

The Old Texas Rose



Number 2

www.texasroserustlers.com

Spring 2008

Spring Symposium Schultze House Cottage Gardens San Antonio, TX April 19, 2008

The Rose Rustlers are in for a tremendous treat this Spring! This year the Symposium is scheduled for April 19, 2008 at Schultze House Cottage Gardens at Hemisfair Park in San Antonio. The Garden docents are very excited about our visit and predict that the gardens will be at their very best!

We will meet at 10:30 a.m. in the gardens just off the Durango Street side of Hemisfair Park, near the Federal Building. The Federal Building is closed on Saturdays and the docents encourage us to park there for free. See a map in this newsletter for locations. Bring this map with you to San Antonio, as it also details our agenda.

Our first Symposium speaker of the day is Molly Keck, an entomologist, covering the subject of 'Picky Eaters—Pests That Are Plant Specific.' Molly will speak at 11:00 a.m.

We will break for lunch in the gardens at Noon. There is a deli next door to Schultze House and they will deliver boxed lunches to the gardens but we must order in advance. A LUNCH MENU WILL FOLLOW IN THIS NEWSLETTER. MAKE YOUR CHOICE OF THE AVAILABLE BOX LUNCHES AND EMAIL OR CALL ME WITH YOUR CHOICE. Please bring cash to pay for your lunch (\$7.50 includes tax and tip). Of course, you may choose to bring your own picnic lunch, just please let me know.

At 1:30 p.m. we will reconvene for a Master Gardener talk called "Choose Your Companions Wisely" about companion plants in the xeriscape gardens. Pat Harris, the garden overseer, will also share the story of the history and design of the Schultze House Cottage Gardens.

We will be about 500 feet from the Alamo, according to the map. Research shows that there are beautiful gardens in the Alamo complex near the barracks, so we will visit the Alamo and the surrounding grounds to finish off the day.

Ray Ponton recently described the Rose Rustlers to the Houston Rose Society members as gardeners who “love and protect antique and old garden roses and search for the best Mexican restaurant in any town they visit.” Well, San Antonio certainly must not be the exception, so we will all caravan to Mi Tierra, one of the most respected family restaurants in the city.

Some of the Rustlers will be staying overnight at Hampton Inn at 2127 Gold Canyon Road (Just off Loop 1604 North). If you would like to reserve a room please call (210) 404-1144. The room rate is \$109.00 per night. They have blocked a group of rooms listed under Doana Fite. Call soon as I must RELEASE the rooms a week before our event to avoid being charged for them all !!! It is Fiesta Weekend in San Antonio that weekend, so be sure to BOOK YOUR ROOM IN ADVANCE.

We have had many successful and fun overnight trips in the past several years. By visiting these areas around Texas we hope to remain connected with TRR members who live outside the greater Houston area. So make your plans to spend your weekend with the greatest group of rose lovers you will ever meet.

On Sunday after breakfast, we will caravan out to the Antique Rose Emporium San Antonio on Evans Road just north of Loop 1604 and just a few miles from the Hampton Inn. Robbie and David Mill are opening early to greet us, and Mike Shoup has offered some surprises for us. Another nursery has invited us to stop in also, Milberger’s, and it is also very close to the Hampton Inn. Robbie is researching restaurants in the area where we might enjoy lunch together before beginning our trips back to our own homes and gardens.

Lunch Menu **Spring Symposium** **Saturday, Noon, April 19, 2008**

The nice ladies of the Schultze House Cottage Gardens and Gift Shop have arranged for us to order box lunches from the Amaya Deli, which is adjacent to the Gardens. Amaya Deli is closed on Saturdays, but they are coming in to make our pre-ordered lunches on Saturday the 19th, and deliver them to Schultze House for the Texas Rose Rustlers.

