# The Old Texas Rose



Number 1

www.texasroserustlers.com

Winter 2008

# Spring Symposium Schultze House Cottage Gardens San Antonio, TX April 19, 2008

The Texas Rose Rustlers will hold the annual Spring Symposium at Schultze House Cottage Gardens in San Antonio Hemisfair Park. Schultze House Gift Shop and Cottage Gardens is a project of the Bexar County Master Gardeners to show homeowners and visitors how to maintain a colorful landscape in a thirsty environment without wasted effort or water. They are singing my song! The base of the garden is heirloom, pass-along plants that have proven survival value like old roses, bulbs, lilies and reseeding annuals like zinnias.

The gift shop houses the meeting room and is an 1893 German house which was restored for Hemisfair in 1967. The Master Gardeners have asked us to find out if the Rustlers have any particular subjects that they would like to have covered in the Spring Symposium and they will focus the program on those subjects. Send me emails naming topics you would like to hear more about.

On Sunday morning we have been invited by David and Robbie Mills, the managers of the San Antonio Antique Rose Emporium, to tour the San Antonio ARE. Mike Shoup has arranged to have the Emporium at San Antonio open early for the Rose Rustlers and he will provide some special "surprises" for our group.

We are very excited about a Rustler trip to San Antonio and hope you will mark your calendar for Saturday, April 19, 2008 and plan your weekend around this trip. As always, we will arrange lodging and meal accommodations and hope to see all of you.

A Rustler request has already been made to drive by Flores Street to see if we can still see the Flores Street House Eater Rose. There are differing stories on whether or not the rose still lives on that Flores Street lot, so it will be fun to drive by and see for ourselves.

If anyone remembers how to get to the lovely San Antonio cemeteries we visited several years ago, please send me information and we will put them on our travel route also.

The Spring newsletter will have specific further details. Stay tuned.

~Doana Fite, Program Chairman

## A note from our new Editor, Donna Martin...

Hi everyone! Well, this is it! This is my first issue as Editor for The Old Texas Rose. I'm excited and nervous all at the same time! Candy did a great job as Editor and she's going to be a tough act to follow! Luckily for me, she's available for advice whenever I need it!!

Remember, this is **your** newsletter. I'm counting on all of you to send in those articles. It doesn't matter what it's about—if it relates to our lovely roses and it interests you, I'm sure the rest of us will find it interesting too. So get out those pens and pads of paper or sit down at that computer and start writing! You can email me at martin8859@gmail.com.

If you've had a recent rose adventure you'd like to share or have discovered a new gardening tool that you love, tell us about it! If you know of a time saving trick that works for you, please share it with us. Send in any questions you might have about your roses. I'm sure one of our veteran rustlers can provide an answer!

If you are one of our veteran rustlers and you have some stories about the early rustling days, we'd enjoy reading about that, too. We have a lot of new members who would enjoy reading how this group got its start.

It will be your input that will make this a newsletter that everyone will look forward to finding in their mailboxes. So send those articles in. I'm counting on you!

# ...and a note from our past Editor, Candy Fite.

Hello fellow Rustlers! I hope this note finds you healthy and happy in the New Year. I wanted to let you all know that I have

officially passed the torch of Editorship to Donna Martin. Every good thing must come to an end. Change for the board, the newsletter and me. I know she will do an outstanding job as the Editor.

I am thankful for my father-in-law, Martin Fite and Doana Fite (Program Chairman) for overseeing the past few newsletters while I was taking college courses. Had it not been for them, the newsletter would have suffered.

Now I can get back to submitting articles and the enjoyment of writing them. Writing for me is a good dose of emotional medicine. It allows me to be creative, imaginative and expressive. I will admit, the past two years, I have allowed that creative door to close. However, I am ready for it to reopen. One of my New Year's resolutions is to get back to the keyboard and write.

I am looking forward to a brand New Year. New beginnings. New goals. New adventures. New experiences. I hope everyone has a wonderful and blessed New Year.

#### From the Chairman – Faith Bickley

Hopefully all of you had a memorable Christmas and have escaped all the illness "bugs" that seem to be flying around. I have heard little hints that 2008 will be another fun year for TRR and look forward to seeing everyone at our meetings.

