

The Old Texas Rose



Number 1

Fall 2007

www.texasroserustlers.org

FALL CUTTING EXCHANGE 2007 FAYETTEVILLE, TEXAS CITY SQUARE

OCTOBER 13, 2007
10:30 AM

I can't wait till October.

First of all, it is very likely that it will be a good deal cooler than the blazing heat of this summer. Second, the Fall Cutting Exchange is coming up and it promises to be a fun experience once again this year.

Donna Martin has arranged for us to hold our cutting exchange on the square in the historic precinct courthouse of Fayetteville in Fayette County. Fayetteville describes itself as a town where everyone lives on the right side of the tracks. That's because the train tracks circle

around the town! It is a quiet, friendly place with population of 300 settled by German and Czech families in the early 1800's. Fayetteville promises to be a great locale for Rose Rustlers to exchange rose cuttings and visit about our favorite garden plants.

9:30 am..... Sign in/ Coffee and Conversation

10:30 am..... Cutting exchange and lotto drawings

11:30.am..... Rooting Demonstration by our very own Rosa Mater, Rose Expert: Audrey Beust McMurray (see her article in this newsletter)

12:30pm Lunch on the square at Joe's Place

2:00 pm..... Visit to area gardens and nurseries in New Ulm and Round Top by our traditional caravan.

5:00 pm till ?..... Landscaping clinic at Donna Martin's country cottage where you, Texas Rose Rustlers, help her design her gardens. So be ready, as your teachers used to say "put your thinking caps on!" Maps of her lot and house will be provided; bring your own crayons. I'm just joking about the crayons. She wants ideas about which roses, where, colors, themes, companions, shade plants, fence ornamentation, etc, etc. Challenging to be sure! What a great chance to voice your ideas, but not have to do the work, or pay for the plants or even do the weeding! Hee hee.

Dinner after dark at Keiler's Café on the square with "The cowboys of the county." You have never seen so many pickup trucks in one place in your life!

Sunday am: Return to Round Top; Cummins Creek Bridge, Antique Rose Identification Tour, Rustlers choice, more caravans. We'll lunch at the Feed Barn in Industry, Texas.

Lodging Availability

Fayetteville has several very inexpensive bed and breakfasts and also a wonderful hotel owned by a delightful couple, Clovis and MaryAnn Heimsath. Clovis is an artist who is charming and talented and who loves to show people through his studio. He also makes the muffins served each morning for the complimentary breakfast.

Please make reservations at one of the bed and breakfasts in town listed below. None of these can be reserved by me or "blocked", so call EARLY. I think you will be impressed and surprised.

www.countryplacehotel.com

On the square (all rooms are on the second floor)

The Country Rose
281 855 8119
2 doubles, one twin - just off the square

The Tennessee House - 1850's sheepherder's cottage (very cool!)
713 320 4038
Sleeps 2 + an Areobed for 2 is available in the loft

The Tin Star (very cool!)
1 979 702 0006
One queen downstairs, one twin upstairs.

Fayette House
Sleeps 2 - 8 people (some beds are upstairs)
713 777 5333 or 713 941 1473

Honeysuckle Gallery Guest House
Sleeps 2
1 979 378 3026
jbrown@cvtv.net

Keiler's Restaurant & Lodge (all rooms are on the second floor)
14 rooms w/ 2 double beds
On the square: 1 979 378 2578

Tree Park Antique & RV Park:
Warrenton, 8 country miles up Hwy 1291
1 979 249 5588

www.fayettevilletx.com/lodging.html

From the Chairman

By Faith Bickley

The prospect of the October meeting is always exciting as the cutting exchange is such a fun activity and the beginning of many of our beloved roses. Sharing cuttings of our favorites or maybe a rare rose is such a special thing to do. This year the cutting exchange will have the additional enjoyment of a new venue, Fayetteville. Donna Martin has a country home here and has been helping Doana with the plans. We hope to see many of you there.

If you are a relatively new member, we look forward to having you as part of our special "family".

