



Old Texas Rose

Vol 15, Summer 2012

Greetings Fellow Rose Rustlers ---

The heat of summer is definitely here! While Memorial Day may be the unofficial start of the summer season, in my garden it started WAY before that. Predictions of rain have not materialized in my little garden world, either, making it seem like a replay of last year's summer season. Watching the weather forecasts on all three major stations, they all seem to agree that rain is in the forecast...let's hope they are right this time around!

Message from the Chair — Kathy Hyatt



*Looks like Kathy is in her element!
Photo courtesy of Flora Tiedt*

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It's Membership Time!

I'd like to tell you all that my roses are doing beautifully despite the early start to summer but the truth is they look tired. That worries me considering it is only the beginning of June. Due to major life changes for me, the roses have had to make it on their own this year. If I still had the roses of my distant past (hybrid teas for the most part), I know I would be looking at dead sticks by now. Thank goodness for the hardiness of the genes in these old garden beauties! I keep

thinking about something I heard years ago from Greg Grant (or was it Felder Rushing?) referring to growing antique roses, "If dead people can grow them, you can, too." With the little time I have to devote to the gardens, I'm running pretty close to the cemetery crowd right now.

But I have hope that with some additional water from the impending rain, the roses may rally a bit. If I had more time I would give them all a dose of alfalfa tea. I've been very impressed with the addition of alfalfa on the roses at work. They went from tired and droopy to invigorated and revitalized practically overnight. I'd read about alfalfa and roses many times but never tried it myself...now I'm a believer!

If you weren't able to join us for the Spring TRR meeting in San Antonio (which was fabulous by the way), hopefully you can join us in July for the Rookie meeting at Mercer Arboretum in Houston. Once again, Becky Smith has done a great job in lining up a wonderful speaker, Gaye Hammond, Past President of the Houston Rose Society and one of the leading spokespersons for the EarthKind program. Of course, the botanical gardens will beckon to all those in attendance. We will once again have a potluck lunch in the wonderful air conditioning and a lotto to share roses, companion plants and other goodies with those attending. Why don't you plan on spending the day with "seasoned" TRR members and newbies as well? You know it's always fun and informative when we get together! Hope to see you all in July..... Kathy

Did you forget something??

When you received the recent email regarding TRR shirts, did you intend to order one????? You can order a tee shirt or denim shirt almost any time.

BUT if you want to pick it up at the Rookie Rustler meeting, *the clock is ticking.*

If you wish to place an order, please complete the form sent recently via email, attach a check, and mail to the address on the form. If you have questions about the shirts, contact Flora Tiedt at trrtreasurer@texasroserustlers.com.



2012 TRR's Annual Rookie Rustler Meeting

Saturday, July 14, 2012

Mercer Arboretum, Humble, Texas

By Becky, Program Chair

Summer is here so the time for our Rookie Rustler meeting at Mercer Arboretum is just around the corner. This year it will take place on Saturday, July 14th. We are always so appreciative of Mercer's generosity in letting us use their excellent facility. This year we are fortunate to have our good friend, Gaye Hammond, speaking to us not just once, but twice. (Rest those vocal cords, Gaye!)

The schedule will be as follows:

9:30-10:30 Visiting with each other and/or walking around the arboretum

10:30 Gaye's talk on the History of the American Rose (which includes some research she did at the Smithsonian)

11:30-1:00 Potluck lunch and the lotto

1:00-2:00 Gaye's talk on the results of the latest EarthKind trials

2:00 Audrey McMurray will have a Propagation Lesson for all.



These photos are courtesy of Mercer Arboretum. The photos were taken during a past July. Just because it is heating up don't think the gardens aren't beautiful - come and enjoy them!



**So bring something to share at the potluck lunch and your lotto plants.
We look forward to seeing all of you!**



Delightful Phyllis

It is with great "delight" that I share this news with you: the rose that Ray Ponton named for my mother, Phyllis DeGelleke, is now being propagated by Mark Chamblee of [Chamblee's Rose Nursery](#) for future sales. This rose was first named Neon Moon and is a bit reminiscent of Peace.

