Rose leaves

The Newsletter of the
Greater Rochester
Rose Society

August 2011

Officers:

President:	***Pat Brooks***
Vice President:	***Gene Noto***
2nd. Vice President:	***Paul Rosenfeld***
Treasurer:	***Ted Brazak***
Secretary:	***Terry Brooks***
Member at Large	***Dolores Sibs***

Editor, "Roseleaves" Terry Brooks ***tapabrooks@gmail.com*** ***585 621 8780***

Next Meeting: Sunday August 14th. 2011. 3:00 pm.

Location: The home of Peter & Marion DelGiorno
172 Woody Lane, Rochester NY 14625

Program: Annual Picnic

Bring to the picnic:

A folding chair
A dish to pass and anything special you want to drink, (wine or beer)

GRRS will provide:

Plates and silverware
Hots, Brats, and Burgers and the means to cook them.
Cold drinks and punch

A street map is shown on page 7

President's message:

I'd like to thank Gene Noto for presenting the program in July at the Wayside Garden Center, also for his presentation at Maplewood on July 23rd. I'd like to welcome new members, Al & Ginny Marsden who joined GRRS in July.

We have had a gentle rain all day which will help green-up the lawns, and bring on a few good roses for the mini rose show in September.

The GRRS annual picnic will be held on Sunday, August 14 at the home of Peter & Marion DelGiorno. It will be a chance to relax, to enjoy good food, and to discuss our plans for next year. A nominating committee is needed to help select candidates for the offices of president and treasurer, and for any other offices which need to be filled. The weatherman has assured me that the weather will be perfect for our picnic.
I hope to see you then. Pat.

Minutes of the July Meeting:

The July meeting was held at Wayside Garden Center on July 10th. at 2:00 pm. There was no business meeting. Gene Noto gave a presentation on Rose Culture for summer, fall, and into winter. Gene covered many of the diseases and pests that rose growers may encounter during this period, and the countermeasures that are available to prevent or minimize them. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm. There were approximately 20 Members and guests present.
Respectfully submitted,
Terence A Brooks, secretary.

Monroe County Fair:
Joan Baden receives an award.

The Monroe County Fair Association has initiated an annual Horticultural Achievement Award to honor horticultural contributors to the fair. The first recipient was our own Joan Baden; a long time judge and nationally renowned rose expert, who received the award on the last day of the Fair in Henrietta. The criteria for this first time award included demonstrating excellence in the field of horticulture, acknowledged expertise by local, state or national societies and clubs, significant involvement in the Flower and Vegetable Show at the Monroe County Fair, participation in community, society and club activities that involve helping others, and activities involved in supporting and advancing youth.

"We are proud to have Joan judging our cut flower shows for over ten years." says Sal Madonna, superintendent of the county fair.

Congratulations Joan you deserve it.

A full account of this event may be seen in the July edition of the Webster Post in an article by Linda Quinlan.

The Monroe County Fair also established a 'Best of Section Rose award dedicated to Ron Sibs' a longtime supporter and rose expert. Sal Madonna said "We are thankful for his support through the years." The first winner of this award was presented, appropriately, to Dolores Sibs with her winning climber rose*, Red Eden*. Her miniflora rose; *Dolores Marie*, also won a blue ribbon at the fair. ..Along with several other roses from her garden. Pat and Terry Brooks also exhibited roses at the show...winning many ribbons. As you all well know, July is a difficult time to maintain and show exhibition roses. .

.Dolores

Rose Ramblings by Dolores Sibs

"To mulch or not to mulch" …….. that is the question? Most gardeners have their own theories of what is best for their gardens. Some like using mulch, others do not. Some Rosarians claim the mulch causes many of their insect and other diseases problems. Still others feel it protects the bushes- keeping them cooler in the summertime as well as warmer during the winter months. Most people agree that mulch helps to suppress weeds, and weeds compete with your plants for water and nutrients, so we certainly don't want them around. What are your feelings about mulch?

Due to my recent health issues, I didn't have the strength or manpower to do mulching of any type in my flower beds these past few months. And the beds knew it! They were sad looking, dry, and everything….. including my recently purchased annuals …… appeared very limp, and about to die on me. Everything just looked much neglected… and they were.