Of course mention should be made of our July Rookie Rustler meeting at Mercer. The weather kept many of you from attending, but those who were there had the usual good time. Many thanks to Charlotte and Marty for their most interesting presentations. I especially gained new respect for people who grow tropical hibiscus as it is quite a job caring for them, but what a beautiful prize they get in those wondrous blooms. Again we look forward to seeing all of you on October 13th.

The Chairman's Corner

By Faith Bickley

On the Road Again

Mom and I hit the road again late in May with the main purpose of introducing her to West Texas and then Colorado. Don't you think every Texan, native born or here by choice should experience driving across Texas? I saw what I had thought of as boring West Texas through Mom's eyes and really enjoyed the diversity of the landscapes.

One goal for our trips is seeing public gardens where we can. On this trip the first one we hit was the Albuquerque Botanical Garden. They had some fantastic bronze sculptures and the most beautiful rose garden. Although I guess I actually prefer the realistic look of our old garden roses, occasionally the sight of such perfect roses is delightful. These were picture perfect. Later in the trip we went to the Denver Botanical Garden located quite close to the downtown area. What a delight!

Every section of the garden was interesting and so well maintained. Spread throughout were giant sculptures of insects. The mounds covered by bright ice plants looked like a patchwork quilt. Every turn brought new wonders. Of course the rest of the trip was most interesting with drives over Trail Ridge Road

and up Pike's Peak. We even found very realistic Canada geese to add to our gardens. All in all it was a wonderful trip. I highly recommend hitting public gardens when you travel as it is so inspirational and educational. Mom and I have a road trip set for the end of September to North Carolina and are already lining up some garden-related stops.

Coincidence or Kismet?

By Sandra Smith

My love of roses has taken me on yet another interesting journey, although much shorter than our trip to New Orleans. In Houston there is a small family cemetery surrounded by a chain link fence in a concrete parking lot on the corner of Long Point and Pech. Roses, shrubs, and flowers are planted on the graves and tended occasionally apparently by family members. The Hillendahls, who emigrated from Germany, were prominent landowners, in what is now Spring Branch, until the city expanded and the taxes became unmanageable, forcing them to sell. In May 2005, the Hillendahl Cemetery was officially recognized as a Texas historical site, which was a project spearheaded by a history class from Memorial Middle School.

Years ago the Rustlers "discovered" the roses, which are all the same variety - pink, repeat, slightly fragrant, small shrub, thorny, and obviously, very hardy. The cemetery is near my office and occasionally on my lunch hour, I trim dead wood or water during severe droughts. I have propagated cuttings and shared them with various TRR members, hoping someone will discover its identity. I learned through emails that some specimens would be chosen to be mapped for identification by A&M researchers at the TRR Spring Symposium. I went to take Hillendahl cuttings at noon on Friday, May 4. I placed the cuttings in a ziploc and proceeded to remove dead wood when a car drove up. Two couples got out of the car and asked if I was a Hillendahl.

I explained that I wasn't a family member, but I was a Texas Rose Rustler, who was trying to identify the rose, and that I occasionally visit the cemetery.

They introduced themselves as cousins Herb and Dave Hillendahl, and their wives, who had just driven in from California.

The Hillendahl Cemetery was their first stop in Houston. We visited for a while and exchanged addresses (they have cell phones, but only use them in emergencies).

They took pictures and collected seeds from the bluebonnets. I gave them directions to the Hillendahl Library and to a reasonable motel.

That afternoon at work, I printed all the Hillendahl information I had collected, thinking I would just mail it, but I called the motel that I recommended and they were there. I dropped off all the information on my way home from work that night. As we were packing for the Spring Rustle, it dawned on me that I actually had several Hillendahl roses. What a "duh" moment! I had transported them from Coldspring (where our rose garden is located) to Houston (where we live during the week), in preparation for the TRR lotto at the spring symposium in College Station on May 5. However, it was 10:30 p.m. and we were leaving very early the next morning for the Rustle. So we took two of my best specimens in a box to the motel and asked the desk clerk to give them to the Hillendahls. She suggested calling them, but I didn't want to disturb them thinking they would be asleep. She promised she would make sure the Hillendahls received them, so I said a little prayer and left.

