

The Old Texas Rose

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Upcoming Events:

- October 3rd, Fall Cutting Exchange, Nacogdoches, TX.
- October 8-10, Houston Garden Club's 67th Annual Bulb and Plant Mart, Westminster United Methodist Church, 5801 San Felipe, Houston, TX, www.gchouston.org.
- October 17th Earth-Kind Rose Symposium 8-5:30pm, 4-H Activity Center, 259 Bachelor Dr., Victoria, TX www.vcmga.org or 361-575-2028.
- October 17-18, RoseDango: A Celebration of Roses 2009 in North TX.
- April 17th 2010 Saturday 10:00am Spring Symposium at Chamblees for tour of nursery and talk about new propagation methods

Roses through the Ages

By Jane Schnell

Throughout the ages roses have held a significant place in history. The Romans anointed themselves with rose-scented oil after their baths. The Greeks considered the rose the Queen of Flowers. The Romans, along with the Greeks, studied botany and also made rose-scented wine. The Romans grew *Rosa moschata*, the Musk Rose, which was native to the Eastern Empire. Their 'ceiling rose' was often seen carved in plaster gracing their buildings. '*Rosa gallica centerfolia*' is present basically unchanged from those early Roman gardens. In early Christianity, the bigger monasteries had extensive gardens, in

which, roses held pride of place. The Madonna was often seen with a vase by her side in paintings. Christ's mother seemed to have a fondness for roses. It is believed she favored saints Dominic and others with roses. Even today, those who are devoted to Her, offer their rosaries in prayer. The Arab contributions to medicine and astronomy were as important as their love of gardens and the rose. In the Middle East, many wild rose forms, such as '*Rosa gallica*', '*Rosa damascena*', '*Rosa moschata*' and '*Rosa foetida*' abounded. Their poets sang their praises. Also the Middle East is the home of the yellow rose '*Persian Yellow*' from which all yellow modern gar-



den roses descend. During the Renaissance, the rose began appearing as carvings on furniture and woven into carpets. The '*Rosa centerfolia*' known as '*La Rose des Peintres*' (the 'Rose of the Painters') or artists' rose, was often seen depicted. Artists of that day began painting roses in many fine portraits. The roses they painted were more voluptuous,

2009 Fall Cutting Exchange

Time to sharpen your pruning shears! On October 3rd, the 2009 Fall Cutting Exchange will be held in Nacogdoches, TX.

Each year we gather to exchange cuttings from our favorite roses for sharing with other members. Bring your

cuttings wrapped in damp paper towels, zip-lock bags, markers, and labels for identification, as well as lotto plants. An ice chest is helpful to keep the cuttings cool then get ready for some fun and visit with fellow Rose Rustlers.

In order to take advantage of

the special rate, make reservations early. TRR has a special rate of \$85per night at the Comfort Suites in Nacogdoches. Call Wendy at 936-560-9900and ask for the same rate as Faith Bickley, with the Texas Rose Rustlers.



Message from the Chairman

Our annual July Rookie Rustler meeting at Mercer was a great success. There were about 50 of us there although the numbers thing has never been something we worry about. It was nice to have the morning time slot so that the choice could be made to tour the Mercer gardens and/or have some time visiting with each other. A potluck lunch is always fun and so convenient when we have the Mercer facilities at hand.

Many thanks to Ray Ponton and Joy Hairston for our program. Joy started us out by telling us how to make the cement markers she has for all of her roses. I could tell many were inspired to try this for themselves. Ray gave us a great slide show of the roses that he has hybridized. Many of us have been fortunate enough to add some of Ray's roses to our gardens. He also gave us some background on Dr. Basye which was most

interesting.

Lots of lotto is always a good thing, and most of us went home with at least a couple prizes. It is wonderful to share some of our gardens with others- the true pass along spirit.

Thanks to all who help in so many ways to make our TRR meetings special.

Have a rosy day!

Faith

The Ultimate Pass-along Garden

By Jane Gray

With her health declining, it was time for Ms. Gwen to leave her home. She was also leaving behind years of gardening. With Ms. Gwen, anything she stuck in the ground, a pot, or anything that could be called a container, would grow. Her dirt was the extremely heavy clay; her irrigation system was a series of moats that she had dug around her flower beds. Now she was graciously offering her plants to those she knew would adopt them and keep them going.

Ms. Gwen lived next door to my 94 year old mother. We had recently moved Mom into a manufactured home on my brother's property. Her landscaping was in stark contrast to Ms. Gwen's yard full of plants,

so we began the adoptions in early spring of last year. There were so my plants that it took trip after trip of detective work. Roses, fig trees, shrimp plants, spider lilies, irises, day lilies, kalanchoes - many kalanchoes - bridal wreath, more roses...many roses.

