

Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden

Issue 8

"A Historic Landmark"

June 2009



*Time to get
back in the
garden!*

July 11th Volunteer Day

**Join us July 11th,
8:00am as we spruce
up the garden for the
summer judging**

The summer heat really take a toll on the roses and it is important to keep the garden healthy by taking off the spent blooms and cleaning up the

beds. And lest we forget, we have our AARS accreditation back, but judges still



Rose Garden

stop by several time a year to rate the garden.

The summer volunteer day is scheduled for July 11th, 8:00am – 11:00am. Note the new time, a little bit earlier so we can beat the mid-day heat. We changed this due to the suggestions from last year's event.

Now is the chance to see the beds that you worked on previously, and check out the new roses in the test beds.

We will be having a big raffle

of many rose bushes, but you need to register for the raffle at www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org/raffle.htm

Ice cream for volunteers will be provided by the Central YMCA. See you in the garden! - Terry Reilly

Be sure to check out
the new AARS Test
Beds and see the
"Roses of the Future!"

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



Master Volunteer Training Day

The Master Volunteer program is one of the most often asked part of our volunteer group. Being a Master Volunteer enables you to come to the garden at your convenience and “putter around” as if it is *your own* 5.5 acre rose garden.

People often stop and thank you for your efforts while you are in the garden.

In order to become a Master Volunteer, a short training is required. We have scheduled two training's for Monday, July 29th at 11:00am and 12:30pm. It will last about an hour, though you are free to stay and help in the garden.

If you are interested, please sign-up at www.FriendsSJRosegarden.org/mv_sign_up.htm or just follow the links on the Home Page.

FSJRG introduces the “Buddy System”

For many volunteers, three massive volunteer days are just not enough, but they don't want to make a commitment to become a Master Volunteer. So, we have been trying to find a way to accommodate volunteers who want to spend some time in the garden, helping it look good. On a suggestion by Master Volunteer Carol Betts, we come up with the “Buddy System” Here's how it works:



If there is a time you'd like to come out to the garden, all you have to do is go to the web site, input your information, and submit it. It will go to a spreadsheet that only Master Volunteers can view. They can see if they are going to be in the garden at the same time and call or send a note to meet with you. On any given day, there is usually a Master Volunteer or two deadheading in the garden at various times. Some like to come in the mornings, others in the day, I prefer the late afternoons or early evenings after dinner and a glass of wine or four.

What could be simpler than that? Just go to www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org/buddy.htm and input your information. - Terry Reilly

FJSRG and St. Martin of Tours School form Community Partnership

The Friends of San Jose Rose Garden and St. Martin of Tours school will be teaming up this fall and together will present the 14th Annual Rose Garden Homes Tour. Not only will attendees be able to visit homes on the tour, but the Rose Garden will be the starting point for the homes tour this year. Attendees will get to see all the hard work we have put forth in the garden and experience the beauty of the roses and the garden. There will be five lovely homes featured on the tour with the Rose Garden, plus one “Preview” home will be available for viewing on Saturday evening, which will feature a private cocktail reception with a limited number of tickets being made available to the public.



The planning committee for the Homes Tour is hard at work finalizing all the details for the upcoming event. You will be hearing many more details over the next several months, and we will be looking to have many of you out at the garden welcoming the attendees and introducing them to the garden.

Save the date: Saturday October 17 and Sunday October 18. Ticket information will be available in early August.

We are excited about the partnership between St. Martin of Tours School and the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden, and we look forward to bringing the fabulous Rose Garden together with the amazing homes in the neighborhood for years to come.

San Jose Budget Passes **ROSE GARDEN** **SPARED**

As many of you know, the original staff recommendation was to shut off and drain the fountain in the Rose garden and to get rid of the on-site staff. The garden would be maintained by putting it on a "route" where workers would come by as needed. As you can imagine, the FSJRG were not happy with this proposal.

It was up to the City Council and Mayor to decide if this proposal, among others, was the best way to close the \$80+ million budget gap. We sprung into action, educating the City Councilmembers about the many weddings held at the garden, that the fountain generates revenue for the park. Additionally, with all the progress the volunteers and city staff have made, the garden has just received National recognition as a AARS Test Garden. Now was not the time to cut the budget. Many volunteers sent e-mails, and spoke at council meetings.

Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio submitted three budget requests to the Mayor. These requests reinstated the budget to the Rose Garden, saving it from any cuts. The Mayor, having recently attuned the dedication of the test beds, and seeing all the great work everyone has done in the garden, decided to put the requests into his June budget message. On June 24th, the full Council voted and ratified the budget.