We will keep you posted on when it will be available. I plan on ordering it for our whole family. Thank you, Ray, and thank you, Mark.....*Faith*

An Old-time Rustle —

By Faith, Secretary

Many of us lament the fact that our group is too large to do the rose rustles that gave our group its name. Reading about the rustles with Pam Puryear, Margaret Sharp, Dr. Welch and Mike Shoup send us wishing we could have been part of those experiences.

Well, while in San Antonio in April with Becky Smith and Barbara and James Buckley, I took the opportunity to introduce them to a cemetery that TRR had visited on an earlier trip to the area. At that time it was renowned as having a thousand roses. After two years of drought, I questioned whether any of the roses were still alive.

This cemetery is the San Fernando #2 Cemetery (there are several of them) located at the crossroads of Castroville and General McMullen. Both times I have been there it has been during the Easter season so the graves are brightly decorated. The children's graves are especially memorable with plastic eggs, toys and all imaginable colorful decorations.



With James as our "scout", we discovered rose after rose (not in large groups but interspersed throughout this large cemetery). Of course we never go anywhere without supplies to take cuttings. We were especially taken by a very fragrant, mauve colored rose and also a white fragrant rose. Many of the roses we could identify and one still had a tag! We must have gotten cuttings of 8-10 roses.



Barbara Buckley and Faith Bickley caught rustling

This is not the end of the story though. Becky and I placed the cuttings in the refrigerator in our motel room, and when we retrieved them Sunday morning, much to our dismay, we found them frozen solid as a rock. (The lesson here is along with plastic bags, clippers, water and paper towels be sure to bring along a cooler so you can regulate the temperature for your cuttings.)

And still the story goes on. We decided to change our plans and after a trip to the Botanical Garden Sunday morning, we

headed back to the cemetery along with Janes Gray and Frances Samuelson, but this time to get only the cuttings of the mauve and white roses.

The report from Becky who is propagating these is that the white rose cuttings are caput, but she holds out a slight hope for the mauve. I guess this calls for another trip in the fall when it is a better time for rooting cuttings.

I hope all of you have the opportunity to do a little rustling on your own. Be sure that you always stick by our tradition of thinking of the rose first. Take cuttings of the rose only if this will not hurt it, and also try to leave the rose in better shape than you found it (deadhead, cut out dead limbs, etc.).

White Pearl In What???

By Carolyn, Editor

While roaming a nursery a few weeks ago, Becky Smith came across a 'Chi Long Han Zhu' rose – maybe better known as 'White Pearl in Red Dragon's Mouth'. Well, I had never heard of this rose (I am sure there are many, many more) and it peaked my interest. Seems this rose is from China and probably dates back to the dim mists of history. It is an ancient twiggy plant with abundant, semi-double, blood-red blooms that are cupped to cradle a delicate white "eye," surrounding richly-golden stamens. This is the "pearl" of wisdom or virtue, carried in Chinese mythology by the scarlet Imperial dragon. Despite its exotic and aristocratic origin, 'White Pearl in Red Dragon's Mouth' is a common find in the Sierra Foothills of California, where it has more or less naturalized. There, it is as tough as nails, blooms cheerfully through rain, heat, and the occasional winter freeze.



With repeat blooms and a pleasing height of four feet, I hope this rose has a future in Texas. Do any of our Rustlers have this rose? Cuttings at a lotto may be in order!!!!



Seeking Speakers for TRR

For too long we have laid the burden of speaking for TRR on one or two persons. They have done a wonderful job, but it would be so nice if we had several (or more) people who would be willing to do this. It also would help as the length of travel (gas costs) could be kept down.

If you might be interested in being on this list or have further questions, please send an email to: Faith Bickley, fbickley45@gmail.com

I hope you will consider this as it would be of great service to TRR and fun to boot.

Old News Is New Again!

Here is another great reprint. This article is courtesy of *The Yellow Rose* published by the Dallas Area Historical Rose Society. Enjoy!!!!

