



Old Texas Rose

Vol 16, Fall 2012

Greetings Fellow Rose Rustlers ---

Message from the Chair — Kathy Hyatt

Now that Labor Day has passed, summer has unofficially come to a close. OK, I know it doesn't feel like Fall when the temperatures remain in the high 90s but we are at least on the downhill side of summer. As always, the prospect of cooler temperatures makes me almost giddy. I think of all the garden tasks I relegated to the "Later" list. These chores are now waiting to be tackled. I look forward to being able to become friends with my garden once again, to spend hours working rather than just a few miserable hot minutes doing the bare minimum. I'm sure the thought of cooler temperatures and lower humidity puts a smile on the faces of all our Rustlers!



*Fall brings the added pleasure of Rose Hips.
If you are lucky enough (and tough enough)
to have a Rugosa, you might be enjoying
these beauties right now!*

Inside this issue:

Page 2

SFA Gardens to Host Fall Plant Sale

Page 3

Old Newsletters are New Again!

Stepping Back into Garden History

Page 5

Loss of a TRR Friend

2012 TRR's Fall Cutting Exchange

Page 6

History, Hope, and Harlem

Page 8

Stop and Smell the Roses in Blanco

Page 9

2012 TRR Meetings

With only a few weeks until our Fall Cutting Exchange, I ask you to take a look around your garden and see if there are plants that are begging to be moved or divided. This is a great time to pot up things and get ready to share them with your fellow Rustlers. The lotto has been a place where I've found many

wonderful pass-a-long plants and gives us all an opportunity to share some of the plants we love. Remember, lotto contributions can be anything from roses to companion plants to gloves, fertilizer, books...you name it. We can all come up with something to share, even if it's not out of our personal garden. Don't forget the cuttings as this is a marvelous way to get some of the roses we don't have but think we should try. And it's FREE!!!

Becky Smith has come up with a weekend of activities that should please everyone attending. If you can possibly arrange to come up on Thursday or early Friday, remember that we have the opportunity to help out at King's Nursery. We have visited the nursery on many occasions and this is a chance to give back to a family-run business that could use our help. Until October, keep thinking cool temperatures and, hopefully, a bit of rain! *Kathy*

SFA Gardens to Host Fall Plant Sale

A reprint of an article sent by Greg Grant, SFA Gardens, College of Forestry and Agriculture, Blog: <http://arborgate.com/blog/category/gregs-ramblings>



NACOGDOCHES, Texas – The SFA Gardens at Stephen F. Austin State University will host its annual Fabulous Fall Festival Plant Sale from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday, October 6, 2012 at the SFA Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St.

A wide variety of hard-to-find, "Texas tough" plants will be available, including Texas natives, heirlooms, tropicals, perennials, shrubs, trees, and exclusive SFA introductions. Most of the plants are extensively trialed in the gardens before being offered to the public and most are produced by the SFA Gardens staff and volunteers.

This popular event benefits the SFA Mast Arboretum, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden, Gayla Mize Garden, and educational programs hosted at the gardens.

The educational programs at SFA Gardens reach over 15,000 students ages 1 to 100 on a yearly basis.

The public is encouraged to arrive early and bring a wagon. For more information, call (936) 468-4404, or visit <http://sfagardens.sfasu.edu> for a list of available plants.



Something New on Our Website -- Old TRR Newsletters are New Again!

There is a wonderful addition(s) to the TRR website in the works. Becky Smith has taken on the big job of gathering and scanning all of our past newsletters. These contain wonderful articles, many written by members no longer with us. As she gets these to Barbara Buckley, they will be inserted in the library section of the "members only" section of the website.

Check them out!Faith



Stepping Back into Garden History

By Jane Gray

"When I was just a little girl, I asked my mother, what lies ahead ...", well, you know the words to that song. Never did I realize that in my 60's I would have such amazing adventures with a wonderful set of friends and several fantastic organizations. In retirement I first became a Texas Master Gardener, which led to the Texas Rose Rustlers and, thanks to Dr. Welch and Mary Palmer Dargan, the [Southern Garden History Society](#).

This spring was our third trip to this society's annual conference. We were in Alexandria, VA in 2010, Baton Rouge, LA in 2011, and Richmond, VA this year. Part of the fun of these trips are the side trips that we take along the way.

This year, Barbara and James Buckley, Becky Smith and I flew to Asheville, NC to tour the Biltmore House and Gardens and visit with Faith Bickley's brother, who was a great tour guide of the area. If you have never been to the Biltmore Estate, you must go.

We then drove to Richmond to attend the conference. The focus of the trip was the landscape architecture of Charles Freeman Gillette (1886-1969) as well as historic garden features of the area. For Becky, I think the highlight of the trip was touring Hollywood Cemetery and seeing the antique roses throughout the historic park. Of course, being there on Jefferson Davis' birthday was quite interesting.



Hollywood Cemetery

For me, touring Thomas Jefferson's childhood home, Tuckahoe, was a real treat. I loved the kitchen garden and historic home. For Barbara and James, well, you will have to ask them. I am sure that they will be glad to share with you.

