

EarthKind™ News for January

FINAL ROSES PLANTED IN FARMERS BRANCH RESEARCH GARDEN

On a foggy December afternoon, the final 148 roses were placed in the National EarthKind™ Research Garden on Valley View Lane in Farmers Branch. The city park garden now contains all 100 cultivars in the newest trials, replicated 4 times—400 roses which will not be fertilized, sprayed or pruned for 5 years. At the end of that time the most beautiful will receive the prestigious designation of EarthKind™.

These roses are those which were not ready for planting in early spring at the time the original group was placed in the ground. They include roses developed by Dr. Griffith Buck which have never been available in the nursery trade. Through the efforts of TMGA Past President Garey Wylie, an arrangement was made for Mark Chamblee of Chamblee's Rose Nursery in Tyler to propagate roses from Dr. Buck's personal garden in Ames, Iowa. It was, therefore, Mark Chamblee who delivered the roses for planting at Farmers Branch on December 18, 2008. The research project is under the direction of Dr. Steve George, Professor and Landscape Horticulturist Specialist, Texas A&M University Research & Extension Center in Dallas. Pam Smith, Farmers Branch Park Landscape Manager, is responsible for the beautiful bed designs and overall care of the plantings. Dr. George and Ms. Smith were on site to coordinate the planting with the help of volunteers from Farmers Branch, Dallas and Johnson County.



Pictured are Diane Asberry of Johnson County, Dr. Steve George, a volunteer from Farmers Branch and Mark Chamblee.

Every Master Gardener group in Texas is urged to start their own trial garden with as few as 5 cultivars replicated 3 times. This is a relatively easy undertaking that can assist in finding those roses that do best in all kinds of climates and soils. To receive a packet of information explaining how to get involved in the research email leach@ticnet.com.

Joan Leach, Johnson County Master Gardener