

Everything comes up roses here

BY MARTY FIGLEY
SPECIAL WRITER

June is Rose Month, and members of the Metropolitan Rose Society are ready for their annual Rose Show at Macomb Mall, taking place 1-9 p.m. Saturday, June 22, and noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, June 23.

Macomb Mall is at 32233 Gratiot Avenue and Masonic Road, Roseville.

This club is affiliated with the American Rose Society and the National Rose Society of England. Members live in the metro Detroit area as well as other parts of the state. Those living outside the area join this society in order to receive the newsletter and information about club activities.

Divisions

The roses exhibited are from private gardens and the quality of the roses provides a challenge to the eight Rose Society judges from Michigan and Ohio. There are several divisions for judging in the show. Division I-Horticultural, Section A, contains 16 classes, and a trophy will be awarded for each.

Ten Specimen classes will also be judged and trophies awarded.

In Division II, Section B, trophies will be presented for Queen of Show, King of Show and Princess of Show, the winners of top honors in the Specimen classes.

In addition, arrangements of cut roses will be presented with the theme "The Magic of Music and Roses." Traditional, modern or abstract, Oriental styles as well as arrangements of miniature roses will be judged.

This year, for the first time, non-members are encouraged to exhibit. Roses may be shown under their commercial name. A cost of 10 cents per entry tag will be collected. For information about the show and/or entries, call



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Blooming beauty: The Red Olympiad is a beauty.

Carol at (810) 689-9529.

Rose bushes will be for sale during show hours and the cut roses will be available for purchase after 3 p.m. Sunday.

The national chairman of the Old Garden Rose Committee of the American Rose Society, Shreveport, La., will be available to answer questions on old garden roses, and expert consulting rosarians will also be happy to answer questions on other roses.

Rosey outlook

Paul and Carol Scheel of Troy are members of the Metropolitan Rose Society. She is treasurer and "weeder in the garden." He is president of the society and also chairman of this annual show. Paul has been growing and propagat-



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Subject is roses: Paul Scheel of Troy hybridizes many roses.

ing roses for 15 years, from the time Carol asked him to plant three roses in the garden for cutting. They were Chaf-lotte Armstrong, Chrysler Imperial and Tropicana.

"Then it just took off," he said. At last count he was growing almost 400 roses in their garden. Hybrid Teas, Grandifloras, Floribundas, Shrub, Old Garden Roses and Miniatures keep him busy and happy. More than 100 of them are grown as potted roses, which require special care for the winter.

At the end of November Scheel "trims some branches down for ease of storage," then carries them into a west-facing, unheated sun porch with a tile floor for the winter. The plants are dormant then and as soon as the soil thaws out in the spring, he waters them well.

In early spring Scheel cuts each plant back to 12 inches, before they leaf out. In mid-April he returns them back outside ("They are all leafed out by that time.") He continues with the water and doesn't let the soil dry out.

After the last frost he applies a 13-13-13 granular fertilizer, then folier feeds with Miracle Gro until mid-August. These bloom two to three weeks earlier, depending on the weather, than those grown in the ground.

All the roses are treated the same when they are all outside. Scheel sprays his roses faithfully and says it's best to use a multi-purpose fungicide. Apply this, following package directions, in the spring as plants leaf out and reapply every 10 to 14 days during the growing season until the end of the growing season. He advises: Don't

spray rugosa roses (species roses).

Scheel has an interesting way to propagate his roses and I asked him to share his procedure. He built a four-by-four-by-six-foot "misting house" by constructing a wooden frame and covering it with a filtering fabric that blocks out ultraviolet rays. The fabric can be bought at a garden supply store.

The box is tucked into a corner of the garden and sits on a cement patio. A sprinkler head stands in the middle and watering is timed to spray a fine mist of water for 30 seconds every half hour for 12 hours each day. This keeps the cuttings moist.

We discussed how a novice could duplicate this "house" and he suggested that a plastic opaque milk jug in the shade would work. A glass jar is OK, but mustn't set in the sun. Keep the soil around the covering moist so that the cutting doesn't dry out.

Six- to eight-inch cuttings need to have at least four buds (eyes). ("Try to get a cutting with buds popping out, and cut at a node.") Dip the cut end in a rooting powder and place the cutting in a soil-less mix (vermiculite and Spagh-num peat), with two eyes below the soil and two above.

Scheel uses 16-ounce opaque plastic beverage cups and puts a hole in the bottom for drainage. He ensures that the roots aren't exposed to light by then setting the cup in a regular dark plastic pot.

These are then placed on the floor of the misting house and remain there until new growth is large enough to move the plant outdoors.

Driveway decor:
Roses grow in large containers at the driveway entrance.



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