"Maggie"

Joe M. Woodard

The Yellow Rose, Vol. IX, No. 3, September 1992

One of the most exciting old roses that has been found by a group of Texas Rose Rustlers is "Maggie". Let's listen to Dr. William C. Welch, as he tells the story of its discovery in Antique Roses for the South.

"My next encounter with an old rose came at Christmas in 1980, when my wife, Diane, and I visited her grandparents' place in northern Louisiana. Theirs was a real family home: some of the property has been in the family since before the Civil War. I never knew Diane's grandmother, Maggie Trawek – she died the year Diane and I met. But I knew the garden had been a major part of her life. By the time of my visit, shade from overhanging pecan trees and ten years' absence on the part of the gardener had begun to take their toll, but some of the perennials, flowering shrubs, and roses still remained. I admired a red rose that on previous visits had always seemed to have a few



"Maggie"

blossoms; it was bearing this time, too, even in late December. The flowers were very full and fragrant, and their stems scented the hand of the holder with a distinctly pepper-like odor. I decided to take a few cuttings to see if they would root.

"Several of the cuttings did strike root, and they grew vigorously; by early summer they had even borne a few flowers. Late the following fall, I transplanted one, together with a healthy plant of 'Old Blush' given to me by Aunt Edna, along the front fence of our turn-of-the-century farmhouse in rural Washington County. Both plants thrived in the clay soil and sunny location.

"In the years since, our Texas Rose Rustler group has found the rose I collected in Louisiana on numerous sites in Texas, but we have never been able to identify it positively. Until an

old rose is identified, tradition rules that it be named for the person from who it was collected; hence we called this one "*Maggie*." The name of this rose is in double quotation marks because it is the study name for the rose; single quotation marks are used for names of flowers that have been positively identified."

I believe that it was around the first of November 1982 that we rustled roses around Brenham and ended up at the Welch country farm home for lunch and a bit of rustling there. I took a couple of cuttings of "*Maggie*." These rooted easily and bloomed the next June.



Gruss an Teplitz

On the possible identity of "*Maggie*" Dr. Welch writes this: "since growing and propagating "*Maggie*" for some ten years, we have found it in numerous old gardens and cemeteries. Sometimes it is trained as a climber, but most often it is a large bush. It seems odd that a rose so fine and popular is still unidentified. It has been speculated to be '*Gruss an Teplitz*,' but there are

definite differences in the foliage and vigor as well as in the flowers. More recent research has indicated the possibility that "*Maggie*" may be '*Eugene E. Marlitt*,' but I find it questionable that a rose as fine as this would be so obscure in the literature. Whatever its true identity, "*Maggie*" must have a healthy dose of China Rose in its parentage, since it blooms as often and long as any China in my garden. It also propagates easily from cuttings, which helps explain its popularity among rural gardeners of the South."

In the spring of 1984, I attended a conference sponsored by the Southern Garden History Society in Natchez, Mississippi. Pat Harrison, Canton, MS also attended. He had recently started an OGR business. Pat brought me an unknown rose in a gallon container. During the opening of the Antique Rose Emporium in 1984, I purchases a '*Gruss an Teplitz*'. Both plants bloomed at the same time and were confirmed as '*Gruss an Teplitz*'. I have seen some plants of "*Maggie*" sold as '*Gruss an Teplitz*' by some nurseries. I could not confirm that "*Maggie*" was '*Gruss an Teplitz*'.

Several of us from this area attended the International Meetings of the Heritage Rose Societies at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in California. Marion Brandes had an opportunity to do some research in the famous Huntington Library and wrote an article for *THE YELLOW ROSE*, Vol V, No. 1, June 1983 entitled 'Identification of an Unknown Rose with the Study Name of "*Maggie*." He concluded that "*Maggie*" was '(Mme) *Eugene Marlitt*'.

This rose as well as 'Gruss an Teplitz' was bred by Gerswind. Marion also furnished me a copy of the catalog of Peter Henderson of New York for 1908. Both roses are described in this catalog. 'Eugene Marlitt' has been grown extensively in Florida and has been referred to as the Florida Rose. At one time, I obtained a cutting of this rose. Hot weather hit before the cutting became established and I lost my source. There were many similarities of the two roses – but one discrepancy, *ROSES OF AMERICA* by Stephen Scanniello and Tanya Bayard has photographs of 'Gruss an Teplitz' and 'Eugene Marlitt.'



