



The Old Texas Rose

Number 4

Fall 2006

www.texasroserustlers.org

FALL CUTTING EXCHANGE 2006

TYLER, TEXAS

OCTOBER 14, 2006

10 AM – 12:30 PM

TYLER MUNICIPAL ROSE GARDEN: MEDITATION GARDEN

The shorter, cooler days of autumn will be a welcome atmosphere for our Fall Cutting Exchange. The curators of the Tyler Rose Gardens have invited the Rustlers to have our exchange in a lovely section of the gardens, known as the Meditation Garden.

Bring well-marked, healthy cuttings from antique roses and old garden roses. Be sure to place a damp paper towel at the bottom and keep the cuttings in a cooler until the exchange. Everyone attending is invited to take two or three cuttings from each variety desired. Bring clean Ziploc Bags, paper towels and felt tip markers to store and label your choices. After our traditional Rose LOTTO and clean up, Rustlers will have time to tour and view the Rose Gardens, including the Heritage Garden which features OGRs and Antique Roses. The Tyler Rose Festival will begin on October 19, so the roses should be at their spectacular best!

For more details, so next page...

Fall Cutting Exchange Line-up

Lunch: 1:00 at Sweet Sue's/ 3350 S SW LOOP 323/ a favorite of Tyler residents for over 23 years!

Mark Chamblee will meet us at Chamblee's Rose Nursery at 3:00 for your rose shopping adventures, and Mark will address our group briefly about Chamblee's.

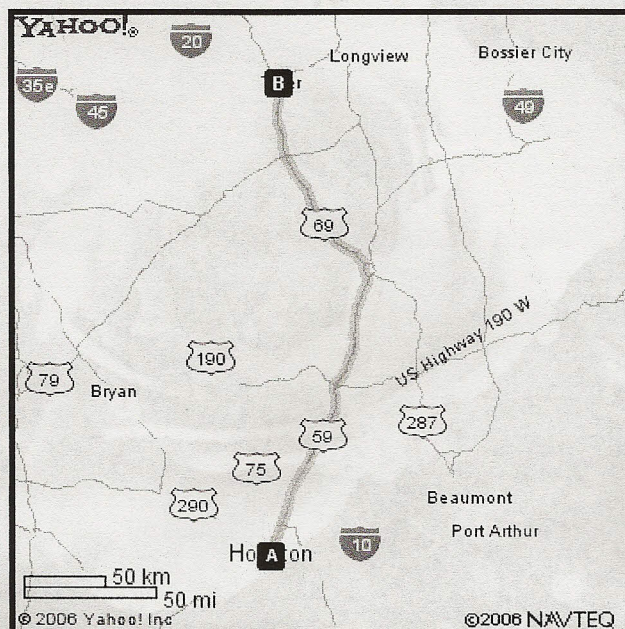
Dinner: Just after dark (7:00 pm) at Traditions, 6205 S Broadway, the restaurant is like Luby's. (Subject to change if they demand a deposit!)

A block of rooms has been arranged at the Hampton Inn/ 3130 Troup Hwy 110 S (just inside the Loop)/phone 1-903-596-7752. Ask for rooms reserved for Texas Rose Rustlers and/or Donna Fite at a rate of \$80.19. Please make reservations by Oct 1.

Sunday morning we will tour two private gardens and we have asked the owners of Blue Moon Gardens to take us on a tour of their gardens in Chandler at noon. Maps for all locations will be provided at the cutting exchange and available from the TRR Officers at the Inn on Friday night.