Many thanks to all those who contacted the City Council, and those who helped with our Rose Garden outreach days. It really made a difference letting the Council know that having a vibrant Rose Garden is a tremendous asset for any community.

Parchment Roses

One of the reasons the Rose Garden has a sea of color, is we employ a different deadheading technique. Whereas in a private garden, roses are often snipped off at the first sign of wilt or slightly brown edges, our philosophy is we "want a lot of color" so roses are only deadheaded when they are truly dead. Volunteers are instructed to deadhead when roses have lost all or virtually all of their petals. Some gardeners who prefer pristine gardens are used to clipping before any petals fall to the ground, but our goal is maximum bloom; we want to enjoy the roses as long as possible.

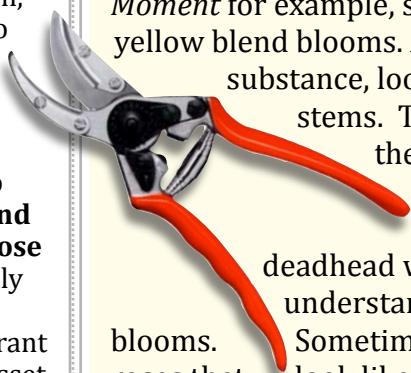
A good rule of thumb when deciding whether to cut or not is "does it look good from a distance?" or asking yourself is it a "tomorrow rose." Many



Perfect Moment parchment on left, a beautiful one on right

home gardeners can only get out on occasion or on weekends to tend to their gardens, so they are used to having to get it all done at once. The San Jose Rose Garden is fortunate to have enthusiastic FSJRG volunteers, and any day of the week volunteers can be found clipping or weeding. This means no worries; roses not completely finished bestowing us with beauty can be deadheaded tomorrow by another volunteer.

However it is important to know that some roses never drop their petals. They hang on for dear life, lose all their color, dry up and end up looking like parchment. The hybrid tea *Perfect Moment* for example, starts off with brilliantly colored red and yellow blend blooms. As it ages petals lose their color and substance, looking like dried bits of parchment atop stems. Though *Perfect Moment* can be perfect in the garden, the moment doesn't last forever!



Volunteers who have been trained to only deadhead when all the petals have fallen are understandably reluctant to remove such spent blooms. Sometimes it's a matter of finding the balance, but roses that look like parchment need to be thanked for their service and let go.

ROSE GARDEN

Volunteer Day

July 11th - 8:00am!



Come Join the FUN!!!! Learn rose care from the experts! Many rose plants will be raffled-off. Go to www.FriendsSJRosegarden.org to sign-up for our raffle, need to be present to win!



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

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

For more information, go to www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org

Rose White & Blue Parade

Everyone loves a parade so you are invited to participate in the 4th of July's Rose White and Blue Parade. Enjoy the excitement like many generations before us have as floats, Boy and Girls Scouts, kids, wagons, pets and local dignitaries parade by. This year, the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden will participate with an informational booth at the street festival at the end of the parade route.

The street festival will have food booths and other festivities to keep everyone entertained.

The parade will not be going through the Rose Garden, though we have been suggesting this to the organizers, but will travel through the Shasta Hanchet neighborhood, ending on the Alameda.



Volunteers are needed to help out in the Friends of the Rose Garden booth and those that are interested can contact Mindy Saum at mbgirl913@gmail.com

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

May 2nd Dedication Event



Mayor Reed, AARS President Tom Carruth, Councilmember Oliverio and Master Volunteers cut the ribbon on the new AARS Test Beds

The rain did not dissuade the 125 volunteers who came out to deadhead and weed the garden prior to the dedication ceremony featuring Mayor Chuck Reed, Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio and President of the AARS and noted hybridizer Tom Carruth.

The morning began with a festival atmosphere featuring a raffle wheel, most fragrant rose contest, and a rosey scavenger hunt. Over 25 rose bushes were given away, donated by Regan's Nursery and Yamagami's Nursery along with various rose related items.

As the work began you could see the dedication as volunteers deadheaded under umbrellas. Once the ceremony began, they sun came out and speeches were made by Mayor Chuck Reed, Councilmember Oliverio, AARS President Tom Carruth and Beverly Rose Hopper. Terry Reilly server as Master of Ceremonies. Once the formalities were out of the way, the group headed over to the new Test Beds, one of only 23 in the United

States, for the ribbon cutting. The roses were in full bloom as looking quite nice.

