



# Old Texas Rose

Vol 18, Spring 2013

## Greetings Fellow Rose Rustlers ---

*Message from the Chair — Kathy Hyatt*

Having just returned from the TRR Spring trip to Fredericksburg, I'm filled with memories of beautiful scenery, amazing food and the wonderful company of friends. The hill country region of Texas is always appealing to me. In the spring it is simply marvelous! Wildflowers in bloom, cool temperatures, and sunny skies with a light breeze all provided a great backdrop for our event.



*Peggy Martin Rose*

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Conversations with fellow rustlers proved to be fun and interesting. For example, the first night at dinner, Jane asked the group a "conversation starter" question... "Which of your roses has been your favorite so far this spring?" What immediately popped into my head was "Peggy Martin". I was surprised at my response. I've had the rose in the ground for 4 years and this was the first spring that I could say the floral show was outstanding.

Up until this year, I'd debated about removing Peggy M. and replacing her with something that bloomed more enthusiastically. I'd just not gotten around to doing it. Maybe the threat of demise spurred the bush into such a dramatic display of bloom...or maybe it was just her time to shine.

Another rustler also named Peggy Martin as the favorite spring bloomer this year. I guess the message I got from this simple conversation starter exercise was to not abandon your dreams too soon. For me, I'd had dreams of Peggy Martin blooming like I'd seen along the fence at Dr. Welch's country home and in the photos taken before Hurricane Katrina at Peggy Martin's old homestead.

Just at the time I was about to sever my relationship with this pink climber, well, she turned things around and my dream was fulfilled. Apparently the rose also made an impression on a pair of mockingbirds who have worked feverishly to make a nest within her crossing branches. It's pretty amazing that even the birds are smitten with this late-to-impress rose! Now I've got birds singing and roses blooming right outside my window...is that not a dream come true???

— *Kathy*





## Hill Country Cruisin' —

Jane Gray, Program Chair

If you remember in the last newsletter, we mentioned the Fabulous Fall Festival Plant Sale at the SFA Pineywoods Native

For those of you who did not get to go on the spring trip, here is a summary of our activities.

We met at Zilker Botanical garden on Friday afternoon, and walked the paths of this beautiful garden. We especially enjoyed the rose garden (of course) and were pleased to see that they have converted to own root, earth-kind, and antique roses since the drought two summers ago. A group of DELL volunteers were doing maintenance and it was good to see the corporate support in these gardens.

We then cruised on to Fredericksburg where we met for a nice Italian dinner and enjoyed visiting and catching up. The table question was "What is your favorite rose this spring and why?" and we got a number of interesting responses.

Saturday was busy with a lecture in the Market Platz by a Fredericksburg historian and tour guide, a tour of the Pioneer Museum and grounds, and then an adventure to Alamo Springs Café (we only made two wrong turns getting there) for a delightful patio lunch where we feasted on exceptionally great hamburgers.



TRR Group at Market Platz



Market Platz



Steve Spears and his GIANT hamburger at Alamo Springs Cafe



Wildseed Farms was our next beautiful destination, and then we were off to Becker Vineyards, the local nurseries, or shopping and napping.

The lotto was held from the back of a pick-up truck in the parking lot of Hilda's Tortilla Factory where we had a delicious Mexican meal, as is our TRR Saturday night tradition. We had 26 members and family at this dinner!

On Sunday morning, we caravanned to Blanco to experience the beautiful grounds of the Best Western Hotel. Words cannot describe the landscaping of this endeavor by the owner of the hotel.

Some of us then stopped at the Natural Gardener nursery in Austin on our way home. I think I can safely say that a good time was had by all!

*Photos Courtesy of Becky Smith*



*Robert Stiba and Friend*



*Earl Krause and his Pet Skunk*



*Ray Ponton and his Dream Car*



*LOTTO!*





*Jane Gray at Best Western in Blanco*



*Best Western in Blanco*



*Ray Ponton and his Lotto Tomato*



*Rose Arbor at Pioneer Museum*



*TRR Group at Blanco*



## Rustling on Facebook —

*Barbara Buckley, Webmaster*

TRR is moving into a new means of communication – don't worry – we will still have email and our TRR Website, but we will now have an official presence on Facebook.