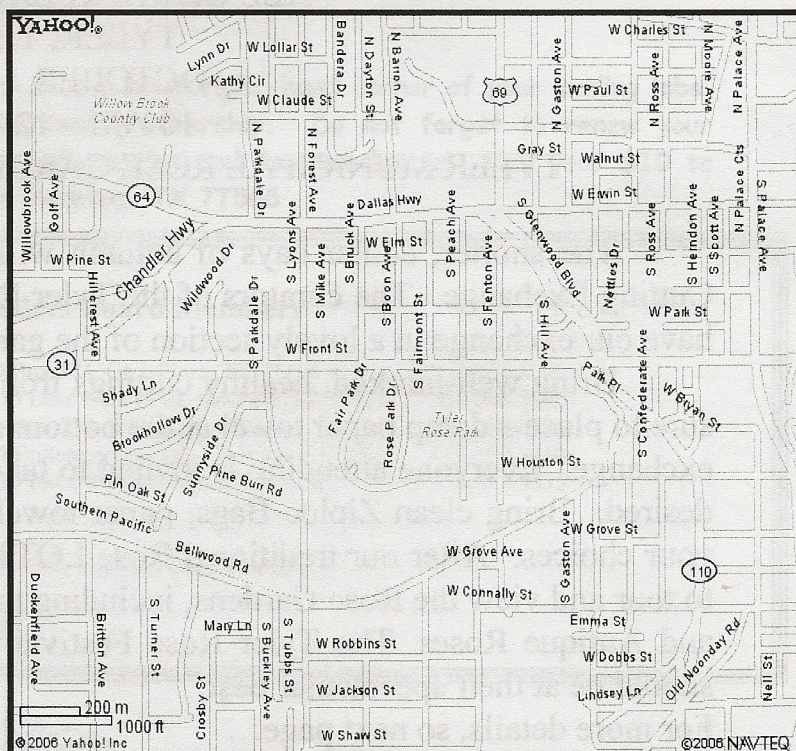
We hope you will join us for cool autumn fun and more appreciation of our heart's delight, roses. Call Doana Fite at 281 468 3677 if questions.

Houston to Tyler Map (Yahoo Maps)



Directions from Houston to Tyler

Take US 59 from Houston to Lufkin. The map shows if you take Loop 287, west around town, it'll bring you to US 69. Take US 69 all the way to Tyler. According to my map, it shows that Troup (Hampton Inn is located) exits off from US 69. (See next page)



The Tyler Municipal Rose Garden is located at 420 Rose Park Drive off of Hwy 31 West. The phone number to the Gift Shop is 903-597-3130.

Notes from the Editor

Howdy Rustlers! I will keep this short and sweet. I received many articles from members this month, and I am excited to share them with you all.

I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health and happiness. This summer has been a scorcher, some have been blessed with rain and others (me) have not. My fingers are crossed that fall arrives soon.

Our Cutting Exchange is coming up, and it looks like it will be a great one. I look forward to seeing everyone and exchanging roses. Doana, our Program Chairman, has been working diligently making plans for us. Thanks for your hard work!

See ya'll soon!

~Candy

*****FALL EVENTS*****

Woodlands Landscaping Solutions Saturday September 30th, 2006

*Thanks to Michael and Sandra Smith, the Texas Rose Rustlers will be represented! If you would like to help, please let them know ASAP, by emailing Sandra at rosevista@evl.net.

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Woodlands Landscaping Solutions

WHAT: A FREE hands-on, how-to gardening event offering Sage Tips for Yard and Garden with demonstrations, booths and plant sale.

WHEN: Saturday, September 30, 9:00--noon

WHERE: Millennium Forest Gardens
8203 Millennium Forest Dr.

64th Annual Bulb and Plant Mart

On 12, 13 and 14 October, The Garden Club of Houston will present the 64th annual Bulb and Plant Mart, and, as always, I need volunteers to

help sell roses on the three days. We have two shifts Thursday and Friday and one shift on Saturday. It's great fun and the food -- breakfast and lunch -- is delicious. Email me at jethouston@ix.netcom.com or ring me at home, 713.868.5606.

It's time to get creative with the pepper dishes once again!

4th annual Rose-Ted Pepper Fest at the **Antique Rose Emporium** 10,000 FM 50 in Independence, September 16 from 11:00 am to 3:00pm. \$3.00 entry; Children 12 and under free. (Entry fee waived for food contestants). The cooking contest beginning at 11:00am.

The Antique Rose Emporium's Annual Garden Festival of Roses will be held October 7 and 8, 2006 in San Antonio. Located at 7561 East Evans Rd. San Antonio. For information call 210-651-4565 or visit www.weAREoses.com.

The Antique Rose Emporium's 19th Annual Fall Festival of Roses will be held November 3, 4, and 5, 2006. 10,000 FM 50 in Independence, 12 miles N of Brenham. For information call 979-836-5548 or visit www.weAREoses.com.