As the temperature increased and more plants sprouted, my sister in law continued our quest. Gingers were now blooming! Also, we had discovered that with any plant we got from Ms. Gwen's there was always at least one bonus plant! New flower beds were filled at my mother's place, but there were still so many plants left at Ms. Gwen's that you could not even tell that any were taken!

Two friends building a new home came and "shopped".

Friends from Master Gardening made several trips. Hundreds of plants made their way to a new home. One of our favorite finds was a small privet tree planted in a whirly-bird (talk about re-use and recycle!)

Ms. Gwen is now at home with her daughter. The house sits empty and someone is now taking away the rest of the pots and cutting down the dozens of Confederate Rose plants. Time marches on, but I couldn't resist taking a moment to say thanks to Ms. Gwen for teaching us that lack of money and resources cannot deter a person's love for gardening and plants.



Trials and Propagation

By Audrey McMurray

Is it lunacy to plant by the moon? I used to work in a research lab and loved it. The tedium of going over sample after sample never bothered me. That bit of unknown that we were supposed to figure out was like a carrot in front of this lab horse. Now I teach and, given that parents would prefer their middle schoolers not be used as guinea pigs, the only experiments I can conduct are in my own yard.

Admittedly the scientific method is a bit lax in a backyard set-up such as mine, but I

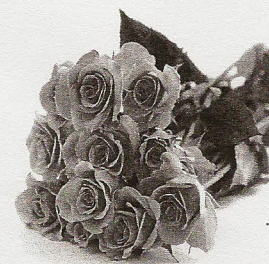
attempt to keep variables as equal as possible. I have enjoyed my little experiments and would like to share some of the results with you. I'd also like to hear if you have conducted any of your own. Let me know if I can pass them on. My email address is jamac80@gmail.com.

The first trial I ran was in response to a friend thinking that striking cuttings by the moon was silly. I decided to determine if planting by the moon really would yield better results, and if so, which phase would be best for rooting rose cut-

tings? The answer was yes, it actually might. With the Farmer's Almanac as a guide, I struck a dozen cuttings just after a full moon, i.e., when it was waning. And I struck a dozen cuttings just after the new moon, i.e., when it was waxing.

I can not remember absolute numbers but there were more "waning moon" cuttings that rooted overall. More trials would need to be run to see if the results were the same.

Has anyone else seen similar results by gardening by the moon or is this just lunacy?



RoseDango: A Celebration of Roses

RoseDango - A Celebration of Roses is an informative and exciting event where you will hear about and see for yourself all the secrets of growing roses. Rosarians, rose enthusiasts and all novice rose growers are welcome and will have the opportunity to exchange information and see firsthand the

gardens at Farmers Branch and Chambersville Heritage Rose Garden.

To register visit www.rosedango.com or call 214.334.6902. Registration fees are \$15 each and \$25 per couple for the entire weekend.

A hotel room block will be provided at the Doubletree Club in Farmers Branch with a special rate of \$69 for event guests. Free transportation will be provided by the City of Farmers Branch for all hotel guests to events in McKinney and Chambersville on Saturday.

"Truth isn't always beauty, but the hunger for it is."

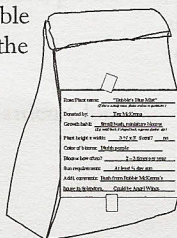
-Nadine Gordimer

Fall Cutting Exchange continued...

When bagging up your cuttings and lotto donations to bring to the cutting exchange on October 3rd, why not print out plant labels from the TRR website (www.texasroserustlers.com) and let the everyone know all about your treasures? This will help everyone pick out just the right plant for their needs. Even the new Rustlers, will be

able to choose some of our old favorites with confidence.

An example of the label is shown on the right. However, a full page is available for download on the website.



Rose/Plant name: _____

(If this is a study name, please enclose in quotations.)

Donated by: _____

Growth habit: _____

(E.g. small bush, V-shaped bush, vigorous climber, etc.)

Plant height x width: _____ Scent? _____

Color of blooms: _____

Blooms how often? _____

Sun requirements: _____

Add. comments: _____

Roses through the Ages continued...



