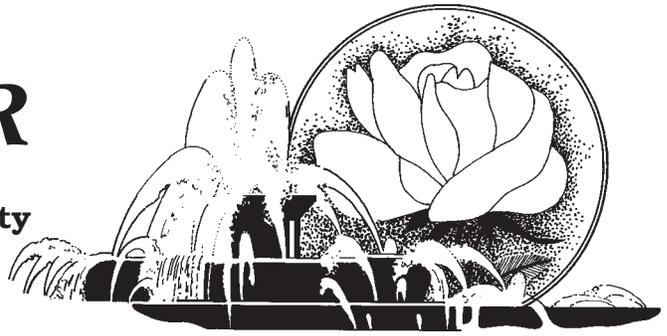


Pittsburgh Rose Society
NEWSLETTER

Published by the Pittsburgh Rose Society

A Non-Profit Organization
Affiliated with The American Rose Society



EDITORIAL MUSINGS AND REMINDERS

So often we're very eager to get back to working with our roses because of having experienced the harshness of the weather. I wonder whether that will be the case this year because our winter has been so mild. It is my guess that we will be just as eager mostly because of the long hiatus without any roses. We will revel because of all the joy, the beauty, and the fascination that is about to begin once again. It's because of that joy and beauty that we are willing to put up with the pruning, fertilizing, watering, and spraying. It's sort of like the old saying, "no pain, no gain." Let the diseases and insects come, we'll take care of them—and willingly. The end product is worth it all.

March can be a busy month; and I think that can be especially so this year because of the mild winter. We will have something in this *NEWSLETTER* this month about the new USDA Zone map. It might be that in the not-too-far distant future we will have to begin earlier regularly. So, we will have a "What to Do" column once again.

We have our pruning dates at Renziehausen Park in April, but I am not sure just when many of us may start—I'm inclined to

think it will be earlier. Just remember not to start before the forsythia starts blooming; one can always safely prune later. We urge you to make every effort to participate in at least one of the two pruning demonstrations at Renzie. For our spring pruning we usually have no option as to how low we cut since we need to prune as low as we have winter kill. If you do have green canes as tall as hip-high or higher (which we likely will have this year), I suggest that you cut down to about 18", except for climbers. I notice that this year I have no dieback whatsoever up to this point.

Check the "What to do in March" column for planting bare root and potted roses, a more complete treatment of pruning, and for fertilizing. The mulching, spraying, etc. will be dealt with in a later issue.

Don't forget our annual Banquet Luncheon at Shannopin Country Club on March 17th. The registration form, the menu, and the directions have already appeared in the last issue. We would enjoy having as many of you as possible join us. I am sure you will enjoy it greatly. We always have a great time and it is such a good opportunity to get to know you. See you there! 

*Happy
St. Patrick's
Day*

**I GUESS WE'RE ALL IRISH
ON THIS DAY, SO THE
BOARD WISHES ALL OF
YOU A GREAT DAY!**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this we are nearing the end of February, and we have still not experienced our usual "winter" weather. It was quite a treat for those of us who traveled to Lancaster over Presidents' Day weekend. This always enjoyable weekend was even better with not having any weather worries. It's so nice to see fellow rosarians from Pennsylvania and New Jersey and chat about roses. The planned programs are always enjoyable and educational. It would be nice if more of our members attended these District events.

Our next local event is our annual winter luncheon on SATURDAY, March 17 at Shannopin Country Club which is just off I-279. Most details are elsewhere in this Newsletter and the directions and menu were already in the previous issue. Why not join us for a good meal and friendly informal rose talk.

Looking ahead on our calendar, on April 14 and April 21 we will be pruning the roses at the rose garden in Renzie Park in McKeesport. We start about 1pm and all help is greatly appreciated. More details will be in the April Newsletter, but I urge you to set those dates aside now.

Hope to see you on SATURDAY, March 17
Georgie Papale, President



It's certainly worth wishing you a happy St. Partick's Day once again, and what better way then sending you a picture of the beautiful hybrid tea of St. Partick which won AARS in 1996. For those of you who receive this Newsletter electronically, notice the greenish edges to the petals - hence the name.