The Old Texas Rose will be featuring a question / answer column beginning in the winter issue. Rustler, Allison Strong, has volunteered to organize the column. If you would like to ask a question, please email her at moonbeam@consolidated.net. This is a question emailed to me by Rustler Audrey McMurray:

Candy,

I would like to know if anyone knows anything about the rose that is growing on the north side of the fort at Goliad. The bush had been trimmed to about 4 1/2 feet tall by about 5 feet wide and had many deadheads on it, which

means it had bloomed in the blistering summer heat. I was so impressed, I took a cutting from a branch that was growing into the interior but that had a deadhead...just a little "touch up" pruning, you know! And as I cut, I could distinctly smell a spicy odor.

*The formal name of the fort is Presidio Nuestra Señora de Loreto de la Bahía, which is WAY too long for a study name, so I'm just going to call it the "Goliad Rose" for now. I would be very interested to know its real name, however. If I get the cutting to root, grow, and bloom, I will be able to provide more information later on. Thanks,
Audrey*

Slate of Officers for 2007-2009

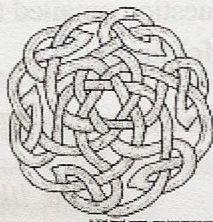
The Nominating Committee consisting of Donna Martin, Joy Hairston and Carolyn Feinstein has presented the following slate of officers.

Chairman Mrs. Faith Bickley
Program Chairman Mrs. Doana Fite
Secretary Mrs. Kathy Hyatt
Treas/Membership Mr. Don & Mrs. Pat Gerard
Editor-OTR Mrs. Candy Fite
Welcoming Committee Mr. Eric and Mrs. Patty Varnado

****Minor constitution changes have been proposed. We will vote on these at the fall Cutting Exchange. After we vote on the revisions to the constitution, the welcoming chairman and website chairman will be official.**

A Celtic Knot Garden in East Texas 2006 By Allison Strong

If imitation is the highest form of flattery, then the Lord must smile at the attempts of every Rose Rustler who has a dream of beautifying our little patch of Texas-based Heaven. When Johnny and I bought our



home in East Texas in 1999, we knew there would be years of renovations ahead of us, and a true garden had to be a low priority. But by December 2004 we were ready to make the leap; my goal: to transform our empty pasture into a peaceful retreat from the workday world, a garden of delights to all the senses. I had some fleeting conceptual ideas, a few thoughts here and there, but what I lacked was the construction know-how, the solid "this is how you do it" knowledge. Enter stage left, the leading lady of my project, my friend Sandra Smith.

Those of you who have spent a little time around Sandra know that she is a dynamo of ideas and constructive energy. She sees a project in a magazine or on TV, then improves its design to suit the needs of her own home or landscape, makes a list, talks to herself for a little while, makes more lists, a few phone calls, a couple of trips to the garden shop or home projects stores, disappears from sight for a few days to a few weeks, and then, voila! When Sandra resurfaces and you get to visit with her again, some new miracle of beauty has entered her home place. I am always curious to see what has changed each time I visit her. Delight is my ongoing response to the evolution of her home.

When Sandra offered via emails to help me come up with a garden design, I had no idea what was about to happen in my life for the upcoming months! What a gal, what a wonderfully driven lady, to pull forth so many creative ideas for me to consider over such a short period of time! We talked and emailed back and forth, and she made her mental notes of the things I liked and didn't like. She even had me complete a personality survey at one point, to give her a better idea of what things would appeal to me! She visited the field in front of our home with me, and paced it off, looked about, saying "Hmmm, oh, yes, Hmmm, I wonder... perhaps... I think we could try... (Scribble, scribble on her lists)..."

During the next few days, we began the design process in earnest. Sandra is also a seamstress who is quite comfortable with drawing her own clothing patterns on paper.

She found designs for the Celtic knot patterns that I was favoring, and emailed several to me to review. They were all lovely, but I had no difficulty at all choosing "The One." It was intricately detailed enough to suit my tastes without being too large for the space we had available. Knowing how large most old garden roses become in this climate, I was hoping for some good sized beds within the garden to hold more than one rose, while still having adequate space left for foot paths. I wanted at least one arbor to walk beneath, and a welcoming entrance that would provide a feeling of serenity and joy to those who visit here. I recognized that a water feature would be hard to maintain in our sandy soil that does not hold moisture well, so I put that at the bottom of the wish list.