As we were sitting at the Saturday night banquet with new friends and old ones, including Greg Grant, hearing the head horticulturists of Mount Vernon and Monticello swapping tales, I couldn't believe how lucky I was to have found this society.

Furthermore, we have gotten to know so many nice people involved in landscape architecture and historic garden preservation. Sitting at a southern down-home breakfast at Perly's or walking through private gardens, you sometimes don't really know who you are visiting with until you get home, open a magazine, and see a feature article about one of their own gardens or landscape designs.

Will I be pretty?
Will I be rich?
Well, no! But
will I have
adventures with
great friends?
Heck, Yes! Next
year it's on to
Lynchburg and
more southern
garden history.



Jane Gray, James & Barbara Buckley, Marti Royo, and Becky Smith at the Biltmore House and Gardens



Ariana Beck, James, Jane, Barbara, and Becky at Tuckahoe



Jane Gray at Tuckahoe



Loss of a TRR Friend

TRR has lost a friend with the passing of Aubrey King of King's Nursery in Tenaha. We have always been welcomed warmly by the King Family when we have visited this wonderful family-owned nursery.

Some of us are planning to help at the nursery on Friday, October 5th (the day before our Cutting Exchange). We plan on arriving around 9:30 that morning and would welcome anyone who can join us. Bring your pruners.

We extend our condolences to Aubrey's family.....*Becky and Faith*

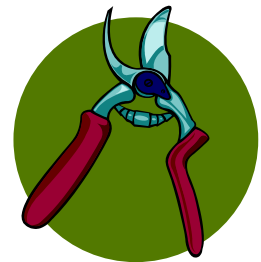
2012 TRR's Fall Cutting Exchange

Saturday, October 6, 2012, Nacogdoches, Texas

By Becky, Program Chair

Are you ready for a road trip – a TRR road trip to one of our favorite venues? If the answer is “yes”, you are in luck as the Cutting Exchange this year will be Saturday, October 6th at the Pineywoods Native Plant Center at 2900 Raguet St. in Nacogdoches. Here is the basic schedule, but you know that we are a laid-back group and reserve the right to be flexible.

- 9:00 am Fabulous Fall Festival Plant Sale (SFA) at Pineywoods Native Plant Center
- 11:00 am Cutting Exchange (somewhere on the grounds)
- 1:00 pm Lunch on your own
- 2:30 pm Shop at King's Nursery in Tenaha
- 4:30 pm Tour of Greg Grant's Garden, FM 138, Arcadia, TX
- 7:30 pm Dinner at El Ranchero, 123 King St, Nacogdoches



Sunday morning we can have a leisurely time visiting at the Comfort Suites before we head home. For reservations, please contact: [Comfort Suites](#), 3429 South St., Nacogdoches, Texas 75964, (936) 560-9900

Things to bring to the exchange:

- Lotto plants
- Cuttings (wrapped in a damp paper towel in a labeled plastic bag placed in an ice chest)
- Supplies for taking home some cuttings (plastic bags, paper towels, water, marker)



A Nice Treat!

It really tickles me to include an article written by Matt Graff for our newsletter. I first heard about Matt and his dad (Jon) and brother (Jacob) when Becky Smith forwarded several newspaper articles about their rosarian efforts. I've provided the links so you can read the background stories for yourself. Enjoy! (Photos are courtesy of a video produced by Channel 5, NBCDFW, Tammy Mutasa, Friday, June 8, 2012.)

Channel 5, NBCDFW, [Rockwall Teens Plan to Make a Difference](#)

The Dallas Morning News, [How Two Rockwall Teens Changed Harlem, NY](#)

History, Hope, and Harlem

by Matt Graff

This essay is about my experiences growing cuttings for the Heritage Rose District of New York City. First, however, I would like to give a shout out to those who have helped me in my journey. I want to thank the Texas Rose Rustlers, Candy Fife, and Mike Shoup for supplying me with cuttings. I feel honored that such rose-rustling greats helped while I was just starting out.



When I was about ten, I was first introduced into the world of roses. I helped my dad around his garden by hand watering many of his plants. I realized that some roses did better than any other plants without much water, making them ideal for the Texas heat. More recently, however, I was introduced into the world of rose cuttings, and through extension, rose rustling. About two years ago, at a Dallas Area Historic Rose Society meeting that my dad dragged me to after school, a man spoke about his dream to help Harlem regain some of its wonderful history in the form of rose gardens. That man, Stephen Scanniello, later came to my house for dinner. Over dinner, he and my dad discussed plans for my dad's garden, and eventually we all got onto the topic of our growing cuttings for the [Heritage Rose District of New York City](#). To learn about growing rose cuttings, I looked at catalogues such as the Antique Rose Emporium and Vintage Gardens, and read various other books. In addition, I now have several books on propagation including *Creative Propagation* and *Plant Propagation for Nursery Growers*.

