



The Old Texas Rose

Number 3

Summer 2006

www.texasroserustlers.org

Texas Rose Rustlers Summer Meeting Mercer Arboretum July 8, 2006

Calling all New Rustlers, Veteran Rustlers, and those curious about Rose Rustlers...Once again, we will have the pleasure of having our summer meeting indoors. Thanks to the generosity of Mercer Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, we have the opportunity to meet in a cool and relaxing environment.

Please feel free to come early and take a self-guided tour of the lovely gardens. Bring a picnic style lunch to enjoy in the cool of the meeting room. We will also feature our traditional rose / plant lotto. Our Program Chairman, Doana Fite, wants to announce that if you bring a friend, and they sign up for membership, you will receive an extra lotto ticket.

We have a great program scheduled this year. Our program features Gaye Hammond from the Houston Rose Society, and John Ferguson from Nature's Way Resources. See you in July!

Schedule

9:00—Self guided tour of the gardens

10:00—Sign-in / set-up / coffee

10:30—**Earthkind Roses** by Gaye

Hammond of the Houston Rose Society

LOTTO

12:00—Picnic style lunch (indoors), you

may bring dessert to share.

1:00—**The Secret Uses of Compost** by

John Ferguson of Nature's Way Resources

LOTTO

From the Editor...

Howdy Rustlers! Summer is here, there is no denying that. From the looks of everything, it looks like it is August out there. We had a couple of good rains near Memorial Day, but nothing since then. It is going to be a long summer.

The roses loved the warmth of the spring this year. They have put on three flushes since March. Many of my perennials put out their new growth recently, and they are not responding too well to this heat and drought. All I feel like I do these days is drag that darn hose around.

As I glance out my window, Maggie is just finishing up her last flush, the Caldwell Pinks are in full bloom, the Zinnias (that were seeded) are doing beautifully, 'Kwanso' daylilies have just begun, the lantanas, butterfly weed and cannas are blooming as well. Everything else seems to be taking a summer nap.

Our vegetable garden is doing well. We've been eating green beans and tomatoes since mid-May. This week we harvested our first round of corn. Also this week, I canned six jars of pickles. Unfortunately, the squash bugs devastated the zucchini and yellow squash plants early in the season. Because it has been so hot lately, I have a feeling that many of my crops this year will be finished at the latter part of July. My plan is to plant another crop of squash and tomatoes early in the fall, along with my usual fall / winter veggies.

The Rose Rustlers had a nice time in Bay City this April. The speakers were great, the gardens were beautiful, and a good time was had by all. I would like to personally thank all who helped plan the event and to all of our hosts. Further details will be mentioned in this issue of the OTR.

Our summer meeting at Mercer is just around the corner. I have always loved the meetings at Mercer; first, because the building is air conditioned, and it is 100

degrees outside, and second, the summer Mercer meeting was the first meeting Doana and I attended. I guess it holds a special place in my heart.

The following event will be our annual fall Cutting Exchange on October 14, 2006. The event will be held in Tyler, TX. Mark your calendars. I will try to have the fall OTR out by the first of September with all the details, including hotel information.

~See ya'll soon~Candy

Did You Know???

That the Texas Rose Rustlers have gathered about 30 rooted cuttings for the New Orleans Old Garden Rose Society. There are a few more to add to the collection from members who were unable to attend the April meeting.

The New Orleans Old Garden Rose Society will be collecting this summer. They will notify us when they will be coming. At this time, the roses are being kept at a member's house in Katy, TX.

Which leads me to my next announcement...

I would like to express a heartfelt thank you to Rustler, Donna Martin, for her volunteering to baby-sit the "baby" roses. The original plan was for me to bring them back to my house. When we arrived at the Birding and Nature Center in Bay City, we realized there too many to fit in the trunk of our car.

Donna Martin offered to take them back to Katy. Her generosity was extended when she informed Doana Fite that she did not mind caring for them until they can be collected. In this heat, that can be a real struggle.

THANK YOU DONNA!!!

TRR Board Position Available

If you would like to become more involved with the Rose Rustlers, consider joining the Board of Officers. The position of Secretary is will be available for the term 2007-2009. Now, before you say that it sounds like a long time, time flies when you are having fun! Let us know if you are interested. Here is a list of the simple tasks of Secretary:

Section 4. Secretary

- A. Shall write all correspondence of The Texas Rose Rustlers in cooperation with the Chairman.
- B. Shall record the minutes of all business meetings, as provided in Article IV, Section 1.
- C. Shall maintain all archived written correspondence, minutes of annual business meetings, and any organizational literature or records deemed appropriate by the Executive Board.
- D. Shall have one vote in all business of the Executive Board.

