

ROSES TAKE A STAR TURN AT FREEMAN GARDENS

By Larry Stauffer and Betsy Ginsburg

Freeman Gardens is exploding with color as nearly 350 rose bushes, in the Gardens' 16 beds and on the 2 arbors, reach the peak of their first full bloom of the season. While the roses continue to bloom into October, this colorful show is not to be missed! To accommodate all comers, cameras in hand, the Gardens are open every day from 8AM until dusk.

Classic Roses

Favorite varieties abound, including the magnificent red and white 'Double Delight,' a large-flowered hybrid tea type, noted for its strong fragrance. 'Peace,' often called the “rose of the twentieth century,” is another hybrid tea, featuring petals that combine shades of pink, yellow and cream. All 'Peace' roses are descended from French-bred plants that were placed on the last flight out of that country before the 1939 Nazi invasion. The rose was introduced in America at the end of World War II and renamed 'Peace' to celebrate the cessation of hostilities.

One of the Gardens' two arbors is adorned with a much-loved climber, 'Golden Showers,' a large-flowered American-bred variety introduced in 1956. Perhaps the ultimate in American roses is fragrant, crimson-flowered 'Mister Lincoln,' a hybrid tea that honors the sixteenth president. It is a long-stemmed beauty that became a classic almost as soon as it was introduced in 1964.

A Colorful Supporting Cast

These roses are not the only participants in the mid-spring riot of bloom. Peonies and iris sing out from dedicated beds. Sunflowers are beginning their skyward ascent from positions along the historic Hawthorne Avenue fence, and crape myrtles will once again brighten the south end of the Gardens. The traditional raspberry patch, where visitors sometimes stop to sample the fruit in late spring, has been supplemented by a strawberry patch that has begun to bear its first crop. A robin has taken up residence in the grape arbor, which will begin fruiting soon. In the meantime, the robin joins other birds in the two birdbaths.