Next, Sandra put her mathematical mind to work, putting the design to paper, and then to the earth. Not a simple task, to create a scale drawing, for someone like me who hates to balance the checkbook, let alone make a small square on a piece of graph paper equal two feet! And as a part of that task, she was working with curving lines as well as straight. How that worked was a "simple" computation to her, but was not something I would ever figure out! Within a couple of days, Sandra had the design completed and emailed to me. Since I am a true *numerophobe* (I just made that term up to describe my loathing of mathematics), my computer would not support the document she sent me, or the program she used for the design. So, I had to wait until the next weekend to see her creation, when she could bring it over. It was definitely worth the wait! The real fun could now commence!

I was given a list of items to purchase: spools of thin hemp twine, garden stakes of various sizes and thicknesses, plastic tape like surveyors use. Sandra convinced her husband Michael to come with her to our home the next weekend, and begin the process of laying out the pattern on the ground with stakes and twine. He was gracious enough to do this, and worked along side her all morning and through the afternoon. I was a little perplexed and they had to give me very specific instructions "walk over

here, do this, do that," and still they got to laugh at me for going off in the exact opposite direction of where they intended a few times... Thank heavens they each have a good sense of humor! By the end of the day, the pattern was visible on the ground, and the really hard work would soon begin. But, not that weekend, and not before a celebratory dinner at our favorite Mexican food restaurant that evening.

Over the coming days and weeks, as time and cash flow allowed, we began the purchase of the bones for the garden: the structural components which needed to go in first, before we could even begin to plant the roses I had been hoarding for a year. Sandra shared with us her source for the beautiful stone she has used in her own gardens to build borders and beds, and located a local source for rough cedar limbs, bark still attached for that true rustic look that I love. We wound up using a different source for the rock, but the furniture business in Coldspring was a perfect source for the cedar. Johnny and I worked very hard for three or four weekends laying stone in curvilinear patterns: square, rectangular, and even pie shaped beds began to emerge, and finally the wonderful knot pattern was visible. Yes, I still have to explain what it is to visitors at ground level. If you were in an airplane, you could see it at a glance, and wonder if a band of faery and leprechaun had taken up residence in Montgomery County. Well, that was

my goal after all, to honor our Scottish and Irish ancestors, and give back to us a bit of the old world charm that seems so lacking in our rushed world of schedules and deadlines. I secretly smile at each Firefly, Praying Mantis, and Walkingstick that I see visiting the garden, and wonder if they shape shift after dark into the beloved little fairy folk.

During the next phase of the project, science again reigned supreme over whimsy. It was time for soil testing and improvement. Texas A & M University provides soil tests for



home gardeners as well as commercial farmers. If you provide their soil scientist with the crop you intend to grow, (s) he will give you a detailed analysis of how your soil currently stands, and what changes are recommended to improve it to optimal growing condition. Our sandy and acid east Texas soil was naturally already in good form for roses, having a good pH and nutritional properties already in evidence. The main thing it needed was a smelly amendment of richly composted organic matter for water retention and micronutrients. We have employed a mixture of mushroom compost obtained from the mushroom farms near Madisonville, horse manure from our next door neighbor's barn, and a couple of loads of "fancy dirt" obtained from Texsun Soil Co., near Conroe. We tilled the mixture into each of the beds and along the periphery of the garden. This was hard, stinky, sweaty, back-breaking labor. Not for the faint of heart, or weak of muscle and bone! Had we thought to complete this step prior to laying the design and brickwork, we could have accomplished this with the help of a front end loader and a tiller, instead of carefully working around those neat rows of brick with our shovels. (If Sandra had been there, she would have known that, having already completed their garden earlier! But, we were working on our own by now, and what I didn't know then, I surely know now, and urge you not to make my mistake!)

The soil was so rich looking, it was crying out for some roses to nurture that spring, and I gave in to the call of Mother Nature, and with Johnny's help, planted a rose here, and a rose there. Another mistake. We had installed water lines to supply the field a year before, but only had three old fashioned hose bibs, and we knew we would want to install a drip irrigation system to make maintenance of our garden easier, and thereby leave more time to enjoy the garden rather than become a slave to its needs. My beloved uncle installed the irrigation system for me, and we learned that working around the root systems of already planted roses was a challenge to him and his helpers. Luckily, they were careful, and we didn't lose any plants, but it certainly did slow them down.