The Box Lunch cost is \$6.50 and includes:
Sandwich, Side, Drink, Cookie

Box Lunch #1
Turkey and Bacon Club
Sliced turkey, crispy bacon, and Swiss on white bread, mayo, lettuce and tomatoes.
Fruit Cup side

Box Lunch #2
Italian Sub
Salami, ham, and Swiss, with mustard and Italian dressing on a roll, with lettuce tomatoes, onion, green pepper & olives.
Cucumber Salad side

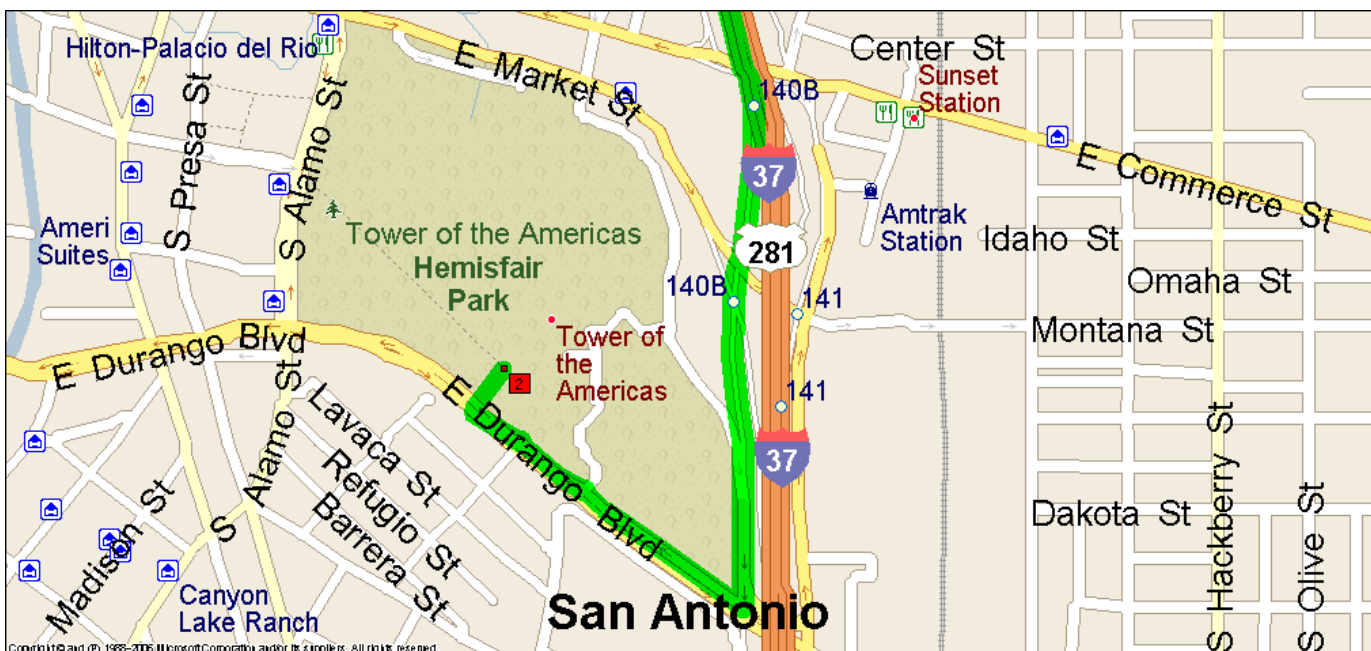
Coke, Diet Coke & Sprite

Call me at 281 468-3677 or email me (doanaf@aol.com) as soon as possible. I want to give Amaya’s a Lunch Box count by Wednesday April 16. Also, please let me know if you will arrange for your own lunch. There are no other restaurants near the gardens. The ladies from the Shultze House Gardens recommend the food and service from this deli very highly and are confident we will be very pleased. Bring cash: \$7.50 for tax & tip.



Summary: 16.1 miles (17 minutes)

Instruction	For	Toward
Depart 2127 Gold Canyon, San Antonio, TX 78232 on Gold Canyon (North)	0.2 mi	
Turn LEFT (West) onto N TX-1604-Loop E	0.7 mi	
Turn LEFT (South) onto San Pedro Ave	0.5 mi	
Take Ramp (LEFT) onto US-281 [San Pedro Ave]	12.5 mi	US-281
Road name changes to I-37 [US-281]	1.3 mi	
At exit 140B, take Ramp (RIGHT) onto S Bowie St	0.5 mi	Durango Blvd / Hemisfair Plz / Alamodome / Institute of Texan Cultures
Turn RIGHT (North-West) onto E Durango Blvd [E Judge HF Garcia Memorial Blvd]	0.3 mi	
Turn RIGHT (North-East) onto Local road(s)	76 yds	
Arrive Hemisfair Plaza Way, San Antonio, TX 78205		