First of all I want to thank Donna Martin and Doana Fite for all their work to make our Cutting Exchange in October such a success. The weather cooperated so that we could thoroughly enjoy experiencing the wonderful ambiance of the Fayetteville Square. The gazebo was a grand place for the cuttings themselves and we had an unusually large lotto which is like candy to all of us. Donna Martin's little cottage just off the square is lovely, and she will have so

much fun landscaping it, especially after all the good ideas you gave her. Can't you just see the old roses in the front yard??!!

Our afternoon in the area was a delight also as we went on to the herb gardens at Festival Hill in Round Top and were gifted with a talk by Madalene Hill and Gwen Barclay. Their knowledge of herbs and other plants is renowned. The herb gardens had lots of old roses and most interesting plants.

Then we drove up the road to see the yard of Tony Scanapico which was truly spectacular. His narrative of how they did various elements of their yard was most interesting. In particular I remember the Mrs. B. R. Cant that is a tree and the grove of pines. What a wonderful day! Some of you actually stayed in Fayetteville to continue your TRR weekend.

Again, many thanks to Donna and Doana.



When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world!

# Upcoming Rustler Events: 2008 Mark Your Calendars!!

2008 promises to be a very exciting year for TRR programs. In addition to our Spring Symposium, our planned events include:

July 19 2008 - Summer Rookie Meeting will be held again at Mercer Arboretum in Houston. When it's too hot to work in the garden without serious risk of heat stroke, come join us in the cool air conditioned comfort of Mercer and enjoy this informative and fun meeting. As always we will have a plant lotto.

Oct. 25, 2008 - Fall Cutting Exchange, Ft. Worth, TX. Plans are in the works for a visit

to Weston Gardens just south of Fort Worth for the Fall Cutting Exchange.

These lovely restored gardens include many antique roses as well as reflecting ponds, statuary and a structure known as the Stone Steamboat. The owners conduct tea tastings on the deck of the Stone Steamboat with lovely views of the gardens.

The Exchange will be scheduled for afternoon on Saturday so that Rustlers may drive up on Saturday morning and be home by dark if they choose. Of course we will arrange for overnight accommodations and Sunday morning garden visits for those who wish to stay over.

## In Loving Memory...



Our hearts go out to everyone in our TRR family who has lost a loved one. I want to mention a couple of specific losses but always know that our condolences go out to all of you who have had such a loss.

We were saddened to hear that Marcia Roenigk had lost her valiant battle. Her smiling face on visits to the Vintage Rosery will always be remembered.

Another person we will miss is Mary Herr. I remember the excellent talk she and her husband gave at one of our Rookie meetings at Mercer. I won a Hillendahl Cemetery rose from her at that lotto and have tried to do as she asked by rooting new ones to pass on to others.

Our condolences also go out to Joy Hairston on the loss of her husband, Hollie. Joy is one of my dearest friends, and Hollie was one of the gentlest men I have met.

Just recently another dear friend and TRR member, Carolyn Stracik, lost her mother-in-law. She and her husband Glenn had

lovingly cared for her in their home as she progressed through Alzheimer's.

Again, our hearts go out to all of you who have lost a loved one.

~Faith Bickley



## The Quest for Hardy Disease Resistant Roses

When one thinks of rose hybridizing, the first things that come to mind are laboratories, greenhouses and scientists in white coats. **Ray Ponton's** laboratory is a pasture in Taylor, Texas, and he works magic creating new roses in jeans and a baseball cap.

Ray is one of the early members of the Texas Rose Rustlers. His interest in hybridizing began in 1992, after reading an article on the uniqueness of Griffith Buck roses. Ray says, "My objective was to create new and interesting varieties of roses to plant in my pasture." To date, Ray has created twenty roses that have been registered and about half of them are commercially available. We are honored that he chose to name one of those roses, *Deanna*, after one of our members, Deanna Krause. Deanna and Earl Krause have many of the roses hybridized by Ray in their garden in Pasadena.

Ray Ponton will present a program about his roses on Thursday evening, March 13, 2008, at the Houston Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive, Houston, Texas, 77030. This is an excellent program for anyone wishing to add beautiful hardy roses to their landscapes. This program is being sponsored by the Houston Rose Society and there will be several of Ray's roses given away as door prizes.