Happy St. Patrick's Day

WHAT TO DO IN MARCH

Our winter has been very mild this year, and unless the trend will end and begin a drastic cold spell, it won't be long before we will be busy with all sorts of things dealing with rose gardening. If you have had winter protection on your roses, I suggest that you be careful as to when you remove it. Even though we've had a gentle winter (so far) always be aware of late frosts or freezes. Remove your protection carefully and keep it handy so that you can cover at least the new growth and early basal shoots down around the bud union should your plants leaf out too soon.

You can busy yourself as soon as there is a moderation in temperature by clearing out those leaves which might be infected with blackspot—both those on the plants and those on the ground. The blackspot fungus can overwinter when on a leaf. I have heard the claim that it will not survive in the soil, on mulch, or elsewhere. Since blackspot can occupy much of a rosarian's time it is important to minimize the potential for infection whenever possible.

Some rosarians advocate spraying with a dormant spray, using oils for that purpose. Make sure the plants are dormant, unless you use light oils which are made for that purpose which will not harm the rose even if it has leafed out. There is a much fuller treatment of dormant spraying by David McKibben in the March, 2010 issue of the *NEWSLETTER*.

PLANTING. If you have ordered bare root roses, they most likely will arrive dormant. You may plant them as soon as the ground is workable. Dig holes to a depth of about 18 inches and 18 to 24 inches in diameter. Add organic matter, such as peat moss, mulched leaves, or compost to the excavated soil to achieve 1/3 organic, 2/3 native soil mix. You can add some sand (especially if your soil is heavily clay) and enrich the mix even more if you wish. When planting bare root roses, soak them in water for about 24 hours. If the rose is not on its own roots, plant with the graft level with the surrounding soil surface. Back fill the hole with the mixed soil and add water as you fill. Do not tramp or you will compact the soil. Protect the newly

planted rose canes from drying out. Place some soil around the exposed canes to the height of 10" or so. Gradually remove soil carefully as the canes leaf out in about two weeks. All of this goes for bare root roses and also other dormant roses bought in boxes found in nurseries. Take them out of the boxes and plant. However, if those in boxes are already growing, or if you buy potted roses which are growing, you must wait to plant them after danger of frost. .

FERTILIZING. A good, balanced fertilizer applied according to directions will help your roses grow fast and strong. Do not fertilize newly planted roses until they have bloomed once. The following is for established rose bushes. Fertilizing should begin as soon as the plant initiates new growth. The two main types of fertilizers are granular, which should be scratched into the top layer of soil, and soluble, which is dissolved in water and then applied. The plant should be watered before and after applying granular fertilizer. Good organic, granular fertilizers are *Rosetone* from Espoma or *Mills Magic*. Or you can buy any cheap fertilizer provided that it has an N-P-K close to 10-10-10. There are also quite a few good soluble types, among them: *Peters Professional*, *Rapid Gro*, or *Miracle Gro*.

PRUNING. Since most of you probably have established rose bushes from previous years you will first be busy with pruning. Remember the old rule of thumb: "begin pruning when the forsythia starts blooming." You can always prune later than that, but don't start before that. The reason for not beginning earlier is that, since pruning encourages roses to break dormancy, you don't want new growth to be nipped by frosts or late freezes. In fact, it is a good idea to keep whatever you may have winterized with to cover pruned bushes when frost or freeze is predicted.

The pruning technique is simple and the principles apply to most varieties of roses. First, inspect the bush for cane damage. Broken canes or canes that are brown/black should be the first ones to be removed. The brown/black canes should be cut down until you come to good wood

WHAT IS....OUR NEW USDA GROWING ZONE?

by David McKibben, Consulting Rosarian and PRS Webmaster

While the politicians fight about the theory of global warming, the temperature statistics for Western Pennsylvania and the rest of the country have revealed that we are definitely warmer than just nine years ago in 2003 when the last USDA planting zone maps were revised. What is responsible for these temperature changes is still not absolute but the stats reveal what most gardeners already knew, that the winters are milder. Weather maps have always been fluid as cycles in the weather fluctuate. On the old regional map most of our membership area was in zone 5b to 6a. We are now almost all in zone 6. This is quite a change and it has a definite impact upon the planning of garden designs and planting selections. Checking the official US Department of Agriculture website shows that the only areas not in zone 6b would be toward the Laurel Highlands in the zip code 156XX areas or north of Butler county toward the center of the state along the New York border. These areas are in zone 5b. The areas south of Pittsburgh along the West Virginia panhandle are now classified as zone 7a. So just what do these zone numbers mean?