But, starting just two weeks ago, with help from a couple of friends and a number of bags of shredded dark, brown cedar chips applied about two inches thick…… the mulch covering over the 'clay looking soil' made a big difference in my rose and hosta beds. The plants now look perkier…prettier.....and more turgid. Because of this protective covering, the mulch is helping to maintain moisture in the soil and around the plants, and is suppressing most of the many weeds that seem to have multiplied in my flower beds. This year, I didn't purchase any of my usual buckwheat hulls- which I would have preferred. That 'specialty' mulch would have required a lengthy trip to Pen Yan Mills to pick them up; and the price per bag was quite costly this year.

Perhaps after reading the following article- written by a friend of mine who lives in Georgia- you may want to change your mind on whether ' to mulch or not to mulch.'

Mulch Ado About Nothing By Bobbie Reed, *Master Rosarian*

Mulch can be many things, but in our yard, shredded leaves are high on the list, as are woodchips. In the Southeast, alternatives include pine straw, pine bark nuggets, hardwood chips dyed to suit your aesthetics, and shredded cypress (although the use of this last is discouraged for environmental reasons). In other parts of the country, options vary based on local supplies. Mulch is all around us. Some things aren't mulch, though. Gravel and stone aren't mulch. Those synthetic "mulches" made from recycled rubber aren't really mulch, either. Why not? Have you ever walked through a forest and noticed all the "duff" – the decomposing leaves and wood on the forest floor? Nature makes her own mulch, recycling nutrients from tree leaves and branches and trunks

back to the soil, where tree roots can take them up again. That's a big part of what we want mulch to do. In fact, in the EarthKind™ rose trials, the only "fertilizer" their roses received was an annual application of mulch. So when you think mulch, think organic.

What does mulch do for our gardens? Mulch is an organic material that will decay over time – that's part of why it "settles". That organic material acts as a slow-release fertilizer, the best kind for our roses when rainfall is sparse and watering is restricted. As it decays and is incorporated into the soil by earthworms, it helps to protect and promote all those billions of microorganisms that we need in our soil. It also improves soil structure – remember adding organic material to the soil (clay) when you planted the rose? And it helps to buffer the pH of the soil. Yes, mulches may lower the pH of the soil a little, but you're testing your soil pH regularly, aren't you?

Mulch helps the soil to retain moisture. Especially when the hot summer sun is beating down, or when winter winds are sucking the moisture out of plants and soil, that protection is most welcome.

Similarly, mulch helps to reduce the temperature swings in soil. In summer, it helps to keep the soil cool. In winter, it will keep soil (and delicate plants) warm. It will also help to keep winter soil cool – and yes, we really want to do that, to reduce the shock of our occasional warm spells in winter, which would otherwise coax our roses into untimely growth.

Mulch helps to suppress weeds, and weeds compete with your rose babies for water and nutrients. Some folks have used "landscape fabric" for this purpose, with a light layer of "mulch" on top, but that defeats the ability of the mulch to enrich the soil, and only encourages weeds that grow in the decayed mulch on top of the fabric, leaving a hungry rose.

Mulch suppresses erosion. When water runs over the soil, it takes some along. This is all too apparent when hand-watering roses, but can also be obvious after a hard rain, especially where plants are on a slope.

Mulch improves the look of your garden. Whether your tastes run to pine straw or colored chips, it's bound to look better than bare clay, which always seems to clash with the colors of my roses.

How much mulch do we need? I've seen gardens with only a thin, cosmetic layer of mulch over the soil, and I've seen it mounded a foot deep. Experts tell us that 2-4" of "settled" mulch is all we need. You might need to apply 6" of pinestraw to get 3" of settled mulch, but you can use less of denser materials, maybe 3" of woodchips or shredded leaves, or only 2" of Nature's Helper or compost. Be careful not to mound the mulch over the crown of the plant during the growing season, although that's exactly what you'll want to do for winter protection. Mulch can be added to any time during the year, and you don't need to remove the prior layer before adding (although you should remove diseased rose leaves).

So where do we find this garden miracle? We like to use shredded leaves, which our trees provide; just run the lawn mower over them and bag them up, or apply them immediately to your roses. We also use wood chips, delivered for free by a local tree service. You can buy mulch in bulk from soil-and-mulch companies, or in bags or bales from the big box stores.

Everyone has their favorite mulch – the most important thing is to use it!

(Parts of the above article were removed in the interest of brevity. Thank you Bobbie Reed for your permission to use this excellent article. DS)

July Program - Wayside Garden Center by Gene Noto

On July 10, 2011, I presented a program on the "Summer, Fall, and Into Winter Rose Culture". at the Wayside Nurseries in Macedon, N.Y. It was attended by 5 non members of GRRS, and 10 of our own members. We even welcomed two new members that joined after the program. They are mentioned in the bulletin. Please give them a warm welcome to our group at their next attendance.

