



# Rose leaves

The Newsletter of the  
Greater Rochester  
Rose Society  
May 2011

Officers:

<i>President:</i>	<i>Pat Brooks</i>
<i>Vice President:</i>	<i>Gene Noto</i>
<i>2<sup>nd</sup>. Vice President:</i>	<i>Paul Rosenfeld</i>
<i>Treasurer:</i>	<i>Ted Brazak</i>
<i>Secretary:</i>	<i>Terry Brooks</i>
<i>Member at Large</i>	<i>Dolores Sibs</i>

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**Next Meeting:    Tuesday May 3<sup>rd</sup>. 2011 at 7:00pm**

**Location:    The Civic Garden Center, The Castle  
5 Castle Park, Rochester 14620**

**Program:    Roses 101 presented by Gene Noto**

Gene Noto will give a presentation covering all the aspects of rose growing specially aimed at the beginning grower. He will talk about how to choose, plant, and look after the bushes. He will cover soil types, fertilization, pruning, insects; in fact anything the beginning rose grower needs to know to be successful. Gene is a Master Gardener and an accredited Rosarian. He has an extensive garden with many different rose bushes, so his expertise is tuned to our local conditions.

Co-hosts for this evening are Jackie Brazak and Marion DelGiorno.

*Along with this program we invite those attending to bring their pruners and loppers along for tuning and sharpening.*

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## Presidents Message:

Terry & I returned from sunny Arizona Wednesday and enjoyed the roses blooming near my sister's patio. It was such a pleasure, and we're looking forward to a good first bloom from the roses in our garden. We also traveled to Zion and to Bryce Canyons in Utah. There was snow in both places as they are at an 8000 ft. elevation. We truly live in a beautiful country. We are traveling to England from mid May to mid June, and will return June 13, just in time to take photos at Paul Rosenfeld's home for our June meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>, rain date on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Paul would like to start the meeting at 6:00, so please note that on your calendar.

There is still time to register for the National Mini Rose Show to be held June 24<sup>th</sup>. To 26<sup>th</sup>. In Syracuse. Applications will be available at the meeting.

At this month's meeting, our own Gene Noto will present a program entitled "Roses 101"; a follow up to last year's meeting "Everything you wanted to know about roses". I hope to see you this coming Tuesday, May 3 at 7:00pm. Bring your pruners for sharpening. Pat.

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## Rose Ramblings by Dolores Sibb

The Mini – Miniflora National Rose Show to be held June 24-through 26<sup>th</sup> at the Sheraton Hotel in Syracuse..... is soon approaching..... and I hope many of you will be attending the entire convention. Even if you can't be there for all of the Syracuse Rose Society's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary festivities...you may wish to attend the Saturday Rose show and see what roses look like from throughout the country. But..... Better yet, try to plan on entering a few of your best blooms from your garden. My roses in June usually are at their peak....so I'm hoping I'll have something to take with me...so I can at least say "I exhibited at the Mini – Miniflora National Rose Show held in Syracuse"

Following are some pointers that Ron and I always did prior to any rose show. Hopefully the tips will help you with your decision to enter the show.

**Read the Show Schedule-** It's very important to get a copy of the schedule early and read it thoroughly. A hard copy will be sent to you for a small fee.....or there will be an 'online' copy of the rose show requirements at the Syracuse website. Decide which classes you might like to enter. For example, there are many local classes just for New York residents along with the dozens of other national mini and miniflora classes to enter. In the schedule itself, perhaps check and highlight the classes you might

possibly want to enter with a yellow marker. You can enter more than one rose per class, just so they are different varieties.

**Two weeks before the show-** Start watching your rose garden for 'potential exhibition' specimens. If you plan to exhibit a single bloom on a stem, you will need a strong, straight stem that has been disbudded as it developed. (Disbudding is the process of removing all side buds that form between the stem and the axil of the leaf.) You only want one bloom per stem unless you are going to show a spray of roses. A spray is two or more rose blooms on one stem. If you plan to show a spray, you will want to remove the center (largest) bud at the point of emergence from the stem. This allows the side buds to develop. Otherwise the center bloom will have finished blooming by the time the rest of the spray was in exhibition form.

