



# Old Texas Rose

Vol 17, Winter 2013

## Greetings Fellow Rose Rustlers ---

*Message from the Chair — Kathy Hyatt*

It's hard to believe it is the first of February. I'm still trying to assess whether we've had winter this year. Yes, we had a few light freezes that required some draping of tender plants with bed sheets and frost cloth but nothing that caused any damage. I know that we can still have some fluky front move through that can knock back all but the heartiest plants. I also know that all of the unseasonably warm weather lately has gotten my garden friends invigorated and ready to prune everything in sight! I think it's started to rub off on me too, although I have a little hesitation to do too much, too soon. This morning when I saw the ornamental cherry tree in my yard bursting with gorgeous deep pink blooms, the wonderful blossom on the bearded iris given to me by fellow Rustler Faith Bickley, and two of the water lilies in my pond in full bloom (all viewed from my kitchen window),



*Faith Bickley's Heirloom Bearded Iris  
Photo Courtesy of Becky Smith*

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well, indecision left me. I grabbed up the nearest Felcos and headed out to start the rose pruning. OK, so it's just roses in pots outside my garage but it is still a start to the routine that we all follow. Valentine's Day means many things but to rosarians in Texas it means "start your pruning!" Shaping up the rose bushes in your garden, cleaning out beds, fertilizing and refreshing mulch all bring a sense of renewal each year. The old, sad remnants of the past are cut away and composted or trashed allowing for a fresh start for what is hoped to be a "better than last year" garden. So, to all my fellow Rose Rustler friends, happy pruning and best wishes for a better than ever garden this year! — Kathy

## Road Trip to Nacogdoches and Tyler

Carolyn Stracik, Editor

If you remember in the last newsletter, we mentioned the Fabulous Fall Festival Plant Sale at the SFA Pineywoods Native Plant Center in Nacogdoches. Well, several of our Rustlers got together and had a great weekend touring east Texas. Early October is a great time to travel – the air is crisp and the native plants are all up to something with berries and colored leaves. It makes for a lovely time to be gardening “on wheels”. On Friday, Faith Bickley and Becky Smith met

with Jane Gray, Francis Samuelson, and Steve Spears, along with his mother, Doris, and cousin, at Chamblee's Nursery in Tyler. They enjoyed a good visit with Mark Chamblee. He said the nursery was discontinuing a number of roses to make room for new varieties so our crew got to go to the inner sanctum bone pile. I've been told that Faith and Becky were reserved in their purchases – but I really don't believe it. Jane Gray knew of a lovely residential area and the owner of one home invited them for a lovely backyard tour. A delicious Italian lunch followed with just enough time for the Tyler Rose Garden. The last stop before heading to Nacogdoches was a nursery that mainly had flats of bedding plants.

They were so colorful and several filled their cars.

The crew met up with a bunch more Rustlers for supper at a fish place near the motel. Becky, Ray Ponton and Robert Stiba stayed downstairs for quite a while visiting and admiring the photos that Becky had of her roses. She is an excellent photographer of roses.

Saturday they were off to the plant sale at SFA. Set at the Pineywoods Native Plant Center, this new venue was under the huge pines and done so well. A norther blew in that required everyone to grab a jacket, but they lucked out with no rain. The Rustlers held their annual cutting exchange on the grounds. Onward ho to a barbecue lunch and a quick rest at the motel. The next stop was at King's Nursery, and then a visit to Greg Grant's home.



*Tyler Rose Garden*





This is always a treat and Faith and Becky enjoyed a lovely visit with good friends. Greg's mother, Jackie, baked some wonderful cakes and has been kind enough to share a few of her recipes with us. I have included them in this newsletter with her blessing. A good Mexican dinner, an early night, and everyone hit the road in the morning for the journey home.

The days were surely packed full – with good friends that have a love for old roses. What could be better?



*Tyler Heritage Neighborhood*

## *Lovely Cakes — Shared with TRR by Jackie Grant*



*Artwork by Bridget Beth*

### **Buttermilk Pound Cake**

#### **Ingredients:**

3 cups flour  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon soda  
2 cups sugar  
1 cup shortening  
4 eggs  
1 cup buttermilk  
1 tablespoon lemon extract  
1 tablespoon orange extract

**Method:** Sift dry ingredients together. Cream sugar and shortening. Add eggs

one at a time and stir after each. Add dry ingredients and buttermilk. (Always add flour then buttermilk). Add flavoring. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour in a tube pan that has been well greased and floured.