I was delighted that so many of our members attended, with many questions of rose culture brought up. Much of the culture of roses, as well as questions that pertain to other horticulture things in the garden were discussed, hopefully to everyone's satisfaction. However, there was one question brought up by a non member that just could not be entertained at that time - that of the classification of roses. As quilt has not let me forget that question, I have taken this opportunity to again present it to you. This article has been printed in Rose Leaves a couple of times, some time ago, but I feel it does an adequate job of answering the question. I hope you enjoy it - again.

I'd also like to thank Dolores Sibs, Terry Brooks, and Emilie and Denis Monefeldt for their attendance at Maplewood on July 23. We also had one member, Mary, from the public attending. It is only with the interest from our members that the outside programs are successful. The attending public members see that our GRRS members are interested, and they in turn show more interest. That has been evident with every public program we have had this year with at least 8 new members. Welcome to all the new members. Hope to see all of them at every meeting with their questions and inter

WHAT ROSE TO GROW By Gene Noto

When I am asked what rose to grow by some enthusiast, my response is always – "what do you want to use it for?" The truth is that there is always a rose for every use, and for every taste.

From 1867, when the first hybrid tea, *La France*, was born, the rose world has never been the same.

Before that date, the "old fashioned", or "antique" roses, were the mode, gracing gardens all over the world for centuries. With the advent of modern hybridization, various classes began to grow, giving rose lovers a larger pallet to enjoy. As hybridization brought forth different forms of roses, as to how they looked and grew, their use and acceptance also grew.

The Hybrid Perpetuals, Hybrid Teas, Floribundas, Grandifloras, Climbing varieties, ground covers, miniatures, and the new class of Mini-Floras have given rose lovers an array of lovely blooms at their disposal. The only question would be "how do I want to use it" as to what class, or variety to choose.

The **Hybrid Perpetuals** are but an extension of the "old garden roses", or OGRs. Their growth may not be as extensive as OGRs, but their color, fragrance, and use can be the same. Their ultimate positive aspect is that most of them bloom all season, in comparison to the OGR which for the most part bloom only once in spring – but OOOH what a bloom. Some favorite Hybrid Perpetuals are: *Frau Karl Druski* (a gorgeous, pristine white, always in bloom with great form). *Paul Neyron* – a huge full pink bloom

often referred to as the “cabbage rose” that can reach up to 7 inches in diameter. *Prince Camille de Rohan* – a very full bloom with as many as 100 petals*. Ferdinand Pichard* – streaked pink and scarlet for a dramatic effect, and short enough to fit into any garden.

The **Hybrid Teas** of this century have become the highlights of the Rose world with their stately canes, and diverse blooms and colors. Their blooms range from small (the beautiful white *Pasquale*, to extra large *Medallion* (soft apricot in a huge 7 inch open bloom). Their form goes from singles of five large petals (gorgeous pink *Dainty Bess*, and its progeny *White Wings* with brilliant purple stamens) to full and exhibition forms, such as *Marilyn Monroe, Louise Estes, St. Patrick*, and hundreds more that glow in the landscape.

The **Floribunda** is a unique class that was introduced in the United States by Jackson & Perkins in the mid1930s, when they received a variety from the famous Poulsen’s Danish Nursery. Because the plants were so different – short with many blooms produced in sprays – J&P called them “abundant flowers”, or floribunda. For armloads of blooms from one bush, this class became quickly popular, and remains so today. Varieties as the blood red *Europeana* with 12-15 blooms per spray, or the frivolous pink ruffled *Sexy Rexy* just makes the garden or a room come alive. Used for borders, or hedge landscapes, the floribunda remains a class much used, and admired.

Grandifloras are similar to the Hybrid Tea, but are usually taller, and bloom more so in sprays. The flowers are larger than the floribunda, but usually smaller than the Hybrid Tea. We can’t talk about this class without mentioning the first grandiflora, *Queen Elizabeth*. Full, ruffled, pearl pink blooms, in single stems, but mostly in clusters, almost thornless, tall and stately, providing a dramatic effect in the garden, usually set in the back. If someone wants just one pink rose in their garden, I always suggest “the Queen”!