We were very busy with the TRR activities the following day, so I didn't take the time to call the motel. I called Sunday, but they had checked out.

I got busy and forgot about the Hillendahls and the roses. Near the end of May, I received a call from Dave, who had tried to copy a 1999 Houston Chronicle article about the

Hillendahls. The stores refused, because it was copyrighted. I found a contact at the Houston Chronicle, who granted written permission to make a maximum of 25 copies for personal use. He thanked me for all my help and said that I had made their Houston visit very special. Dave also questioned me about the roses that I left that night at the motel. When I explained that I had propagated cuttings from the actual plants, he was surprised and honored to have some of his "family" in his garden. I was equally surprised and honored to be able to share the roses with the Hillendahls. They say that God has a plan for you. I say sometimes that is very hard for me to believe. However, I believe with all my heart that in this case God put me in the right place, at the right time. How else could you explain this chance meeting?

Editors Note: An excerpt from an early rose ad submitted by Mr. Conrad Tipps.

ROSEDALE NURSERIES

Washington County, Brenham TX, 1898:

Our Nursery was not misnamed in calling it "Rosedale." For many years we have made a specialty of growing fine Roses. Our plants are all grown out of doors, without irrigation, and they are therefore better able to withstand our hot summers than the tender, potted Roses one gets from the North. The Hybrids, and those that succeed best that way, we grow on their own roots, while the Teas and feebler-growing varieties are either grafted or budded on Dog Rose, Manetti, or Madame Plantier stocks.

The plants we offer this season are field-grown, 2 years old, and have already bloomed through a season. The plants are 2 feet high and up, and the Climbers, of course, have longer shoots; these we cut back to 18 inches, or thereabouts, for convenience in packing. Owing to the demand for our Roses, which is always in excess of our supply, we would urge upon our regular customers the advisability of sending in their orders early to avoid

disappointment. To bloom well the first year, Roses should be set out early in the winter.

CLIMBING ROSES

These, for their hardiness and profusion of flowers, commend themselves to all lovers of the beautiful.

They are admirably adapted to cover arbors, walls, and any unsightly objects, and are ornamental in every situation in which they are placed.

BALTIMORE BELLE. Pale blush; nearly white; one of the best of climbers.

BEAUTY, or QUEEN OF THE PRAIRIES. Bright, rosy red; large and cupped; a splendid grower.

CRIMSON RAMBLER. One of the finest climbers; magnificent trusses of deep, crimson flowers; makes a fine show as a climber, and is a profuse bloomer.

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WHITE RAMBLER. Pure, clear white. In habit of growth, foliage, manner of blooming and shape of flower, this is identical with Crimson Rambler, differing only in color.

YELLOW RAMBLER. Habit and character of Crimson Rambler, only the flowers are yellow.

EMPRESS OF CHINA. (New.) A new and very valuable perpetual-blooming climber. The color is dark red in the bud, and changes when the flowers open to a light red or pink.

MRS. HOVEY. White, shaded rose; very handsome.

PRIDE OF WASHINGTON. Dark rose; very double; large clusters.

SEVEN SISTERS. Crimson, changing all shades to white; large clusters.

DUNDEE RAMBLER. White; very fine.

MARY WASHINGTON. Snow white; in large clusters; very sweet, abundant and constant; a very strong-growing Tea.

REVE D'OR, or CLIMBING SAFRANO. Copper-yellow; free in bud and also in open flower.

Rose History

By Frances Brandes

The term modern rose came about when the first hybrid tea La France was introduced by Jean-Baptiste Guillot from Lyon France in 1867. The American Rose Society was formed in 1899 and roses became the favorite flower. The 1930's were when the polyanthus were introduced after the great depression. The roses were a God send because they were happy roses. Small, sweet, prolific bloomers and some highly scented. Some of the polys were developed from one bush called Tauchendon meaning thousand beauties. Some of the roses names were Margo Koster, Dick Koster, Margo's sister, Echo, Mother's Day, Orleans, and many many others! The sweetheart roses were very popular such as Cecile Brunner. The rose called Duchesse de Brabant came about in 1857 and was Teddy Roosevelt's favorite rose and he wore it in as a boutonniere in his lapel. Today, there are very large selections of roses for all types of climates and a huge variety for all landscapes.