Instruction	For	Toward
Depart Hemisfair Plaza Way, San Antonio, TX 78205 on Local road(s) (South-West)	76 yds	
Turn RIGHT (North-West) onto (E) Durango Blvd [E Judge HF Garcia Memorial Blvd]	0.9 mi	
Turn RIGHT (North) onto S Santa Rosa St	0.3 mi	
Turn LEFT (West) onto W Commerce St	164 yds	
Turn LEFT (South) onto Local road(s)	76 yds	
At 218 Produce Row, San Antonio, TX 78207, return North on Local road(s)	76 yds	

Agenda

1. Schultze House & Gardens 514 Hemisfair ** Mission San Juan Gardens 9101 Graf Road
2. Federal Building, Durango Blvd.
3. Alamo Barracks Gardens
4. Mi Tierra Café, 218 Produce Row
5. Hampton Inn, Northwoods, 2127 Gold Canyon
Phone: 210-404-1144
6. Antique Rose Emporium 7561 East Evans Road
7. Milbergers Nursery 3920 North Loop 1604 East

From the Chairman – *Faith Bickley*

Isn't spring wonderful? Some of the recent days have held all the signs that spring is here, and it is hard to keep the realization that we might have some cooler temps still. The spring winds (the word "blasts" is more accurate!) have given the vegetation a rough time. But the roses are already starting to both amaze with the new growth, so often such a rich burgundy, and the first blooms of spring.

Last spring Mom and I had pruned less than our ruthless style due to my being on the Wharton Hidden Garden Tour (Mom was unofficially on it also) so this spring we really had to beat some of the roses back into shape. I had to do a "rejuvenating pruning" (a concept I learned from the late Mary Herr) on my Madame Antoine Mari and my Mutabilis, and both are sprouting healthy new growth.

TRR has a new website which I am sure will be talked about in this newsletter. I had no idea that a website could be hijacked, but we know about it firsthand now.

TRR had a booth at Arbor Gate's Rose Festival which is always a fun time for those who volunteer. Several of us have been able to give some talks about the roses we love and TRR for various organizations. Our Spring Symposium in San Antonio is shaping up to be really special, thanks to the work of our program chairman, Doana Fite. We hope that we will see lots of you there as you contribute to making each meeting memorable.

SPECIAL NOTES:

Felder Rushing will be speaking at Arbor Gate on April 12th and several of us are planning to be there. He is supposed to be most entertaining and informative. For a good time, visit his website: <http://www.felderrushing.net/>

One of our members, Becky Smith, is on the Wharton Hidden Garden Tour, May 3rd and 4th and May 10th and 11th (I wonder who she blames for that??!!).

If your garden is ever scheduled to be on a tour, be sure to let us know so we can place a notice in the newsletter.



Upcoming Rustler Events: 2008 ***Mark Your Calendars!!***

July 19, 2008 - Summer Rookie Meeting will be held again at Mercer Arboretum in Houston. When it's too hot to work in the garden without serious risk of heat stroke, come join us in the cool air conditioned comfort of Mercer and enjoy this informative and fun meeting. As always we will have a plant lotto.

Oct. 25, 2008 - Fall Cutting Exchange, Ft. Worth, TX. Plans are in the works for a visit to Weston Gardens just south of Fort Worth for the Fall Cutting Exchange.

These lovely restored gardens include many antique roses as well as reflecting ponds, statuary and a structure known as the Stone Steamboat. The owners conduct tea tastings on the deck of the Stone Steamboat with lovely views of the gardens.

The Exchange will be scheduled for afternoon on Saturday so that Rustlers may drive up on Saturday morning and be home by dark if they choose. Of course we will arrange for overnight accommodations and Sunday morning garden visits for those who wish to stay over.