Mme. Eugene E. Marlitt, Photo Courtesy of San Jose Heritage Rose Garden, © D. Giroux 2010.

Some new developments have recently occurred: *GARDENING SUCCESS WITH DIFFICULT SOILS* by Scott Ogden (Taylor Publishing Co.) lists "Maggie" with the name 'Souvenir du Eugene Margottin.' Scott lives in New Braunfels, Texas and is a noted plantsman with a specialty in heritage bulbs. Since I have been working on a couple of other projects, I have not had time to check this out.

In a telephone conversation with Marion Brandes this week, he called my attention to a plate in *THE OLD ROSE ADVISOR* by Brent C. Dickerson of 'Charles Margottin.' The plate is very similar to Maggie but the description does not fit.

Whether Maggie is ever identified or not, it is a fine rose for our soil and weather conditions. In fact, I recently listed it among the top ten roses for our area in an article for *The Dallas Morning News*. Any suggestions on the proper name for Maggie would be

appreciated.



Editor's Note: To my knowledge "Maggie" is still "Maggie" and is sold in the trade by that name. To me, no matter what the plant gurus decide, she will always be called by that name and will be loved for being a rich rose with a beautiful fragrance.

"Maggie" Photo Courtesy of jeanniesgarden.blogspot.com

2012 TRR Meetings — Save These Dates!!!

Becky Smith, Program Chair

2012 is looking like a special year for the TRR programs. Please put these dates on your calendar and join us for some fun and informative times.

More details will come later – keep checking the calendar on the [TRR Website](#) and future newsletters for more info. **And don't forget to grow those lotto plants!!!**

July 14, 2012, Saturday

TRR Rookie Meeting, Mercer Arboretum, Houston, Texas

Speaker: Gaye Hammond, Past President of the Houston Rose Society

See Page 3 for more details

October 6, Saturday

TRR Fall Cutting Exchange, Nacogdoches, Texas

Tour of Greg Grant's garden in Arcadia, SFA's Plant Sale at Pineywood's Native Plant Center, and Annual Cutting Exchange following the Sale

We sure hope you can join us!!! *Becky*

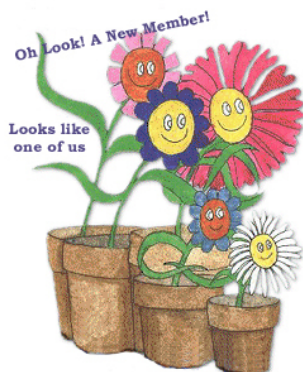


A "found" bit of Rose Rustler artwork — we suspect it was drawn by Pam Puryear

Howdy, New Members!

by Flora, Treasurer, Membership

Welcome to our newest members: *Frances Samuelson, Richmond; Rachel Scholz, Bryan; and Gus and Janice Estrada, Uvalde.* We look forward to meeting you at Texas Rose Rustler events.



It's Membership Time!

It's time to renew your membership. **Deadline is August 1st**. Dues are \$10.00 per year and include the *Old Texas Rose* newsletter published quarterly, access to the Members Only section of the website, and TRR events; including the Spring Symposium, the Summer Rookie Rustle, and the Fall Cutting Exchange.

First, fill out **The Membership Form** (the form helps ensure that

your dues are credited correctly). Checks or money orders are made payable to the Texas Rose Rustlers. Secondly, you have two choices: 1) bring the form and check to the TRR Rookie Rustler Meeting at Mercer Arboretum, July 14th; or 2) mail the form and check to the address on the form.

Effective August 1st, the Members Only password will change and will be emailed to current members. If you have any questions about membership renewals or dues, please contact the Membership Chair at trrmembership@texasroserustlers.com.

Mark your calendar with a reminder to renew your membership by August 1st so you don't miss out on TRR news or events.



TRR Members at the Spring Meeting in San Antonio, Texas

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