According to the USDA, and I am quoting their website here, "the 2012 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map is the standard by which gardeners and growers can determine which plants are most likely to thrive at a location. The map is based on the average annual minimum winter temperature, divided into 10-degree F zones." In our new zone the average lowest temperatures do not go below -5 degrees F. Until recently it was expected that our average winter lows would be around -10 degrees F. This does not mean that we cannot have an occasional drop even lower

but it does mean we will not be in sustained periods of temperatures below -5 degrees F. The extra 5 degrees makes a big difference in our plant selections. For example you may have wished to add an old garden rose in the noisette group to your garden and saw in the ARS "Guide to Selecting Roses" that the highest rated one is 'Reve d'Or' around since 1869 with a 9.2 designation. But this rose was considered to be hardy in zones 6 to 8. Before, if you chose it to add to your garden you would have to worry about extreme winter protection to keep it alive. Now you probably can go ahead and plant it without

too much concern that it will die from winter stress. This also opens up a wider palate of plants for possible companion planting with your roses. There are even a few gardenias commercially offered that have ratings in the 6b group that may survive outdoors in Western Pa.. To view the zone maps for the entire USA go to the USDA website by typing the following code in your computer web browser: <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/>



**CAMELLIA JAPONICA
IN OUR FUTURE GARDENS?**

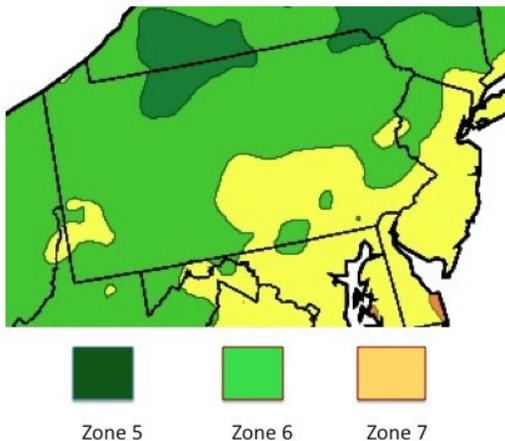
PHZMWeb/.

If you live in a higher elevation or more northern counties of our area it probably would still be wise to stick with the more hardy roses such as the Explorers Series or the Buck's roses. Remember, the USDA planting zones are guides to help you make wise decisions not absolutes. There will be winters in the next few years that will be colder than normal or even warmer than normal but you can now feel a little safer in choosing to plant those specimens that in years past were considered too tender in our area but there

(continued next page)

WHAT IS...OUT NEW USDA ZONE? (cont'd)

is certainly no guarantee that you will not lose some during winter's harsh chill in the future. Then there are all the other weather variables: wind, precipitation (amount of rain and inches of snow cover); and freeze-thaw cycles. All of these can contribute to a plant's demise as much, or maybe more than, minimum low temperatures.



USDA 2012 zone map for Pennsylvania. The darker areas are still rated zone 5 (Bradford County, etc); the light areas are zone 7. The majority of the state is now zone 6. 

(Editor's note: It might be nice to receive reports of experiences any of you have in the future. Perhaps you may begin to try borderline plants--plants you've never tried before. You could report them to either our website master or the president of the society. The reports could be success stories or failures. Let us say that you attempted to grow a Tea Rose, perhaps the highest rated one, 'Mrs. B. R. Cant', 1901, and it survived without too much fuss of winterizing; or on the other hand you might have failed. It would be nice to know. Tea Roses, by the way, are the immediate ancestors of the modern Hybrid Tea. They are relatively winter-tender. They have large blooms on weak stems, sometimes resulting in drooping, or nodding, flowers. In the south they are often grown because of their delicate colors and great fragrances. Noisettes [which originated in Charleston, SC due to the efforts of a rice-grower, John Cahmpneys], could also be tried. 'Blush Noisette' is still widely grown today and also the beautiful 'Madame Alfred Carriere' which seems to be the hardiest of the Noisettes.)