You can bury a lot of troubles digging in the dirt ~Author Unknown

“Unknown Czech” cuttings

Linda Mieke would like to find out who brought the “Unknown Czech” cuttings to the cutting exchange last fall. She was successful in rooting two cuttings of this rose so now she’s anxious to find out more about her new rose babies. She’d appreciate any details such as color, bush or climber and fragrance, if any.

If these were your cuttings, please send her an email and let her know what she can expect. Linda’s email address is lmieke@hotmail.com



Rose Rustlers Speak Out

Faith Bickley was the guest speaker at Maya’s Gardens recently, sharing information about gardening with antique roses, and goals of the Texas Rose Rustlers.

Ray Ponton spoke at the Houston Rose Society meeting in Houston on the subject of how he got interested in hybridizing roses from antique stock. He spoke warmly of the Texas Rose Rustlers and the organization’s role in the search for old roses and good Mexican food.

Doana Fite presented a slide show which was created by Virginia Sissom, former TRR Secretary, at a Houston Garden Society meeting and at a Shepherd Plaza Garden Club meeting. The slide show tells the story of what Rose Rustlers do at our events each year.

Martin and Doana Fite and Donna Martin presented a cutting demonstration for Black History month at the Rutherford BH Yates Historical Society meeting.

Sandra Smith represented the Texas Rose Rustlers at the Houston Rose Society pruning clinic in February and also transported several giant roses for donation to the RBH Yates Historical Society meeting.



Kathy Hyatt, Donna Martin, Faith Bickley, Phyllis Degelke, Joy Hairston, and Carolyn Stracik manned a table at the Arbor Gate Spring Rose Festival, meeting other rose lovers and spreading the word about the benefits of membership in the Texas Rose Rustlers.



TRR Denim Shirts

It has been a long time since we last ordered the denim shirts with the embroidered logo. The lady who originally produced our shirts is still in business, has the logo and would be glad to do more shirts for us.

We expect the price to be in the \$28 – \$40 range. They will be light blue denim in color and we hope to be able to offer them in men’s long sleeve & short sleeve and women’s long sleeve, short sleeve and sleeveless.

Stay tuned for additional details and ordering information in the next newsletter!

Texas Rose Rustlers' Website Hijacked!

As you may have heard, the Texas Rose Rustlers' website was recently "hijacked." I can't imagine why anyone would want to take over a website, especially one that is so specific to rose lovers, but apparently for whatever reason, it happened. Eric Varnado is busy transferring everything over to the new website. Be sure to check it out at www.texasroserustlers.com



The following article was written by Mary Buck about her father, Dr. Griffin J. Buck. According to Heirloomroses.com, "Dr. Griffith Buck was a plant breeder at Iowa State University, breeding new varieties of soybeans and corn, but roses were his true love and passion. He started breeding roses around 1950 using strains of very cold hardy roses combined with modern hybrid teas and others. Reports estimate that he introduced between 80 and 88 roses during his career. Part One of Ms. Buck's article is included here. Look for Parts Two and Three in future issues.

Dad and his Roses – Part One

By Mary Buck

When Dad was taking Spanish in high school in Rockford, Illinois, one of the requirements for passing the course was to correspond with a Spanish student. Names were available through the YMCA for 25¢. Dad paid his quarter, got a name, and wrote a letter to Spain. That letter went unanswered. Quarters were hard to come by during the Depression. Dad managed to come up with a second quarter for a second name and that letter also went unanswered. He was at the library looking through, as he described it, "a book of pretty rose pictures" and came across the name of Pedro Dot, a Spanish rose hybridizer. Dad wrote to Senor

Dot asking if Senor Dot might know of a Spanish student who might be willing to correspond with him.

Senor Dot wrote back that, as Dad read it, his nephew, Mario Anthonio would be willing to correspond with him. Whether it was Senor Dot's handwriting or Dad's translation, anyway, when the first letter from Spain came, it was from Maria Anthonia. Every time she would write, Senor Dot would send along a little comment about hybridizing roses such as 'When you breed roses, you are seeing something no one else has seen before.'

Whether it was Senor Dot's comments, Dad's own curiosity about roses or a combination of the two, when the family moved back to Cincinnati, Iowa, in the mid-1930's, Dad tried his hand at hybridizing with my grandmother's old fashioned roses. When he left for the army in 1942, there were "hybrid" old fashioned roses all around the edge of my grandmother's garden.

