

# Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden

"America's Best Rose Garden"

Issue 28

June 2015

## FAQ Edition - Redux

*Everything you wanted to know about the garden, and then some.... Part 2*

### Dr. Earth to the Rescue

One of the most "Frequently Asked Questions" to our Master Volunteers is what fertilizer do we use? The San Jose Municipal Rose Garden has always prided itself on using organic solutions when available. We had used a couple different types of fertilizers over the years, most of which were donated by Milo Shammass, Founder and Formulator of Dr. Earth. This year, Milo donated 275 Gallons of their concentrated "Premium Gold" organic liquid fertilizer. It will be applied using the recently acquired 15 gallon sprayer system. We apply the fertilizer early in the morning, when it is cool, and spray the undersides of the leaves where the stomata are located.



Dr. Earth® Premium Gold® All Purpose Fertilizer with PreBiotic® and ProMoisture Hydrate® is formulated to feed all plants anytime of the year both annuals and perennials. Prebiotics (soluble sugars) provide the existing soil microbes with food and energy to multiply more quickly. ProMoisture Hydrate® (Aloe vera) concentrate assists in the hydration of biotics in the soil by coating them with a patent-pending slimy layer to enhance microbial hydration. This fertilizer is rich in Fish meal, Fish

bone meal, mined potassium sulfate, soft rock phosphate, kelp meal, seaweed extract and earthworm castings.

And it's not just for roses. It is a great all purpose fertilizer that can be used on vegetables, flowers, trees, shrubs, annuals and perennials.

Dr. Earth products can be purchased locally at Orchard Supply Hardware, which carries a large selection of liquid and dry Dr. Earth fertilizer. So if you want to have roses as spectacular as those in the Rose Garden, you can start by using the same fertilizer we do; Dr. Earth. [www.DrEarth.net](http://www.DrEarth.net)

### Summer Rose Care Hands-on Seminar July 11, 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 11th, 8:00 a.m. For a hands-on tutorial on how to get the most out of your roses.

**ENJOY FREE ICE CREAM AFTERWARDS!**



[www.facebook.com/FriendsoftheSanJoseRoseGarden](http://www.facebook.com/FriendsoftheSanJoseRoseGarden)

#### 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



# 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.

How many rose beds were renovated this year? 26 beds were renovated and planted with new varieties.

What is the name of the new purple Rose? It has not been named yet! It will be introduced to the public in 2017 and you can suggest names for it.

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-sill 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 78 years.

How do you get rid of disease on a rose? Buy a variety 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 Kathy has made it her personal mission to keep these beauties in shape all year round. You will often find her working the fence-line. 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 11th, 8:00  
a.m.  
**NOTE EARLIER TIME**

## Technology in the Garden

Seen those square, futuristic-looking matrixes on many of 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.



Here's how they work: visitors who have an iPhone® or Android™ 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!





# 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.*

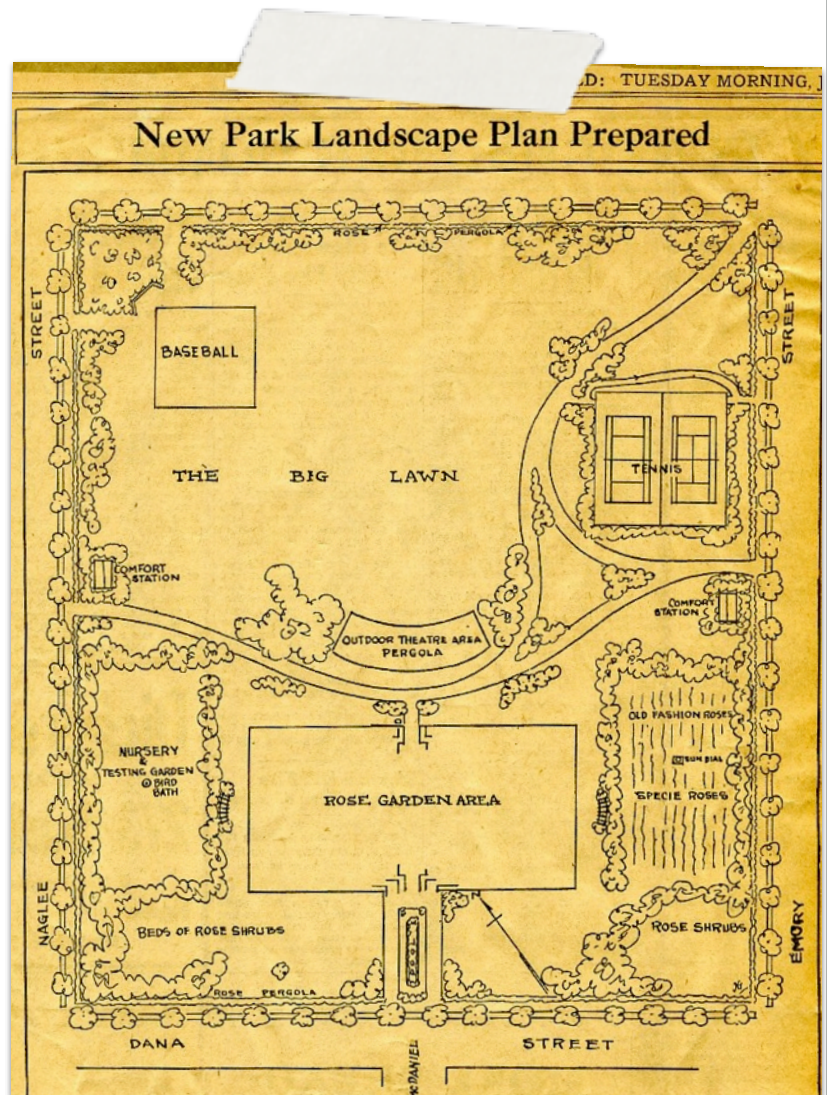
Some key Rose Garden dates:

In Nov. 1928 the San Jose City Council voted to set aside a portion of the park (formerly a prune orchard) at the corner of Naglee and Dana as a Municipal Rose Garden.

April 7, 1931 the President of the American Rose Society, J. Horace McFarland and John McLaren, famed architect of Golden Gate Park, broke ground.

June 2, 1931 the San Jose Mercury Herald published the plan proposed by John McLaren and accepted by the City Council the night before. It included an area for hybrid teas, a section for old fashion and species roses, a rose nursery, outdoor theatre area, and believe it or not, **tennis courts and a baseball diamond**. The tennis courts and baseball diamond were removed in final plans.

Feb 27, 1932 it was reported "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."



An old postcard of the Rose Garden



# SUMMER ROSE CARE

Free Hands-on Seminar and  
Volunteer Day

**SATURDAY, JULY 11  
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

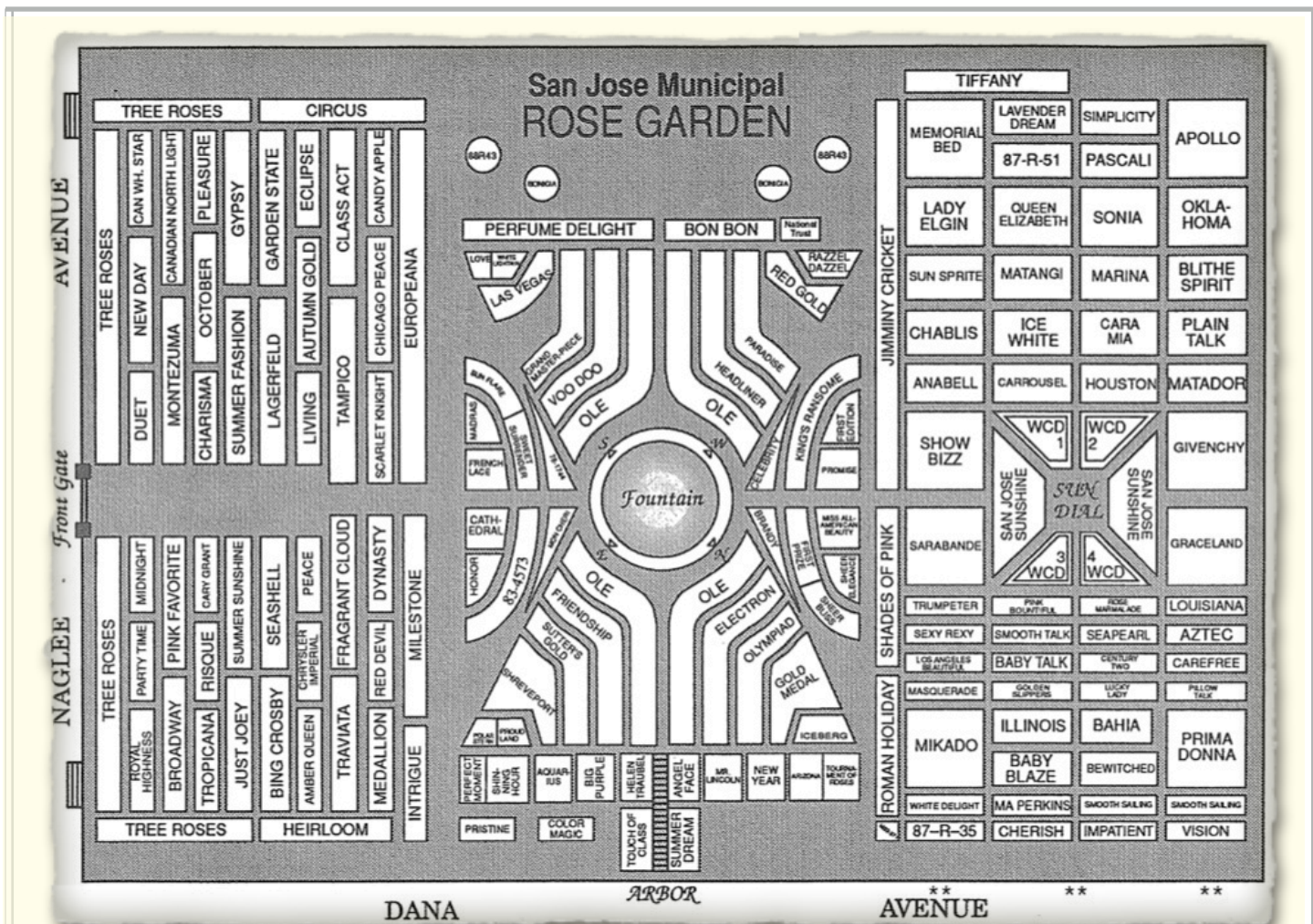


Sponsored by the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden and  
the City of San Jose's Parks, Recreation & N'hood Services

July 11th - 8:00 a.m., Naglee and Dana Ave.

For more information, go to [www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org](http://www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org)





Each year we plant several new varieties replacing older, non-performing roses. Here's a map from 1990. See how many are still growing in the garden 25 years later!

## Garden Tours for Groups

Do you belong to a club or social group? Church or Scout Troop? We offer tours of the Garden by request for any group. We have Master Volunteers who will take your group around, share the history, types of roses and some of the highlights. A description of our test beds are the most popular part of the tours, as we are just one of ten gardens in the nation that have these roses. We've recently had tours for the Los Altos Garden Club, several City Departments, and the SJ Garden Club. If you are interested in setting up a tour, just contact me at [Terry.Reilly@FriendsSJRoseGarden.org](mailto:Terry.Reilly@FriendsSJRoseGarden.org)