#### **Glaze**

2 1/3 cups powdered sugar  
5 Tablespoons lemon juice  
5 Tablespoons orange juice



Mix glaze ingredients real good while cake is baking. When cake is done, pour this mixture over the cake and return to the oven for about 3 minutes. Run a knife around the edges and stem of the cake so glaze will run around sides. I also use knife or ice pick to poke holes in cake for glaze to soak in.

## Italian Creme Cake

### Blend together:

1 stick butter, softened  
1/2 cup shortening  
2 cups sugar

### After blending the above, add:

5 egg yolks, one at a time, stirring after each.

### Then add:

1 teaspoon vanilla and stir.

### Add:

2 cups flour  
1 teaspoon soda dissolved in buttermilk  
1 cup buttermilk

### Fold in:

5 egg whites that have been beaten stiffly.

### Last, fold in:

1 cup angel flake coconut.

**Method:** Pour into 3 cakes pans that have been greased and floured. Bake approx. 25- 30 minutes until toothpick is inserted and comes out clean.

### Icing:

8 oz. cream cheese softened  
1 stick butter, softened  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1 tablespoon lemon juice  
1 box of powdered sugar, sometimes a little more  
1 cup chopped pecans



I use a mixer to beat the cream cheese, butter, vanilla juices, and then I add the powdered sugar and also stir with the mixer.



*The delightful illustrations in this article are provided by Bridget Beth who was kind enough to let me use them. Please visit her work at: <http://www.etsy.com/shop/bridgetbeth>*

## Settle Down and Enjoy a Good Article...

There are so many good reads on the internet. I would like to share 3 that I enjoyed:

[Preserve Memories and Heritage in an Old-Fashioned Garden With Passalong Plants](#)  
by Cindy Shapton – *State by State Gardening*, May 2012

[Confessions of a Rose Rustler](#) by Garry V. McDonald – *State by State Gardening*,  
March 2012

[Wind, Wisdom, and King of the World](#) by Steven Chamblee – *Neil Sperry's Gardening*, January 2013



## Dog-Lovers and Their Gardens

*Faith Bickley, Secretary*

As we all know, there are dog-lovers, and there are those who are not. And then there are those of us who are ultra dog-lovers. Now how do you know if you are the latter? Maybe you plan your travel around your dogs (for example, you buy an RV so the dogs can go with you). Maybe you get tile floors instead of carpet or hardwood. Maybe you post photos of your dogs on Facebook or in your Christmas cards. I must admit I have done all of the above and proudly proclaim myself as an ultra dog-lover. My four dogs are fantastic companions and keep my mind perking trying to stay at least one step ahead of them (most of the time).

Now dog-lovers garden differently than non-dog-lovers. We often have fences in our yards for our pets. This is one instance when having something for our dogs can have a great benefit. Think how many rambling roses we can put on these fences. But then there are the times when we see our dogs lying on a treasured or newly planted plant. We tend to sigh and just go



on to enjoy the next garden project. Last fall I planted nasturtium seed and turned around for a moment to find my three-legged dog Rascal making a mighty fine resting hole (yes, he can dig with only one front leg) right where these had been planted. Of course I have paths through the grass where the dogs continually race after squirrels. I actually placed some new paths through one garden with the layout set entirely by the dogs. One TRR member recently got two new dogs who decided that the raised vegetable gardens in the backyard were the perfect place to play "king of the mountain". Those beds were promptly moved to the front yard.

There are a lot of things I could learn from my dogs in relation to my gardens. I could learn to sit in the sun and enjoy being surrounded by my gardens. I could learn that a gopher mound is just the right place to plant a tree or shrub but even better a rose. I could learn that a certain place was not the right place for that new plant (use your imagination with that).





A real plus with the dogs is that they never bother my roses unlike the leaf-cutter ants that continually strip leaves off the roses at my house and Mom's. One friend taught her dogs to sniff a rose held in front of them. Maybe I should try that with mine although common sense tells me it is best not to draw attention to the blooms.

The number one thing I have learned from my dogs is that perfection is not necessary in a garden to enjoy it – just being in it is enough. So go have a fun romp in the yard with your dog(s) if you are lucky enough to be owned by one or more.

## *The Simplicity of Rose Pruning*

*Carolyn Stracik, Editor*

Sharpen your shears and don your armor because it's time to prune roses. February is the acknowledged month for pruning roses in Texas with February 14 being the hallmark day. Each year, nurseries, garden clubs, and the like host rose pruning events. These are a great resource for learning to prune or for refreshing your skills. There are also numerous rose books and websites that share their knowledge and thoughts on rose pruning.



