

# Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden

"A Historic Landmark"

Issue 11

April 2010

## America's Best Rose Garden

Help us win by voting at  
[www.rose.org/voteform](http://www.rose.org/voteform)

San Jose Municipal Rose Garden is in the running to become the first winner of All-America Rose Selections' "America's Best Rose Garden" competition.

Voting from the public take place up until July 1st, 2010 at

[www.rose.org/voteform](http://www.rose.org/voteform).

Please make sure you vote and get your friends to as well. And get them to the garden to see the first flush of blooms!

The top 5 gardens based on votes will be visited by a panel of experts from the AARS for review.

The winner will be selected based upon beauty, creativity and the overall contribution to the community. It's in these

categories where I believe San Jose will shine. With its dedicated and vibrant volunteer base, its public/private partnership with the city, the every evolving programs with the community to increase awareness and enjoyment of the Rose Garden.

You will see signs encouraging people to visit the garden, and to vote at

intersections, we have docents on weekends giving tours, and people will be able to vote in the garden using iPads! You can download fliers to post at your workplace, just check the website. With your help, the garden can get the National recognition it deserves. - Terry Reilly



Time to get back in the garden!

**May 1st  
Volunteer Day  
&  
Special Speaker**

**Deadheading  
9:00am**

**Speaker  
Dr. Earth Organics  
10:45**

Be sure to vote at  
[www.rose.org/voteform](http://www.rose.org/voteform)  
And check out the rest  
of the rose.org site.  
**VERY INFORMATIVE!**

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



# New Roses Planted

Along with the 36 different new All-America Rose Selections Test Rose varieties, we've planted some real nice new varieties provided by Weeks and Star Roses. These roses will not be released to the public until 2011! Here are the details:

**Grand Dame** - a Hybrid Tea with a super-saturated pink flower that's very full and old fashioned in form. An intense old rose fragrance tops off this classic beauty. Introduced by Weeks Roses and hybridized by Tom Carruth.



**White Licorice** - A Floribunda which produces blooms of lemon chiffon suffusing to white atop deep glossy green foliage. These fully double, spiral blooms pack a powerful punch of unparalleled perfume - a sweet licorice & lemon blossom! Introduced by Weeks Roses and hybridized by Christian Bédard



**Colorific** - This rounded and bushy floribunda has big pointed buds that swirl open to show off seductive shades of peach, coral & salmon. But the color show doesn't stop there. The sun starts to 'tan' each petal, turning them into deeper tones of orange, scarlet & burgundy. A mild fruity fragrance adds to this gem. Planted next to White Licorice, this pair should be a real standout. Introduced by Weeks Roses and hybridized by Tom Carruth.



**Pink Home Run** - A sport of the ever popular Home Run, this shrub has all the same great qualities - but pink blossoms. Completely disease resistant, this shrub will produce flowers all year long. Introduced by Weeks Roses.



**Girls Night Out** - This Hybrid Tea starts with large, pointed buds with deep magenta suffused with white. They open to 4 - 5" blooms with a warm hue of magenta-pink illuminated with a lavender-pink reverse. Stick your nose into them and you will find these girls a bit "spicy". Introduced by Star roses, Hybridized by Meiland.



And, as an AARS Garden, we've planted the 2011 award winner (or winners). But we will not breath a word of what they are, or where they are planted until they are ***officially announced on our May 1st Volunteer Day!***



## Editor's Note

Its been a busy time in the garden over the winter, over 900 volunteers came and helped prune the roses, 400 mulched the roses going through 70 yards in about an hour, volunteers have planted over 400 roses (many donated by Weeks and Star Roses), and distributed 1,200 pounds of fertilizer (donated by Dr. Earth). Six new rose beds along with a new irrigation system were installed by the city for the new 2010 AARS Test roses.

And now, with that behind us, we are going into the blooming season. 2010 will be an exciting year, one that will have many opportunities. We kick off with the America's Best Rose Garden competition, and move into our May 1st volunteer event and new speaker's series.

So come on out to the San Jose Municipal Rose rose, get involved, we have something for everyone. Read all about it in this newsletter - Terry Reilly, Editor

## Signs are up!

After over 70 years, signs are now lining the roads directing visitors to the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden. There are six

locations, so you are bound to see one coming from any direction. They came in handy when over 900 volunteers descended on the garden January 9th. Many had not visited the garden before, and the signs came in handy. Thanks to SJ's Dept of Transportation, the Parks Dept. and all who donated to help make this a reality.