Dad joined the American Rose Society in 1936 and at the time of his death was a fifty-five year member.

While Dad was in service, he always seemed to find someone who was interested in roses wherever he was stationed and as a result he had friends all over the country. When he was in Paris, he visited the rose garden in the Boit de Boulonge. There, he saw this scrawny, little rose from the French House of Meilland and couldn't believe that it would ever amount to much. Luckily, for the House of Meilland, that little rose liked its trip across the Atlantic and it's the rose we know as 'Peace.'

Dad planned to come to Iowa State to study with Professor Tom Maney, who had revived the rose breeding program of Professor Thomas Budd and Dr. Nels Hansen. Unfortunately, Processor Maney passed away the month before Dad got out

of the service. Dad enrolled as an undergraduate at Iowa State in January of 1946. In 1949, while working on his masters' degree, Dad started his part of the Iowa State rose breeding project.

Dad's main goal was to breed roses that were able to survive winter temperatures of -25° F without protection. Other goals were good disease resistance, repeat blooming, good flower form and color, and vigorous but restrained plant habit. Dad wasn't working for exhibition or show roses, but for roses that could be used as landscape plants.

On the advice of Dr. Frank Skinner, Dad used *Rosa laxa* as one parent almost from the beginning. Unfortunately, *R. laxa* failed to set seed when used as the seed parent and plants resulting when *R. laxa* was used as the pollen parent were either lacking in vigor and hardiness or extremely vigorous and hardy and both had grossly misshapen flowers.

Dad happened to discuss the problem with Wilhelm Kordes. Kordes told him he wasn't using the right seed parent and sent Dad one of his own sweetbrier hybrids, 'Josef Rothmund.' The first cross using 'Josef Rothmund' as the seed parent and *R. laxa* as the pollen parent resulted in one seed pod with eight seeds. Five of the eight seeds germinated. All were very hardy, to -30° F, but four had single, white flowers like *R. Laxa* and lost their leaves by August. The fifth had pale salmon-pink flowers and kept its leaves. This fifth plant went on to become a very important part of Dad's hybridizing, as a parent of 'Applejack' and a grandparent of 'Wanderin' Wind', 'Country Music' and 'Square Dancer.' The only problem with this fifth seedling was that it produced BIG plants. Plants would average 10 – 12 feet tall and 12 – 15 feet across.

June was always the busy month for pollinating. Dad would do some pollinating in the greenhouse during February and

March, but June was the big month. My cousin, Sandy, tagged along one day and when someone wanted to know what she'd done, her reply was that "she'd watched Uncle Griff "play bee." "Playing bee" stuck as a description of what Dad was doing when he was pollinating. "Playng bee" had one unforeseen complication. Dad developed "rose fever." He became allergic to rose pollen. In 1955, when Dad's allergy was diagnosed, the allergist suggested that he give up his "hobby." Dad quietly informed her that that wasn't possible because he had a masters' degree and a PhD working with his "hobby." So, they looked up the available serum from the University of Iowa and found that only red rose pollen serum and yellow rose pollen serum were available. Since Dad worked with all colors of roses, they ended up making their own mix of the two. "Rose Fever" is an unusual allergy because rose pollen is too heavy to blow in air but constant exposure can cause it. Today, more and more hybridizers are becoming allergic to rose pollen.

Sometimes, certain crosses that Dad wanted to make were very difficult to get to set seed. One particular cross he tried for several years. Finally, after hundreds of tries, seeds began to develop. The seed pods were just about ripe when he was showing a visitor from the Danish Agricultural Ministry his rose plots. The man jumped out of the car, rushed over, grabbed a handful of seed pods, popped them in his mouth and began chewing and spitting the seeds out. "Oh, we used these as a source of vitamin C during the war," he exclaimed. Needless to say, there went Dad's hard work.

Next issue: How some of Dr. Buck's roses came to be named.