But the truth and the bottom line is that old garden roses will survive almost anything you do to them. Last year I cut a rose to the ground that was dying due to a soil condition with the goal of digging up the roots at a later date. She is now standing about 3 feet x 3 feet and is full of foliage and buds. It was the best thing I could have done. Several of our Rustler Members have extensive plantings and use cordless hedge trimmers to prune their roses. They follow with removing the dead limbs and call it done. The roses don't miss a beat. Maybe a lawn mower would be a bit much!



*Gartendirektor Otto Linne in Robert Stiba's Garden  
Photo Courtesy of Becky Smith*

I suppose one of my suggestions would be that whatever tool you are using; hedge trimmers, bypass pruners, harvesting shears, or loppers; make sure that they are sharp and ready for the task. It will make your cuts much cleaner and your job much more enjoyable. My second suggestion is to enjoy the process of getting the roses spruced up for a grand spring bloom. Throw out the cottonseed meal and Epsom salts or whatever your lucky formula is. Treat them with a little mulch. They will reward you all year for your efforts.

# Hill Country Cruisin' with the Texas Rose Rustlers

April 19 - 21, 2013, Texas Hill Country

Jane Gray, Program Chair

Buckle your seat belts for a great spring trip through Austin and Fredericksburg and points in-between. Tentative plans are as follows:

**Friday, April 19, Noon** We will meet at Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in South Austin. Bring a brown-bag lunch. We will be introduced to our tour guide, eat lunch, and enjoy a tour of the facilities (\$9.00 per person).

**Friday, April 19, 3:00 PM** We will be on the road heading towards Fredericksburg in time to check in and have dinner. Rooms have been reserved at the Comfort Suites on Washington St. (830-990-2552). They are under the name of Jane Gray and the cut-off date for these reservations is March 29. When you call and reserve your room, the name on the room will be transferred from my name to yours. Of course, you are welcome to stay in any of the lovely facilities in the Fredericksburg area.

**Saturday, April 20** Saturday will be spent at the Pioneer Museum, the Fredericksburg Herb Farm, Nimitz Museum, Wild Seed Farms, and Becker Vineyards. Lunch and dinner reservations will be made for the day. More details will be posted on the website as they become available.

**Sunday, April 21** After breakfast on Sunday, we will head for home with a stop at Austin's "The Natural Gardener" nursery.

More details will be posted on the website as they become available. And as always, a **PLANT LOTTO** will be squeezed in somewhere along the way! Reserve your spot! Let Jane ([janeloopergrey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janeloopergrey@sbcglobal.net)) know if you are planning to join us on this weekend adventure!

## Welcome New Members

Welcome to our newest members: *Arnold Knoche*, Richmond; and Kenneth and *Tereasa Cotter*, Lewisville. We look forward to meeting you at Texas Rose Rustler events!





## Southern Hospitality —

*Flora Tiedt, Treasurer*

Last fall as I was leaving Kathy Hyatt's house, I looked down the drive to see a potbellied pig (a WHAT you say) coming to visit. I grabbed my cell phone and called Kathy. When I told her a potbellied pig was in her yard, she shouted, "A WHAT!!!!", as she walked outside. We both said hello to the adorable guest.

Though she grew up in the North, Kathy exhibited the finest of Southern Hospitality towards her guest. Talking to him/her, asking about his/her family, asking if he/she had traveled far, and scratching behind the ears. The PB pig responded with appropriate grunts and stepped on Kathy's foot. Being the excellent hostess, Kathy continued to make him/her feel welcome.

After several phone calls, Kathy discovered that her guest had wandered across the street and his family was anxious to have him back home. All ended well and I'm sure Kathy would welcome him again if he chooses to visit.



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

*Jane Gray, Program Chair*

Spring Gardening is nearly here – the flush of work, the joy of flowers, and oh, the birds! Set down your shovels and take a moment to mark your calendars for the year's events and to share the joys of gardening with roses with good friends. **And don't forget to grow those lotto plants!!!**

**April 19-21, Friday – Sunday**

**Hill Country Cruisin', Austin/Fredericksburg Area, Texas**

See Details on Page 5

**July 13, Saturday**

**TRR Rookie Meeting, Mercer Arboretum, Houston, Texas**

Speaker to be announced.

**October 5, Saturday**

**TRR Fall Cutting Exchange**

Location and Speakers to be announced.





## *Texas Rose Rustlers Board Members*

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