

Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden

"America's Best Rose Garden"

Issue 16

July 2011

FAQ Edition

Everything you wanted to know about the garden, and then some....

Technology in the Garden

Have you seen those square, futuristic-looking matrixes added to the signs in the Rose Garden? Ever wonder what they are and what they do? They're called QR Codes, short for "Quick Response" Codes and can provide a great deal of information about the roses in the beds.

Often, our Master Volunteers are asked many questions about the roses, or specific varieties. We are happy to answer their questions. But Master Volunteers may not be available all the time and the QR Codes will help. Here's how they work: visitors who have smartphones such as a iPhone®, Android™ or BlackBerry® can hold their phone to the code and scan it. It works like a barcode and will bring them to a website which provides information on that rose variety. It will describe the color, bloom size, petal count, foliage, size



of the bush, who hybridized it and when, the seedling parents, and drumroll please..... if it's available on the market, there is a link where the rose can

be purchased! I believe we are the first garden in the U.S. to use such technology to assist the visitors. As "America's Best Rose Garden," we always have to be thinking about ways to stay ahead of the competition, and provide our visitors with a great experience. Come on down and try it out! - Terry Reilly

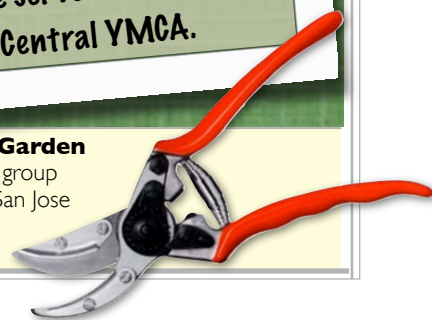
Summer Rose Care Hands-on Seminar July 9, 8:00 a.m.!

Summer can be a tough time for roses. Though they like the sun, often they are past their initial bloom cycle. We'll show you how to get roses all season long! Come to the garden on Saturday, July 9th, 8:00 a.m. For a hands-on tutorial on how to get the most out of your roses. Ice Cream will be served at 10:30 courtesy of the Central YMCA.

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



SUMMER ROSE CARE

Free Hands-on Seminar

**SATURDAY, JULY 9
8:00 AM, @ THE SJ
MUNI ROSE GARDEN,
CORNER OF NAGLEE & DANA**



*Learn how to get the most out of
your Roses by the experts at
America's Best Rose Garden!
Instruction and hands-on practice
will follow!*

*Bring gloves and
garden clippers!*

Friends of the
San Jose



Rose Garden



**Sponsored by the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden and
the City of San Jose's Parks, Recreation & N'hood Services**

July 9th - 8:00 a.m., Naglee and Dana Ave.

For more information, go to www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org

FAQ

~ How many roses are in the Garden?

There are varying numbers of plants, and it changes every year as we pull old ones out, and place new ones in. A good guesstimate is 3,500. This includes the 320 test roses and the nearly 246 climbers on the fence line.

~ How many different varieties are there in the Garden? There are approx. 160 varieties in the Garden along with 80 different test varieties. There are about 12 different varieties of climbers on the outside, many are unmarked. So there are about 250 different varieties in the Garden.

~ What is the oldest rose in the Garden? As you know, we often replace old rose beds that are not performing well with new varieties. Each year, we get the new AARS Winner and it requires a new spot. But the distinction of the oldest rose growing in the Garden goes to Miss All American Beauty. It was planted in 1968.

~ What about the Arbor and the huge rose engulfing it? The rose is Climbing Cécile Brünner, a sport (mutation) of Cécile Brünner. The 63' arbor was built in 1988 with a grant from San Jose Beautiful. The project was spearheaded by Lorrie Freeman, an area Rosarian. It's hard to believe but there are ONLY 8 bushes on that arbor!

~ Tell me more more about Cécile Brünner.

What is the correct pronunciation of her name? The rose was named after Mademoiselle Cécile Brünner (1853-1927), it is pronounced "say-seal brew-nay". The e with

the accent over it (é) is pronounced as a hard A, just like San José. The u with the umlaut (ü) is a hard U sound and is exaggerated in the pronunciation. Most common pronunciation is "sea-seal bru ner", but is incorrect. But guess what? It's also known as the "Sweetheart Rose" for its ability easily to fit in a buttonhole.