*Reprinted from the Texas Rose Rustler's By-laws.

REMEMBER TEXAS ROSE RUSTLER'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2007

If you have any ideas or suggestions, please feel free to contact any of the Board members.

Our phone numbers are listed on the back of this issue.

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On behalf of the Texas Rose Rustlers, we would like to thank all of the people who assisted us in the success of the 2006 Spring Symposium. First, and foremost, Faith Bickley, thank you for all

your hard work in the planning and scheduling for the meeting. Your tremendous efforts were the reason for success!

Thank you to Myra Mayo and Rustler, Ray Ponton, for dedicating your time to speaking for us! Thanks to the Bay City Birding and Nature Center for so graciously allowing us the use of their facilities. The gardens are not only beautiful and meticulously maintained, but the incorporation of wildlife habitats completes the natural union. Thank you to Bob and Marcia Roenigk from the Vintage Rosery. We enjoyed your presentation, walking your lovely gardens, and shopping for roses! I ended up with three new roses, including my first (believe it or not) Souvenir De La Malmaison.

Mark Your Calendars

Next event: July 8, 2006—Mercer Arboretum

Fall Cutting Exchange: October 14, 2006; meeting will be held in Tyler, TX. We will be staying overnight in Tyler. Details in the fall issue of the OTR.

Folks, I have a surprise for you. I was sent this wonderful article from Dr. William Welch. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

The "Peggy Martin" Rose

Dr. William C. Welch

Peggy Martin has been a mainstay in the New Orleans Old Garden Rose Society for many years. She and her husband, MJ, lived in Plaquemines Parish a few miles across the Mississippi River from the city of New Orleans. My wife, Diane, and I were her guests several years ago when I accepted a speaking engagement for the NOOGRS.

Peggy graciously cared for us during our visit and entertained us in her home with a memorable Louisiana style seafood boil that had been harvested by her husband just hours before. Peggy's garden included a wonderful collection of old roses assembled with love and care over the years. There were many wonderful specimens that appealed to me but one rambler in particular caught my eye. I am always interested in thornless roses and Peggy was particularly enthusiastic about a large, healthy specimen she had collected in 1989 in New Orleans. According to Peggy "I was given cuttings of the thornless climber in 1989 by Ellen Dupriest who had gotten her rose cuttings from her mother-in-law, Faye Dupriest. Faye had gotten her cuttings from a relative's garden in New Orleans. When I first saw this rose it was in full bloom and smothered the 8ft wooden fence in Ellen's back yard. It took my breath away! I had never seen a rose so lushly beautiful with thornless bright green foliage that was disease free. All along the canes there were clusters of roses that resembled perfect nose-gays of blooms".

I departed from New Orleans in the late summer of 2003 with several cuttings of Peggy's thornless climber. I was pleased that the cuttings rooted quickly and immediately set one on the fence that encloses the A/C equipment at Fragilee, our weekend home in Washington County, TX. I was a little dubious of the site I had selected because the soil was less than ideal. My concern soon disappeared as I saw the cutting quickly mature into a vigorous specimen that spans most of the 12-15 linear feet of 4' tall picket fencing.

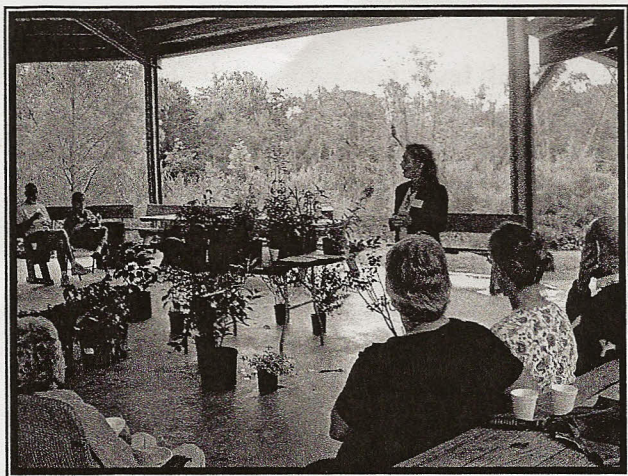
I didn't allow myself to get overly excited about the plant because I assumed that it would be a "once bloomer" with a fairly short flowering season in the spring. On a subsequent visit with Peggy she indicated

that my plant would rebloom in the fall after it had been established for a couple of years. I must admit that I had some doubt about the rebloom in our hot and sometimes very dry Texas climate. Last year Peggy's rose rewarded us with a nice bloom from September through November. Even with being covered by ice for two days during mid-December '05 we have had some scattered bloom all winter.