~Gaye Hammond Houston Rose Society Garden Rule: When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant!

# Show Love TO Your Roses on Valentine's Day

By Doana Fite

Valentine's Day is typically thought of as a day for sending roses to the ones you love. Texas Rose Rustlers think of it as the day we show our love to our roses by pruning them.

Pruning our roses helps them grow stronger, healthier and it gets the bushes ready for blooming seasons ahead.

With antique roses and old garden roses pruning may also be necessary just to keep the roses under control, as in the case of Mrs. B.R. Cant and Mutabilis, who both love to grow bigger and better and sometimes can get out of bounds, if you know what I mean! We won't even mention Mermaid in the same sentence with 'getting out of bounds,' but anybody whose grown Mermaid knows about trying to keep a rose under control!

Mike Shoup of the Antique Rose Emporium tells us in his spring clinics to be "ruthless" when pruning. I have to murmur that to myself constantly while I am pruning, because I have a tendency to under-prune. Remember the suggested sizes in the rose guide for the rose you are pruning, and make that recommended size your goal to keep the rose within those guidelines. Mike Shoup says the rose growth will be healthier and the blooms more beautiful with winter pruning.

After you have determined the suggested size for the rose you are pruning, take a

good look at the bush from the ground up. Cut off all dead canes and dead wood first. Next, look for crossover canes. Any canes that cross each other in the center will interfere with the development of new growth and tend to rub abrasions on the canes. The center of the bush needs to be opened up a bit to allow for air circulation.

When shaping the bush, think of the base of the rose as the pointy bottom of a heart and shape it so that the bush has a Valentine's Heart shape with an open center. The canes will form a gentle V as they point upward and branch out, thereby creating the heart shape.



## Fayetteville Has Been Rustled!

By Donna Martin

The Fall Cutting Exchange took place last October in my favorite little town, Fayetteville, Texas. We couldn't have asked for a more perfect day. The weather was spectacular. The Rose Rustlers arrived anxious to see old friends, meet some new ones and of course, collect some special cuttings to take back home.

The friendly folks in Fayetteville welcomed the Rustlers and eagerly watched and learned as Audrey McMurray demonstrated her method for rooting rose cuttings. They followed her lead and each took home several freshly rooted cuttings. From what I hear, most of those cuttings took!

We wrapped up the exchange with a great lunch at Joe's Place. Then everyone caravanned to Round Top to visit the herb gardens at Festival Hill. After a short introduction by Madelene Hill and her daughter, Gwen Barclay, we were given free rein to stroll through the gardens. The dry stacked stone structures are incredible and are a beautiful backdrop to the amazing

array of plant material growing on the property.



The bandstand on the Square made a great display area for the cuttings.

After our visit at Festival Hill, we drove on down the road a short ways to visit the gardens of Tony and Kay Spanapico. Tony and Kay have done a wonderful job of landscaping their property. Their lovely home is surrounded by beautiful lush cottage gardens. We ended the tour by visiting the pine tree "forest" Tony planted about fifteen years ago. The pines have grown up enough to create a large shady area hidden under a canopy of green. What a surprise and delight to walk in under the trees. It must have been ten degrees cooler in there. It felt so peaceful and secluded it was almost magical.



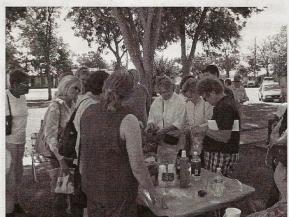
Some of our long time members enjoying Fayetteville's ambiance.

Then it was back to Fayetteville where many of the Rustlers took the time to visit my little house and offer lots of great ideas for creating a cottage garden in my landscape. Thanks to everyone who took the time to sketch layouts and make plant suggestions! Armed with all your great ideas, I know I'm going to have a charming cottage garden that will be the perfect setting for my little country house!

After a long day in the sun, a group of tired Rustlers gathered at Keiler's Restaurant for another great meal and a chance to visit a bit longer before calling it a night.



Audrey McMurray demonstrating her method for rooting rose cuttings.



The rooting demonstration was very popular with many of our new Rustlers.

The next morning our slowly dwindling group gathered at The Country Place Hotel, owned by new Rose Rustlers, Mary Ann and Clovis Heimseth where we enjoyed a delicious breakfast before we were off in a

different direction. This time we headed to New Ulm to visit a charming little nursery, The Greene Gardens owned and operated by Erin Greene.