Councilmember and Garden Supporter Pierluigi Oliverio with Co-Founder Terry Reilly after installing and dedicating the first sign.

## Dr. Earth Organics continues Partnership

Last year, [Dr. Earth Co.](#) donated 2,000 of their [Organic 3 Rose & Flower fertilizer](#) in our effort to move the garden into all organic. The garden never look better. With the blend of cottonseed meal, fish bone meal, Fish meal, alfalfa meal, kelp meal, mined potassium sulfate, soft rock phosphate, seaweed extract and PRO-BIOTIC™ seven champion strains of beneficial soil microbes plus Ecto and Endo Mycorrhizae, the rose *and* soil were never happier.

After discussions with Milo Lou Shammas, founder and formulator of Dr. Earth, we decided to use their "[LIFE](#)" product.

This product has the same great Pro-Biotic formula with beneficial soil microbes and mycorrhizae as the previous product, but with homogenous pellets, we felt they may be easier to broadcast by volunteers. Milo was right. The volunteers, some pictured at left, distributed 1,200 pounds of fertilizer in just about two hours. These donations were made in cooperation with Kellogg Garden Products and Yamagami's Nursery.

In addition, Dr. Earth will be participating in our first speaker series, sending Thomas Chaplin, Program Manager for Dr. Earth to speak about the benefits of healthy soil and the negative consequences of chemicals. This program is sponsored by Yamagami's Nursery. Read more about his talk in the article in this newsletter.



# Disney Day

The San Jose Municipal Rose Garden was transformed into the "Happiest Place on Earth" when 1,200 volunteers turned out to help prune and mulch, as part of the **Give a Day, Get a Disney Day** promotion in January. FSJRG was one of the first organizations in the Bay Area to participate (we are always cutting edge!) Volunteers of all ages and abilities, many driving for over two hours, enthusiastically clipped and raked. The figures were phenomenal – 935 for the Jan 9 Annual Pruning and 240 the following weekend to spread mulch.



It was a magical time in the garden, many families with happy smiling faces. We were smiling too when the entire 4,000 rosebush garden was pruned in one hour! Thank you to our fabulous volunteers and our partners at the City of San Jose. If you haven't seen the videos, be sure to check them out on [www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org](http://www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org)

# Master Volunteer Training

You've seen them at the Massive Volunteer Events – they are the ones with the stylish green vests. They are our MASTER VOLUNTEERS. They have completed a short training session and put in 5 hours of individual volunteer time during Park Staff hours to get their vests.



We also have the occasional Master Volunteer Pizza Nights where we gather at the Garden, work for about 2 hours, then socialize and eat pizza donated by the FSJRG!

We are having four Master Volunteer Training Sessions in May:

**May 18 - 11:00 AM**

**May 18 - 12:30 PM**

**May 19 - 11:00 AM**

**May 19 - 12:30 PM**

Please register at this web site: [www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org/master\\_sign\\_up.htm](http://www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org/master_sign_up.htm)

You do not have to register, you can just show up, but it would be nice to know how many people to expect.

If these dates don't fit your schedule, send us a note, and we'll make sure you know when the next training comes up.

With their vests they can come to the garden ANYTIME and deadhead, rake, or weed - do anything that suits their fancy. Come after dinner on a beautiful summer night, or in the morning before the rest of the world wakes up, the flexibility is quite liberating. But wait, there's more! Visitors often approach Master Volunteers to

- 1) Tell them how great the garden is looking
- 2) Thank them for their hard work
- 3) Ask how to volunteer
- 4) Ask rose related questions.

# New Speaker Series at Volunteer Events

Beginning this year, we will include a speaker at each of our massive volunteer events. Not only do you get to have fun helping out in the garden, but you have an opportunity to hear from a nationally known speaker.

This May 1, our speaker is Thomas Chaplin from Dr. Earth Co., sponsored by Yamagami's Nursery. Thomas will give a seminar entitled "Healthy Soil, Healthy You". He will describe the importance of



organics in your soil, and the negative consequences of chemicals. It will be a wide ranging talk, covering the labeling of certification of "Organic". Thomas brings a great deal of

knowledge to our garden as program manager of Dr. Earth Co. As you know, Dr. Earth "Life" organic fertilizer is the primary fertilizer we use at the Garden.