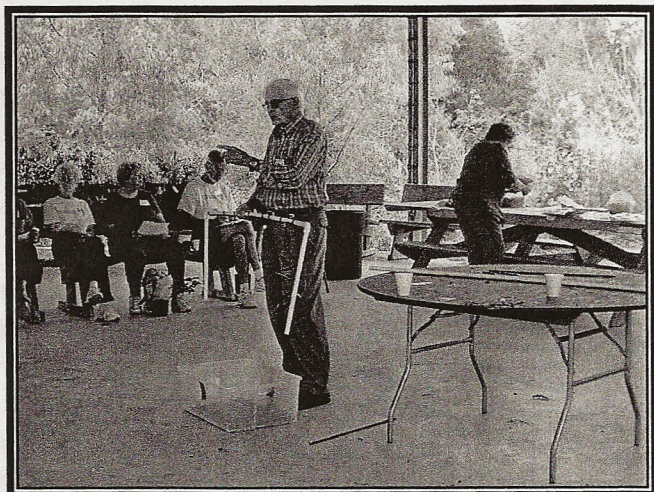
'Katrina' takes its Toll

We fretted about many of our New Orleans friends during the 'Katrina' storm. Getting information was not easy with so much of the communications system inoperative. We were uneasy about traveling to Birmingham for an annual meeting with the gardens staff for Southern Living. We spent the night of September 7, at our home in Mangham, La. Mangham is in the northeastern part of the state and 'Katrina' had only brushed by as it veered to the east through Mississippi. We were relieved that our cotton and soybean crops received only minor damage and the old pecan trees in our yard suffered little more than loss of most of this year's crop.

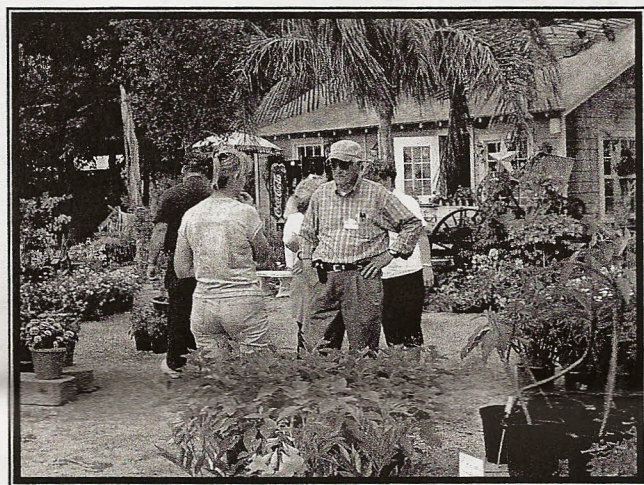
Upon arrival in Birmingham we checked into the Marriott Courtyard located near the Southern Living headquarters. Early the next morning we went to breakfast and were seated adjacent to two couples who sounded like they had New Orleans accents. After introducing ourselves we learned that they were from Plaquemines Parish and had lost their homes. Birmingham was the first place they were able to find shelter. I asked them if they knew Peggy Martin and her family and they said they knew them well and were we familiar with the tragedy of their losses? It seems that Peggy lost both her elderly parents in the flood that inundated nearly all of Plaquemines Parish. We were, of course, deeply saddened that Peggy had lost her parents, her home, and commercial fishing



Myra Mayo Speaks at the Bay City Nature and Birding Center



Rustler, Ray Ponton Speaks about Misting System



Rustlers Shop & Chat at Myra's Garden

Joy Hairston's Lovely Garden



Bob Roenigk Speaks to Us at the Vintage Rosery



Orleans, LA, Louisiana, MS and Decatur TX.

boat that her husband used to supplement their income.

An Inspirational Survivor

It took a couple of months for me to reestablish communication with Peggy. She and her family have moved to Gonzales, LA which is close to Baton Rouge on Interstate 10. I asked Peggy about her roses and home and she indicated the house and garden were under about 20' of salt water for two weeks following the hurricane. When she was finally able to return to visit their property she was heartened to see the lush growth of her thornless climber, a testament to its toughness and status as a true survivor. This rose and one crinum were all that remained of the once beautiful garden.

I had already been convinced that this rose deserved to be widely available and enjoyed by gardeners in other locations. Its disease resistance, thornless stems and colorful displays of bright pink flowers along with a graceful vining form make it a logical choice for creating beautiful garden pictures. My specimen is literally covered with clusters of dark pink flowers each spring from mid-March through May. It starts blooming again in late summer and repeats until a hard frost slows it down for the winter.

