

# Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden

*"America's Best Rose Garden"*

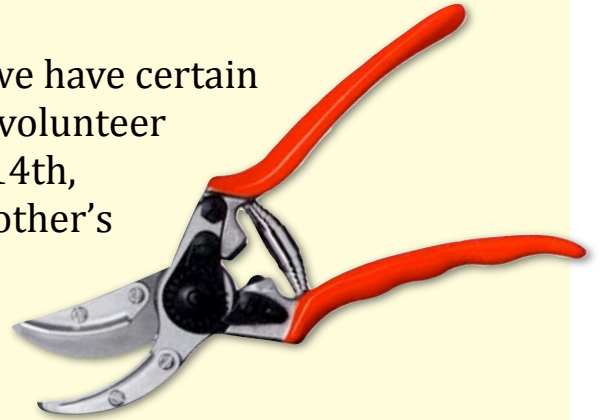
Issue 15

May 2011

## May Deadheading - Sat., May 14th - 9:00 a.m.

### Keeping the Promise

Now that we are "America's Best Rose Garden", we have certain standards to keep. This blooming season's first volunteer day comes a bit later than usual. It will be May 14th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. This is one week after Mother's Day and there should be a lot to do. Having the volunteers' day a little later allows us to advertise and recruit volunteers on the busiest day of the year, Mother's Day.



As usual, the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden will have a presence at the Garden on Mother's Day, docents answering questions, and giving informal tours.

*Mark your calendar - Saturday, May 14, 9 a.m. for our first deadheading event.*

### Master Volunteer Training

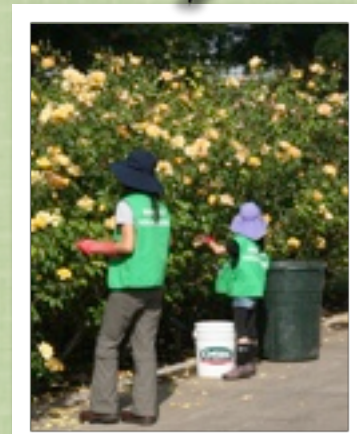
For those of you that have wanted to become Master Volunteers for this upcoming season - **now is your chance!** We have three training days for you to choose from. **You just need to attend ONE session.** No need to pre-register, but you can at [www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org/MV.htm](http://www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org/MV.htm) or **just show up!** After training, there certainly is enough time for you to earn your Master Volunteer Vest before the May Volunteer Day!

**Wednesday, April 20th @ 3:00pm - Meet at the Fountain**

**Wednesday, April 27th @ 3:00pm - Meet at the Fountain**

**Wednesday, May 4th @ 3:00pm - Meet at the Fountain**

*All you need to bring is gloves and garden shears.  
See you in the Garden!*



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 Test Roses

The San Jose Municipal Rose Garden has the honor of being 1 of 15 test gardens in the United States. The All-America Rose Selections (AARS) test program is quite extensive - 2 years of growing and judging on 15 characteristics.

We have just completed the first two year trial program with the 2009 crop. A winner from this testing will be selected and introduced to the public in 2013!

For those of you who have watched the test garden, you may have had your favorites. Though they may not have won the AARS award, they may still be introduced.

As part of the agreement with the AARS, the test roses had to be DESTROYED after the trials. This was a heart wrenching experience for many of us, who would have loved to dug some up and take them home. Rules are rules. We took this very seriously and with the assistance of the City of San Jose's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, SHREDDED them.

In place of the 2009 test roses, we have planted 40 different varieties of 2011 test roses. We can see where the industry is going with the new rose varieties, moving away from the Hybrid Teas and more towards the Landscape and Floribundas. Landscape roses take up 50% of the test garden, with 20 different varieties. After two years of judging, the winner will be introduced in 2015.

So come take a look at the test roses, and see the future!





# Ketchup and Mustard in the Garden

With the test roses, we are able to see some very interesting varieties. Of course, hybridizers and rose introducers are interested in producing something, new and unique. We get to see some that are striped, mauve, have ruffled feathers and some that change colors. Who really needs another nice pink rose?