Our volunteer day will begin at 9:00am, and Thomas' presentation will begin ~ 10:45, bring a snack or bag lunch and blanket to picnic during the talk! Special thanks to Yamagami's and Dr. Earth for providing the speaker for our volunteers.



# Best in Silicon Valley

Making a list and checking it twice, it's that time of year again. No, not that time, but time for the San Jose Mercury News annual survey the "Best in Silicon Valley." The San Jose Municipal Rose Garden should be a shoo-in for many categories- **Best Public Park, Best Place to get Married, Best Place to Kiss** (ooh la la) among many others. Cast your vote at [www.MercuryNews.com/best-in-silicon-valley](http://www.MercuryNews.com/best-in-silicon-valley)

It's fun and easy. There's a wide variety of categories, but you can skip around to pick and choose those of interest, and quickly write in your choice for winner San Jose Municipal Rose Garden.



Categories to look for and vote include: **Best Public Park, Best Tourist Attraction, Best Place to Kiss, Best Place for First Date, Best Date on a Budget (picnic among the roses), Best Place to Get Married**, best place for jogging (roses may inspire you to take an extra lap), and best Silicon Valley landmark. After all the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden is quite possibly America's Best Rose Garden!

While you're at it, what about Best green business? Garden -our volunteer organization is definitely green!

## The Value of Volunteers

Volunteerism is a gift, and the volunteers of Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden have been most generous with their time, effort and dedication in transforming the Rose Garden into what may be America's Best Rose Garden. Indeed a San Jose Mercury News editorial declared the FSJRG was the "Best Gift of 2008." We set high standards for the 2009 selection, and our goals for 2010 are even higher. Clearly, FSJRG has made huge contributions in the community. What does it equal in dollar and cents (or should I say scents?)

Our Volunteers have logged over 15,287 hours. Based upon calculations provided by Bureau

of Labor and Statistics, FSJRG has provided services to the City of San Jose valued at nearly \$350,000! (Value of a California Volunteer Hours = \$22.79 [www.independentsector.org/volunteer\\_time](http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time)) Obviously this figure is increasing every day.

Besides service hours, there's value of products FSJRG has able to get donated, such as roses and fertilizer. 1,261 new roses have been planted. At a value of \$20 each = \$25,200. Dr. Earth has contributed 3,200 pounds of organic fertilizer, at \$20/5lb = \$12,800. And there's much more.

Increased tourism = increased revenue. That's a good thing for

the community. And what about the things that have no sticker price? Friendship, civic pride, countless stories of how the garden has touched people's lives. There have been many thank you's but the one I'll never forget was from a man who confided in me he was about to lose his job, and he came by the garden to take a moment to gather strength, to feel at peace and remind himself that beauty in life still existed.

How can you put a price on that?

When it comes to the bottom line, volunteers are priceless.

- Beverly Rose Hopper



# ROSE GARDEN

## Volunteer Day & Seminar

May 1st - 9:00am!



Special Speaker  
~10:45am

Thomas Chaplin,  
Dr. Earth Co. -  
"Healthy Soil,  
Healthy You"

Sponsored by  
Yamagami's Nursery

Come Join the FUN!!!! Learn rose care from the experts! Many items to be given away! Bring rakes, or clipping shears and gloves. Go to [www.FriendsSJRosegarden.org](http://www.FriendsSJRosegarden.org) for more info



Vote SJ Rose Garden for  
America's Best Rose Garden  
at

[www.rose.org](http://www.rose.org)

Friends of the  
San Jose



Rose Garden

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

May 1st 9:00am, Naglee and Dana Ave.

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

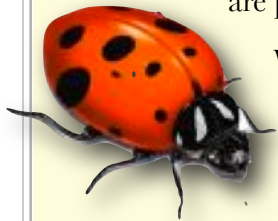


# Aphids and Ladybugs

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 insects will be aphids and can do a great deal of damage.



One of the easiest methods of getting rid of aphids is just taking a hose and carefully spraying them off. It's good enough to knock them to the ground. Aphids are poor climbers.



We didn't have a big aphid infestation in the garden last year. We were lucky. But if we do, I'd like to try use of ladybugs to get rid of them. It's a great organic way. 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. If you would like to "adopt" some ladybugs, we currently can buy 7200 for ~ \$100. This will cover about .5 acre, and we have about 2.5 acres. You can donate on our web site.

