

The Old Texas Rose

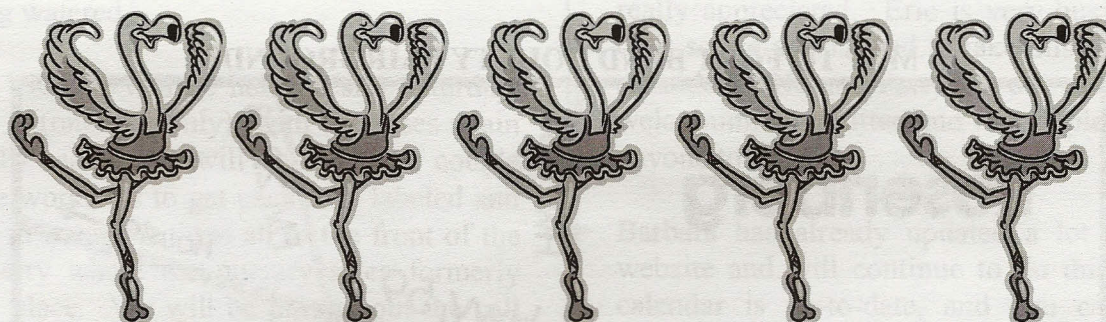


Number 2

www.texasroserustlers.com

Spring 2009

Spring Symposium
Fort Bend County Fairgrounds
Rosenburg, TX
April 18 - 19, 2009



Come Fling with Felder

The Texas Rose Rustlers and the Fort Bend Master Gardeners have joined forces to present **Felder Rushing** (www.felderrushing.net) for our Spring Symposium, April 18, 10:00 a.m., Building C, Fort Bend Fairgrounds, Hwy. 36, Rosenberg. Bring your lotto plants for door prizes.

For details see page 2...

We will be having a catered barbecue lunch at 12:30 p.m. in the same building as Felder's talk. Everyone is welcome to join us, but we will need to have the lunch reservations prepaid by Friday, April 10. The cost will be \$10.00 per person. Send your money to:

Faith Bickley
P.O. Box 174
Glen Flora, TX 77443

After lunch we will tour the FBMG gardens nearby. Then we will drive down the road to tour the Vintage Rosery rose gardens. The nursery is closed, but the gardens are beautiful. For supper we will have Mexican food at Rosa Rita's which is very close to the Vintage Rosery.

We have decided not to meet on Friday night as Felder has a long drive from

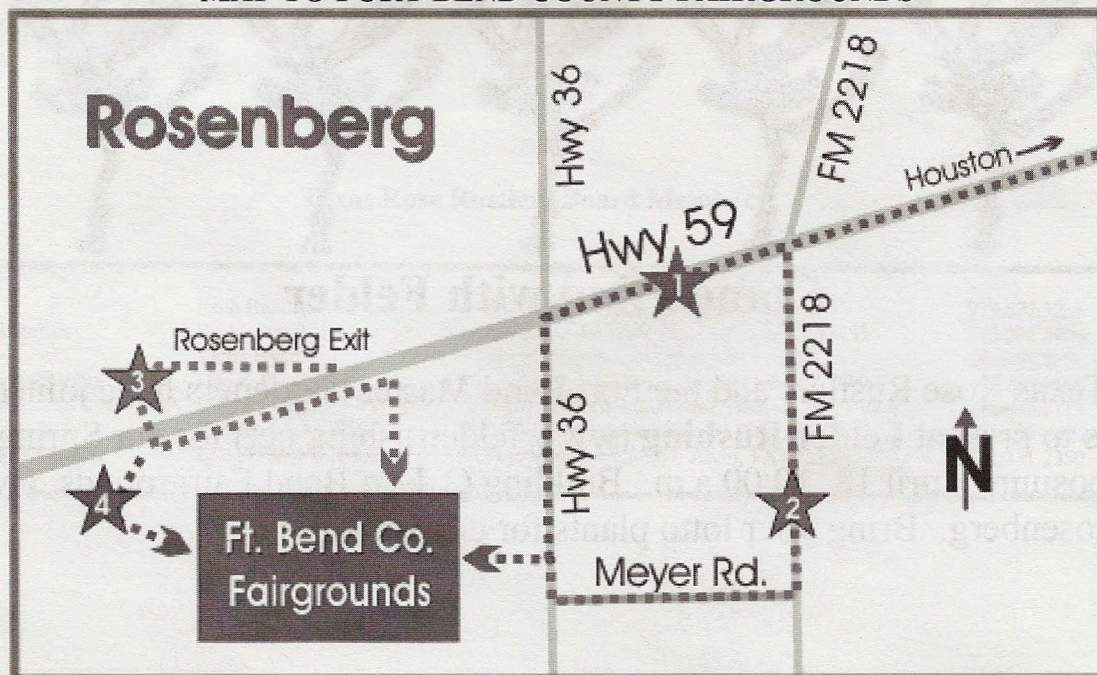
Mississippi, after his radio talk show that day.