We often nickname the roses, based upon their attributes, because they are identified only by test numbers, such as 09R401. There was the “Easter basket”, a small round shrub with lots of multicolor pastel blooms. One test rose, that caught our eye, was a variety that was quite striking, bright super glossy foliage, and blooms with yellow on the backside, red on the front, with a gorgeous yellow eye and stamen. And the color lasts. We affectionately called it “the Condiment Rose”.

As the 2009 trials have ended, we have found out “the Condiment Rose” was hybridized by Christian Bedard, research Assistant to Tom Carruth at Weeks Roses. Christian was responsible for one of my favorite roses in the garden - White Licorice - which indeed, smells like Licorice! He was also co-hybridizer, along with Tom Carruth of Dick Clark the 2011 AARS winner.



Here’s the great news - the rose, officially named “Ketchup and Mustard” can be purchased at the Armstrong Garden Center in Dublin as an “exclusive pre-release”! If you are interested, you can call Brian at (925) 551-0231 to see if they have it in stock, or if he can order it. Though it was too late to get a full bed of these roses for the Garden, we have placed two of them between the tree roses. See if you can find them!

Christian (seen below in the official FSJRG sweatshirt), says they are producing 45,000 Ketchup and Mustard plants for sale next year. In creating new roses, Christian looks to the future with an eye on originality of color. This is evident with his new Koko Loko, a new rose with

a milky chocolate-colored bud maturing to a solid soft lavender blossom



Roses take over a decade to get to market. Christian has been with Weeks for just about that amount of time. We look forward to seeing his creations in the future.

Weeks Roses ships over 4 million rose bushes each year and has been a big supporter of the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden. You can see their website at [www.WeeksRoses.com](http://www.WeeksRoses.com)

You can learn more about Christian, and his creations at: [www.weeksroses.com/roses\\_Bedard.htm](http://www.weeksroses.com/roses_Bedard.htm)



# ROSE GARDEN

## Volunteer Day & Tutorials

Sat., May 14th - 9:00 a.m.!



Friends of the  
San Jose



Rose Garden



Come Join the FUN!!!!

Learn rose care from the experts at

"America's Best Rose Garden"

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

Sat. May 14th 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





## New Rose Varieties

Just like the Garden, volunteers have their season too. Like the blooms, most come out during spring and summer.

However, the wintertime volunteers were very busy, ripping out beds, cultivating the soil, and planting over 400 new roses. Aside from the 160 test roses, you will find several new “pre-release” varieties in the Garden this year. They will not be available to the public until 2012. They include from Star Roses:

### **Tangerine Streams -**

The fully double, cuplike flowers are a delectable blend of salmon and apricot suffused with yellow and orange. The blooms are displayed against a backdrop of rich green, semi-glossy foliage.

### **Tequila Supreme -**

Copper and ochre blended with hints of cinnamon and orange form double, cuplike blooms that are produced in such abundance they all but cover the super glossy, medium green foliage.

From Weeks Roses come:

### **Koko Loko-**

Milk chocolate and lavender? You have to see it to believe it. A milky chocolate-colored bud opening to a solid soft lavender bloom. The color changes are said to be so unusual, it is sure to be a popular bed in the Garden.

### **Sugar Moon-**

This pure white hybrid tea glows like the moonlight and smells like heaven! These classically formed blooms have a sweet citrus and rose fragrance. Big, pointed buds open onto very dark, glossy leaves.

### **So how are New Rose Varieties Created?**

We get this question many times in the Garden. It is a very complex and time consuming procedure which would take a lot to explain in this newsletter. So, there is a new page on our website which has a great explanation courtesy of Week Roses. In addition there is a fascinating video detailing Ping Lim from Bailey Roses who produced the AARS winner “Love and Peace”.

# Alfalfa

Along with the application Dr. Earth's Organic Fertilizer, volunteers spread hundreds of pounds of Alfalfa pellets. Alfalfa pellets have a certain chemical called triacontanol, which roses really like.

It looks like rabbit food at the base of the plant, and often visitors mistake it for snail bait.

