

# Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden

"America's Best Rose Garden"

Issue 24

April 2014

## Another National Award for Rose Garden!

*City Parks Alliance selects the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden as a "Frontline Park".*

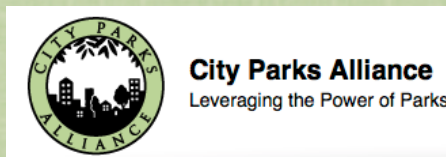
The Municipal Rose Garden has been named a "Frontline Park" by the national urban park advocacy organization City Parks Alliance.

City Parks Alliance recognizes a dozen "Frontline Parks" to promote and highlight **inspiring examples of urban park excellence, innovation, and stewardship across the country.**

The program also seeks to highlight examples of the challenges facing our cities' parks as a result of shrinking municipal budgets, land use pressures, and urban neighborhood decay.

"We selected the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden for recognition because it exemplifies the power of partnerships to create and maintain urban parks that build community and make our cities sustainable and vibrant," said Catherine Nagel, Executive Director of City Parks Alliance. "We hope that by shining the spotlight on this park, we can raise awareness about both the necessity and the promise of these kinds of partnerships to spur investment in our nation's urban parks." To learn more about the City Parks Alliance, go to [www.CityParksAlliance.org](http://www.CityParksAlliance.org)

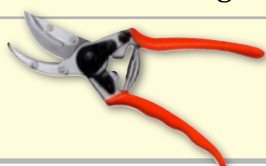
Three cheers for the Volunteers, the City of San Jose's Parks Staff, and all those who keep this partnership alive!



## Rose Care Seminar and Volunteer Day - Saturday, May 3rd - Registration @ 8:30am, event @ 9:00am

It seems like just yesterday that 650 people showed up and pruned the Rose Garden in about 90 minutes. The 3,500 roses have awakened and many are blooming! The peak of the first bloom is coming around Mother's Day and we would like to get the Garden in shape for our busiest day of the year.

Join us on Saturday, May 3rd as we clean up the garden, and show you how to get the most blooms from the roses. Back by popular demand, there will be a food truck festival after the event. So bring your gloves, clippers, and appetite for a wonderful day at the Award Winning Rose Garden!



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

**Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden**  
is a non-profit 501(c)(3) volunteer group  
dedicated to preserving the Historic San Jose  
Municipal Rose Garden



# January Pruning

Once again, the sun shined upon the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden during its 7th annual pruning seminar and volunteer day. Many of us arrived early to set the event up, and 30 minutes before it started we were a little worried that there would be a small turnout. Boy were we wrong! In the next 30 minutes, hundreds of people streamed into the garden to learn how to prune roses, and do their part in keeping the Garden “America’s Best”.

A big factor was the outreach to student groups. They supplied the bulk of the volunteers. Many high schools have service clubs, such as Interact (a Rotary offshoot), Key Club (Kiwanis) and other environmental groups and we appreciated their help and enthusiasm. In the end, over 650 volunteers pruned the 4,000 roses in about 90 minutes. Each volunteer was rewarded with a free bare root rose, courtesy of Star Roses. In addition, we arranged for 4 of those ever popular gourmet food trucks to feed the masses after the event.

Everyone enjoyed their day, and left with a satisfaction of doing their part to keep the garden blooming.



## Fight Stroke Walk 2014

The Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden is partnering with the Stroke Awareness Foundation for their 3rd Annual Fight Stroke Walk to celebrate Stroke Awareness Month.

This 5K walk at the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden will be a fun and inspiring event that spans generations and brings together friends, family, caregivers and stroke survivors. It will take place on May 4th, 2013. Last year, hundreds of people showed up to celebrate life and walk for those who have been touched by stroke. They have raised over \$130,000 for Santa Clara County stroke awareness programs. The event follows our Volunteer day, so we are sure that the Rose Garden will be in “tip-top” shape. Volunteering in the Rose Garden can be part of a healthy lifestyle, promoted by the Stroke Awareness Foundation. For more information about the Stroke Awareness Foundation and the upcoming walk, visit [www.StrokeInfo.org](http://www.StrokeInfo.org)





# New Roses Planted 2014

Along with the over 50 test rose varieties, we've planted some real nice new varieties provided by Weeks and Star Roses. Most of the roses will not be released to the public until 2015! Here are the details:

**Anna's Promise™** - This grandiflora is the first in a series of Downton Abbey® Roses hybridized by Weeks Roses in a partnership with Carnival Film & Television Limited. Whether you are a Downton Abbey Fan, or an avid rose grower, you will love this rose. Its unique color is golden tan with a pink blush and copper reverse. The scent is reminiscent of grapefruit and fresh cut apples. The upright bushes have deep, glossy green foliage with good disease resistance and bloom prolifically throughout the season. Hybridized by Tom Carruth. Anna's Promise will be introduced to the public in 2015.