Not only does Erin operate the nursery and a landscaping business, she also creates beautiful living wreaths. After visiting with her in her nursery she took us across the road to visit her mother's property which she also landscaped. It too, was beautiful.

The morning passed quickly and before we knew it, we were on our way back to Fayetteville. By this time, of course, we were hungry again and there was still one restaurant in Fayetteville which we hadn't visited yet!

So, we ended our 2008 cutting exchange weekend with lunch at Orsak's Café before saying our goodbyes. I have to say—we didn't go hungry in Fayetteville and I think the restaurants loved us!



Compost, because a rind is a terrible thing to waste

## The Gift of Membership

By Kathy Hyatt

Why not consider the gift of a membership for the Texas Rose Rustlers when that next gift-giving occasion comes up? It's a great idea, maybe for a special friend's birthday or even for Mother's or Father's Day. Not only will your "special someone" be introduced to a fun and knowledgeable group of rose and plant people (that would be us!) BUT they will also receive the terrific newsletter you are now reading.

What a bargain for the mere price of ten bucks! AND, your "special someone" will receive a personal, handwritten card announcing your gift of membership. In this day of e-mail and text message communication, that is a personal touch rarely seen.

Give someone a membership today and they'll have something to look forward to all year long. A handy membership signup form is included on the last page for your convenience.



#### Working a Shift at the Bulb Mart

By Doana Fite

Conrad Tips needed workers for the Rose Booth at the Bulb & Plant Mart sponsored by The Garden Club of Houston last October. Unfortunately it had been moved for the first time to the exact same weekend as the Texas Rose Rustlers Fall Cutting Exchange which we held in Fayetteville, Texas. As a good will gesture I agreed to work at the Mart all day on the opening day. It was incredibly fun.

First of all, I got to visit in person with long time Rustlers, Conrad Tips and Ray Valigura. I loved listening to each of them talk to Mart shoppers about the various features of each of the roses offered for sale. They were charming and informative and always ended up with happy shoppers buying roses.

I told Conrad that I thought the Knock Out Roses were less popular, but he has written to me that they were all sold by Saturday. Of course the Peggy Martin roses sold out first, partly because of their great popularity, partly due to Conrad and Ray's salesmanship, and partly because of an article about that rose in the Houston Chronicle just before the Mart.

At lunch I got to visit with a group of gals who were working at the Mart Tree Booth. We each talked about our favorite plants and after I talked a bit about antique roses, a young woman named Carol told this story:

Her neighbor had Cecile Bruner growing in a big container on his driveway. It grew there for about six years and was happy and healthy. One day something happened to break the container. It lay there on the driveway with the dirt oozing out for a long time. Soon the container pulled away and the dirt settled out more. Still Cecile looked happy and healthy. Finally, the container remnants were all gone and Cecile grew in a heap of dirt lying directly on the concrete driveway. Years passed. Still Cecile Bruner flourished. Finally Carol could stand it no more. One day she stopped and asked the owner if he would like for her to move the rose off his driveway and take that mess off his hands. He eagerly agreed. She managed to scrape Cecile Bruner off the driveway. recovering as much dirt as possible, move it to her flower garden, replant it, and is still enjoying its hardy beauty and blooms. Wow, what a rose!

Conrad and I have tried to co-ordinate our Fall Cutting Exchange dates so they will not conflict with the Bulb Mart for this year. I really have to get back and try to find Carol again and find out how Cecile Bruner-the-brave-and-beautiful-rose is doing.



The following article was submitted by Rose Rustler, Janie Varley. After reading it, doesn't it make you want to have an 'Aimee Vibert' for your own garden?

If any of you have special stories or accolades about your own favorite rose write an article for the Old Texas Rose. Tell us why it's your favorite and why we all need one for ourselves.

Maybe Janie will bring cuttings of 'Aimee' to the Fall cutting exchange!

#### Rosa 'Aimee Vibert'

By Janie Varley Vanderbilt, Texas

I have this rose.

I first saw it in my neighbor's yard, and I coveted it from the start. It grows under a big old hackberry tree there, with never a bit of care, watered only with rainfall, and never fed.