Later this spring we will launch our new Facebook Fan page which we hope will attract new rose devotees. Full details will be available in the next newsletter.



## Modern Day Rose Rustling —

*Faith Bickley, Secretary*

Our heritage as Texas Rose Rustlers goes back to the days when many of the roses we prize were being found in cemeteries and abandoned homesteads. Taken as cuttings, these were rooted and grown, and then more cuttings were passed on to others and even into commerce, often being identified in the process but also losing their "found" names. It is something that we all need to keep in mind – the basic purpose of the Texas Rose Rustlers – keeping old roses in cultivation for the enjoyment of all (with the secondary benefit of making life-long friends who enjoy our passion). The idea of rooting a piece of rose history to include in my yard enticed me to join TRR.



*Robert Stiba — A Generous Gardener*

Well, it is true that times have changed. Now when we get together, there are often 30 or 40 of us so we would overpower any plant in a cemetery or deserted homestead. One solution we have found is our Fall Cutting Exchange. We are able to share cuttings from our special old roses with others as enthusiastic as we are about old roses.

Another way of rustling is on an individual basis. Such a time happened in March when a group of us went to Taylor to see Ray Ponton and Robert Stiba. Robert's place is a rustler's dream, and Becky Smith couldn't resist getting some special cuttings from him. Many of us keep cutting supplies in our vehicle as we never know when the chance to rustle will occur.



*Becky Smith's Cutting Table*

Of course we still need to remember the rules of rustling which are pretty basic common sense. The foremost to me is never taking a cutting that will do harm to the bush and also to leave it in better condition than we found it (cutting out old deadwood and weeding around it). Also we should seek permission if possible. The suggested procedure is on the website.

So here is to some happy rustling. Rooting roses from cuttings is so satisfying. Try it, you'll like it!

## *What's In Your Library???*

I did a search on Amazon for the latest books on the subject "Antique Roses". Here's what showed up on Page 1.

- Climbing and Rambler Roses by David Austin (August 16, 2013)
- Modern Bush and Shrub Roses by David Austin (August 16, 2013)
- Old Roses by David Austin (June 16, 2013)
- Everyday Roses: How to Grow Knock-Out® and Other Easy-Care Garden Roses by Paul Zimmerman (February 19, 2013)
- Empress of the Garden by G. Michael Shoup (February 14, 2013)
- The Rose by David Austin (October 16, 2012)
- David Austin's English Roses by David Austin (July 16, 2012)
- Sustainable Rose Garden: A Read in Rose Culture by Pat Shanley, Peter Kukielski and Gene W. Gene (Dec 19, 2010)





## 2013 & 2014 TRR Meetings — Save These Dates!!!

*Jane Gray, Program Chair*

Notice that there are 3 activities to come in 2013 and 2 in the spring of 2014!

**July 13, 2013**

### **Rookie Meeting at Mercer Arboretum**

- 10:00 Welcome
- 10:30 Morning Speaker, Sandra Smith
- 12:00 Pot Luck Lunch
- 1:00 Afternoon Speaker, to be announced

**Don't Forget Your Lotto Plants and Items!**



**October 4 -6**

### **East Texas Ramblin' (Tentative Plans)**

#### **Friday, October 4**

- 1:00 Chamblee's Nursery program introducing new roses for the new catalog and introducing "Delightful Phyllis" (named after our member, Phyllis DeGelleke)
  - Stop by the Tyler Rose Garden
  - Head for Nacogdoches



#### **Saturday, October 5**

- Stephen F. Austin Plant Sale
- Lunch
- The rest of the day to be announced
- Mexican dinner



#### **Sunday, October 6**

- Depart for home

**November 2**

### **Fall Cutting Exchange in Glen Flora and Hungerford (Tentative Plans)**

- Details to be Announced

### **SPRING, 2014 (Tentative Plans)**

- **Spring Meeting:** At a member's home – place and date to be announced
- **Spring Road Trip:** We plan to use the Best Western Hotel in Blanco as our home base. The trip will be during the week in order to get the best rates and availability. Mr. Patel is excited that we are going to be there! – Date to be announced, but it will be after Easter and tax season!