A&M are putting out the Earthkind roses and some of these are quite good, but I am still partial to many of the old fashioned roses that have stood the test of time by being neglected in abandoned lots, cemeteries and just along old fences or roads in the country.

In 1945, the most famous rose of all came to America from France in a small package dispatched on the last plane to leave France for America (the countries in Europe were divided by war). Many rose cuttings were lost or abandoned. The rose stock was sent to Robert Pyle in Pennsylvania. Francis Meilland named his rose for his mother Madame Meilland. News came through that a German friend had budded the same rose and called it Gloria Dei or Glory be to God and was sold under that name in Hitler's Germany. From Italy they learned that it was being grown as Gioia (Joy).

After France was liberated, the letter came from Robert Pyle. He had arranged to have the rose propagated and tested in every climate of the United States. It was so impressive in its performance and outstanding in its bloom that the American Rose Society had decided to hold a "Name giving Ceremony" in Pasadena, California for this flower which had been flown out of occupied France. Pyle proposed to rosarians who came to Pasadena on April 29, 1945 that this is the greatest new rose of our time and should be named for the world's greatest desire: Peace. The name was adopted on the day that Berlin fell and the rose greeted delegates to the first United Nations meeting in San Francisco. Nine years later, an estimated 30 million Peace roses were flowering all over the world. Here in Kerrville, a beautiful specimen is growing beside the Cowboy Steak house on Highway 27.

Rose Trivia

Roses are truly ageless. Recently, archaeologists discovered the fossilized remains of wild roses over 40 million years old.

About Rooting Rose Cuttings

By Audrey Beust McMurray



Ask ten rosarians how to root rose cuttings and you will get ten, different answers. There are Rustlers who stick their cuttings right in the ground. There are Rustlers who

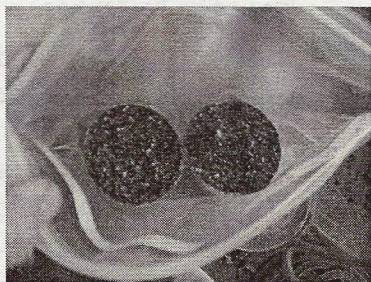
have nifty misters set up. Our great-grandparents put their cuttings in the ground, firmed the soil around them with their heels, then inverted mayonnaise jars over them until they sprouted leaves. The method outlined below is how I root cuttings but it comes with the caveat that if it does not work for you, take heart, there are other methods to try! This one is the result of helpful suggestions from Wally Brown and the late Bobbie McKenna.

A Baggie Method of Rooting Rose Cuttings

1. Take cuttings that are about the length of a pencil and are not too young. Try to get at least four nodes, which look like small, pointed pimples on the stem. If none are readily visible, pull off a set of leaves and look where its little stem attached to the cutting. The dot or pimple there is the node. Smaller bushes and miniatures usually have many nodes on a pencil-sized cutting. You may have to cut longer pieces of the rose stem to get four nodes when taking a cutting from a large bush or climber since their nodes are farther apart.
2. If you can, immediately stick the cuttings into a jar of water to which some seaweed extract has been added.

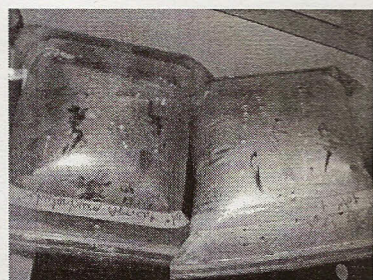
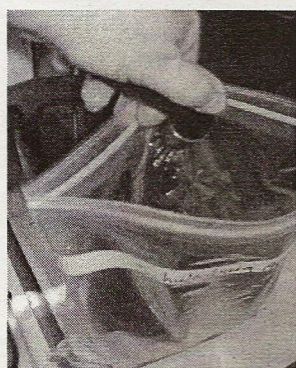
I usually use about two tablespoons per quart. Leave the cuttings to soak for a couple of days, or at least overnight.