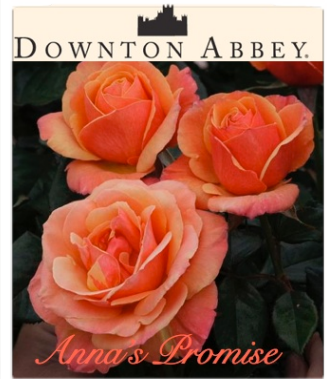
**Neil Diamond** - We had this rose in the 2011 test beds and it was quite the "Show Stopper". It tested well, and will be introduced by Weeks in 2015. We've planted a full bed of these wonderfully striped roses which grow in the classic Hybrid Tea form and emit a classic tea rose fragrance.

**Doris Day** - Just like its namesake, this rose has got 'star quality'. Clusters of bright, golden yellow blooms shine like beacons in the landscape. Deep green, disease resistant foliage covers the rounded bushes and provides the perfect backdrop for the blooms which have a strong fruity fragrance. Hybridized by Christian Bédard. Grown in our 2011 test beds, this rose will be introduced in 2015.

**Mercury Rising** - This hybrid tea is a seedling of the popular Gemini. In fact, we planted it right next to Gemini. Large, elongated buds swirl open to reveal large, cuplike blooms of medium pink heavily suffused with tones of medium pink heavily suffused with tones of ivory-cream. Dark green, extremely glossy foliage clothes the long stems which maintain an upright habit. Hybridized by Meilland International and introduced by Star Roses.

**Coretta Scott King** - Reminiscent of a creamsicle treat, long, pointed buds spiral open to reveal creamy white blooms blushed with tropical tones of coral-orange. Her 'wrapper' of deep green is endowed with good disease resistance ensuring it stays clean and attractive all season long. Hybridized by Christian Bédard.

**Jump for Joy** - This is a "sister seedling" of Sparkle & Shine but it has a peachy-pink color rather than yellow. Like most sisters, they share some likenesses, too. Both are distinctive because of their large showy clusters, long-lived flowers with lovely color, round bushy super-flowerful habit, loads of glossy green leaves & consistent dark red new growth. Hybridized by Christian Bédard.





# Master Volunteer Training

For those of you that have wanted to become a Master Volunteer for this upcoming season - **now is your chance!** We have three training days for you to choose from. **You just need to attend ONE session.** You can pre-register at [friendssjrosegarden.org/?p=1786](http://friendssjrosegarden.org/?p=1786) or just show up! Training lasts from 1.5 - 2 hours including hands on. After training, there certainly is enough time for you to earn your Master Volunteer Vest before the May 3rd Volunteer Day!

**Saturday, April 19th @ 10:00am - Meet at the Fountain**  
**Saturday, April 19th @ 5:00pm - Meet at the Fountain**  
**Tuesday, April 22th @ 5:00pm - Meet at the Fountain**  
**Wednesday, April 23th @ 10:00am - Meet at the Fountain**  
*All you need to bring is gloves and garden shears.*  
*See you in the Garden!*



## Happy 83rd Birthday!

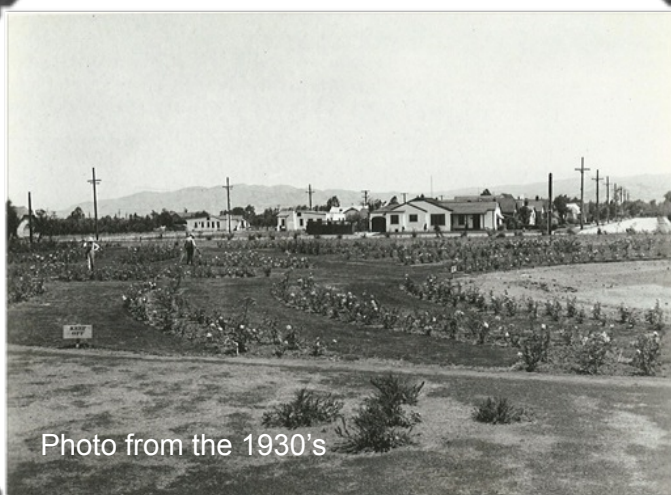


Photo from the 1930's

On an overcast April 7, 1931, the President of the American Rose Society, Dr. J. Horace McFarland, and the creator of Golden Gate Park, John McLaren officiated the official ground breaking of the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden.

