

# Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden

*"America's Best Rose Garden"*

Issue 14

December 2010

## Winter Pruning - Sat., January 8th - 9:00 a.m.



It's that time again, to prune the roses! So sharpen your clippers, put on your gauntlet gloves and join us for our biggest event of the year.

Once again, Star Roses is a generous sponsor of this event. Every volunteer will be given a bare root rose (limited to the first couple hundred). We will also have a few pairs of West County Gardener Gloves to give out, as well as a few items from our local nurseries.

But these free roses and door prizes are not the reason why you come out to the rose pruning event. Your participation in the past has made the garden spectacular – full of roses throughout the season. Many volunteers return during the season and visit the same beds they pruned to see how they are doing. It is a great sense of accomplishment.

As before, we will use the pruning technique that produces an abundance of blooms, and has earned us the title of "America's Best Rose Garden".

To get a jump on how we pruned our roses, watch this video:

<http://tinyurl.com/pruningroses>

So mark your calendar for Sat., January 8<sup>th</sup>, and bring a friend. (rain back-up date Sat., January 15<sup>th</sup>)



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



## 2009 Test Roses

Two years ago, the San José Municipal Rose Garden received the great distinction of becoming one of 15 All-America Rose Selections (AARS) test garden. Rose varieties in competition to win the coveted AARS Award would be grown for two years in our garden and thoroughly evaluated.

38 Varieties were planted in early 2009. 50 evaluations later, the 2009 trial period has come to an end, and the All-America Rose Selections will use our evaluations, along with those across the nation, to select the 2013 award winner. The results will be kept secret until May 2012.

So what happens now to all those test roses? The agreement with the AARS is to

DESTROY the roses after the test period. They are the intellectual property of the respective rose companies who hybridized them. The contract with each company prohibits us from taking cuttings, or further propagating the roses. It typically has taken 12 years of research for these roses to make it to the test garden.

Though only one or two of the 38 will be selected the AARS winner the companies will eventually introduce many of the varieties. So if you found a favorite, say 09R202, chances are it will be introduced in the future.

For example, in years past, 06R203 was ultimately introduced as "Secret's Out" in

2010 and 07R402 has been introduced as "Adobe Sunrise".

What about the 2009 varieties, which ones will be introduced? Here are a few that we know WILL be introduced - 09R302, 09R404, 09R405, 09R406, 09R407, 09R408, 09R505. The names are yet to be determined, with the exception of 09R405 - the one we code-named "the condiment rose" because it has the color of Ketchup and Mustard. Well, guess what they will call it - that's right, "Ketchup and Mustard" (Or Mustard and Ketchup - I forgot the order)

So as we tear up and destroy the '09 test roses to make room for the '11 roses, let it be known this will not be the last time you see these rose varieties.



# Jean - Master Volunteer

David Austin has not been the only English rose in the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden. Master Volunteer Jean Mirfield has been volunteering at the garden doing deadheading, raking, weeding - oh yes lots of weeding.

Jean hails from Oxford England. When I asked Jean about her gardening she said that she really never worked with roses or in a public garden until her relationship started with Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden this past August. When asked what type of garden she has at home she commented "what else an English garden", lots of shrubs, annuals, and perennials to give her many hours to enjoy her passion for working in a garden. She has started a renovation of her home garden and is looking forward to finishing it when she returns home later this year.

Jean has been a joy to have come to our garden. She has no car but still she find the time and way to be at the garden two or three time a week unless she is taking in the sights of the Bay Area and beyond with her husband and friends. During Jean's time here in San Jose she has had friends come to visit

from "over the pond" with the garden on the list of the places to see. After Jean gave her personal tour she said the comments about the garden were very positive with a WOW! or two.

Jean learned of the garden in 2006 but it was not until this trip to the U.S. where she was visiting the Public Library on Naglee one day and walked across the street to find volunteers working away in the Rose

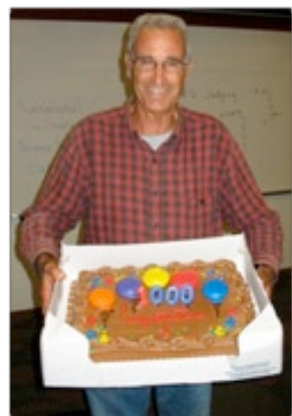
Garden with green vests on. She said to herself, "I want to volunteer here... I want to do this". Learning what she has about roses at the garden may lead her to plant some roses of her own, and while tending to them, remember gift of time she has given to San Jose in the garden now America's Best Rose Garden.

The Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden will be sad to see Jean leave for her home town where she is a member of the Royal Horticultural Society but would like to thank Jean for her volunteerism and dedication to the garden. Jean you made a difference THANKS! -Myles Tobin



## 1000 Hour Volunteer

You've probably seen him in the garden, working away quietly. The rose garden is a real passion for Harry Garcia who has put in more that 1,000 hours. Harry performs a wide variety of tasks, but it seems his specialty is weeding. You often find him hunkered down amongst the roses, winning the battle of the Bermuda grass. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated volunteer! Cheers to Harry!