After learning about cuttings, I researched ways to create a misting system through books and various websites. Then, with the advice of Dr. Malcolm Manners and Dr. Bud Willis in mind, I ordered the various parts necessary for a misting system. Once the parts arrived, I set up the misting system, and designed an experiment to determine the best environment for growing cuttings. Please note that this experiment took place in the fall.



I designed this experiment primarily based on three variables: light exposure, soil mixtures, and type of pot. Half of the pots were in sunny environments and half were in the shade. Half the pots were in 100% potting soil and half were in 50% potting soil, 50% perlite. I used a variety of pots, with quarts and tree bands being the most prevalent. All in all, this led to about eight main distinctive environments.



However, it is not always easy to tell when a cutting is doing well. I use a fairly simple system that incorporates leaf and root growth. One of the clues that I used was new leaves of at least five growing on the cuttings often means that the plant is doing well. For me, the crucial sign of a cutting's well-being was roots poking out the bottom of a pot. The plants in the sun did better than those in the shade, with a total success rate of 52/61 (85%); the plants in the shade had a success rate of 47/62 (76%). The plants in the 50:50 soil mix did better than those in 100% potting soil, with a success rate of 64/75 (85%); the plants in 100% potting soil had a success rate of 35/48 (73%). Overall, 41/42 varieties of cuttings worked, and the only unsuccessful one was a plant that I rustled, temporarily named Matt's Climber, a spring bloomer, so fall may not have been a good time.

In addition to the cuttings I received from the sources mentioned above and many from my dad's garden, I rustled some myself. While driving past a local mechanic's garage, I noticed three incredibly large roses, two over 20 feet tall, growing on the fence and over the signage. I asked the mechanic, Kevin, if he would let me take some cuttings, and he was happy to do so. I took cuttings from all three roses, temporarily naming them: Matt's Pink Tea, Matt's Climber, and Matt's Mutabilis. Matt's Pink Tea and Matt's Mutabilis now reside in Harlem, where I hope Stephen Scanniello can identify them. I also found a rose growing on the side of a fence not far from my house, which I temporarily named Matt's Purple. There is also a Republic of Texas cemetery just past the back of our property that I hope will have roses that I can rustle. I plan to check in the fall once the weather cools down a bit.



Once I had grown up my cuttings into rooted plants, I needed to ship them to New York. I found that shipping was quite an adventure. When your plants are finally ready to ship, make sure you have a lot of time and a lot of tape. You will also need boxes, wet newspaper, and a fairly large space. I recommend setting up a table outside, as it can get a little messy. When I felt ready to ship, I set aside a Sunday, lots of packing tape, and many old Antique Rose Emporium boxes we had stored for this very occasion. I then took a pot with a rooted cutting, covered the dirt in wet newspaper, taped it all down, and put it in the

box. It sounds simple, but packing a large number of rooted cuttings can take quite a while, so be prepared.

I would again like to thank all who have helped me in my journey; I couldn't have done it without you. I have sent over sixty roses to Harlem, and plan on sending more. Indeed this year I have multiplied the size of my misting system, and I estimate that it can hold well over 1000 cuttings. I would appreciate it if any who read this could send me cuttings that I can use in my next run at propagation. But please do not send any if your garden is afflicted with Rose Rosette Disease, which seems to be a growing blight up here in the Dallas Metroplex.

*Happy Rustling,
Matt Graff, a 15 year-old kid out in the
country near Dallas*



Stop and Smell the Roses — at Best Western?



Wanda and Wally Brown shared a secret that they and the Schulenburg Rose Club came across – a wonderful garden nestled by the [Best Western Luxury Suites](#) in Blanco, Texas. The proprietor, Mr. Patel, takes great joy in his gardens. Linda Sullivan, the Sales Director, stated that when he was MIA, they always knew where to find him – with his roses! If you are in the area, a stay is very worthwhile. And who knows, maybe a TRR event may happen there one day. Enjoy the write-up in the [Blanco County News](#).

2012 TRR Meetings — Save These Dates!!!

Becky Smith, Program Chair

The Fall Gardening Rush is upon us! So put down your gloves and pruners, and take a break on a few of those crisp days to enjoy gardens and friends. **And don't forget to grow those lotto plants!!!**

October 6, Saturday

TRR Fall Cutting Exchange, Nacogdoches, Texas

See Details on Page 5

October 20, Saturday

Farmer's Branch Celebration of Roses, Farmer's Branch, Texas

A wonderful garden and a great line-up of speakers, including Dr. William Welch, Gregg Lowery, and Greg Grant. The day starts at 10:30 – click [here](#) for a schedule of events – directions are [here](#).

October 21, Sunday

Rose Dango, McKinney, Texas

Not only is Rose Dango a celebration of roses and wine, but it's a learning experience too! Sponsored by the Chambersville Heritage Rose Garden and the Legacy of Legends Garden, you can join speakers on their adventures with roses, and enjoy free admission to each presentation! Start the day off with Stephen Scanniello's opening remarks on behalf of the Heritage Rose Foundation. www.rosedango.com

November 9-11, Friday – Sunday

Antique Rose Emporium's Fall Festival of Roses

Always a delight! www.antiqueroseemporium.com



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