Bear in mind that slowing your workers down means added cost of a project.

After the irrigation was installed, it took no time for those small roses to really take off, and over the course of a season, some of the more vigorous varieties were doubled in size. By fall I was ready to plant more roses, to fill the garden to capacity. By late spring of the following year, we were inundated with weed growth that was akin to a rainforest, and some of the smaller roses were engulfed and being strangled out by choke-vine and wild morning glory. Hand weeding was tedious and time consuming, and when the weed-eater was introduced, a few roses had mysteriously vanished. Dear husband couldn't remember ever seeing a rose there before...exercise Extreme Caution with weed-eaters in the garden. Another frustrating and expensive mistake and a lesson learned.

After hiring some wonderful helpers to assist us in the labor of hand-weeding the garden, we decided to fight the battle a little differently. We were not interested in chemical warfare on that large a scale. I am a bit afraid of exposure to chemicals, and the possible contamination of our water table in this rural community. Shallow wells in our area can hit water at seventeen feet. So we decided to try a mechanical barrier against weed growth. We purchased several rolls of DuPont's weed barrier cloth, and rolled it out, cut patches and sections to fit the dimensions and shapes of each bed, making slits in the cloth for the trunk of each rose. The cloth is held in place by u-shaped metal pegs that poke through into the ground beneath. We also tucked the edges beneath the brickwork borders of the beds to anchor the cloth better, and prevent those pesky weeds from coming up in the cracks between the bricks. As we worked along, we found that the "sipper hoses" (individual water spouts at the base of each rose) would get knocked over, and pushed out of place, so we had to go back and reposition those with each section of fabric we completed. To conserve water, we have chosen to position the water spouts under the fabric, rather than on top, where it might evaporate before getting through to the soil and

rose roots where it is needed. After the cloth was installed, we had a big dump truck load of decorative hardwood mulch delivered, and shoveled this over each bed to a depth of four inches. The mulch gives the garden a "finished" look, and helps conserve the moisture in the soil below, thereby helping to cool the root zone during hot summer months. I hope it will provide a bit of extra protection from the cold during our few days or weeks each winter of freezing temperatures.

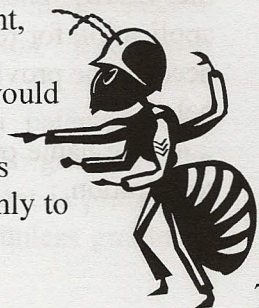
At the time of this writing in August 2006, the garden is in that dog-day of summer period of stasis, neither growing nor blooming much in the heat. But the great mysteries of life in a garden continue below the surface. I know the roots continue to absorb nutrients, and the earthworms are munching away at the compost and manure to enrich the soil. I hope for a beautiful fall flush of blooms from these tough old roses that could survive on far less than I have provided. That is, if we can survive the plagues of the Texas Leaf Cutter Ants, and Grasshoppers. It's always something, isn't it?

My Nemesis, the Leafcutter Ant **By Faith Bickley**

It is my hope that many of you will not even know what a leafcutter ant is, but I fear that many will cringe at the mention of these demons. When I first visited Glen Flora in the early 1980's, I remember seeing plants completely stripped of leaves overnight. I was told that cut ants (which are what they are called locally) had done the damage.

By the time I moved to Glen Flora in 1997, the cut ants were nowhere to be seen until about three or four years ago. All of a sudden the two Climbing Fairy roses that covered the arbor to the vegetable garden were leafless. This rang a bell from my memory and up came the dreaded thought, **THEY'RE BACK!**

All that year they would strip those two roses and a Spice. Those valiant roses would leaf out over and over only to



be stripped again. I learned to hunt for the mounds and treat them, but the cut ants make more mounds and eventually have moved into other areas of the yard. They are wily little things as they seem to find ways to thwart my efforts to find their mounds (which look different than fire ant mounds as they most often have a hole in the center with ants entering and exiting through that one hole). They would stop leaving trails of leaves, and they would only appear at night. When I think they are working in an area, I do a thorough cleaning and examination and usually find mounds.