# Some Plain Talk About Planting Bare-Root Roses

*By Beverly Rose Hopper, Master Rosarian*

**It's simple to plant a bare-root rose.** Dig a hole, stick rose in, and cover roots with dirt. *Well maybe not that simple!* When it comes to giving advice on planting like any other aspect of rose advice, rose experts can spout off for hours on what's the right way to do it. After all, it's their passion (and mine!) But truth be told planting is easy, as long as you follow a few simple steps.

**1. Buy a good quality grade #1 rose.** Don't start off with a cheap lousy rose, it is not worth it.

**2. Soak the roots** or even better the entire rose in water for a few hours before planting. A large bucket or clean garbage can works good for this, though I will admit I have used the kid's bath-tub. Soaking the rose in water helps to re-hydrate the roots and canes. Some people throw in a bit of bleach or Vitamin B1 but plain water works fine too.

**3. After soaking, give the ends of the roots a short trim.** Now for anybody who has gone to the beautician or barber and asked for "short trim" and walked out almost bald, you know the difference between short trim and cutting off too much, so don't cut off too much! You can, however, cut off any broken ends.

**4. Dig a hole big enough** to accommodate the roots and more. Many experts prescribe digging a hole 2' x 18". I have my own formula which has served me well over the years planting thousands of roses, and here it is: size of hole = size of roots + my energy.

**5. Make sure you've got good drainage.** True in life and true for roses. A lot of the soil in Santa Clara County is clay, some clay is good because it holds water but too much and the roots get waterlogged and rot. A good test is to fill a hole with water and if it doesn't drain out after several hours then you've got to dig a bigger hole to break through the hard pan or resort to pots.

**6. Amend the soil** or dump it on an unsuspecting part of the garden. Organics such as manure, compost, and alfalfa make wonderful soil amendments. Feed the soil, otherwise you've got just plain dirt. But if you don't want to be bothered mucking about then toss aside the native soil and use Supersoil or plain ol' planting mix.

**7. Required, put a handful of Superphosphate** in the bottom of the hole. It promotes strong root development.

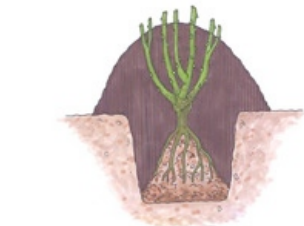
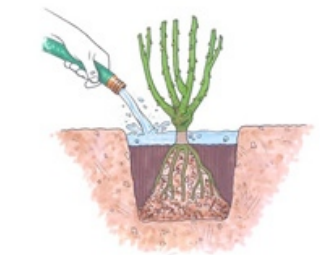
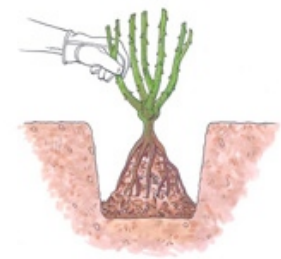
**8. Not required but good to mix in is a handful of soil polymers,** such as Soil Moist, which help retain/conserves water. Soil polymers when dry look like large sea salt granules but when hydrated expand into jelly like blobs. Some planting mix is sold with polymers already added. Useful in all plantings, but an absolute must if planting in containers, which require more frequent watering. Especially helpful for when you're on vacation and the neighbor's kid forgets to water your roses.

**9. Make a soil cone** at the bottom of the hole and place roots on cone to help stabilize the plant. This works for most roses purchased in US but if you ever import from another country you will find not all roots flare out to accommodate a cone.

**10. Fill the hole with amended soil or mix high enough to cover the roots and part of the rose shank, but not so deep that the bud union is covered.** In our climate, **leaving the bud union exposed** makes it a lot easier to tell at a glance whether those new canes are emerging from the bud union (basals) or below (suckers).

**11. Water** the rose when planted and give it lots of water all season long.

**12. Mound the rose.** Cover the rose including most of the canes with moist mulch. This prevents premature drying out of the canes from sun and wind while the roots have a chance to establish. Mounding a rose can be the difference between whether a bare root rose grows or dies, so make it a habit. After the rose begins sprouting new growth simply wash away the mulch. (reprinted from Dec. 2008)





# AARS Roses

When purchasing a rose, you may see this symbol. This means it is an AARS winning rose, one that has won the extensive two year trial program in test gardens, such as ours, located throughout the U.S. 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. They are not sprayed.

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 everything from disease resistance to flower production, color and fragrance. The San Jose Municipal Rose Garden is filled with AARS winning roses, as shown by the AARS symbol. So when purchasing your roses this year, look for the symbol of a winner.