It was nice to have the clear skies for the catered lunch, sponsored by the City of San Jose's Parks Neighborhood, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, Councilmember Oliverio and Zanotto's Family Market. Drinks were generously provided by Energy Source Dist. Inc. and ice cream desserts by the Central YMCA.

The garden has come a long way since the formation of the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden, and this day was a

cumulating of thousands

of hours of work by so many people who made the garden look the best it has in decades. The Mayor, and representative from the AARS were quite impressed to see the garden at its peak, coming from probation two year ago, to full accredited and the newest AARS Test garden.

You can see videos of the speeches and photos of the event at www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org/rededication.htm - Terry Reilly



Big Bushes

by Beverly Rose Hopper,
Master Rosarian

One of the things that sets the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden apart from other public gardens (and crucial to the restoration by FSJRG) was our maxim to “prune high for maximum display.” Too often rosebushes are hacked down to the ground, chopped to only a foot tall with disregard to plant habit and climate. Santa Clara County is blessed with a near perfect climate for roses. Almost anyone can grow roses here albeit with a range of results. Though truth be told some people should not be allowed to grow roses. I’ll never forget the time standing over a bin of bare-root roses I overheard a couple dickering over a pending purchase “if you buy that rose you’ll just have to water it” – how I wanted to snatch that rose out of their hands and save it!

Keep in mind that reference books or info online about the correct way to take care of rosebushes may have been based on rose culture in Minnesota, not California. Methods and results vary tremendously. The first time I visited rose mecca aka headquarters of the American Rose Society in Shreveport, Louisiana, I was shocked to see

how small the rose bushes were. In both public and private gardens, roses only seemed to grow a few feet tall and consequently had very few blooms. I’ll admit the sparse display in comparison with our lush gardens back home were a bit of a disappointment.

The difference in performance is part regional, part tradition. Our climate provides for

based on reference materials not specific to our area or outcome desired.

Take a look at the bushes in the Rose Garden or in your home garden. When it comes to proper size, pruning and shaping, NEVER remove more than one half the height; otherwise your plant can go into shock. Think of it this way – the canes store sugars and energy for the plant, harsh pruning cuts off energy supplies, which

the plant needs for future growth. Of course there are a couple exceptions, sometimes a rose has to be cut back hard because it needs to be relocated and transplanted, or perhaps you discover a rose doesn’t fit the space in the landscape. These are tricky situations, but as a

rule of (green) thumb you will have the most success and happiest roses if you allow them to grow to their full potential.

Recently when viewing the big bushes loaded with bloom at the Rose Garden, someone asked, “aren’t the roses too tall?” Though I knew the answer I passed along the comment to Tom Carruth, world famous hybridizer at Weeks Roses. He laughed, “there’s no such thing as roses that are too big!”



Noted hybridizer Tom Carruth waist high in his creation, Julia Child

six or seven bloom cycles; depending on variety one can have roses blooming as early as March and as late as December. With all that repeat growth (not to mention sunshine) plants have the opportunity to grow large. Gardeners in colder climates may not have their first bloom until late June and the bushes only squeeze out a cycle or two before shutting down with an early frost; consequently the bushes are small. Regarding tradition, some gardeners prune “like grandma taught them” or perhaps how they did when living in Minnesota or

The Big 4

Good Quality Plants

Start off with a good quality plant. Buy from a true garden center or nursery like **Regan's** or **Yamagami's** rather than a hardware or big box store

Sunshine

Plant where the rose will receive at least **6 hours of sun** a day. Roses are not shady ladies, they need full sunshine to thrive and strut their stuff.

Food

Aka fertilizer. Organic fertilizers promotes stronger cell growth conditions the soil, and does not contribute to the phosphorus run-off to our streams as does chemical fertilizers. At the Rose Garden, we are moving to organic fertilizer,



specifically **Dr. Earth's Organic Rose and Flower Food** (available locally at Yamagami's Nursery). It has a blend of cottonseed meal, fish bone meal, Fish meal, alfalfa meal, kelp meal, mined potassium sulfate, soft rock phosphate, seaweed extract and soil conditioning by the introduction beneficial microbes plus Ecto and Endo Mycorrhizae (soil fungi). **Never ever use combination systemic fertilizer-insecticide** in your garden such as **Bayer 2-in-1** systemic **Rose & Flower Care** because it contains disulfoton which is highly toxic.