On Sunday morning at 10:00 Caldwell Nursery will be opening especially for us. This is a most interesting nursery as you will see by visiting them online (www.Caldwellhort.com). We also have been invited to both the Enchanted Forest and the Enchanted Garden nurseries.

This is going to be a very special weekend and we hope you will join us. For those of you wanting to spend Friday and Saturday nights in the area, we have arranged for rooms at the Rosenberg Comfort Inn, located on 36, south of 59. These rooms will cost \$72-76 and are reserved under Texas Rose Rustlers. Call (281) 232-7300 for reservations.

If you have any questions, contact:
Becky Smith at bas@wcec-wb.net

MAP TO FORT BEND COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS



From the Chairman – Faith Bickley

Spring seems to be arriving but without the spring showers. I hope for all of our gardens some much needed rain and maybe even a respite from the winds. We have an exciting TRR year ahead which I hope most of you can enjoy.

First of all, I want to thank all the TRR members and FBMG members (there are quite a few of us that are both) who have worked so hard on the Vintage Rosery rescue. It has worked out so well to have this as a joint effort between the two groups especially since this is right in Fort Bend County. We had several workdays where the weeds and rose prunings were literally flying. Last month we concluded the first (and most difficult) part of this second rescue, the yanking out, weeding and pruning of 1964+ roses. We realize that not all of these will survive, but at least they have a chance. Becky Smith and I will be checking regularly to make sure they are being watered.

The VR sale will be held on site Saturday, May 9 (one day only), with the roses again at \$10 each. We will be having a couple more workdays to get each rose labeled and then to transport them all to the front of the property where the nursery sales formerly took place. We will be putting out the call for these workdays via email. If you are not already on the VR Workers email list, please send me your info so I can get you placed on it (fbickley@ykcwb.com).

Please read the information for our April TRR Symposium which this year will be "Fling with Felder". Be sure to make your motel reservations early and get your money to me for the catered lunch. This will be a fun filled weekend.

See you on April 18th! ~Faith

TRR Denim Shirts

Good news! The denim shirts have arrived and they look great! We'll have a few shirts available for sale at the spring symposium. If we don't have your size that day we can order one for you. They'll be available in both men's and women's long and short sleeves. A ladies' sleeveless version will also be available. The cost is \$30 per shirt.

There are rumors that we'll also be offering a Texas Rose Rustlers' t-shirt as well!



Texasroserustlers.com

If you haven't done so lately, be sure to check out our website. We have a new webmaster, Barbara Buckley, who has kindly taken over the job from Eric Varnado. Eric stepped in several years back when we needed help in this area which we really appreciated. Eric is very busy these days so we are pleased to take this from his shoulders. He and Patty are our wonderful welcoming committee and that is plenty for anyone to do.

Barbara has already updated a lot on the website and will continue to do this. Our calendar is up-to-date, and you can now access the membership form. Be sure to send people to this site for info on TRR and especially the "Fling with Felder" and the VR sale in May. She is going to archive some of our old newsletters, and it is hoped we will have a "members only" section accessed by a password which we will make available to all members.

Thank you, Barbara, for taking over this task that help others learn more about our great organization.

Upcoming Rustler Events: 2009

Mark Your Calendars!!