## Rose Garden Holiday Food and Gift Drive

David Nielsen will be collecting non-perishable, canned and boxed foods to help those who are less fortunate in our community. If you would like to help someone in need, here is a list of suggested items; Canned Meats (Tuna, Chicken, Salmon, etc), Canned Fruits & Vegetables, Canned Meals (Stew, Chili, Soup, etc), Peanut Butter, Canned or Dried Beans & Peas, Boxed or Bagged Pasta, Rice, & Cereal, Fruit Juice (Canned & Juice Boxes)

All items will be donated to Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara County.

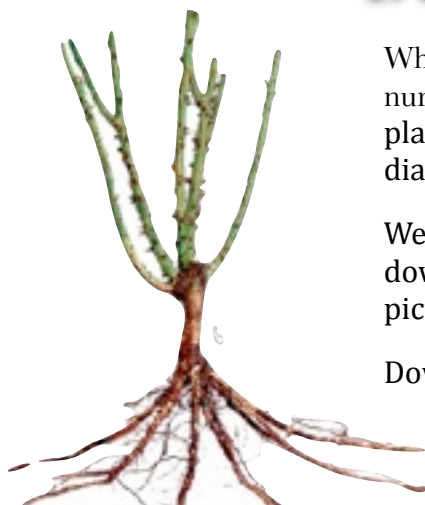


David is also joining forces with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve its Toys for Tots campaign, helping make the holiday season memorable for children in our community.

He is collecting new, unwrapped toys now until December 17th. By making one small donation, you can help touch the life of a deserving child in our community and unwrap the real magic of the holiday season.

If you would like to help out, David will gladly drop by your home to pick up your donation. You may reach him at (408) 476-6309 or email at [david.nielsen@cbtnorcal.com](mailto:david.nielsen@cbtnorcal.com)

## Buying Bare Root Roses



When selecting bare root roses, be sure to purchase from a reputable nursery, and insist on GRADE #1. These are the two year, field grown plants and must have at least three strong canes of 5/16 inch diameter or greater.

Weeks Roses and Star Roses both have their catalogs available for downloading on their web page. They are chock full of beautiful pictures and information. A rose lovers dream!

Download them here:

Weeks Roses - <http://tinyurl.com/weeksroses>

Star Roses - <http://tinyurl.com/starroses2011>

# Rose Garden Fountain - Safe for Now

Nearly two years ago, the funding for all “decorative” fountains were eliminated from San Jose’s budget. Unlike the other “decorative” fountains identified to be defunded, the Rose Garden fountain actually generates income through weddings and special events.

With some lobbying and education, Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio requested a portion of the 2010 budget be used for the maintenance of the Rose Garden fountain. In addition, the fees for weddings were brought more in line with market rates to help with cost recovery.

However, this proposal was only good for one year, and ended on July 1, 2010. The Parks department made sure the fountain was maintained up until the last scheduled wedding event, through September. For the past several months, the leadership of the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden, the Parks Department and Councilmember Oliverio worked tirelessly to come up with a solution to keep the fountain running and maintained in “America’s Best Rose Garden.”

The agreed solution provides for a contractor to come in and maintain the fountain, with some additional responsibilities for the Volunteers and the City. This does not come free.

In the past, the cost to maintain the fountain through the City ran upwards of \$23,000 a year. The new contract, with a different maintenance schedule, comes to ~ \$8,000. We need to

come up with this money before July 1. In order to provide the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden some lead time to develop a fund raising plan, Councilmember Oliverio has graciously agreed to fund the fountain up through June 2011. On July 1, that responsibility becomes the

Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden responsibility. Councilmember Oliverio recognized “America’s Best Rose Garden” will eventually have no problem coming up with funding through sponsorships or individual donations, but need a bit of time lead time to put it together.

We appreciate Councilmember Oliverio, who has never missed a volunteer event at the garden, to have the faith in our organization, and help us through this growing period.

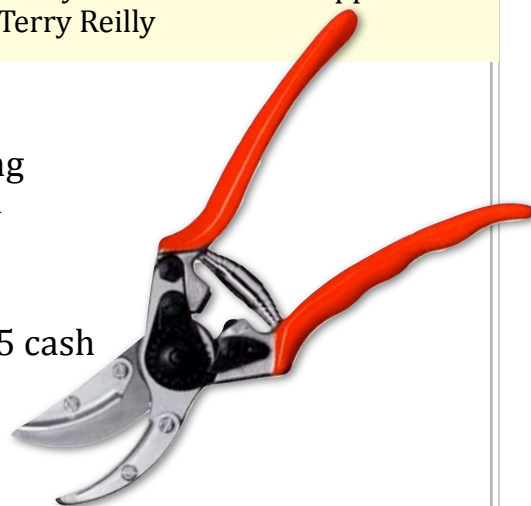
Suffice it to say, we have a team looking at exciting ways to raise funds for the fountain and our organization. The ideas will be shared with everyone once they are finalized and approved. Stay tuned! – Terry Reilly



## Sharpen your Pruning Shears!

Having **SHARP** clippers are very important when pruning roses. Here is a local place that will sharpen them for an unbelievable price!