## Old News Is New Again!

Here is another great reprint. This article is from an early edition of the *Old Texas Rose*. Enjoy!!!!

### Ray Ponton Roses —

By Sandra Smith

What do Henry Frankenstein, Henry Jekyll, and Ray Ponton have in common? They are all made scientists. While Frankenstein and Jekyll were just plain mad, Ponton is simply mad about roses, especially sturdy roses.

Ray came from sturdy stock himself. Family legend says that the Pontons were of French descent having originally come to New Amsterdam, New York in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Ray's ancestors (William, two sons and their wives) came to Texas in 1833 after 14 years in Missouri, and before that, Amherst, Virginia. Indians tortured and scalped William in 1834 on Ponton Creek, north of Hallettsville. Joel (Ray's great-great-grandfather) was a doctor, minister, rancher, and farmer. Having inherited a legacy for determination, it is no wonder that Ray's objective is to hybridize sturdy, fragrant, repeat-blooming, disease and pest resistant specimens, fulfilling every gardener's dream.

Even though roses were cultivated and hybridized in China for at least 2,000 years, they did not start to become popular in the West until the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. According to Roy Shepherd in *History of the Rose*, the first hand-pollinated rose was Safrano in 1839. Hybridizing in America began in 1811 when John Champney, who was a Charleston rice grower and plantation owner, crossed Parson's Pink Rose China (a.k.a. Old Blush, given to him by Philippe Noisette) with Rose Moschata, a White Musk, creating Champney's Pink Cluster. Noisette, a Charleston nurseryman, and



Ray Ponton besides Chireno



Elizabeth of Goshen

his brother Louis, of Paris, France, propagated and crossed seedlings of Champney's Pink Cluster with other roses, which resulted in the class of roses known as the Noisettes, the first of which was named Blush Noisette.

Amazingly, sprinkling a little magic potion (pollen) in the right place at the right time can produce a vast variety of color, form, size, habit, and fragrance. You can imagine the suspense and eagerness to see the color of the first bloom. Occasionally a hybridizer has been known to slowly peel back a bud to sneak a peek. It is truly a labor of love with unknown results as no two seedlings are alike.

The development of shrub roses by Austin and Buck resurrected the use of roses in commercial landscaping as well as home gardens. Ordinary people, who previously shied away from the popular Hybrid Teas, can now successfully grow low-maintenance roses.

Ray Ponton roses are also meant to provide more pleasure than pain. He began hybridizing in 1990, after retiring from the banking business Taylor, Texas. His first two roses that he considered successful were Katy Girl and Cameron Bohls, both propagated in 1997 and registered in 2000. Ponton gave plants to Chamblee's Nursery in 2001, which propagated and offered them for sale in the fall of 2004. As you can see, the painstaking process takes about 8 years. Therefore, we should be very grateful to all of the hybridizing scientists, especially Ray, who have created thousands of roses for us to enjoy.



*San Gabriel*



*Miss Bloomsalot*



Ray's hybridizing techniques were improved after he discovered the internet, where many rosarians around the world generously shared their personal experiences. That is where Ray met one of his mentors, Kim Rupert of California, who has his roses at Ashdown Roses. Ray was relieved to learn from Kim that 20% germination is considered a "good" success rate for hybridizers.

