

[Home](#)

[Who We Are](#)

[President's
Message](#)

[Meetings](#)

[Annual Rose
Show](#)

[Membership](#)

[D the G](#)

[Activity Photo
Galleries](#)

[Members'
Gardens](#)

[American Rose
Society \(offsite\)](#)

[Site Map](#)

[D the G Archives](#)

Laughing Rose

If I were gusty April
now,
How I would blow at
laughing Rose,
I'd make her ribbons
slip their knows,
And all her hair come
loose.

If I were merry April
now,
How I would pelt her
cheeks with showers;
I'd make carnations
rich and warm,
Of her vermilion
flowers.

Since she will laugh in

D the G -- May 2013

The rains are gone. Many plants need to be irrigated. It is absolutely time to check your sprinkler systems, check the battery in the sprinkler timer, and to add an adequate layer of mulch. This year there wasn't much rain and the temperatures were chilly to frosty at night. One advantage to the cooler temperatures is the availability of stone fruits this summer. Stone fruit trees require chilling hours (not citrus) to produce better crops of fruit. Peaches, cherries, apricots, etc., have a good chance of being abundant this year. Let me say that, this year, with the cooler temperatures and the rains that we did have, the roses were absolutely beautiful!!

I had the occasion to visit the beautiful city of Portland, Oregon. It seems to be the home of the youngest set of retirees I have ever imagined. The coffee houses were full, at all hours of the day, by people in their 20's, 30's and 40's. Unfortunately for me, as a youth, this mindset was not available. In the four days that I was in Portland and its environs, I saw exactly one open rose. The roses will be open later in May or into June depending on temperatures. However, the streets and houses were covered in riots of large, multi-colored specimens of: Peonies, Rhododendrons, Viburnums, Azaleas, Tulips, Japanese Maples, Dog Woods, and much more.

There were several good reasons to visit Portland . Three additional points in visiting Portland is that it's home to one of the very best Farmers Markets that I have ever been to. The evening of oriental music at the Chinese Garden was a delight. I was able to visit with Gretchen Humphrie who is the director of the Pacific Northwest Region for the ARS, and Gretchen is the past president of the Portland Rose Society. My wife and I met her at one of the numerous Starbucks for a nice cup of coffee and a nicer discussion. It seems that the greater Portland Rose Society has about 1000 members. The PRS hosts 3 rose shows in one year; the second show is for mini roses only. Check out their website at www.portlandrosesociety.org. Thanks to Janet Sklar for finding out the information for the PRS.



The Chinese Garden, Portland

And another thank you to Janet for adding to the information about the Juliet Club, in Verona Italy, mentioning the movie "Letters to Juliet," and for commenting on a quaint custom that involves a statue of Juliet. What would William Shakespeare have thought about the website www.julietclub.com? If a letter is addressed to Juliet in Verona Italy, it will be delivered to the office of the "Club di Giuletta." The club has an interesting history. It is staffed by volunteers who write back to each letter. Postage and stationary is supplied by the city of Verona, Italy.

The club receives a few thousand letters every year. All letters are kept in an archive. I have read "Romeo and Juliet," and have seen several movies based on Romeo and Juliet. When I was a student at Canoga Park High School,

April's face
No matter how he
rains or blows --
Then O that I wild
April were,
To play with laughing
Rose.

-- W. H. Davies

the movie "*West Side Story*" set me on my ear. As an adult, I still have a bit of a romantic edge to my nature. At the last SFVRS board meeting the Juliet Club was discussed. Janet Sklar has donated the rose, Lasting Love, in memory of Juliet. It will be planted under the care and sponsorship of the SFVRS. This fragrant, near red, disease resistant rose will be planted at a public garden. A tag will put on a cane that reads "Dedicated to Juliet."

This is the time of year to plant: roses, tomatoes, basil, squashes, petunias, impatiens, and on and on... The hot weather may be upon us, but last weekend it was cold and drizzly. You tell me what the weather will be. I strongly suggest that everyone have a look at the [Rainfall Chart](#) on the SFVRS Website. It is a bar graph that goes back 130 years of the rainfall history in L.A. It is also the time of year to keep up the feeding and to check for insects of all types.

Roses are colorful and delicious. The blast of hot weather for two weeks did dry some of the rose petals. My roses are organic and are OK to nibble. This was the first year that the rose, Twilight Zone, has been in my garden; it's another very good rose from the hybridizer Tom Carruth. Tom is the Curator of Roses at the Huntington Library, and he will be guiding our visit to that spectacular garden on Friday the 17th. Back to rose petals. The very dried petals of fragrant roses simply powder when pushed through a screen sieve. One way of decorating a cake is to put a piece of lace on a cake and to dust the surface with powdered sugar. Powdered rose petals come in an assortment of colors and make a very interesting addition to baked goods and to other foods. Candied rose petals, rose petal jam, soaps scented with roses, etc. and other uses for roses are well worth looking into for a real treat.



Twilight Zone Rose

Best in the garden,
D the G
[Dave's Greenscapes](#)