I talked to my neighbor who is my source of information on all flora and fauna of our area, and he said that our town appears to be on a huge mound of these ants. At first they appeared across town, and then they appeared on our side in the early 80's. They were beaten back and now are reappearing. Another neighbor had told me a long time ago that one of his cows fell into a crater where their nest had been. Their underground nests can cover several hundred square feet and extend 8' into the ground.

Mom had her first infestation a few months ago and said that the leafy trail was 3" wide! Allison Strong is also plagued by these pests, and they stripped a 75' hedge of Cramoisi Superieur roses almost overnight! She sent me several sites that had interesting info. One of the sites treated these ants like national treasures featuring care and maintenance which blew my mind, but another was more realistic. Anyhow leafcutter ants are the only animals that cultivate their own food. They use the vegetation they haul (and they can haul up to 10 times their weight) to grow fungus in underground gardens. They usually choose one type of plant to feed on and stick to that. Unfortunately in my case (and Mom's and Allison's) the preferred plants are our **ROSES!!**

I tried organic control at first as I try to keep as organic as I can. However I do believe that this is one time when the big guns have to be called out. I depend on a powder with 75% acetylphosphoramidothiolate (not on my spell

check) which comes with many brand names. I use 1 tablespoon on the hole of each mound. If the mound is in the area where the dogs and cats are, I cover it with a pot for a couple days and then scratch any visible powder into the ground. This is only a temporary fix, but that is as good as it gets.

I truly hope that few of you will get to know leafcutter ants up close and personal. It is an encounter that you can do without for sure!

I Love My Job!

By Doana Fite

I received the most fascinating phone call recently. A delightful lady from Jasper, Texas named Betty Odham called my home. She is a consulting rosarian master gardener and the president of the Jasper Rose Society. The reason for the call was to ask my assistance in finding a speaker for either the JRS Fall meeting, or the January, 07 meeting to speak about the Texas Rose Rustlers and what we do. Flexibility like that is admirable and the subject no Rustler ever tires of discussing.

We chatted for a good while about roses and garden clubs. Betty commented on how she taught herself to grow roses largely based on the information in newsletters from various groups like the Texas Rose Rustlers. I had done the same thing. I clung to every word so that I could get more information about what to do next with my baby roses. Betty said that as a consulting rosarian, she must have all kinds of roses in her garden. So, even though she has always grown hybrid teas, she has one rose from the Antique Rose Emporium and one other antique rose. The other antique rose is far more significant. This rose has been handed down for generations in her mother in law's family, the Lennihans, and was brought to America from County Cork, Ireland. She said



the family knew she loved roses, and she had always been very fond of her mother in law, and was very happy that the family wanted her to have the Irish rose.

Betty went on to comment that she will probably not be able to attend any of our TRR events, even though her group wants to know more about the Rustlers and what our mission involves. Betty said she and her husband do not travel much any more as she is 87 and he is 84 years old. Let's see. She is a Master Gardener, Consulting Rosarian, President of her garden club, and must also act as Program Chair, and oh, yes, still grows roses.

With lovely contacts like Betty, is it any wonder I love my job. Anybody want to go to Jasper with me in January? I've just got to see that Irish rose.

***Special thanks to Sandra & Michael Smith who have volunteered to man a booth for TRR at the Woodlands Landscaping Solutions on Sept 30 from 9am-Noon. Sandra will demonstrate her special "Working Woman's Rose Propagation Method." We appreciate you guys pitching in to cover this for the Rustlers!

A New Rose Variety?

By Ray Ponton

Since posting a list of my registered rose varieties on the TRR forum, I was asked to write about rose registration for The Old Texas Rose. The application for registration is with THE INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION AUTHORITY FOR ROSES (IRAR). The IRAR is administered by the American Rose Society. Anyone (worldwide) who creates a new rose variety may register that variety with the IRAR. The first step is to complete an application for registration. Certain information needs to be provided, some of which is outlined below.

1. The name of the rose variety proposed for registration.

A. If the name includes the surname of an individual or registered name of an organization, written authorization is required from the individual or organization.

