Reminiscent of a monstrous silk rose on a lady's hat, big voluptuous deep apricot buds open to a slightly-softened caramel-sugar tone against the lush green leaves. This hybrid tea's blooms are large, often more than 5 inches in diameter. ***A “pre-release” provided to the San Jose Muni, available to the public in 2010 – No picture – come to the garden to see!.***

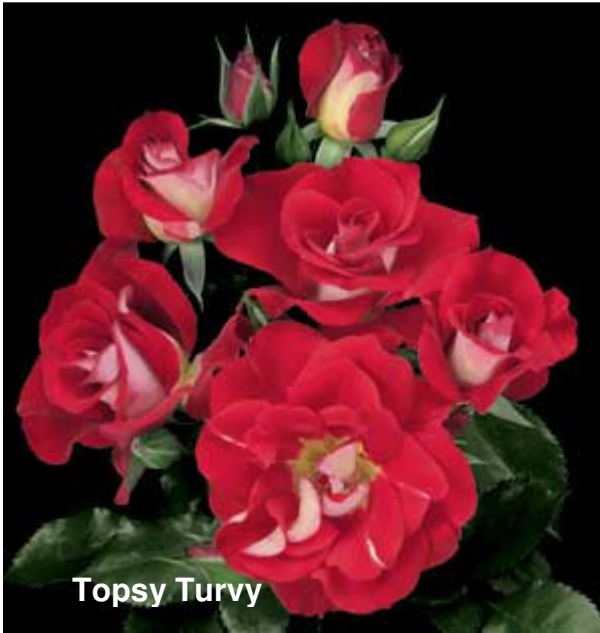
Watercolors – Much like an artist palette, this single with a 5 – 8 petal count will change colors completely each day! This array of yellow, pink, cerise & ruby tones carried atop deep green leaves on a very bushy plant.



Gourmet Popcorn – though not a new variety, this is one showy rose. Just like the name implies, the profusion of small fat buds and fragrant crisp white blooms that “pop” open in cascading clusters in this vigorous plant.



Topsy Turvy – Brilliant scarlet with a white reverse. Gorgeous long white buds will set your head spinnin' when they swirl open to reveal a surprising searing scarlet interior. The clusters whirl & twirl with colors of glowing orange, red & cream as the petals fashion themselves into an unusual pinwheel form.



Topsy Turvy

Wing-Ding – Semi-double searing scarlet blooms in huge pyramid-shaped clusters give this rose a striking look. One of the few polyanthas (as opposed to floribudas or hybrid teas) in the garden.



Wing-Ding

Jacob's Robe (Climber)– a verbal pun on the beloved *Joseph's Coat*, one of the most populate of all Climbers. This has the similar colors of blushing yellows, pinks & reds on a more vigorous and disease resistant plant.



Jacobs Robe

Soaring Spirits (Climber) – Named to honor the victims of the 9-11 & contribute to towards the "Remember Me" garden fund, *Soaring Spirits* sends out huge clusters of showy swirls and stripes with ever-changing pastel pink, yellow and cream hues. You will find 10 of these on the perimeter.



Soaring Spirits

Candy Land (Climber) – These huge hybrid tea shaped blooms of pink with spun with creamy ivory yellow are carried in huge clusters. The glossy apple-green foliage provides a winning combination. You will find these on the perimeter.



Candy Land





Star Roses:

California Dreamin' – a very fragrant bi-color, named for our great state of mind, this hybrid tea is creamy white with a nice pink edge. Similar to the famous 'Princess de Monaco' but with better vigor, disease and fragrance.



California Dreamin'

Paradise Found – A deep pink Hybrid Tea with lavender overtones practically has everything – color, shape, vigor, fragrance and repeat bloom. Known to have the classic exhibition form, it performs best in gardens like San Jose



Paradise Found

Julio Iglesias – A striking red and white striped Floribunda - bold, spicy and suave like its namesake. The exceptional color and fragrance will make a nice statement in the garden.



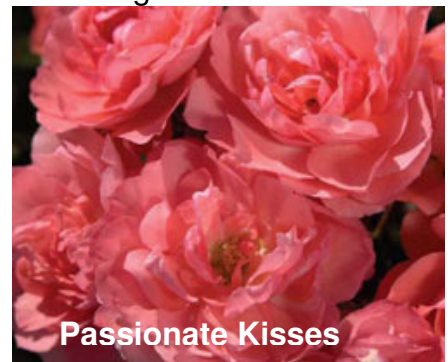
Julio Iglesias

Secret's Out! – A sport (mutation) of the popular Secret (one of the best beds in the rose garden), this white Hybrid Tea is slightly compact, has incredible form and fragrance. **A pre-release provided to the San Jose Muni Rose Garden, it will be available to the general public at nurseries in 2010.**



Secrets Out!

Passionate Kisses – Fresh salmon colored blooms go non-stop on this floribunda. Currently in pots but will be moved to the north side of the garden once the long bed is dig out and prepared. It will be a perfect spot for this non-stop blooming machine.



Passionate Kisses

Bolero – A compact white “Romantica” has an extraordinary fragrance of a traditional rose mixed with tropical fruit!