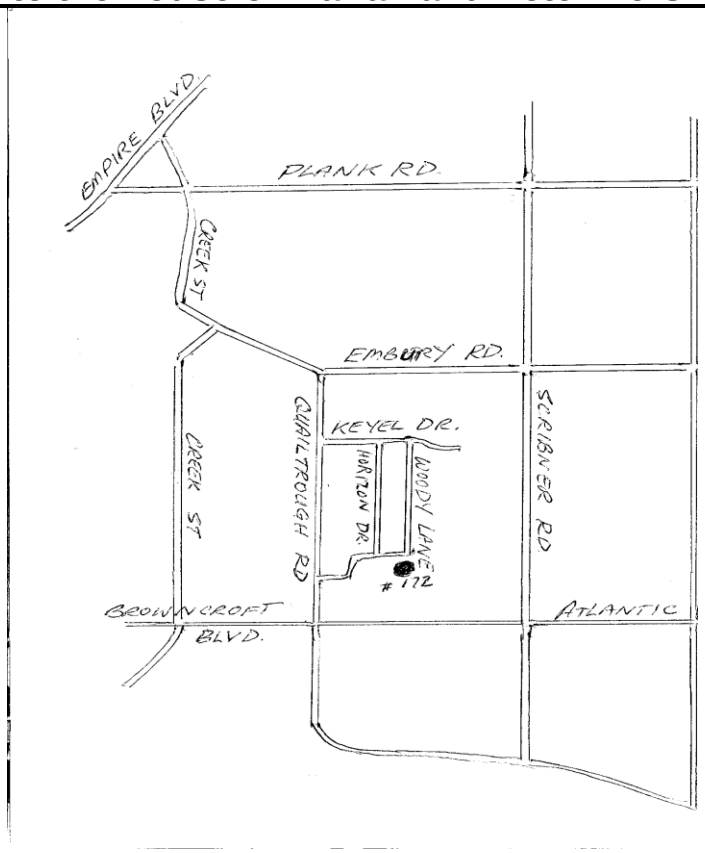
If you have a fence to hide, or a trellis to cover, nothing is more dramatic than a colorful **climbing rose.** There are the large climbers, as a class in themselves, the sport of Hybrid Teas as climbers, many OGRs (with their long arching thin branches), and even some fantastic miniature varieties that shine as climbers. Some climbing varieties can even be used as a ground cover, or staked to make a fountain of brilliant color as a dramatic center of attention. Some of the more popular climbers are: *Dublin Bay* (large, loose, blood red blooms on a tall, spreading bush), *Don Juan* (another deep red with great form, and wonderful fragrance), *City of York* (pure white with so many blooms, it looks like one color smeared over the trellis), and of course a unique AARS winner, *Fourth of July* (gold with scarlet streaks that seem like fireworks).

Miniatures are just that – a small sample of the larger counterpart. The “minis” come in all shapes and sizes (6 inches high to climbers of 10 feet or more), all colors (russet to creamy white), all shapes (there are more single petaled varieties – 5-12 petals- than any other class). There is a miniature for any garden, deck, patio, or window sill. There are so many minis, it is difficult to give adequate representation, but a garden without the following just shouldn’t be - *Magic Carrousel, Jean Keanneally, Jeannie La Joie (a climbing mini that must be in every garden*), *Carrot Top, Mother’s Love, Irresistible,* and so many more, but we’ll leave that up to you*.*

The Mini-Flora class is but a few years old. It consists of those varieties that are the size between miniatures and floribundas. With the modern hybridization process,

more of these beauties were surfacing, and the hybridizers didn't want to just discard them because they did not fit into the recognized classes. They have proven themselves a great advantage for their exquisite forms, colors, and stately bushes (for the most part) -–many are sprawling, but that could be an advantage). Varieties such as *Tiffany Lynn* (a luscious pink with impeccable form), *Amy Grant* (another lovely pink with a spiraled form), *Ferrin* (another gorgeous pink with perfect form), and in case you are questioning if all are pink – there are more colors, bicolors, and perfect blooms than one could imagine. And names like *Luscious Lucy, Conundrum, or Dancing Flame* is sure to grab your attention.

Of course the best way to learn what rose will take your breath away, that you must have in your possession - is to check rose catalogues and visit other rose gardens – be they those of rose society members, or public gardens.

So there you have it –a rose for every use and taste. All you need is a space to be filled, and a love for beauty. The above is just a tease as to what is available in the rose world. To learn more of what you may like, need, or want, you may also visit the American Rose Society web site, ARS.com, or check out the ARS pages of the Green Industries Yellow Pages, - GIYP.com/roses, or better still, contact your local rose society. A Consulting Rosarian for the American Rose Society would be happy to help you decide. Perhaps even you may become a "rose nut"!

Map to the house of Marian and Peter DelGiorno