Biggest Secret

The "**secret**" to growing prize-winning roses is water, Water, **WATER!** Lots of water makes long stems, lush foliage and big beautiful blooms. In my opinion, as long as the rose bed has good drainage, you cannot overwater. The saying "roses don't like wet feet" refers to poorly drained soggy soil, not good hydration. **Most people simply do NOT water enough.**

Rose Tips by Beverly Rose Hopper, Master Rosarian



First flush of Celebrity in the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden

Is there a secret to growing beautiful roses?

Serious rose aficionados will go to almost any length to grow prize winning roses, from mixing up magical fertilizer concoctions, crossing state lines with potent powders or liquids that promise perfection, and protecting those perfect blooms from the elements in the garden with shower caps, baggies, and umbrellas.

There are a lot of things a rose lover can do in their pursuit of beauty. And I'll confess I've done most of them. After growing thousands of roses over 30 years (*and receiving more than my share of awards*) I learned what works. My Big 5 Rose tips are on the left.

Roses need at least **7 gallons** of water a week. I recommend during the summer to water 3 times a week; during the spring and fall water twice a week. During a heat wave roses need extra water. Roses in containers benefit from daily watering.

When getting my private garden prepped for a rose show or garden tour, I would water the roses every day starting two weeks in advance of the event. What a difference it made!

What about during times of water shortage or conservation? The most efficient way to water is using a **drip irrigation** system, especially when using automatic timers. Duration and setting depends on the outflow of each emitter, but a good trick is to set up a ring around the base of each bush with 3 emitters to insure the emitters cover the root zone and stay put.

Mulch is also very helpful for conserving water by reducing surface temperatures. In the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden, we use free mulch provided by the City of San Jose through the garden-recycling program. Besides conserving water, mulch improves soil texture and makes it easier to pull/control weeds.

Don't be afraid of getting water on the foliage. It is a myth that wet leaves cause powdery mildew. Water can in fact wash off powdery mildew spores, which germinate on dry (*not wet*) foliage. A blast of water on the underside of the foliage can prevent or control spider mites. If you don't have one, treat yourself and the roses to a water wand for this purpose. Hosing off the foliage once a week can be beneficial to wash off dust, smog, and insect. **Clean leaves are happy leaves!**

Like the New Newsletter?

Terry got a new home computer - a 24" Apple IMAC! The newsletter is design using Apple's Pages software, and took about a day to learn (with help from his son who has been using it for years. Hope you like the new design!

How to Donate

The FSJRG is a 501(c)(3) non-profit ALL VOLUNTEER group. We run all of our activities through donations. Thank your for all who have given in the past. Recently, we have just purchased a pop-up tent for use in our garden out-reach days and signed-up for a new e-mail service which will help modernize and streamline our communication to our volunteers. You can contribute online by following the links to "donate" or send a check to:

Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden
1375 Emory Street
San Jose, CA 95126

Upcoming Events

EVENT	DATE
Master Volunteer Training	June 29
Rose White & Blue Parade	July 4
Volunteer Day	July 11
Volunteer Day	Sept. 5
Rose Garden Home Tour	Oct. 17 & 18



Master Volunteer Road Trip

Master Volunteers visit Oakland's Morcom Rose garden and assist in their June Volunteer Day. Morcom has used the AARS Case Study written on the FSJRG to straggize on building a vibrant volunteer group in Oakland. The Master Volunteers then headed to the Berkeley Rose garden.

Rose Garden Outreach

During the budget problem, Master Volunteer Carol Betts had an idea to do some outreach at he garden and let the visitors know the Garden was in peril. Recruiting a few other Master Volunteers, she set a date, and went to the garden with information to educate the visitors about the garden, the budget, and the impact it would have. This call to action certainly helped at the end of the day when the final budget was approved.

The response from the visitors and Master Volunteers was quite positive, as they met visitors, answered

questions about roses and the volunteer program, and provided maps. So much so that it will now be a recurring event. Happening once a month or so. A "outreach box" has been put together with all the materials to run a successful outreach day. All one needs to do is put up the pop-up, a table, the banner and pull out the materials. The garden visitors love the maps they receive and the ability to have their questions answered. So Master Volunteers, come on out to the next Outreach Day! Thank you Carol for such a great idea!



Rose Garden visitors get garden maps, questions answered and learn about the Friends of the San Jose rose garden at our Outreach Days.