~ What about the stage area? The stage area was in the original plans of 1931 as can be seen in the article about the history of the Garden. It was to include a pergola, which was omitted from the final plans. The stage has been home to countless weddings, graduations and other events over the past 74+ years.

~ How do you get rid of disease on a rose? Buy a new AARS Award Winner that is not susceptible to disease! Visitors should use the garden to find varieties that do not have disease and use that for their future purchases. To control varieties that are susceptible to disease, we recommend using NEEM OIL, which can be found in most garden centers.

~ How big is the Garden?

The Rose Garden Park is divided into two sections, the rose side and the field side. You will find a whole article on this later in the newsletter!



Climbers

The climbers on the fence-line are often overlooked. We don't notice them as much as we are enjoying the many beds. It seems that only the joggers and dog walkers are the ones who enjoy these roses. Some of the varieties you will see are Altissimo, Sally Holmes, Fourth of July, New Dawn, Red Eden, and White Eden. There are 246 climbers around the perimeter!

This year, they got a nice pruning to encourage new growth. Master Volunteer Richard Collins has made it his personal mission to keep these beauties in shape all year round. You will often find him working the fence-line. Pam Saunders can also be found working on the climbers. So next time you are out, take a walk AROUND the garden, and admire the spectacular climbers!

Don't forget the Summer
Rose Care Tutorial
Saturday July 9th, 8:00
a.m.
NOTE EARLIER TIME

Fountain Sponsors!!

You may recall, funding for the fountain was eliminated in San Jose's Budget LAST YEAR. The calculated cost for the city to maintain it was around \$23,000 a year. It was just too much of a luxury in these difficult times.

So why is the fountain still running? The decision was to permit a private company to maintain the fountain, and allow for private funding. Bids were sent out, and a private company was selected. For about \$6,500 a year, FJSRG can maintain the fountain. Last year Councilmember Oliverio put up the funds for this, to provide the FSJRG time to find "Sponsors" for the Fountain. With funding running out on June 30th, we have been actively searching for new sponsors.

We are working on a sponsorship with a group of Google Employees; with the help of Master Volunteers Terry and Carol Austen, Kaiser Permanente has donated a sponsorship and Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio has secured some additional funds, so we should have enough to keep the fountain running for a year or two.

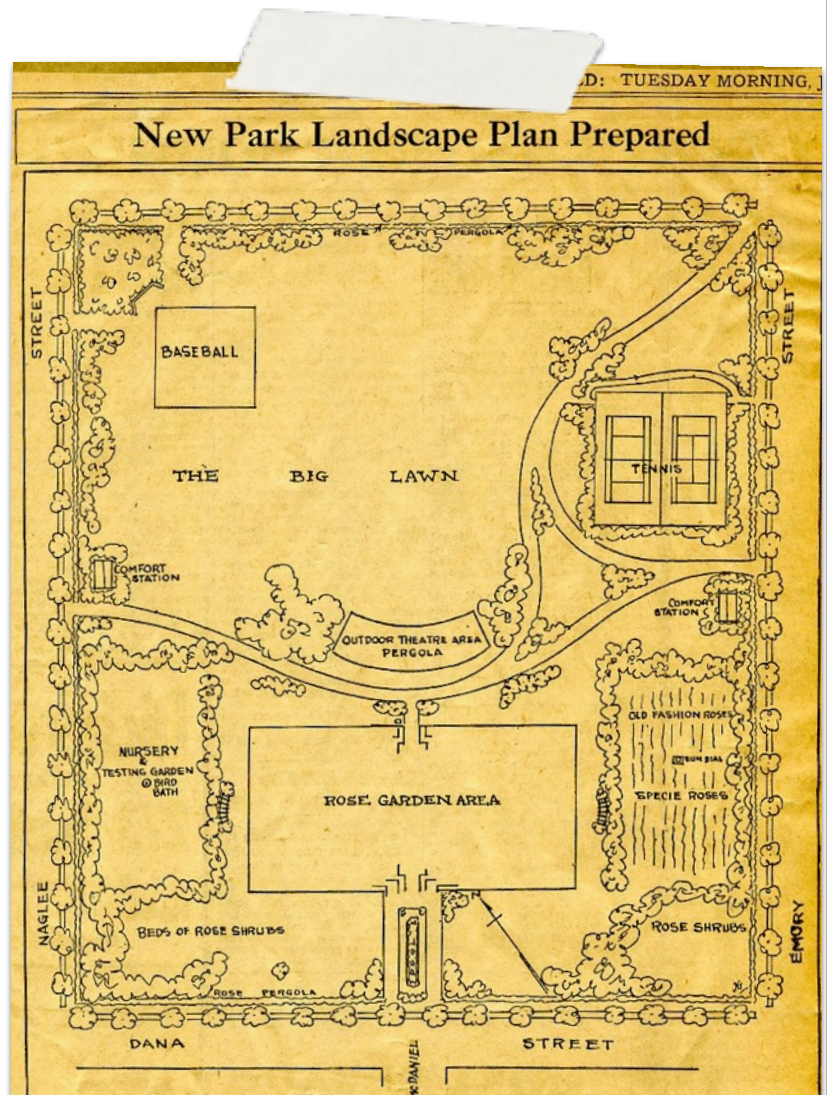
The Fountain has been a central feature of the Garden for decades, the scene of many family portraits and weddings. We are fortunate to have the support of Googlers, Kaiser Permanente and Councilmember Oliverio to keep the fountain flowing.