WHAT TO DO IN MARCH (cont'd)

(white pith). All small twiggy growth should be removed, especially from the center of the bush. Next, on mature plants, remove the oldest cane or canes (i.e., those that are a barky-brown and do not produce blossoms freely). I leave at least 6 main canes (if the bush has that many) to support the growth for the year. In the case of hybrid teas, grandifloras, and floribundas, one may shorten the canes that you keep to 24 inches or somewhat less. Some claim that to cut shorter, say down to about 18 inches, will produce larger blooms. Climbers are usually pruned to the size you want them—if you have a 14 ft. trellis, that's how large you want your climber to be, if the trellis is 8 ft. then you want your climber to be 8 feet. Just cut out the dead canes and the old, unproductive canes. With minis and minifloras just do everything on a lesser scale.

When pruning, use a good pair of scissor-type shears. Cuts should be at a point 1/4th inch

above a bud eye. Do not be fearful of pruning; it is hard to kill a rose. If you do not follow the rules the rose will grow anyway. These are suggested rules which work well and the roses will do better if they are followed.

We urge you to participate in the two pruning demonstrations at Renzie! There are so often questions that are simply answered and can be rapidly seen when demonstrated that it is wise to attend these pruning demonstrations if you possibly can.

We need not say anything about watering since this early in the year Mother Nature usually takes care of that. But remember the need for that if we do not get a least an inch of rain a week. Also remember that you fertilize after pruning. And finally, after pruning you will want to spray if spraying is your practice. Follow your regular regimen. We'll say more about that next month. 

THE ROSE PARADE

by Lois B. Fowkes

(While at the Mid-Winter Convention recently, in Lancaster, PA, your editor had the opportunity to speak to Lois Fowkes about her experiences while judging the floats of the Pasadena Rose Parade. Here is a truncated account [minus the many pictures], of her rapturous stay in Pasadena. Ed)

Ever wonder how the Rose Parade floats are built and judged? Here is a short summary of this exciting experience.

Every year millions of viewers around the world watch the famous "Rose Parade" as 40 - 50 floats make their way down Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena, California. JUST IMAGINE (parade theme) my surprise when I received an invitation from PTOR President, Richard Jackson to be one of the three float judges, for the 2012 parade. This news was received with both excitement and amazement!! I graciously accepted.

The three float judge team, myself, Paula Pryke for London, England and Byran Whitman from Disney were charged with selecting 24 trophy winners from over 40 floats! What a challenging task that was, for it opened my eyes to facets of the parade I had not considered before.

The floats from a distance are very creative and beautiful, but it was the preparation and fine detail of these creative floral treasures that are unseen by the viewing public. For instance, the use of brussels sprouts neatly cut in half to create the skin of a dragon or tiny split peas all lined up in a 6 inch row that went for 55 feet or rose petals being attached to form the surface of an animal.

What did seem like radical surgery to me was taking beautiful long stemmed hybrid teas flown in from Ecuador and cutting them down to 6 inches for insertion into orchid picks. These were then inserted on the float to cover a surface. There was even a young girl sitting in a sea of blue status with 5-gallon buckets, clipping the status flowers into the pails for eventual gluing to the floats!! These enthusiastic and devoted efforts of the so called "petal pushers" is an aspect of the parade, not seen by the public but, promotes camaraderie sometimes spanning generations. Perhaps someday I will write a book on the creative aspects of the designers and their creators. I am still stunned that the decorators use the entire rose in four different ways - bloom, petals, stem, and leaves.

On leaving Pasadena I came away with many memories, but one memory above all else stood out ... seeing a massive display of our National Floral Emblem ... the Rose!!

(Lois B. Fowkes is a NYD past District Director and has served as a Regional Director, a Master Rosarian, an Arrangement and a Horticulture Judge. She is presently NYD Chairman of Judges and is also a World Federation of Rose Societies International Judge; she has judged many international rose shows.)



Rose Banquet March 17th

Yes! We are having a great and enjoyable winter and I am sure that all us gardeners are looking forward to the upcoming and rapidly approaching rose growing season. What better way to kick off the season than to talk to and perhaps pick the brains of other true rosarians at our annual banquet to be held at the Shannopin Country Club on St. Patrick's Day, Saturday, March 17th starting at 11:30 A.M. All meals include a Tossed Salad, Red Skin Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Rolls and Butter, Beverages and Ice Cream topped off with Chocolate or Butterscotch Syrups. Send in your reservation today as the deadline is Tuesday, March 13th.