**Knife Stalkers:** - 349 Lincoln Ave, San Jose Phone: 408-280-1533 (Ask for Serge - they will give a price of \$5 cash for Rose Garden Volunteers - just ask!)





# Equipment Corner

Hello and welcome to the equipment corner. We will use this venue to keep volunteers up to date on equipment that can be used at the Rose Garden and at your own homes.

First up are the Black Stallion Tig Welding Gloves. Regular “rose” gloves can cost \$55.00. The most popular glove in our garden is the West County Gardener Gauntlet gloves are a more reasonable \$27.00 on the internet. Welding gloves are usually made of similar material, often better, and are a fraction of the cost. Black Stallions come in soft supple “kidskin” leather with full coverage up to mid forearm. The cost is \$9.36. They can be found at [weldfabulous.com](http://weldfabulous.com). For those fall and winter days in the garden, get yourself a pair of lined kidskin gloves. At the Weldfabulous site just type “Black Stallion Tig Gloves” in the search box. Small, medium, large and extra large sizes. Ladies, the small seems to work just fine. West County Gloves can be found at Yamagami’s and Regans, or online.



Next up, collapsible garden containers. Are you tired of carrying the white buckets around the garden? Well, check out these beauties. They come in different sizes and have some different features. Amazon.com is a good place to look at these containers.



They are lightweight, can be dragged around the garden and collapse for easy storage. There is a “hard” shell bottom version offered by Fiskars that received 40, 5-star ratings at Amazon.com. Cost is \$25.83 for the hard shell and \$20.71 for the soft bottom.

Been wondering what to get that special someone for Christmas this year? The answer is Felco Pruning Shears. Once you have used these pruners you will be amazed. One of the nice features about Felco is that they make a pair of pruners for small hands (Felco F-6). Found on Amazon.com for \$43.19. Lightweight with screw mounted blades for easy re-sharpening or blade replacement. Don’t forget to get the leather sheath (Felco F-910) to keep your pruners safe, \$12.49.



Lastly, for those weeders out there in the Rose Garden. Knee pads. They come in all forms and sizes. Different features and different materials. Try to find a pair that has “gel” construction on the inside. Your knees will thank you for it. Find them at Orchard Supply and Amazon.com. Amazon has a huge selection including a pair of Neiko Comfort Gel Filled knee pads for \$19.99. At Orchard Supply look in the “**construction**” section of the store, not the garden section.



Well, that’s it from the Equipment Corner. I’ll see you in the garden! - Richard Collins - Master Volunteer

# Awards

It was a beautiful morning, with a couple hundred volunteers on hand for the official award ceremony of "America's Best Rose Garden". Mayor Reed and Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio were on hand to hand out 100 hours certificates to Warren Gannon, Natsuki Gehrt, Arlene Smith-Pearsall. In addition, Jacques Ferare Director of Research at Star Roses and member of the All-America Rose Selections Board presented the winning check to the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden. Jacques also gave a very insightful talk on the rose industry after the volunteer event.



Warren Gannon



Natsuki Gehrt



Arlene Smith-Pearsall

# Movie Night @ the Rose Garden



In part to celebrate the awarding of "America's Best Rose Garden", Councilmember Oliverio arranged for a Movie and Safety night in the Rose Garden. Several hundred families came out to watch "How to Train your Dragon". In addition, the local fire station brought their fire truck, and the mounted police even came by. The Central YMCA gave out free ice cream treats to everyone. Special thanks to local Rose Garden resident and SCU's Women's Soccer coach Jerry Smith for loaning his movie set-up! A great time was had by all.



*Jacques Ferare presents "America's Best Rose Garden" award to FSJRG Founders Beverly Rose Hopper and Terry Reilly, while Mayor Chuck Reed looks on.*



# ROSE GARDEN ★★

## Volunteer Pruning Day & Seminar

Sat., January 8th - 9:00 a.m.!

Friends of the  
San Jose



Rose Garden



The first 250  
Volunteers will receive a  
**FREE BARE ROOT ROSE**  
courtesy of Star Roses!!!!

Come Join the FUN!!!!

Learn how to prune roses from the experts!

Many items to be given away!

Bring clipping shears, wear long sleeves & gloves.

Go to [www.FriendsSJRosegarden.org](http://www.FriendsSJRosegarden.org) for more info or  
[www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org/pruning.htm](http://www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org/pruning.htm)



Sat. January 8th 9:00 a.m., Naglee and Dana Ave., SJ

Sponsored by the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden and the City of San Jose's PRNS