He now has 13 registered roses, all with interesting, meaningful names: After Dark (dark red) has wine-colored canes. Annie Nell (pink) is described by Ray "as a girl I once knew, in fact she took care of me for a number of years when I was young. I called her mom. White roses were at her funeral, so I took pollen and put it on Lillian Austin and the result was Annie Nell." Baron De Bastrop (deep pink) was an interesting character in Texas history and a friend of Stephen F. Austin. Ray named Cameron Bohls (dark red) and Meredith Bohls (pink blend) after his grandchildren. Katy Girl (pink) is an open pollinated seedling of Katy Road Pink ("found" rose) which has now been identified as Carefree Beauty. Chireno (deep pink) is named for the hometown of Shannon Sherrod, a fellow Texas Rose Rustler. Deanna (pink blend) is appropriately named for Deanna Krause, who, as most of you who know, loves unusually striking rose colors. Peaceful Habitations (pink speckled) has an azalea or orchid likeness with its specks and was named after Joe Cooper's nursery. Sarah Juanita's (yellow) namesake is Joe Cooper's wife.

San Gabriel (yellow blend – mixed with a dark pink) is a river in Central Texas. Splendor (red) was also the home of several Texas rose rustlers. Tejas (pink blend) is the only climber

*Meredith Bohls**Ida Red**Colours*

(12' to 14') so far. Four other roses have study names, but are not yet registered. Ray is considering naming them: Atocha's Gold (yellow), Ida Red (red), Miss Bloomsalot (pink blend), and Rustler's Dream (white blend). Ray also has several other creations including roses named for his wife Margaret and his two daughters.

Most of the Ponton roses can be viewed on [www.helpmefind.com](http://www.helpmefind.com) search by Breeders. Some can be purchased at the following nurseries: Chamblee's (Tyler), Del Real (Caldwell), King's (Tenaha), Naconiche (Nacogdoches), Peaceful Habitations (Boerne) and Antique Rose Emporium (Independence).

Ray wanders all over Texas sharing his rose creations with gardeners and nurseries, more like Johnny Appleseed than Frankenstein or Jekyll. Why? Any mad scientist can tell you that critical evaluation from different microclimates is crucial to determining the true success of any particular rose. Besides, what better way to spend your time than to share your creations with gardeners who are also mad about roses?

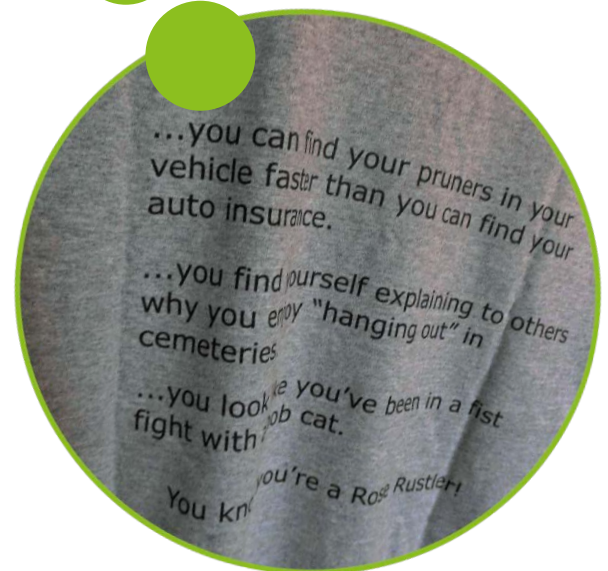
*Editor's Note: I checked Helpmefind and saw that Ray now has 24 lovely registered roses to his name – I've got a few in my yard – and your yard should too!*



In response to several members request, the "If" tee shirt has been redesigned and is available.

- The "You know you're a Rose Rustler IF....." short sleeve tee shirt is available in yellow or gray.
- The logo tee is available in short or long sleeve, green or blue.
- The denim shirt with the TRR logo over the pocket is available in short sleeve or long sleeve.

To order one of these shirts, please email Flora Tiedt at <mailto:trrmembership@texasroserustlers.com>





## Welcome New Members

Welcome to our newest members: *Margaret Sager*, Huffman and *Fernando Santana*, Spring. We look forward to meeting you at Texas Rose Rustler events.



## Texas Rose Rustlers Board Members

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Historian..... Becky Smith

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