Tennis Courts and Baseball Diamond Planned for the Rose Garden!!!

Got your attention didn't it? One of early plans for the Rose Garden included these features as seen from the drawing. Ultimately, they did not make it in the final design of famous horticulturalist John McLaren, who created Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. Below is an article from Beverly Rose Hopper on some of the Garden's history

Long before Silicon Valley, or even the Valley of Heart's Delight, San Jose was known for its roses. In the late 20's, San Jose hosted the Fiesta De Las Rosas, a major rose festival and parade. An editorial of 1926 implored people to "kick up their heels and dance on the street . . . park . . . and tip of the flagpole" with a headline "Give it the Full Name With a Gay Swing, as Though You Were Dancing the Flamingo." As this was the Prohibition era it continued, "If you're a Wet, dance to make up for the booze you lack. If you're a dry, dance to prove that you can be just as jolly without booze as Wets are with it." Dancing was a big part of the Fiesta, but the real focus was clear "Grow roses. But this is more important – think roses. Dream roses."

On November 8, 1926 the Santa Clara County Rose Society (SCCRS) was born and the group organized a Rose Planting Day with thousands of red roses, primarily Paul's Scarlet Climber, to be planted throughout the valley. From the Dec 4, 1928 Evening News "plant all highways leading



into the city with red roses" so that "in a few years our valley will be famous throughout America as the "Rose Garden of the West.""

A community wide love of roses, and the efforts of the Rose Society set the stage for a world-class garden for San Jose. On Nov 1928 the City Council voted to set aside part of the park (formerly a prune orchard) at the corner of Naglee and Dana as a Municipal Rose Garden. On April 7, 1931 the President of the American Rose Society, J. Horace McFarland and John McLaren, famed architect of Golden Gate Park, broke ground. The first rose

planted was a Castilian rose, thought to be a descendent of a rose brought to California by the Mission Fathers. On June 2, 1931 the San Jose Mercury Herald published the plan proposed by John McLaren, accepted by the City Council the night before. The plan presented by Mrs. Fremont Older of the SCCRS comprised of a formal area for hybrid teas, a section of old fashion and species roses, a rose nursery, outdoor theatre area, and something that would surprise current residents – tennis courts and a baseball diamond.



Though the tennis courts and baseball diamond were omitted in final plans, many other features were added through the generosity of the community. Rotary Club donated a contribution of \$1000 for the sixty-foot circular pool, the Sun Dial was a gift of Mrs. Derby of the SCCRS, and thru the rose society Mrs. Andrew Christensen donated the ornamental gates. Even more significant during this Depression era construction was reported on Feb 27, 1932 “a crew of 32 men has been at work preparing beds at the rose gardens. Funds to pay these men, who have been unemployed and are heads of families residing in this city, were raised by City employees donating a percentage of their salaries.”