I decided I would have a cutting when the appropriate time came. Actually, the appropriate time would be whenever I had time, but I was on a dead run all the time, and just didn't get over there to 'borrow' a cutting.

Then one day, it was gone. I was horrified! As it happened, the neighbor had 'pruned' the rose...in August!...cut it to the ground!

I looked around for the cuttings. I knew they were somewhere. I found them on the 'burn pile.' (Those things designated as needing to be disposed of made up the 'burn pile.') The rose had been cut for at least three days, so I didn't have much hope for the survival of any stuck cuttings, but felt I should try anyway.

So, I dragged a big cane home and cut it up and stuck it all.

I had seven nice cuttings...I got seven rooted cuttings.

This is the toughest rose, so hardy in heat and cold. It responds to the slightest kindness with beautiful blankets of delicate blooms. Starting with the palest of pink, it actually blooms white in big clusters, and the fragrance is amazing! In my garden, this rose blooms off and on for the whole of spring, summer and autumn. I have never had to spray it for any disease!

I would urge everyone to try this rose in their garden. It is a winner!



class: Noisette Rose breeding: Vibert, 1828

photographed by Daphne Filiberti in her

garden

The clusters of 'Aimée Vibert', also knownas 'Bouquet de la Mariée, are like wedding bouquets of pure white roses and buds innocently edged in pink. These roses are real heirlooms. The petals appear to be made of fine, vintage-white silk, which is not quite sheer but retains some of its modesty. 'Aimée Vibert' is an early Noisette, which combines the vigor and clustered flowers of musks with some of the perpetual flowering of the Chinas. The rose was raised by Vibert, and named for his daughter in 1828. 'Aimée Vibert' was one of the first perpetualflowered climbing roses. I have had the roses planted in my garden for four years. They bloom later than most Noisettes, which is mid-June in Southern California. The roses are also known to bloom again in the autumn. Mine do not bloom repeatedly throughout the season, the way that 'Blush Noisette' or my Tea-Noisettes seem to do. Gertrude Jekyll commented in Roses for English Gardens by saying 'Aimée Vibert' could, "redeem a home of no architectural Thomas pretention". Graham commented that 'Aimée Vibert' has some of the most attractive rose foliage, which is dark green, lush, and glossy. The leaves are long, pointed, serrated, and gracefully poised. The slightest damp weather will tarnish the petals, but this might be seen as adding to the charm and heirloom quality of the roses. The scent is light and sweet. Give the rose plenty of room. It is vigorous and can reach a good 20 feet or so. It is a great choice if you want to completely cover a fence with a climber that is very lush and green, and also has lovely clusters of white roses.



#### **Employment Opportunity**

Beverly Welch, owner of **The Arbor Gate Nursery** in Tomball is looking for help at her nursery. If you would like to work in a great environment for excellent people, please get in touch with Beverly Welch or Phoebe Lake at (281) 351-8851. The Arbor Gate is located at 15635 FM 2920, Tomball, Texas 77377.

Third Annual Rose Festival
Saturday, March 8
10am-3pm
More roses, more speakers, more fun!

The Arbor Gate 15635 FM 2920 Tomball, Texas 77377 281 351 8851 www.arborgate.com

The Festival includes educational programs throughout the day and lots of great shopping opportunities. Dr. Steve George and Gaye Hammond will both be presenting programs. There is no charge to attend the festival.

#### **Volunteers Needed!**

The Texas Rose Rustlers will have a booth again this year at The Arbor Gate's Festival. We need a few volunteers to answer questions and promote our organization.

Please call Doana Fite or email her at <u>doanaf@aol.com</u> if you're interested in helping out on March 8.



### Back in the Early Days— Remembering Early Rustles...

By Frances Brandes

There were a number of roses found in Cottage Grove in the late 1980's, August 1987 and again in April 1990. (Cottage Grove is an older neighborhood in Houston, iust north of I10 and west of TC Jester - ed. note.) On Cornish Street and at 5609 Darling Street we spotted a huge Duchesse de Brabant and eight "Maggies." At 5212 Darling Street there was a large Louis Phillipe, and at 5315 Darling, there were huge 6'x8' "Maggies" all over the yard. Going up and north of Darling Street, we went to 5229 Larkin Street and saw more "Maggies" and another white (unidentified). We went over to 5620 Petty Street and spotted two large "Maggies" there and a red china as well as a Chestnut rose (Roxburgii) at 5431 Petty Street. At 5537 Petty Street we spotted another "Maggie." I am thinking someone really liked to give out cuttings of "Maggie" since these beauties were everywhere!