During the ladybug release, I'd like to get some of the younger volunteers involved to help out. Though there are other insects that also love to feast on aphids, like soldier beetles and lacewings, they are not readily available for purchase.

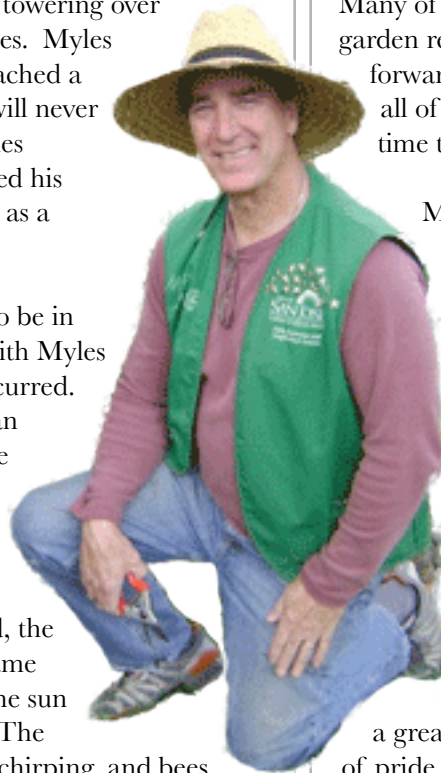
# Myles Tobin logs his 1,000th Hour



*Myles with some volunteers at a Massive Volunteer Event*

You've seen him in the garden. He's hard to miss, towering over the rose bushes. Myles Tobin has reached a point many will never achieve. Myles recently logged his 1,000th hour as a volunteer.

I happened to be in the garden with Myles when this occurred. It started as an unremarkable day, with a chance of rain, but then the clouds parted, the blue sky became visible, and the sun peaked out. The birds started chirping, and bees buzzing. As Myles walked past, the buds starting blooming in his wake. I knew the hour had come. I think the garden knows Myles as much as Myles knows the garden. Myles is now the Director of the Master Volunteer program, teaching many of the volunteers on the procedures, and he's usually there everyday to mentor and assist them.



Many of the regular visitors to the garden recognize Myles and look forward to their visits. He knows all of them by name, and take time to get to know them.

Myles can usually be found with Harry Garcia, who has over 800 hours, and Pat Pemberton, the first volunteer to surpass 100 hours.

The San Jose Municipal Rose Garden is an AARS Test Garden, and we need 5 judges to judge the Test Roses. It is big responsibility. I knew Myles would be perfect for the role, and he's done a great job. He takes a great deal of pride in his work, whether it's weeding and mulching a bed, training a new volunteer, judging the test roses, or participating in the meeting with the city.

Myles has learned a lot about roses over the past two years or so, and he's always up for learning more. We would certainly not be the organization we are today without Myles. - Terry Reilly

## New Rose Markers

You may notice some new rose markers in the AARS Test Beds. They come from the Harlane Co., LLC. They are quite popular with gardeners and I had used them for many years.

I decided it was time to use them for the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden, partly because with this year's 36 new test varieties, I remember my hand cramping marking the signs for the previous years roses. Why do I want to go through that pain again when I can get great quality signs that stand out against the roses?



To get markers for your garden, you can reach Harlane at [www.harlane.com](http://www.harlane.com). The markers come in various styles and colors. Harlane also sells the popular "Bionic" gauntlet gloves that supposedly "soothe your hands while you work" along with pruners and loppers from Barnet at very good prices. I highly recommend them. - Terry Reilly

## 2010 AARS Test Beds Planted



*A backhoe digs out one of the 6 new beds that will house the new AARS Test Roses*

San Jose is honored to be one of 24 All-America Test Selection (AARS) Test Gardens in the United States. We grow test varieties that go through a vigorous judging process in the hope of becoming an AARS Winner. The new 2010 AARS Test Beds are now complete, and planted. 36 new varieties are on competition to become the 2014 AARS winner. There are 7 Hybrid Teas, 10 Floribundas, 6 Grandifloras, and 8 Landscape Roses and 1 Climber. We have no idea what these roses

will look like, so when the first bloom opens, it's like Christmas morning!

These new roses join the 38 2009 test varieties and will grow for 2 years. Judging the roses is a very time consuming and serious process. The judges are Terry Reilly, Beverly Rose Hopper, Myles Tobin, Lynn Hamerly and Lance Loveday. You may find us out at the test beds with our note books in hand, examining these new varieties. If you do, we'd be happy to talk to you about the process of judging these roses.