B. The cultivar name must be different from any other rose name.

C. The cultivar name must not be a translation of any other rose variety.

D. Several other requirements are to be met relative to the rose name and are not listed here.

2. A description of the variety which include.

A. ARS horticultural class. H.T, Floribunda, Shrub, etc.

B. Flower--color, petalage, size, fragrance, blooming habit.

C. Prickles---size, shape, quantity.

D. Foliage---size, color, surface.

E. Growth habit---ground- upright, compact, etc. Height--low, medium, tall

3. Parentage---Seed parent (female) and pollen parent {male}

4. Photographs of the rose should also be submitted and the name and address of the breeder.

The completed application is then mailed to the ARS to be acted upon by the IRAR registration committee, if approved, the name and information is then published in the ARS publication the American Rose magazine. Thirty days after publication the registration becomes official and the process is complete.

So there you have the basic procedure for registration of a new rose variety. You now have a birth certificate for your new baby. Unlike a human baby however, no one can name another rose with your rose's name (at least a registered name). It is very important when we as rose rustlers take cuttings from an unknown rose, it be given a "study name" until positive identification can be made. Names have caused much confusion throughout history.

A few words about a patented rose: When a U.S. plant patent is granted. The asexual reproduction of the plant is prohibited for a given number of years, unless granted a

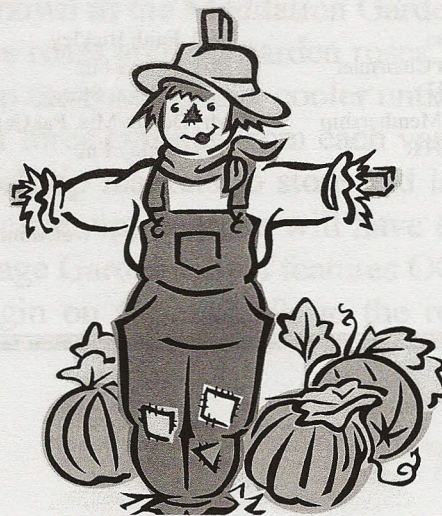
license agreement from the patent holder. Asexual reproduction is to take buds or cuttings from the plants which result in exact copies (cloning). Since roses do not come true from seed (except species) reproduction of the plant is not possible from seed.

Once my roses are registered with IRAR, I invite anyone to take cuttings if they would like. Several of the roses are at this time sold by Chamblee's Rose Nursery in Tyler (Cameron Bohls, Katy Girl, Chireno, and San Gabriel). I am pleased Mark Chamblee was kind enough to offer these for sale. As an amateur hybridizer, I expect no monetary compensation and hope they will provide some pleasure and enjoyment to those who choose to grow them.

Ray Ponton

Fall Gardening Tips from The Old Farmer's Almanac (A few from your Editor)

- Clean out beds; get rid of pesky weeds before they set seed.
- Plant spring blooming bulbs now.
- Prune and fertilize roses (now) for fall bloom.
- Use fall leaves for mulch.
- Mark young perennials so that they are not lost in spring cultivating.
- Transplant once the weather cools.
- Plant cool season veggies, herbs and annual color such as; snapdragons, swiss chard, dianthus and flowering cabbage and kale.
- Best time to plant roses!!!





The Texas Rose Rustlers
C/O Mrs. Candy Fite
8020 FM 2502
Brenham, TX 77833

First Class Mail

Is this your last issue???

*****Please take a moment to look at your label. In the lower right-hand corner of your mailing label is the last issue you will receive with your current membership. Do not forget to renew your membership so you will continue to receive this informative and fun newsletter! Mail your \$10 to Don and Pat Gerard at 114 Buttercup Ln., Lake Jackson, TX 77566**

Texas Rose Rustlers Board Members

Chairman	Mrs. Faith Bickley	PO Box 174, Glen Flora, TX 77443	979-677-3286
Program Chairman	Mrs. Doana Fite	1715 Lake Geneva Ct. Houston, TX 77084	281-398-8210
Secretary	Mrs. Allison Strong	PO Box 758, Willis, TX 77378	936-525-0535
Treas. / Membership	Mr. Don & Mrs. Pat Gerard	114 Buttercup Ln., Lake Jackson, TX 77566	979-297-3460
Editor-OTR	Mrs. Candy Fite	8020 FM 2502, Brenham, TX 77833	979-277-9335

Welcoming Committee Eric and Patty Varnado

