

Poway Valley Rose Garden

An Ongoing Community Project of the Poway Valley Garden Club, Poway, California

Told by Ann Dahnke

The Rose Garden was originally planted by volunteers from the Poway Valley Garden Club in 1973 as part of a Lake Poway beautification project. Lake Poway, which was constructed in 1972, is a large community facility with a lovely park, numerous hiking trails and a small lake. The Rose Garden began with 16 bare root roses which were either donated by



Club members or purchased. The first rose pruning demonstration was the following year. Each year more roses were donated, many in the memory of a loved one, thus it also became a memorial garden. Over the years the garden continued to grow and the pruning demonstrations became quite popular. Then in 1988, the Club dedicated a Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker.

In 2010 a much needed new split rail fence with a gate was built around the Garden as an Eagle Scout project. The scout was so successful at raising money for his project that he overshot by

over \$900, which he donated to be used toward the Garden! With some of that money we had a new, colorful sign made which is now in the center of the Garden. But the biggest improvement was replacing many of the old, diseased roses. Over a period of about 2 years, the majority of the roses were replaced with disease resistant varieties. Most are now floribundas and grandifloras, with some tea varieties. Individual labeled stakes were also placed at each



Informational Kiosk in the Rose Garden - An Eagle Scout Project

bush, so the public can know the name of each rose.

The next improvement was a kiosk that was built at one end of the Garden, another Eagle Scout project. That allows us to have a place to post the history of the Garden, as well as information about the Club and upcoming activities.

We no longer have pruning demonstrations for the public, as many of the nearby nurseries now offer that. But we do prune each January with the help of a rosarian from the San Diego Rose Society.

One funny anecdote. Well, it wasn't funny at the time. Approximately a year after all the new roses were planted, the Garden was looking especially spectacular. The floribundas and grandifloras were doing what they love to do, putting out massive amounts of blooms. And the teas were looking beautiful, as well. I had just finished deadheading one evening and decided I just MUST come back in the morning to take pictures. You can imagine my surprise when I returned the next morning with my camera to find there were NO flowers. Not a one. It was as if someone had come and clipped them all off. This had never happened in the history of the Garden, and so we tried to



*Poway Valley Garden Club
A rose pruning demonstration - January 1986*



Photo by: Bill Dahnke

come up with a theory. Had someone harvested them for potpourri, as we were told can happen? Or did someone steal the petals for a wedding? Then two months later the same thing happened again. We were infuriated. Editorials were written, and the police contacted. Who were these vandals?

You may have already guessed, but this was a new phenomenon for us.

One early morning, when one of the rangers was arriving for work, he saw several deer in the Garden, dining as if it were a buffet. You see, that was the

exact time that we were experiencing our first year of drought here in Southern California. The deer were coming from the nearby back country to get water and food, which there was little of where they usually live. Over the next 3 years, the deer continued to come each summer and fall, in spite of applying repellent. And so, we decided to share the Garden, hoping that when the drought was over, they would leave the roses alone. Sure enough, last fall the deer activity was minimal due to higher rainfall. We continue to hope that our drought will soon end, but it is too soon to tell.



Betty Boop Rose

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<i>Names Of The Roses in the Poway Valley Garden Club Rose Garden</i>		
<i>1. Strike it Rich (G)</i>	<i>16. Celeste (A)</i>	<i>31. Hot Cocoa (F)</i>
<i>2. Lava Flow (F)</i>	<i>17. Burgundy Iceberg (F)</i>	<i>32.</i>
<i>3. Angel Face (F)</i>	<i>18. Mardi Gras (F)</i>	<i>33. White Licorice (F)</i>
<i>4. Bewitched (T)</i>	<i>19. Perfect Moment (T)</i>	<i>34. Intrigue (F)</i>
<i>5.</i>	<i>20. Easter Basket (F)</i>	<i>35. Cherry Parfait (G)</i>
<i>6. Midas Touch (T)</i>	<i>21. About Face (G)</i>	<i>36. Gold Medal (G)</i>
<i>7. F.J. Grootendorst (R)</i>	<i>22. Gemini (T)</i>	<i>37. Crimson Bouquet (G)</i>
<i>8. Playboy (F)</i>	<i>23. Distant Drums (F)</i>	<i>38. Melody Parfumee (G)</i>
<i>9. Red Ribbons (GC)</i>	<i>24. Sentimental (F)</i>	<i>39. Falling in Love (T)</i>
<i>10. About Face (G)</i>	<i>25. Sweet Drift (GC)</i>	<i>40. White Iceberg (F)</i>
<i>11. Enchanted Evening (F)</i>	<i>26. Julia Child (F)</i>	<i>41. Betty Boop (F)</i>
<i>12. Ketchup & Mustard (F)</i>	<i>27. Wild Blue Yonder (G)</i>	<i>42. Cinco de Mayo (F)</i>
<i>13. Popcorn Drift (GC)</i>	<i>28. Nicole (F)</i>	<i>43. Drop Dead Red (F)</i>
<i>14.</i>	<i>29. Twilight Zone (F)</i>	<i>44.</i>
<i>15. Ch-Ching (G)</i>	<i>30. Day Breaker (F)</i>	<i>45.</i>
<i>(G) Grandiflora (F) Floribunda (T) Tea (GC) Groundcover (R) Rugosa (A) Alba</i>		