It looks like 2009 is shaping up to be a very exciting year for our regular programs. In addition to the Spring Symposium, other planned events include:

May 9, 2009 – Vintage Rosery Sale,
Needville, TX

July 11, 2009 – Summer Rookie Meeting
will once again be held at Mercer Arboretum with our none other than our own Ray Ponton as the featured speaker.

October 3, 2009 – Fall Cutting Exchange,
Nacogdoches, TX.

October 17, 2009 – Rose Dango in
McKinney, TX



*Don't wear perfume in the garden - unless
you want to be pollinated by bees.*

~Anne Raver

Frances Dubriel and Robert

By Doana Fite

October 5, 2008. A friend of mine called today to tell me a story. He has been recovering from severe depression for a year. His brother died violently about three years ago and after that time, Robert began a downward spiral that threatened his livelihood, his family, his home and perhaps his life.

One year ago, he called me to say he was going into a program to get himself back on track and would need an office assistant to help his wife, Debbie, manage their business. I gladly accepted and began an

incredible mission that showed God's love at work in Robert's life and his family.

Each day as I went into their home to work with Debbie I passed by the antique rose Frances Dubriel which I had given to Robert and Debbie after his brother's death. Robert had commented before he left how much the rose meant to him and how its lovely red blooms gave him a feeling of hope at some of his lowest times. Debbie and I weeded around the rose and gave her a little Super Thrive boost to end her bloom season last fall in 2007.

Robert came home in 30 days with hope, optimism, purpose and determination to keep his family safe and happy. Robert somehow knew that God was there to guide him, direct his ways and show him the right paths. His Faith grew stronger as he saw doors open in his business, saw hard work rewarded with security and strength, and fair play rewarded with blessings.

But that is not the story. The story Robert called to tell me today is about the rose, Frances Dubriel.

Robert, Debbie and their children Sara and Bobby went to the Katy High School football game Friday night. It was a lovely cool evening. Robert recounted how the stadium was bright and cheery and the smell of the new mown grass mixed with popcorn was invigorating. The teams played well. The marching bands boomed and trumpeted. Robert said he enjoyed the high school football game with his family more than any outing he could remember in a long time. They cheered, they laughed, the Katy Tigers won; they had a really good time.

As they drove back home and turned onto their winding heavily wooded street his daughter Sara exclaimed with true awe in her voice, "Look at that!" Without asking, what, the whole family knew. They saw from two houses away the crimson rose

shining at their front door. Truly shining, Robert said. From the sky fell one single ray of sunshine, one single bright and radiant ray of sunshine. That single ray of sunshine was shining through the big trees that filled most of their front yard and found its way directly onto the big beautiful red bloom on the rose Frances Dubriel right at their front door.

The scene of the sunny shaft of light brilliantly displaying the single red rose brought a sense of awe to each of them. When Robert told me the story, Debbie walked into the room and he said, I'm telling Doana about the rose. Debbie knew. The benediction of a year of hope and faith, struggle and blessing, work and friendship were somehow displayed in that beautiful scene that each remembers in a special way.

The date was October 3—a year, to the day since Robert went away to start his journey of recovery through Faith.



An Enchanted Day at Enchanted Gardens with Mike Shoup *By Denise Riccobono*

I've never understood how anyone could wish the winter away here in the Houston area...the respite from the heat of summer has always soothed my transplanted Yankee soul for the few months that it lasts. Not that the "soothing" part has completely disappeared, but I'm starting to understand (and gradually feel a bit more Texan) with every Spring that I experience as a gardener and rose lover in our area of this wonderful state.

Speaking of Spring, I hope all of you were a bit more timely than I was in the Valentine's Day trimming of your roses and are starting to enjoy the benefits of that timeliness in gorgeous flushes of blooms. Mike Shoup of