**1-3 Days before the show-** Using a tablet or a pad of paper make a list of your chosen roses as well as the classes you plan on entering them in. If you see a promising rose, label it in the garden with a small stringed tag with its name on it. This tag will also serve as a reminder for you to keep checking those particular roses daily.

When do you cut the rose? The timing varies depending on the variety of the rose, the number of petals, the temperature, general weather conditions, and your ability to store the cut roses. Roses should be cut when they are 1/4 - 1/3 open which allows them time to open more on the morning of the show. Cut them early in the morning if possible, or late in the prior evening. Cut the stems long, you can always shorten them later. (I even cut and store roses a week in advance if I feel they will be too open for the day of the show.) Have some tall, plastic buckets, or 1/2 gallon milk containers, etc. available when you go into your garden to collect those roses. Cut the rose stems at an angle with sharp, clean pruners. Submerge the rose stems in the containers of warm water; you can re-cut the stems again later.

When taken indoors, add additional water and some floral preservative of some type. Re-cut the blooms under water, and allow the roses to rest and drink their fill. If the weather is hot, you may need to refrigerate the blooms overnight at 38 degrees, or keep them in a cool, dark place, such as a basement or garage. If you place your roses in a refrigerator, (a spare one that you might have in your garage or basement) I often put a baggy on some of the more sensitive blooms- so they do not lose moisture from the petals.

## **THE MORNING OF THE SHOW-**

Syracuse is about 65 miles from Rochester...so get up early enough to allow travel time, hotel parking, and necessary prep time for your roses at the Sheraton Hotel. Better yet stay overnight in Syracuse and enjoy the many Friday night's festivities.

Remove your roses from the refrigerator. I will probably place each of my best blooms in individual soda, water or wine cooler bottles. This way each bloom is protected from the others and my labels will be taped to each specimen bottle. I have saved many of the six wine cooler cardboard containers for easy carrying...or I will use the divided whiskey

boxes that contain 12 compartments. They are perfect for carrying individual blooms already in plastic lightweight water bottles. Since it's mostly a mini show....carrying these smaller blooms will be so much easier than transporting tall hybrid teas or floribunda sprays.

Plan to arrive at the show early- so you can get table space to prepare and groom your roses. Take along a small grooming kit that will include your pruners, paper towels, Q-tips, pen, tweezers, small artist or foam brushes, cuticle scissors or regular scissors, etc....anything that you might need to help 'groom' your roses.

**AT THE SHOW-** Find an empty table and gather enough vases for your roses, along with the number of tags you will need. If possible, try to get the entry tags in advance of the show and fill them out at home (or in the evening at the hotel) when you have more time. Fill out both sections of the tag. Use your address labels to save writing all that needed information. Print the rose names with the proper spelling, and include the section or class where the rose will be entered.

Place each rose in a provided bud vase and evaluate the bloom stage. If the bloom is too open and the stamens are showing, enter the bloom in the 'open roses' class. Groom each rose before you place it on the tables to be judged. (Or clean them well in advance at home where you will have more time to focus on each bloom and their leaves.) Support each leaf from behind with your fingers, and polish the surface with a soft cloth or foam brush. Use your artist's brush to remove any fine debris from the petals. You may use the scissors to trim any brown or torn edges from the petals or leaves. Avoid removing any leaves, if possible, because you can be penalized for missing foliage above the lip of the vase. Do not add anything to make the leaves shinier. Check the proportion of the bloom to the stem. You can adjust this somewhat by pushing the stem deeper into the vase or wedging it with rolled up plastic wrap or Styrofoam. Be sure the stem is in the water and the wedging material is not showing above the top of the vase. Make sure there is plenty of water in the vase to cover the stem.

Attach an entry tag to each vase and make one final check of the bloom's overall appearance. Carry each rose to the exhibition table, one at a time if possible... (I usually carry a small tray.) and set the vase carefully in the correct class or section. Ask for help, if necessary. However, at a National Show there may be a Placement Committee and they will put your bloom in the correct class.

Clean up your table space, and return any unused supplies. Then relax and visit some of the interesting sessions that are offered all afternoon on Saturday. You may want to attend and hear all of the speakers. (See last month issue or Roseleaves for full list of activities on Saturday.) Then.....when the show is finally judged and the doors are open to the public..... check to see if any of your precious blooms were 'lucky' enough to win a few blue or even red ribbons..... or perhaps even a trophy. **Good Luck!**