"Then I will raise aloft the
milk -white rose, whose
sweet smell the air shall
be perfumed "

- William Shakespeare

because of its' full-petalled appearance. The wild roses appeared in the southern hemisphere with the arrival of the European settlers in Botany Bay and on to South Africa and eventually to us in the Western hemisphere. The settlers' wives had the difficult task of establishing a new home in a strange land. They passed cuttings around, which flourished in the mild climate as they took root, as did the

settlers in their new homeland. The most common rose was the China Roses , such as, 'Old Blush', which was believed to have been introduced by a wool mogul, John Macarthur. For a long time, roses coming from Europe were the norm, until the climbing sport of 'Souvenir de la Malmaison' appeared in a Sidney garden in 1893. With great pride, the new rose was sent to Europe, for the first time. As the emi-

grants grew their roses, their homesickness, was somehow assuaged. Today we give them to those we love, and appreciate their beauty and fragrance. Let us not forget the contributions of our early ancestors who brought those first cuttings from their homeland.

Old blush wins again

By Doana Fite

Sparse rain or no rain has been on the mind of every gardener this summer. Very high temperatures continuing throughout the season made my garden performance very different. Martin and I still operate our garden on an EarthKind status and only water when mercy is required to keep the plants from suffering.

The stress this caused my roses resulted in fewer blooms and almost no growth. Amazingly enough, all the roses have remained green and verdant looking, as if in a greenhouse. The sparseness of their flower-

ing however indicates the stress of the summer heat.

The Belle Donna that I bought from Thomas Jefferson's garden at Monticello has never been prettier. It is healthy and happy and provides a lush view from my reading window, but it has not put on even one bloom this summer. Likewise, Belinda's Dream is dreamy, but her blooms are about a tenth of her usual show. All around the garden it's the same.

Except for Old Blush. Once again, I am amazed at the stamina of this lovely old antique. If anything in the garden is blooming, it's Old Blush.

Along with Esperanza and Althea, my Old Blush roses have performed like every day is the perfect day. The hotter it gets, the more they bloom but their leaves never flag, nor drop, nor turn yellow. Come to think of it, I may have to put in more of all three of these drought busters this fall.

I tell people all the time that if I could only have one rose in my garden, it would be Old Blush. Actually, I'd have 3 or 4 of them, at least! I may even water them next summer just to see what else they could possibly do!

A rosy trip

By Faith Bickley

The first week in March, Mom, Becky Smith and I headed out for an overnight trip to Tyler to buy roses at Chamblee's. This is a yearly event for Mom and me, but our first time at this time of year. For Becky, it was a new experience and one she was most excited about (any of you who know Becky will recognize that she is a self-proclaimed rose addict). I knew she was truly excited when I got an email from her the evening before we were to leave telling me how many hours before the trip would start!

We had a fun trip to Tyler with lunch at the Betty Boop Tea-room in Crockett and snacks of Becky's homemade cookies. But the real fun was when we got to Chamblee's. I had suggested to Becky that she have her list alphabetized as that is how the roses are presented. Well out she came with a spreadsheet with not only the names of the roses (in alphabetical order) but also all sorts of info about them.

Mom and I got in the swing of the excitement as the rose bushes were so health and there were so many in the gallon containers which of course we prefer so we can buy more roses for the money, not to mention all the Buck roses now available. Mom was coming along the rows with her walker more slowly than Becky and I were moving. Every time I looked back at Mom, she had at least one bush on her walker. When I remarked that Becky or I had that one and could root it for her, she replied that at her age she wasn't waiting for a cutting but wanted a plant now!

We had about three carts loaded with roses and then hit what used to be known as the "bone pile". This description no longer applies to these \$2 and \$5 roses as many were labeled and all were in great shape. Of course, you can guess what happened- more roses on another cart!

The employees skillfully got us loaded so that the three of us and walker could fit in. But

this is not the end of the story as Becky studied more in the motel that evening and asked if we might be able to swing by again in the morning for just "one" more rose. That was no hardship, and there we were buying even more roses. This time Mark Chamblee remarked that Grandma might have to be on the roof of the van with her walker! We ended up bringing home 100 roses with some even piled on top of the folded walker.

Are you wondering how many Becky ended up with?? Drum roll- 50! Mom and I had a measly 16 and 14 respectively with others going to various other homes. That was a memorable trip and one we plan one doing again next spring. Mark told us that we should come the end of March next year when the roses will be in full bloom.

P.S. Would you believe we got back to Chamblee's again in April and then in May and even in early September! What a year!

• "Loveliest of lovely things are they on earth that soonest pass away. The rose that eves its little hour is prized beyond the sculptured flower."

• -William Cullen Bryant

Bulb and Plant Mart

The Houston Garden Club's 67th Annual Bulb and Plant Mart is on October 8-10 at Westminster United Methodist Church, 5801 San Felipe, Houston, TX. For more info: www.gchouston.org.