The assembled crowd included many dignitaries, socialites, and members of the public.

The crowd cheered when the sun broke through the clouds, just as the first shovel was turned.

That journey continues today.



# Sister Roses

In the past, we've written about how new rose varieties are created. You can see informative videos of the process at our web site ([www.friendssjrosegarden.org/how-roses-are-made-and-propagated/](http://www.friendssjrosegarden.org/how-roses-are-made-and-propagated/)). Every every rose has a Mother and a Father. The father is the "pollen parent" and the mother is the "seed parent". Hybridizers, know which varieties are good breeding roses (parents), and on occasion, because of this, different roses may have the same "parents". This is the case with a few new plantings in the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden.

In 2009, we planted a test rose coded as 09R407 and judged it for two years. This rose was one of my favorites for it's nice round habit, glossy foliage and lots of beautiful yellow blooms. It was also very disease resistant, which is very important these days. This rose was bred by Christian Bédard of Weeks Roses by crossing the roses Julie Newmar (seed parent) and Julia Child (pollen parent). After approximately 12 years of testing, this rose ultimately was introduced as "Sparkle and Shine" in 2013. We've been growing it in a bed since 2012.



This year, we planted Jump for Joy which is a "sister seedling" to Sparkle and Shine, which means it has the same parents - Julie Newmar and Julia Child. While not all sister seedlings have similar characteristics (just as we are different from our own family - but sometimes with great resemblance), this rose is very similar to Sparkle and Shine. A nice round habit, glossy foliage, but with a peachy-pink color. Maybe you can see the resemblance?

There are other "sister seedlings" around that will be introduced in upcoming newsletters. But for now, check out Sparkle and Shine and Jump for Joy in the garden this year!





There is a new kid in town. The American Rose Garden Selections is a new, national rose testing organization whose mission is “to recognize and recommend the best garden-worthy rose varieties for the various regions of the U.S. through testing and to provide objective and reliable information to the general public.”

Test roses will be grown in various regions of the country and recommendations will be made based upon those regions. This way, you will know what grows best in your climate.

The Municipal Rose Garden is proud to have been one of the 12 rose gardens throughout the country selected for these trials.

This year, there are 13 test roses that can be viewed in our test garden area. They will be evaluated and judged over a two year period. These roses will be judged with an emphasis on **disease resistance**, as well as:

- Vigor
- Foliage Proportion & Attractiveness
- Plant Habit
- Flowering Effect/Bloom Abundance
- Rebloom/Habit
- Bloom Form/Attractiveness
- Aging Quality of Blooms
- Fragrance
- Hardiness - Cold and Heat

The first roses to be introduced with the AGRS Regional Choice Award will be 2017! To learn more, go to [www.americangardenroseselections.com](http://www.americangardenroseselections.com)

# Blind Shoots

## The Scourge of the Garden

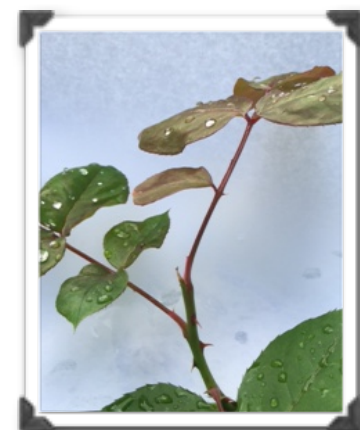
You’ve pruned back your roses in the winter. You’ve provided the love, care and encouragement and have watched the new growth sprout. You’ve waited to see that new bud, which will provide that beautiful bloom. And what does the plant give you? A BLIND SHOOT! What a rip-off! All that new healthy growth for nothin’.

A blind shoot is when you see healthy growth, leaves forming on a nice stem, but it terminates without a bud forming. Sometimes there is a small, dry, black piece at the tip. Nevertheless, the growth just plain stops. Although you have healthy leaves, no bloom will form. I have some bushes that are ALL blind shoots. While they look green and healthy, it will not produce a bloom.