To apply, just toss two handfuls or so at the base of the plants. Fifty pound bags may be purchased at Sam's Feed Store located at 759 West San Carlos Street.



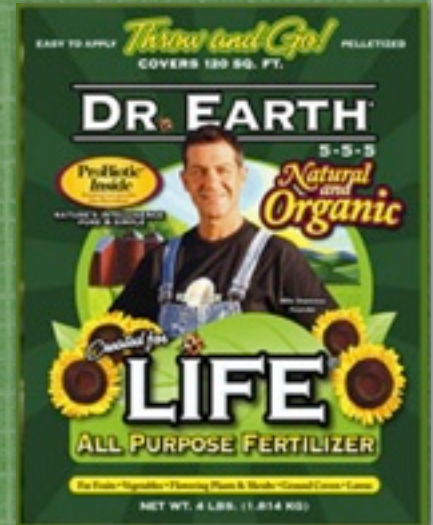
## Dr. Earth, Fertilizing the Garden

For the third year in a row, Milo Shamus, Founder and Formulator of Dr. Earth Organic Products provided the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden with his "Life" organic fertilizer. Warren Gannon drove to Vacaville to pick up the 1,000 pounds which was quickly spread in the garden by volunteers.

Dr. Earth's "Life" fertilizer with its Pro-Biotic formula with Beneficial Soil Microbes and Mycorrhizae has had a tremendous impact on the roses, helping to gain the title of "America's Best Rose Garden".

Many of our Master Volunteers use Dr. Earth in their own gardens and have been thrilled with the results.

Be aware that you cannot find Dr. Earth products in any of the "Big Box" stores. Look for them in finer nurseries such as Yamagami's, Regan, Central Wholesale Nursery, and Almaden Valley Nursery. If you want to learn more about Dr. Earth's many products, visit [www.DrEarth.com](http://www.DrEarth.com)



## Master Volunteer Pullovers

Our Master Volunteers now have nice warm pullovers to keep us toasty while volunteering. They were subsidized by a generous grant by Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio.

The pullovers were designed and embroidered by Francisco Cervantes of GraphiXStitch (94 Race Street). They have quickly become the favorite attire of our Master Volunteers!





# Volunteering is in his blood - Herb Grasshof

By Myles Tobin Director of Volunteers

[Myles@FriendsSJRoseGarden.org](mailto:Myles@FriendsSJRoseGarden.org)

As a child Herb grew up in a farming community and learned to appreciate nature early in life. The outdoors, mountains, forests, and lakes as well as gardening have been a life long interest to him. Living and working in Silicon Valley since 1965 he was active in home remodeling after his retirement from Hewlett Packard/Agilent. As remodeling projects became less and less in demand he found himself looking for a volunteer activity that would provide an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors as well as use his skills to give back to the community.

Being a Master Volunteer allows Herb to easily schedule his volunteering around his own time. Projects among the roses in spring and summer bloom or tending to garden in the winter has been delightful and very rewarding to him. He has logged almost 500 volunteer hours in the Garden lending a hand to other volunteers and enjoys talking with visitors to the Garden.

In addition to Herb's interest in volunteering at the Garden, he is active in Hewlett Packard/Agilent Retiree Volunteer Group involved in "One Day Projects," and has given time to the Santa Clara County Science Fair.



His personal interests are cooking, listening to classical music, reading history, current affairs, nineteenth and twentieth century literature and an occasional mystery or two. Oh..... if after this you don't think volunteering is in Herb's blood, he and his wife have

been active blood donors for over 20 years.

***Herb, thanks for all you do to make the Garden and the community a beautiful place for all to enjoy!***

## Volunteer T-Shirts

Francisco Cervantes, owner of GraphiXStitch, located at 74 Race Street, to help us celebrate winning "America's Best Rose Garden", designed a T-shirt for the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden.

These will soon be on sale. They'll be on the web site, and announced via e-mail.

GraphiXStitch has taken care of all our banners, signs, vests, and printing needs. They can be reached at (408) 298-2828 or on the website, [www.graphixstitch.com](http://www.graphixstitch.com)