Besides the Castilian rose, what were the original roses planted in the Rose Garden? The SCCRS scrapbook contains an undated drawing of the layout of the formal portion of the garden. I researched the roses laid out on the map, and as the varieties date from 1930 or earlier, I believe it may be the original hybrid tea collection. The roses

listed include Golden Gate (1891), Kitchener of Khartoum (1917), Mme. Butterfly (1918); the newest being President Herbert Hoover (1930). Besides the formal collection of hybrid teas, the original garden contained as reported on Jul 3, 1933 “sections devoted to old-fashioned roses from

gardens planted by early Spanish and American pioneers; a Mission plot which already contains rose plants from thirteen of the old missions.” The collection eventually contained roses from all but 3 of the 21 missions, and “Martha Washington rose, a slip from the original

planted by Martha Washington” supplied by the Phelan estate, reported Feb 27, 1932. Sadly, none of the original or historic roses remain today, believed the last vestiges removed during the ‘50s. A Mercury News article Apr 20, 1958 boasts “the collection this year includes a large number of new varieties, to replace some of the old standbys.” Almost half a century later, a desire to save historic roses from extinction resulted in the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden and its design as a botanical collection.

One last bit from the archive to share, the Mercury in 1955 revealed “one fogbound morning in 1951 a division of Fighting Squadron 192, on a routine training flight from Moffet Field, accidentally dropped a dummy eight-inch practice bomb on the Rose Garden. The “bomb” landed among the rose bushes, narrowly missing several gardeners.”

Talk about a blast from the past . . . - *Beverly Rose Hopper*

Master Volunteer Training

If you have always wanted to become a Master Volunteer, now is your chance! Just send an e-mail to Myles Tobin, Director of the Master Volunteer Program at Myles@FriendsSJRoseGarden.org He will arrange a one hour training with you! After that, you can come to the Garden any time to help. You will also be able to participate in our Master Volunteer Pizza Parties (Courtesy of Rosie's New York Pizza)!



How big is the Garden?

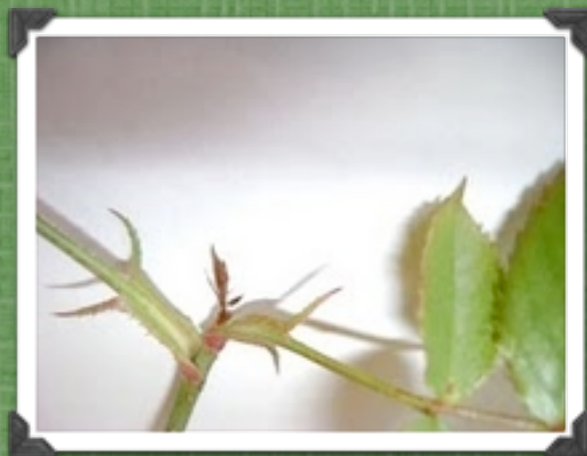
That depends on where it is measured. The complete park, including the field picnic areas and jogging track is 9.78 acres. The section of the park, which

one would call the “Garden” is 5.3 acres (seen in white). The area which is COVERED in rose beds is 2.6 acres (seen in red).

Blind Shoots

Gazing over the roses in Summertime, one should see a sea of green, and lots of stems topped with fat green buds. But take a closer look - you may be surprised that instead of a bud atop a stem, you see a brown withered tip. What the ???

Blind Shoots are when the new shoots or stems suddenly stop growing and come to a dead end. No bud, no bloom. Thankfully, this rarely afflicts the entire bush, but nonetheless blind shoots rob the bush of future roses.



What causes blind shoots and what to do about it? Cut off the withered tip at a leaf set to stimulate new growth. Though there are many theories about what causes blind shoots, my observation is it's prevalent during sudden changes in the weather (*sound like Spring?*) Some varieties are more prone than others. Make it a habit to carefully inspect your rose bushes to ensure along with all that lush new growth there are a lot of lovely new buds. If not, get out your shears and snip the tips! - *Beverly Rose Hopper*

Suspicious Activity

If you go to the Garden enough, you are bound to see activities which are not appropriate and require the assistance of the Park Rangers, or Police. On the rare occasion, there have been fights on the grass side, and delinquents doing graffiti. The best thing to do is call the Rangers at 408-398-1843 or the police line for cell phones at 408-277-8911.