*Gardening is a matter of your enthusiasm holding up until your back gets used to it.
~Author Unknown*

Midnight in the Garden of Passion and Prosperity

By Doana Fite

The books all advise us not to begin cleaning up the winterized garden until the last threat of Frost is past. Last year, the threat of frost in Harris County was almost only a threat, and nothing more. I kept hoping for two good freezes, so the weeds would die.

Finally, in early February, I could not stand the dreary deadness of the black-eyed pea vines that got nipped by the light frosts we had. I began there and progressed to the passion flower vine. As I filled my three bags full, I noticed the very prolific weeds of last summer had died back to sticks. Grateful for that, I began to crawl around under the ramblers and climbers where the worst of the weedy offense had occurred and pulled up every vestige of their presence I could see.

Every day I went back to harvest more weed stems, hoping for a couple more frosts to keep them at bay until I could root them all out. I was relentless.

On the third day, I had cleared a path under the arbor, and was about to crawl further into the climber bed and up under the white climber, Prosperity, when I was stopped cold in my tracks. About ten inches from my face was the perfect skeletal remains of a bird. Splayed out flat, with its wings outstretched and head turned to the side like a victim of crucifixion, it had more than captured my attention. I crawl out backward, retracing my path, like a supplicant leaving the throne of a king.

Next day, I went back with heavier gloves, more plastic bags, and a shovel with a long handle. I scooped up the remains of the hapless garden victim and started toward the trash box. Something did not match. Fur.

Tail? Like the heroine of CSI Miami, I began to investigate the scene more carefully. What exactly had transpired here? Martin was the first to notice the rat's skeletal head.

Not a rat. Not in MY backyard! Indeed it was. Under the splayed bird skeleton was the matted, flat, furry remains of a rat with a ten inch tail. Yuck. Did the bird kill the rat? Thanks, bird. Did a human poison the rat and the bird got some too? Bird, what were you thinking? Did the bird have West Nile and the bird flesh poisoned the rat? Martin would not play the CSI Miami game with me, so I just flipped it over into the trash box.

There, under the mother bird skeleton, under the matted rat body, under them all as the scoop of dirt fell away was the tiny perfect skeleton of a baby bird. I have replayed the drama in the garden several times. The doves were nesting under the roses. They are seed eaters. They brought the new weed seed. An interloper came into the garden and stole one of their babies. The mother did what any good mother would do, pecked his eyes out and died trying to save her baby.

This year, if the weeds come back, I will see them a little differently. I have placed seven layers of the Houston Chronicle over the site of the battle. I have put our new homemade willow branch mulch from our chipper over the newsprint.

Mild winter has brought bloom among my roses, and the Prosperity rose has never been so beautiful.



God made rainy days so gardeners could get the housework done. ~Author Unknown

The following article is by Rhea Worrell. Rhea is a cyber-rosarian living in North Carolina and an avid gardener and author of many fine articles on old garden roses. This is from the ARS website, reprinted in the Houston Rose Society Rose-ette, August 2006.

China Roses: The Rose That Began a Cultural Revolution

By Rhea Worrell

Unlike *R. gallica*, *R. centifolia* and *R. damascena*, the first China roses brought to Britain were not species, but old, established hybrids. Those four forever changed the face of rose hybridizing in the West. They were: Slater's Crimson China in 1792, Parson's Pink China / Old Blush in 1793, Hume's Blush in 1809 and Park's Yellow Tea-Scented China in 1824.

China roses are all repeat flowering in varying degrees. They begin flowering in early spring and will continue until frost. In very mild climates (Zones 8, 9 and 10), they will flower through the fall and into winter and are nearly evergreen. Whether they are considered perpetual, repeat, recurrent or remontant, it is the capacity for continuous bloom that defines the class.

Chinas have an entirely different look than the roses previously introduced to European hybridizers. They have smooth surfaced mid to dark green foliage, with touches of purple, dark red or bronze in their canes, leaves and new growth. They have fewer thorns than the old roses of Europe. And, unlike the European roses, they petal colors intensify rather than fade over time. Slater's Crimson, one of the original Chinas to reach Europe, brought in its genes a rich, deep, dark red without the predominant crimson or magenta undertone found in the Gallicas. Hence, Crimson Glory, Don Juan, Guinee, Mister Lincoln, Souvenir du Dr. Jamain and General Jacqueminot. Another of the original Chinas, Park's Yellow, brought

with it the thicker, waxier petals so common in today's Hybrid Teas, along with its yellow tints and tea scent.