the Antique Rose Emporium had some wonderful advice for us all when he made his visit to the Enchanted Gardens on February 28th. For those of you who missed it, the word of the day regarding pruning was "ruthless", giving us all another reason to love these beautiful shrubs that he calls "the ultimate garden plants." By "ruthless", he meant that we are allowed to just have at it with our loppers and clip away without regard to bud eyes and all the other specifics of the more finicky modern, grafted roses. That has to feel good to those of you who have gradually accumulated hundreds of roses in your garden (and you know who you are). To make his point, he told us that they complete the spring pruning of the multitude of roses at the Antique Rose Emporium in just a couple of days. Imagine that! I was so inspired by his words that, when I finally got around to my (late) pruning task, I was determined to be completely ruthless and then step back in satisfaction in record time. So here's my confession...I couldn't do it (of course, I ONLY have 30 odd roses in my garden). I started out fine and then gradually went back to the motherly method, offering encouraging words as I pruned, that I guess I'll continue with until my rose obsession gets even more out of control. Still, I hope the rest of you will find his advice liberating and be more successful in following it.

Another suggestion he gave that, at first, sounded like he was being facetious, was to "tickle" your roses occasionally as you pass them by or work on or near them (it would probably be best to wear some good rose gloves while following this advice). This stimulates the bush to work a little harder to do what we want it to do, i.e., grow strong and healthy and provide us with lots of its own special blooms. Unintentionally, I had been following this advice all along. Who can resist caressing a beautiful rose in one's garden almost mindlessly when strolling past or as a little thank you for a beautiful flower or lovely, full foliage? Or am I just

taking my rooted children a little too seriously?

Feel free to e-mail me with your rose obsessions at any time (there's sanity in numbers, remember) at criccobono@comcast.net. Enjoy the gift of Spring with your roses and your rose friends!



The following article, written by one of our veteran Rose Rustlers, is reprinted with permission from a past issue of The Houston Rose Society's newsletter, The Rosette.

Bourbon Roses

By Deanna Krause

The class of Bourbon roses originated on an island in the south Indian Ocean. The island (now called Reunion) was known as the Isle of Bourbon. The first known Bourbon rose, *Rose Edouard*, was the result of a cross between a pink China and the *Autumn Damask* rose in about 1818. Seeds of this rose were sent to France and England where many other crosses were made, giving us the Bourbon roses we grow today.

One of the roses was the popular rose *Souvenir de la Malmaison* introduced in 1843. Many of the early Bourbon roses did not repeat, but *Souvenir de la Malmaison* is continually in bloom most of the year. The only complaint with this rose is the fact that the bush is not a large or vigorous grower, but will produce large beautiful pale pink quartered blooms, sometimes in sprays. There is also a climbing sport of *Souvenir de la Malmaison*, which is usually the first rose to bloom in my yard in the spring. Two other sports from this rose are *Kronprincess Victoria* (a low-growing bush with white blooms) and *Souvenir de St. Anne's* (1950), named after the garden in which it

originated in Ireland. It is a lovely single rose in a pale pink color with darker pink reverse with nice yellow stamens.

Louise Odier (1851) a Bourbon with full cupped blooms of bright rose, has a rich fragrance and puts on a splendid show in the spring. A wonderful thornless climber *Zephirine Drouhin*, with its semi-double dark pink blooms, does well in a cottage garden setting with the rose placed in the back of the bed, or on a wall with perennials such as blue delphiniums, blue plumbago, or other contrasting plants accenting it. The large striped blooms of *Variegata di Bologna* are beautiful in the spring, but do not repeat. I have tried pegging the long canes of this rose to get more bloom, but I find, as with most of my roses, they do not like being tied down and either the tips of the canes or the whole cane will die. I've tried to grow *Mme. Isaac Pereire* and its sport *Mme. Ernest Calvat*, both of which have beautiful, fragrant, and robust blooms, but I either did not have them in a good place or they need cooler weather than we have in Pasadena.

In our humid climate, most of the Bourbons require regular spraying to keep them clear of blackspot and mildew, but they are well worth the trouble involved.



I don't know whether nice people tend to grow roses or growing roses makes people nice.

~Roland A. Browne



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The Old Texas Rose Newsletter of The Texas Rose Rustlers

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Membership/Subscription is still only \$10 a year. Make checks payable to **Texas Rose Rustlers**

We don't want to lose you and you won't want to miss any of the exciting issues of The Old Texas Rose, or Texas Rose Rustler Events so please renew today!

A parting shot of some of our hardworking Vintage Rosery volunteers



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