Don't forget to write the name of the rose on the outside of the jar. It's so easy to forget a rose's name a few days later!



medium. I use a mixture of 50% good potting soil and 50% either vermiculite or perlite. Don't get the potting soil that has water gel beads in it since they cause the soil to stay too wet for cuttings.

I usually put two or three cuttings into each peat pot, so one baggie can accommodate up to six cuttings.

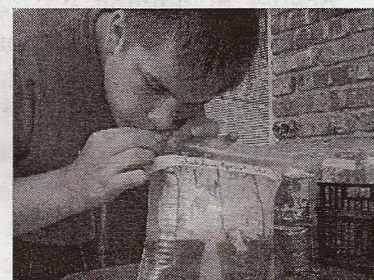


3. Write the name of the rose on the outside of a ZipLock baggie. In the baggie, put two coffee-cup sized peat pots filled with a rooting medium. I use a mixture of 50% good potting soil and 50% either vermiculite or perlite. Don't get the potting soil that has water gel beads in it since they cause the soil to stay too wet for cuttings.
4. Before putting the cuttings in the peat pots, pull off all but the top two sets of leaves, then dunk each cutting in a fungicide, first one end, then the other. If the leaves are yellow or have blackspot, pull them off and dunk the bare stick. I use Consan Triple Action 20. It's cheap, easy to mix up and lasts a long time in the garage. It's not horribly toxic though I don't pour gallons of it in the waterways. My youngest did drink it once...he's okay, and still doesn't have any fungus on him.
5. Add warm water to the bag, taking care to avoid splashing the soil out of the peat pot. Fill

the baggie until the water is about halfway up the pot, then seal the bag, allowing the pot and soil to soak up the water. This will take an hour or so. Sometimes I leave them overnight.

When the pots and soil are totally wet, hold the bottom of the pots and decant the remaining water. This is a bit tricky, so if you are uncomfortable with it, you can also suck out the water with a turkey baster. Don't leave more than about a half-teaspoon of water in the bottom of the baggie.

7. Gently firm the soil around the cuttings, and then blow into the baggie as you seal it, to form a sort of balloon.



8. Keep the baggies in a spot that does not receive direct sun. Every few days, inspect the baggies, pulling out any leaves or cuttings that have turned brown, then blowing up the baggie again. After a few weeks, if the cutting has rooted, you will see tiny white roots emerging from the pots. Some plants take several months, however, so be patient.

9. When potting up the rooted cuttings, gently peel away the upper rim of the peat pot. Any peat sticking above the soil level later will wick water away from the plant. If more than one cutting roots, I do not separate them yet. I wait until later, when they have established a stronger root system, and then gently pull them apart.

Keep the newly planted cutting out of the direct sun for awhile, gradually moving it to sunnier and sunnier spots as it matures.

Helpful Hints:

Step 1: If it's not possible to have a jar of seaweed solution on hand when getting cuttings, try to get a little longer piece of stem, wrap it in a moist paper towel, put in a labeled baggie and re-cut it at home.

If you cut it *under* the seaweed water, it will suck up the liquid immediately, without forming an air bubble. Some Rustlers actually like for their cuttings to dry out a bit so they do this routinely. Pick out the cut bits from the water and let the cuttings just stay in that same jar for a couple of days.

Step 2: I don't usually like to promote specific brands but Zip Lock freezer baggies really do better at holding up over time. The thinner store brands leak sooner, especially if the cuttings take months to root. I suggest you mark your baggies and pots with a paint or grease pen. Indelible markers aren't indelible! Ask any Rustler how frustrating it is to have marked rose labels with a Sharpie only to find the name has disappeared after being subjected to Texas rain and sun. Craft stores carry paint and grease pens.