If you see visitors picking roses, you can gently remind them it is against S.J. Municipal Code 13.44.220 to pick the roses, then take the roses away and put them in your bucket. They should not be carrying roses after being told not to pick anymore.

Company Volunteer Days

Over the past few years, the Garden has hosted several company volunteer days. Companies would schedule a half day to get their employees out of the office and into the community to volunteer - and they would still get paid! Previously, this was not possible until the City of San Jose changed their volunteer policy. This change was proposed by Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio and adopted by the City Council.

This past month about 80 “Googlers” took time out and came to the Garden for some community service. They did a great job! Three cheers for Google and Hands on Bay Area who provided the garden equipment for the volunteers!

If you want to organize a company volunteer day, we will take care of everything, tools, etc. You can contact us at Volunteer@FriendsSJRoseGarden.org



A video can be seen at www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org/photo_gallery.htm

Ladybugs in the Garden

As you know, the Rose Garden tries to be organic as possible. We will soon to be releasing a couple thousand lady bugs in the Garden to eat any aphids that may be present. This type of organic control is quite cost effective. You can get 2,000 ladybugs shipped to your house for \$20! We get ours from High Sierra Ladybugs, a family run business. You can check out their web site at www.highsierraladybugs.com

Their website also contains a great deal of information about ladybugs. For example, did you know:

~ A Ladybug can lay up to 1000 eggs in its lifetime.

~ Not all Ladybugs have spots.

~ Ladybugs will clean themselves after a meal.

~ Ladybugs come in many colors like pink, yellow, white, orange and black.

~ Over 300 types of Ladybugs live in North America.

~ Ladybugs make a chemical that smells and tastes bad so predators won't eat them.

~ Ladybugs hibernate in large groups in cold weather.

~ Many countries consider a ladybug to be a sign of good luck.

~ Ladybugs are actually beetles, so sometimes are called LadyBeetles.

~ The bright colors of Ladybugs warn birds that they don't taste good.

~ The spots on a Ladybug fade as they get older.

So if you need an inexpensive and organic way to get rid of your garden pests, contact High Sierra Ladybugs. Some advice, it's fun to play with the ladybugs before you release them! Having a hundred ladybugs crawling in your hands can't be beat!



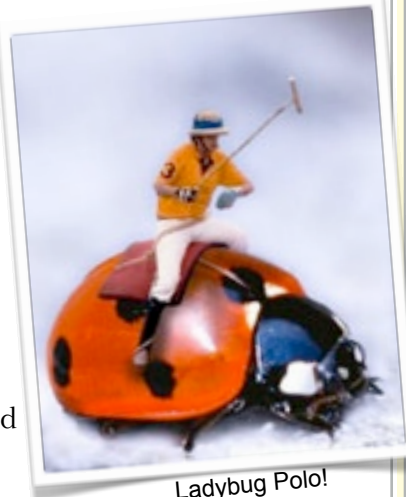
Classic ladybug



Yellow ladybug!



Black ladybug with red spots?



Ladybug Polo!

Quick FAQ's

How many roses are in the Garden? -
~3,500

How many varieties?
~250

How big is the Garden?
2.6 acres of roses

How old is the Garden?
74 Years old. Opening day was in '37

What is the oldest rose?
Miss All American Beauty, 1968

When was the Arbor built?
In 1988.

How many bushes are on the Arbor?
Eight.

How many AARS Test Gardens are there?
Ten, all in different climates.

When was FSJRG formed?
Officially in Nov. 2007

How do I get rid of Aphids?
Buy and release ladybugs.

Why rake the leaves and spent petals below the plant?
Dead leaves can harbor disease. It is best to keep the plant free of dead leaves.

What to do if leaves turn yellow and brown?
It is preferred to remove dead and diseased leaves from the bush.

How can I organize a group to help in the garden?

Send a-mail to
Volunteer@FriendsSJRoseGarden.org