Cut here _____

_____ Cut Here

Here is my check for \$ _____ (\$25.00 per person) for _____ people

My Entrée Choices are:

_____ **A) Pork Tenderloin** _____ **B) Chicken Marsala**

_____ **C) Orange Roughy**

Make check payable to the Pittsburgh Rose Society

Send to Jean Stehle, 1553 King Charles Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Reservation deadline - Tuesday, March 13th

THE COLONEL

by Ralph Stehle, MR

(In our last NEWSLETTER you were notified of the death of one of our long time rosarians. Most of us never met him and only a few got to know him since he lived in State College which is 150 miles from Pittsburgh. Here is a little about him.)

John MacIndoe was born in the town of Bellefonte, near State College, on September 17th, 1920. During his days in school he dreamed of going to West Point to become an Army officer but his family's politics did not agree with the local representatives so he enrolled in Penn State and joined the ROTC. He graduated in 1942 with a BS in Chemistry and was also awarded an honorary graduate appointment as a second lieutenant of infantry. During World War II he commanded a rifle company and an infantry battalion in Europe and was wounded four times.

On April 19th, 1945, in the vicinity of Friediukbrunn, Germany, while advancing against strongly defended enemy positions with assault elements of the Infantry, Captain MacIndoe's company was subjected to deadly enemy machine gun, rifle, and rocket fire. Realizing the need for rapid advance, he unhesitatingly exposed himself to the full fury of the concentrated fire to guide a supporting tank to a position of advantage and then personally manned the tank's machine gun to deliver a heavy volume of devastating fire against the enemy emplacement. Although twice knocked from his exposed position on the tank by rocket fire, he continued to fire until the ammunition was exhausted. He then left the tank and led his men through withering fire in a frontal assault, overrunning the enemy defense, killing many and capturing seventy-nine enemy personnel. His courageous leadership and valiant actions enabled his company to take its objectives with a minimum of casualties. For this encounter he received a Silver Star. In addition, he wore the Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters.

After the War he was promoted to Major and was assigned to the faculty of the Infantry School at Fort Benning. In 1950 he was assigned assistant G3 in Korea and promoted to Lt. Colonel. In 1961 he was promoted to Colonel and assigned to the National War College in Washington D.C. and that same year joined the Arlington Rose Foundation. While living in that area he became a Consulting Rosarian and served a term as President of that society.

During the Vietnam War he was made Director of Psychological Operations and in '68 returned to Washington as Chairman JCS Special studies and in '71 to the Office of the Chief of Staff at the Pentagon. From 1968 and until he moved back to State College he was a

THE COLONEL, (cont'd)

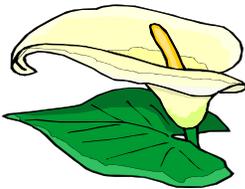


COLONEL JOHN MACINDOE

member of the Potomac Rose Society where he also served some time as their President. He retired from the Army in July of 1972. He has been a member of the Pittsburgh Rose Society for well over 30 years but he could not be active in our events because of the distance he would have to travel. However, he did attend many conventions when he was younger and at one time was the Chairman of Judges for the Penn Jersey District. He passed away on August 15th and was buried in Arlington Cemetery with full Military Honors on December 5th.

(All of the above Military information came from the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress and much of the other from his Obituary by the Centre Daily Times). 

**MAY HE REST IN PEACE
DR. GEORGE GERHARDT**



WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHIES TO ALL FAMILY MEMBERS AND RELATIVES. NOT MANY OF US REMEMBER HIM, BUT SOME OF US OLD TIMERS REMEMBER HIS GLORY DAYS AS A ROSARIAN AND EXHIBITOR.



We are happy to announce that Dolores Howley is recuperating nicely from her back surgery. I'm sure that she would now be glad to hear from friends. We miss her and await her return to active participation in society functions. You may write to:

Dolores Howley
307 Arbor Lane
Pgh., PA 15236

**The new address of the website of
THE PITTSBURGH ROSE SOCIETY is:
www.pghrosesociety.org.**

**JANE NUGENT'S GARDEN SHOW:
WPTT 1360 AM - SATURDAYS: 12:30-2:00 P.M.
Tune in, listen to, and learn from a great gardener.**



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Pittsburgh Rose Society
 Fr. Gervase Degenhardt
 221 - 36th Street
 Pittsburgh, PA 15201

2012



MARCH ● 

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**ARS ACCREDITED
CONSULTING ROSARIANS**