The characteristics mentioned above – recurrency, sparse dark green and purple foliage, blooms of deep red and bright yellow and heavy scrolling petals – coalesced to present a Pandora's Box to rose hybridizers in the early 1800's. The China Revolution changed the face of rose appreciation because it introduced new standards of beauty. Was the influence beneficent? This is still a heavily debated issue among rosarians. Perhaps it is a matter of degree. The China influence is evident in many and varied classes of roses, including Portlands, Bourbons, Hybrid Perpetuals, Noisettes, Miniatures and Hybrid Teas.

According to Graham Thomas: "The China roses came in from 1800 on... These have given rise to the hybrid teas, the bourbons and floribundas, all perpetual flowers. But they're weaker growers with little scent."

Growing Chinas

Apart from the repeat flowering, Chinas are not particularly notable as a class. As a group, they are noticeably smaller and less vigorous than their Mideastern, European and American cousins. Most have fewer petals and have a looser, even ragged-looking bloom, which is more than compensated by their luminous, color-washed petals. Theirs is a casual, understated appeal.

As a whole, the Chinas need better soil than the earlier roses. They are less hardy by far. Their range is limited: Zone 7 to Zone 10, with a few exceptions. They have a sparse, twiggy habit and require a sheltered spot. Their size is often dictated by climate. Ideally situated in Zone 6, an Old Blush may reach only 3 feet, whereas in Zone 10, it may reach 6 or 7 feet. On the plus side, Chinas are exceptionally heat and drought tolerant. Even if they freeze to the ground,

they will grow back if grown on their own roots. Chinas are unsuitable for uses that will expose them to excess wind, rain, or abuse. Because of their delicacy, they are best placed within a mixed border or in containers.



The Peanut Butter Jar Soil Test

For those in a hurry, Wayne Cahilly, manager of the arboretum and grounds at The New York Botanical Garden, devised this simple yet sound one-hour soil composition test.

Find a straight-sided jar. (A Mason jar or a peanut butter jar works well.) Slowly pour in a representative sample of your soil until the jar is between one-third and one-half full. Then fill it to the shoulder with water. Let the soil soak up water. Add one tablespoon Calgon, a surfactant, which will break down the water's surface tension. Put the lid on the jar and shake the daylight out of it for three minutes. Set the jar down and look at your watch. In one minute, measure (with a ruler) the amount of sediment that has collected at the bottom. This is the sand in your soil.

Wait four minutes more. Measure the sediment again. The difference between the two numbers will be the amount of silt in your soil. Take a third measurement in twenty-four hours. The difference between the second and third numbers will be the amount of clay in the soil.

Now assume that the total is 100 percent. Calculate the percentages of sand, silt, and clay, which should add up to 100 percent. This test is simple but works well and can be helpful in deciding what to grow. You know that if your soil is high in sand, it will drain well. Silt and clay are hard to get wet, but

they stay wet. Choose your plants accordingly.

Reprinted from The Old Farmer's Almanac Book of Garden Wisdom



A tall weather-worn cowboy walked into the saloon and ordered a beer. The regulars quietly observed the drifter through half-closed eyelids. No one spoke, but they all noticed that the stranger's hat was made of brown wrapping paper.

Less obvious was the fact that his shirt and vest were also made of paper. As were his chaps, pants, and even his boots, including the paper spurs. Truth be told, even the saddle, blanket and bridle on his horse were made entirely of paper.

Of course he was soon arrested for rustling.

Sorry, guys—Don Gerard sent this out in an email and I couldn't resist including it in the newsletter! ~ed.



Want to read some more about the Texas Rose Rustlers??

Check out these links sent in by Don Gerard for two very entertaining articles about the Rustlers:

<http://manyshadesofshabby.blogspot.com/2008/02/texas-rose-rustlers-saving-yesterdays.html>

<http://search.houstonpress.com/1996-03-14/news/the-texas-rose-rustlers/1>