There are many theories on why blind shoots occur. Some say weather causes it, others think bugs have eaten the end. Whatever the case, they need to be dealt with.

There are two things you can do with blind shoots. Typically, you should just cut them back, similar to deadheading, to a 5 leaf. This will promote new growth from that bud eye. If the blind shoots are on small stems, and the plant has plenty of growth, you can remove them completely, and let the energy go to the other healthy stems.

It’s disappointing to see a plant filled with blind shoots, and it is more prevalent during the first bloom cycle in the spring. So now you know what to do to encourage more blooms.





# Got Aphids?

Right now you should see a lot of healthy, new growth on your roses. It is possible you may also find some critters feasting on this new growth. Usually these little green or light yellow insects will be aphids and can do a great deal of damage to new growth. There are several ways to get rid of them, but you must decide to either use organic or chemical insecticides.

While I see aphid infestation in my garden, and on roses throughout the neighborhood, we have never had a big problem in the Rose Garden. It seems the aphids are respecting the historic space, and leaving it alone.

But aphids are quite common on roses and need to be dealt with before they cause great damage. One of the easiest methods of getting rid of aphids is just taking a hose and just spraying them off. It's good enough to knock them to the ground. Aphids are poor climbers, and most likely will not get back to the tender growth before getting eaten by a natural predator. Spray your roses down a couple times a week during the infestation season and this should do the trick. You can also just squish them with your fingers. I take great satisfaction in this.....

There are many other home remedies using a soap solution, some add pepper, others garlic. The soap solution breaks down the insects' protective coating and causes it to dehydrate and die. The soap solution only works on the aphids that actually get sprayed. Adding the garlic and pepper makes the aphids not want to return – or so



they say. A commercial product is called Safer's Insecticidal Soap. Insecticidal soap is different than your normal dishwasher soap in that it doesn't contain dyes or perfumes and is made with fatty acids, formulated to kill insects.

Another method to control aphids is the use of Neem oil. Neem oil is a botanical pesticide made from the extract of the plant *Azadirachta indica* which originates in Southeast Asia. Neem oil has also shown to help prevent black spot and rust.

One fun method we've used in the Rose Garden is the use of ladybugs.

There is nothing ladybugs like more than a gourmet dinner of aphids! These beneficial insects have an inexhaustible appetite and multiply like, well you get the picture. We get our ladybugs from High Sierra Ladybugs

([www.highsierraladybugs.com](http://www.highsierraladybugs.com))

Maybe this is why we don't have a problem???



Just squish them  
between your  
fingers!

The one thing **you should not use** is a "All-in-One" fertilizer and bug killer. A simplistic explanation of how these work is they poison the soil, which the plant absorbs, and when the insect eats the plant, it dies. Do not put poisons in the soil

hoping to kill pests on the plants.

No matter how you plan on controlling the pests in your garden be sure to think about the environment, and try not to harm the beneficial insects.

# Orchard Supply Hardware

## *Our Friend Since 1931*

The San Jose Municipal Rose Garden has a special connection with Orchard Supply Hardware. Both were essentially “born” in 1931. The original OSH was located not too far from the Rose Garden, and no doubt, volunteers and workers shopped at OSH to get their tools. In 1946, it moved to its current location at 720 West San Carlos Street and has served generations of San Jose gardeners.

Recently, OSH asked if there was anything they could do to help the Rose Garden. We had recently completed an inventory of the roses replacements we needed. We presented it to OSH. They ended up donating over \$500 worth of roses for us to plant. In particular, they donated 7 rose trees for us to plant. When I went to pick them up, I was so happy to see the quality of the rose bushes they had for sale. A very large selection and all leafing out very well.

The roses have been planted. We’d like to give our “Big Thanks” to Orchard Supply Hardware for their support over the years.

The San Carlos Street location is undergoing a massive remodeling and expansion which should be finished this year. We are pleased to see they will be around for many more years.



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# ROSE GARDEN

## Rose Care Tutorial & Volunteer Day

Sat., May 3rd -

8:30am Registration

9:00am Start

11:00am FOOD TRUCKS!



Friends of the  
San Jose



Rose Garden



Be part of the Rose Garden's Success!

Learn rose care from the experts

Bring garden clippers & gloves.

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

Sat. May 3rd 8:30 a.m. Registration, Naglee and Dana Ave., SJ

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