Step 3: I am often asked if I sterilize my potting soil before using it. No, I don't. If you want to sterilize yours by microwaving it or pouring boiling water through it, that's fine. I don't want the hassle or smell (micro-waved potting soil, YUK) and I do end up losing some cuttings. This Consan dip will keep that loss to a minimum, though. I also cut the leaves in half before dipping, like in the picture in Step 9. I figure this will allow for some photosynthesis to take place to feed the cutting, but reduces the demand for water and nutrients from our rootless stick. Most of these cut leaves will fall off and need to be picked out of the Zip Lock bags

Looking for a Particular Rose

From Mari Hooper

I have just had a request from a person moving to Austin from Arizona looking for a rose called Harry G. Hastings.

It's a deep red h.t. about 1940's and no longer in commerce. If anyone knows where it might be found, perhaps they could put it in the next newsletter.

Mari Hooper at marismutts@aol.com

Earthkind Rose Tests

By Don Gerard

This is just a brief update on the Earthkind Rose Trials going on in Angleton, Texas at the Brazoria County Master Gardener Education Station. The roses being tested are mostly Buck roses with a few others. They are, Earth Song, Prairie Harvest, Flora Dora, Dublin Bay, Penelope, Rosarium Uetersen, The Fairy, Summer Wind, Quietness with Carefree Beauty as the "control". The roses went in the ground in March or April of 2006. They were left alone for a year (didn't even have to water them since we got lots and lots of rain over that period). After the year we started "grading" monthly. The grading consists of rating them on a scale of 1 to 10 for "disease incidence", "insect incidence", and "visual ". They are also rated for "production" by counting the buds, the blooms, and the hips. Insect damage has been minimal. Black spot is the most common disease in this area and a little is showing up on some of the plants but not to any great extent. Powdery mildew is non-existent so far on any of them. The only difficult part of the rating is with the Fairy and a couple of others (can't remember right off which other ones but I think Rosarium Uetersen is another). The difficulty comes when one tries to count the blooms (or buds, or hips). Have you ever tried to count the blooms on the Fairy??? Good luck. Our county agent said, "Just count a quarter of the plant and multiply by four". Yeah, right. 4000 (give or take a thousand) is a good guess. I wish our Fairy here at the house would produce like the ones in the test garden. I'll try to get some pictures this fall for the next newsletter.

The TEXAS ROSE RUSTLERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Mission of the Texas Rose Rustlers is to collect, identify, and preserve old roses found in cemeteries and older communities, thereby contributing to a revival of carefree roses in home and commercial landscapes. We encourage and share organic gardening techniques, since these roses have survived for years in cemeteries and older communities, only watered by rain and fed by a passing bird or animal.

Pam Puryear (1943 - 2005) of Navasota and Margaret Sharpe (1918 - 1998) of Houston met in 1979. They recruited rose enthusiasts who shared their passion, calling themselves the Brazos Symposium. The first issue of "The Old Texas Rose" newsletter was published in 1982. Today, the Texas Rose Rustlers have members across Texas, as well as a few other states.

Do you have an interest in Old Garden Roses? Have you ever wondered how to grow antique roses? Are you tired of the endless spraying and fussing over your roses? Have you ever wanted to learn how to propagate antique roses? Do you want to hang out with other rose lovers? Do you want to learn how to grow roses organically and easily? If so, join the Texas Rose Rustlers! You will gain knowledge of antique roses, meet many rose enthusiasts, and learn to successfully grow roses.

Dues: \$10.00 per Year for Individual/Family
Newsletter: The Old Texas Rose, published quarterly
Website: www.texasroserustlers.org
Meetings: Three Symposiums per Year in Various Locations
Questions? Members are available to assist you.

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|------------------------------|---|--------------|
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| Donna Martin, Editor OTR | 17902 Forest Cedars Dr. Houston, Tx 77084 | 281-855-8119 |

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Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () - (optional)

Cell: () - (optional)

Email: _____ (optional)

Is this your last issue?

Please check your address label. Dues noted in bold, red are past due. For those over a year past due which would be F2006, this will be the last issue. Those showing F2007 with yellow background are due with this issue. Abbreviations F, SP, SU and W indicate fall, spring, summer and winter dues are only \$10 per year and should be mailed to Don Gerard, 114 Buttercup Lane, Lake Jackson, TX 77566



The Texas Rose R
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Brenham, Texas 7



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