Richard Anthony (Brimfield, OH)..... 330-968-4531
e-mail: rja4cpa@aol.com
Patricia Beall (Ross Twp.) 412-821-2194
Jim & Jane Conklin (Harrison City) 724-744-7163
e-mail: JeLJc@aol.com
John Consiglierio (Green Tree) MR 412-922-4045
Fr. Gervase Degenhardt (Lawrenceville) MR 412-682-6430 (ext. 240)
e-mail: gervase@capuchin.com
Mary Dutkovic (Glenshaw) 412-486-7502
e-mail: mdutkovic@aol.com
Dolores Howley (Pleasant Hills) 412-655-3299
e-mail: muggarose@verizon.net
David McKibben (Mt. Lebanon).....412-561-5718
e-mail: dhmkibben@hotmail.com
Richard Oberlander (North Hills) MR 412-486-0649
e-mail: dickandevlyn@verizon.net
Georgianna Papale (Green Tree) MR 412-563-6755
e-mail: msgeorgi@ix.netcom.com
Ralph Stehle (Franklin Park) MR..... 412-364-3227
e-mail: rstehle1126@verizon.net
Dorothy Zenkevich (Whitehall)..... 412-881-6795
e-mail: deekayzee@verizon.net

**PITTSBURGH
ROSE SOCIETY
OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT

Georgianna Papale
2371 Perricrest Dr.
Pittsburgh, PA 15220
Phone: 412-563-6755

e-mail: msgeorgi@ix.netcom.com

VICE PRESIDENT

TREASURER

Richard Oberlander
2118 Coventry Dr.
Allison Park, PA 15101
Phone: 412-486-0649
e-mail: dickandevlyn@verizon.net

RECORDING SECRETARY

Dolores Howley
307 Arbor Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15236
Phone: 412-655-3299
e-mail:muggarose@verizon.net

DIRECTORS

Betty Monyok
412-466-5407
Ralph Stehle
e-mail:rstehle1126@verizon.net
Dorothy Zenkevich
e-mail: deekayzee@verizon.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Fr. Gervase Degenhardt
221-36th St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15201
Phone: 412-682-6430 (ext. 240)
e-mail:gervase@capuchin.com

BRONZE MEDAL RECIPIENTS

1993 -Neil Houston	1999 -John Consiglierio
1994 -Ed & Lenna Easter	2000 -Georgie Papale
1995 -Mel & Rebecca Bodek	2003 - Ralph Stehle
1996 -Bea Schwartz	2004 -Betty Monyok
1997 -Fr. Gervase Degenhardt	2006 -Dorothy Zenkevich
1998 -Dick & Evelyn Oberlander	

ARS ACCREDITED JUDGES

<i>Richard Anthony</i>	<i>Richard Oberlander</i>
<i>John Consiglieria</i>	<i>Georgianna Papale</i>
<i>Fr. Gervase Degenhardt</i>	<i>Dorothy Zenkevich</i>

Hospitality - Mary Dutkovic - 412-486-7502 or e-mail: mdutkovic@aol.com
Please call to help provide refreshments at meetings.

DISTRIBUTION

Georgie Papale

WEB MASTER

David McKibben
dhmkibben@hotmail.com
412-561-5718

2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 17-19-----P-J Rose Get-A-Way Weekend - Eden Resort Inn, Lancaster, PA
March 2-11----- Home & Garden Show - Convention Center
+March 17----- Annual Banquet - Saturday 11:30 - Shannopin Country Club
April 14 & 21----- Pruning Demonstrations - Saturdays, 1 p.m. - Renziehausen Park
May tbd----- Meeting - 2 p.m.
June 9----- Rose Exposition - Mt. Lebanon Library, Saturday 10 to 4 p.m.
July 27-29----- National Mini Rose Show - Columbus, OH
July 28----- Picnic & informal show - Saturday, 2 p.m. - Renzie
August tbd----- Garden Tours & picnic - 2 p.m., Saturday, 2 p.m.
September 8----- Pittsburgh Rose Show & auction - Bidwell Training Center
September 14-16----- PJ District Convention - Eden Resort Inn, Lancaster, PA
September 26 - 30----- Fall National Convention & Rose Show - San Ramon, CA
October 13----- Meeting - Saturday, 2 p.m. - Northland (Library) Community Room
November 10----- Social at Renziehausen - Saturday, 2 p.m.