We have always enjoyed seeing "Maggies" all over Texas, Mexico, Louisiana and, of course, in private and public gardens. Years ago, when we were in California, we got to tour the private rose gardens at The Huntington. There we saw a rose that matched "Maggie" and it was labeled "Madame Eugene E. Marlitt," a bourbonchina. Marion submitted an article in the Yellow Rose publication in Dallas showing the similarities of "Maggie" and "Madame."

Dr. William Welch is the one that brought this wonderful rose here from northern Louisiana and dubbed it "Maggie" after his late wife's grandma, Maggie Traweek. Since no one has officially identified this rose it will stay with the name "Maggie" which will always be my favorite name for this beauty.



## **Earthkind Rose Test Update**

By Don Gerard

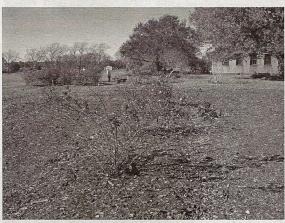
The last time I got around to doing my ratings in November I noticed some funny looking leaves on some of the plants. I gave those plants a pretty low "appearance" score. Later, I was informed that one of our Master Gardeners (who apparently slept through the pesticide class), had sprayed Round-Up close to the plants rather than hand pulling the weeds that had grown up. The funny looking leaves were actually leaves shriveling up from the "over spray." I thought Round-Up pretty much killed everything, but these roses seem to be taking it in stride. None are dead so far and it really looks like damage will be minimal.

Actually, any of these roses that survive our test have to be "got to haves". We got them in May or June of 2005. We hadn't prepared the beds yet and that dragged on until April of 2006.

We originally spread the potted plants out under an oak tree but when a couple of them disappeared, we moved them next to our greenhouse and pretty much had them jammed together and encircled with yellow tape. They stayed that way while we finished up the bed, put down ground cloth to minimize weeds, lay out drip hoses (which never got used) and finally planted them about a year after receipt.

Amazingly, all of them survived this mistreatment with little or no black spot or mildew!!! Already, in my mind, these are roses that can make it on their own.

I'll try to be more diligent and get some spring bloom pictures for the next issue.



**Dublin Bay** 



**Looking Across** 



#### Is this your last issue??

Please check your address label. Your membership date is on the bottom right hand corner of the label. Dates in **bold red are past due**. For those dates that are over a year past due (2006 dues) this is your FINAL issue. Those dates which say W2008 with a yellow background are due now.

Please use this renewal form and mail it with your check to Don Gerard, 114 Buttercup Lane, Lake Jackson, TX 77566.

# The Old Texas Rose Newsletter of The Texas Rose Rustlers

Address:	
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Is this a gift? From whom?	

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!

#### **Welcome New Members!**

The Texas Rose Rustlers would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new members. We hope that your participation will be a memorable and rewarding experience. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact any of the board members for assistance. Don't forget to visit our website at <a href="https://www.texasroserustlers.org">www.texasroserustlers.org</a> where you can post your questions or comments.

Our new members for 2007 are:

Charles Mott - Houston, TX Mike Kopesky - Houston, TX Belinda Gergel - Columbia, SC Barbara Soders - Beaumont, TX Melanie Welch - College Station, TX Susan Miller - Houston, TX Lori Penning - Ft. Worth, TX Dorothy Winter - Houston, TX Colleen & Bob Fried - Angleton, TX Peggy Wyatt, Palestine, TX Beverly Burns - Houston, TX Sylvia Harrington – Waco, TX Steven & Lori Green – Warda, TX Carolyn Stracik, - Wharton, TX Galt & Shirley Morgan – Houston, TX Lauren Rigby - Houston, TX Dr. Gail Dantzker – McAllen, TX Judy McCloskey - Covington, LA

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The Texas Rose Rustlers c/o Donna Martin 17902 Forest Cedars Dr. Houston, TX 77084



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Spring Symposium April 19, 2008

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