Colette (Climber) – Heavenly pink, damask-scented blooms blanket this climber. The blooms are of the old fashioned variety, flat and quartered, also known as a “romantica” variety. You’ll find 10 of these on the fence line.



Lunar Mist (Climber) – This climber is a mutation of Colette, it has a delicate soft cream color with a slightly smaller climbing habit..



Crimson Sky (Climber) – A fire engine red climber with flowers that do not fade. It has old fashioned blooms, dark green foliage with a green apple fragrance.

Garden Sun (Climber) – A nice yellow, climber with semi-double to double, cupped bloom form.

Brite Eyes (Climber) – The amazing climber is one of my favorites and I can’t wait to see it bloom. A salmon color “single” with 7-10 petals, very similar to the red Altissimo and white Sally Holmes singles you will see on the fence line, though a little smaller.



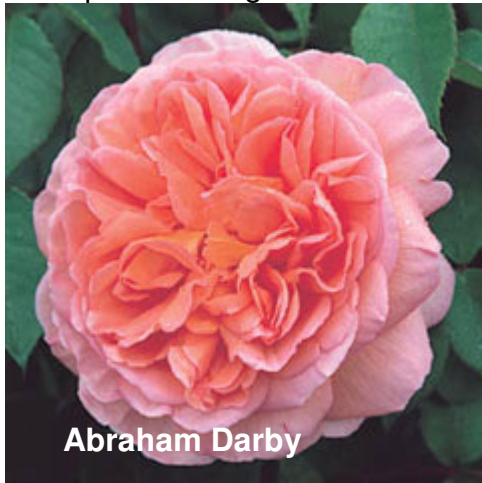
David Austin English Roses

This is the first time English rose have been planted in the garden, as we felt it was important for visitor to become acquainted with this style. Come take a looks at these spectacular specimens donated by Dave Austin Roses

Teasing Georgia – A yellow rose of delicate beauty, the flowers are of a particularly pleasing cupped formation. The center petals are in the form of a rich deep yellow cup, while the outer petals fall back and fade to palest yellow providing a most pleasing two toned effect.

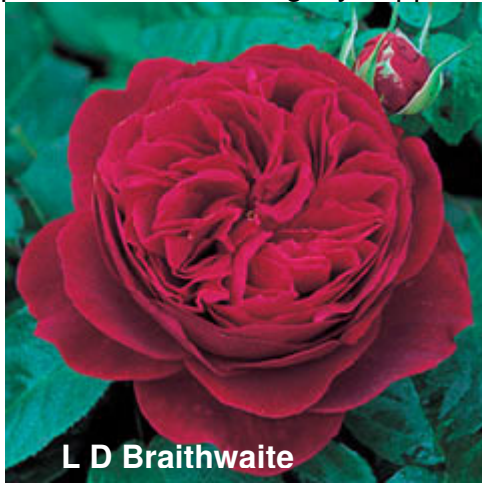


Abraham Darby – This shrub produces large, deeply cupped blooms in shades of pink, apricot and yellow. This repeats throughout the season.



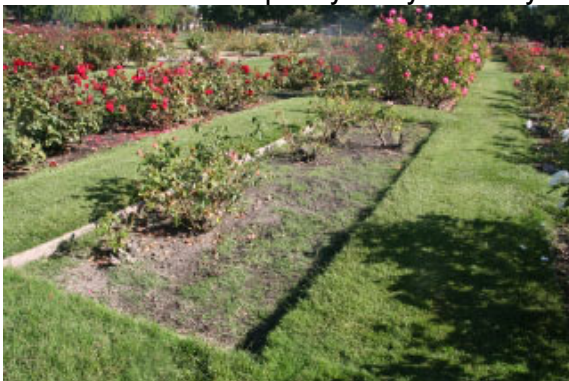
Abraham Darby

L D Braithwaite – A bright crimson rose which will stand out when viewed across the garden. These blooms open wide and are slightly cupped.



L D Braithwaite

So as you can see, it will be an exciting new season in the Rose Garden this year, with many new varieties replacing some of the tired old beds as seen below. Many thanks to all the Master Volunteers who helped plant the roses, and **City Gardener Lance Loveday** and his crew for prepping the beds, augering the holes and making sure we always had the soil we needed. 650+ roses planted – we've all been pretty busy. – Terry Reilly



Our Volunteers

VOLUNTEER (vəl ən tir')

1. A person who offers oneself for a service without obligation to do so.
2. To give, bestow, or perform without being asked
3. A necessary component to the success of any service organization
4. A person without whose dedication the **FRIENDS OF THE SAN JOSE ROSE GARDEN** could not exist.

First Bloom!

There's the pitch, swing, a hit – it's a **HOME RUN!** That's right; the first rose to bloom in the garden is from **HOME RUN**, a shrub hybridized by Tom Carruth of Week's Roses. This flame-red single is quite disease resistant and blooms constantly.



Contact Us:

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

To Donate:

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

Blog:

<http://FriendsSJRoseGarden.blogspot.com/>

**Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden
Founders:**

Terry Reilly & Beverly Rose Hopper



What would you like to see in the next newsletter?
An article on a certain topic? Send me an e-mail.
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