*Flowers are beautiful  
hieroglyphics of nature, with  
which she indicates how  
much she loves us.  
-- Wolfgang von Goethe*



# Please Donate

With the "America's Best Rose Garden" (ABRG) Competition in full swing, volunteers have been meeting to come up with innovating ways to get visitors to the garden, and encourage them to vote.

Here are just a few: 5,000 sandwiches purchased from Zanotto's will be wrapped with info on the garden and competition. We have banners put up around town at busy intersections. We've purchased "A" frames with signs letting visitors know to ask volunteers about ABRG. Rose tip sheets have been printed to hand out to visitors, a weekend docent program where Master Volunteers will set up a tent on the weekends and hand out tip sheets for growing roses, maps of the

garden, a "Name that Rose Scavenger Hunt" give tutorials and provide tours of the tests beds.

We have begun to set up a WiFi network in the garden so people can vote using laptops we bring to the garden.

All of these costs money and we need your donations. There are several levels of donors: Buds - up to \$50, Blooms - up to \$100, Bouquet - up to \$1,000, and Patron - \$1,000 and over. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit, donations are tax deductible.

For more information on how to donate, go to [www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org/donate.htm](http://www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org/donate.htm) or send a check to  
Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden  
1375 Emory Street  
San Jose, CA 95126

## Feed Me

by Beverly Rose Hopper,  
Master Rosarian

"Hey you - this is your rose speaking. I just woke up after a long winter's nap and I'm hungry. You dug a nice hole and stuck me in it and expect me to grow big and tall without something to nosh on? If you want me to produce those big blooms you've been dreaming of then bring on the feed bag now so nobody gets hurt. I've got thorns and I'm not afraid to use them.

Going organic is good for the roses, the soil, and the soul, and at the top of my list is Dr. Earth - the exclusive fertilizer for the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden. It provides all the nutrients, macro and minor, plus something called [mycorrhizae](#) (promotes root development) for growing big beautiful roses while it feeds the soil. Definitely fine dining.

Want some other choices for the spring menu? Here's a sampling:

Start off with Osmocote, that way I have some steady nourishment. But a rose needs a little variety, can't eat the same thing day after day and expect to be happy. Probably need to touch up my color so give me some Sequestrene or Sprint for deep green leaves. Then the first round of rose food - Bandini Rose Food, Vigoro, or generic. I may be prickly but I'm not picky, pick out something that lasts for a month or so. By the way, have you watered me in between? Roses are thirsty, and I definitely need H2O to wash it all down. That's the basics, now on to gourmet chow Mills Magic Mix. Ah, sweet smelling aroma, chock full of organics. I can feel my buds forming now. Then get over to the feed store for Alfalfa pellets (tell them you want it for roses, not rabbits). Throw on a couple handfuls - alfalfa contains *traiacontanol*, a growth stimulant - think of it as steroids

for roses. Good for the soil too. Finally top me off with steer manure, or horse manure if you have it. And for heavens sake's give me a good long drink.

How about a cocktail to go with the meal? Stinky Stuff. Mix tablespoon of fish emulsion per gallon. Especially good in the spring when the soil is still chilly. Really gets me going.

Yes it's a big meal, but remember this is a special occasion kick off spring menu. I don't want this all the time or I'd get sick. Speaking of sick, unless you want me and you to get sick DON'T ever give me any of those systemic combined fertilizer/insecticide products! The stores are full of that c\*#p but it's deadly stuff so stay away.

That's it for now. Keep up the watering, squirt me with some fertilizer once in awhile and when you're in the mood mix up a batch of Alfalfa Tea. Ahh . . . it's going to be a wonderful spring. I can feel it deep in my roots."



# Rose White & Blue Parade

Once again the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden will be participating in the Rose White and Blue Parade. Everyone had a great time last year.



We need folks that can help organize our booth, and our volunteers who will walk in the parade. contact us at [web@friendssjrosegarden.org](mailto:web@friendssjrosegarden.org).

The Alameda Business Association sponsors the event. For lots more information visit <http://www.the-alameda.com/parade.html> - Terry Reilly

## Upcoming Events

EVENT	DATE
Volunteer Day	May 1
Master Volunteer Training	May 18
Master Volunteer Training	May 19
Fourth of July Parade	July 4
Volunteer Day	July 10 (tentative)



2009  
Rose White & Blue  
Parade!