# Master Volunteer Training

If you have always wanted to become a Master Volunteer, now is your chance! Just send an e-mail to Herb Grasshof, Sueherb@aol.com 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

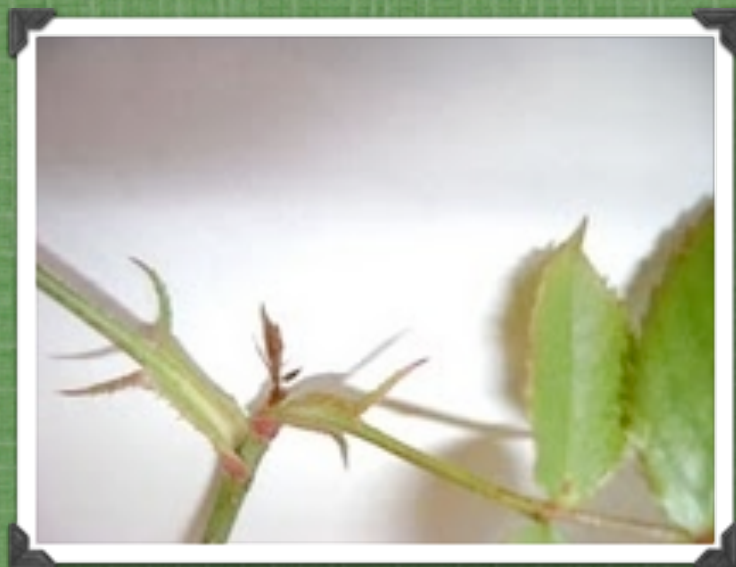
one would call the “Garden” is 5.3 acres (seen in white). The area which is COVERED in rose beds is 2.6 acres (seen in red).

## Blind Shoots

When the roses are growing, you should see many leaves, and strong canes with buds forming.

**Blind Shoots** are canes where instead of a bud, you will find a dead end - a dried up tip where a bud SHOULD BE. You will not get a bloom from a blind shoot.

**What causes blind shoots?** There are many thoughts on what causes them, but none can be controlled by the gardener. So, the better question is what to do about blind shoots: The best thing to do is to treat them just like a spent bloom and cut to a leaf that has a stem large enough to support new growth. From that location a new shoot should emerge, a bud, and then a bloom!





# Company Volunteer Days

Every year, the Garden hosts 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 year about 200 “**Googlers**” took time out and came to the Garden for some community service. They did a great job! We also had about 60 employees from **Deloitte** come out and spend hours weeding and mulching the rose beds.

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](mailto:Volunteer@FriendsSJRoseGarden.org)





# 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](http://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?  
**78 Years old. Opening day was in '37**

How many roses were planted this year?  
**Over 900**

When was the Arbor built?  
**In 1988.**

How many bushes are on the Arbor?  
**Eight.**

Where are the test roses?  
**Near the Dana entrance**

When was FSJRG formed?  
**Officially in Nov. 2007**

How do I get rid of Aphids?  
**Spray them with water to knock off, squish with your fingers or 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](mailto:Volunteer@FriendsSJRoseGarden.org)