The will be a rose section of the Mart, with roses supplied by Mike Shoup, and we need

volunteers. There are two shifts Thursday and Friday, 9 am until 1 pm, and 1 pm to 5 pm, and one shift on Saturday from 8:30 am until 2 pm. Breakfast and lunch are supplied. To volunteer, please call Conrad Tips at 713.868.5606.

Additionally, the Garden Club

of Houston is looking for crinums. The object is to identify the various, then arrange plantings at Mercer Arboretum. If any of our members have crinums to share, please bring them to the Bulb Mart, and be sure to drop by the rose section!

Fall Cutting Exchange

Nacogdoches, October 3, 2009

Here it is- almost time for the Fall Cutting Exchange. This year we will be going to the Nacogdoches area, timing our cutting exchange with the MAST Arboretum plant sale as we have in years past.

Many of us will be arriving Friday and staying until Sunday morning. The motel we have chosen this year is the Comfort Suites. Many of the rooms are set to sleep 3 with all having individual beds. We have a special rate of \$85/night. Call 936-560-9900, ask for Wendy and tell her you want the rate that was given to Faith Bickley with the Texas Rose Rustlers.

The schedule for the day will be as follows (barring unforeseen circumstances):

Saturday, October 3rd

9:00- Start of the MAST Arboretum plant sale (be there early)

Tour the Arboretum at your own pace

12:30 LUNCH

The Barbecue House

704 N. Stallings Drive

Nacogdoches, TX 75965

Phone (936) 569-9004

2:30 CUTTING EXCHANGE

King's Nursery (Directions: Continue on 84 after the 59/84 split,

almost immediately after the split on the right)

956 N. George Bowers Drive

Tenaha, TX 75974

Phone (936) 248-3811

7:00 DINNER

El Ranchero

123 King Street

Nacogdoches, TX 75961

Phone (936) 569-2256

Maps to both restaurants will be available at the motel and the sale.

Aubrey King of King's Nursery is graciously allowing us to have our cutting exchange at his family's facility even though it happens that he and his wife will be away that weekend. His mother will be there, and we assured him that we are self-sufficient and can take care of the event ourselves. If you haven't been there before, you will enjoy this wonderful, working nursery. Be aware that many of the plants are not labeled or priced, but we will help Mrs. King help us.

Our Mexican meal on Saturday night will be enhanced by two free margaritas. We will get the count for dinner at the Cutting Exchange.

We are keeping Sunday open but you might want to explore the Pinewoods Native Plant Center:

http://ag.sfasu.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=18&Itemid=91

We look forward to seeing you in Nacogdoches!

If you have any questions, contact

Becky Smith

bas@wcec-wb.net



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SP2010

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1610 Marilyn, C 387, Alvin, TX 77511	281.331.2350

Earth-Kind Rose Symposium

Love to garden, but a too-busy lifestyle got you ready to "throw in the towel"? Come to Victoria on October 17 to the Earth-Kind Rose Symposium to hear how you can still grow beautiful roses and other plants without spending a lot of time and effort and while still remaining environmentally responsible.

Victoria County Master Gardeners Association (VCMGA) and Texas AgriLife Service, Victoria County, invite you to this all-day event to be held in the Victoria County 4-H Activity Center located across from the control tower at Victoria Regional Airport just east of Victoria on Business 59.

Dr. Steve George, Landscape

Horticulture Specialist for Texas AgriLife Extension, Dallas; Gaye Hammond, past president of the Houston Rose Society; Steve Chaney, Horticulture Agent for Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Fort Worth; and Dr. Shari Koch, Horticulture Agent for Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Rosenberg have teamed up to provide a full slate of sessions to aid today's time-strapped gardener.

In addition to admittance to all of the sessions, the \$65 registration fee includes, an Earth-Kind Handbook, a 2 gallon experimental rose, a box lunch, morning and afternoon snacks, and a tour of the VCMGA Earth-Kind Research Study garden and VCMGA's Award-

Winning Victoria Educational Gardens (VEG). Attendees are also eligible for 6 CEU's Master Gardeners credit and 3 CEU's for Texas Department of Agriculture pesticide credit.

The registration fee should be mailed to Victoria County Master Gardeners Association, P.O. Box 1723, Victoria, Texas 77902, and must be received by October 1. Seating is limited, so mail your registration today. (Should seats remain after the Oct. 1 deadline, a late registration fees of \$75 each will be accepted in the order they are received.)

To submit stories for future newsletters, please email Jane Schnell, Editor at jmschnell66@yahoo.com