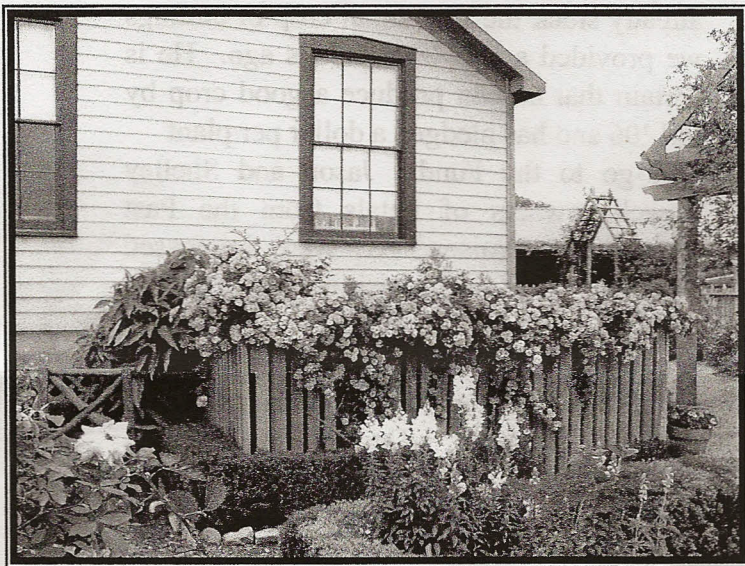
A Way to Help

In mid-January I was pleased to receive a notification that my friend Nancy Godshall, a member of the Garden Club of Houston and currently Zone IX Director for the Garden Club of America had given a donation in my name to a recently established Zone IX Horticulture Restoration Fund. The fund was established for the purpose of restoring parks, gardens and green space in New Orleans, LA, Laurel, MS and Beaumont TX,

following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. I was pleased to learn that Nancy Thomas, also from Houston and a former GCA President was closely involved in selecting projects for the restoration fund.

An idea came to me several weeks ago "in the middle of the night" about growing the "Peggy Martin" rose as a fund raiser for Zone IX Horticulture Restoration Fund. First, I checked with Peggy to see if she would be in agreement then I went to Mike Shoup, owner of the Antique Rose Emporium. Mike is enthusiastic and has already stuck the first small crop of cuttings we provided a couple of weeks ago. He is certain that he can produce a good crop by fall '06 and has pledged a dollar per plant will go to the Fund. Jason and Shelley Powell, owners of Petals from the Past Nursery in Jemison, AL were impressed with the rose while visiting here in late October, '05 and took quite a few cuttings at that time. Jason reports that they already have sixty or seventy rooted cuttings. Jason received his Master's Degree from Texas A & M and was an early recipient of my scholarship sponsored by Texas Garden Clubs, Inc.. Mark Chamblee, owner of Chamblee Rose Nursery in Tyler, TX has received a small stock plant and is enthusiastic about marketing the rose as is Aubrey King, owner of King's Nursery in Tenaha, TX. Addresses and phone numbers for these sources are included below. A first crop from these growers should be available as early as the fall of '06 with larger numbers in '07. Each of these growers has pledged a \$1.00 per plant donation to the Garden Restoration Fund for each plant. Reduced or wholesale prices may be available for Garden Club Plant Sales, Master Gardener Events, etc.. This would allow more opportunity for contributions.

This is going to be fun! A great rose and a great cause. This is a hard combination to beat! I am fully convinced that the resilience and fortitude of our friends and neighbors in New Orleans, Beaumont and Mississippi is matched by the beauty and toughness of the "Peggy Martin" rose. The 'Peggy Martin' rose is a beautiful symbol of survival on the Gulf Coast. Please join us in this celebration.



The "Peggy Martin" Rose

Current List of Cooperating Growers of the "Peggy Martin" rose:

Antique Rose Emporium
9300 Lueckmeyer Road
Brenham, TX 77833
800-441-0002
<http://www.antiqueroseemporium.com>

Chamblee's Rose Nursery
10926 US Hwy 69 North
Tyler, TX 75706
800-256-ROSE
<http://www.chambleerose.com>

Petals from the Past Nursery
16034 County Rd. 29
Jemison, AL 35085
205-646-0069
<http://www.petalsfromthepast.com>

King's Nursery
Hwy 84 East,
Tenaha, Texas 75974
409-248-3811

***Note from the Editor...I am not sure about all of you, but I would love to have one of those roses! This for sure, will be my next purchase, not only for the beauty, but for the sentimental value as well. This picture does not do the rose justice being printed in b/w. It is the loveliest pink, and looks to be blooming in clusters. The bush overhanging the fence is covered in blooms!

**Here is information about our speakers
this summer...**

EARTHKIND ROSES MIRROR RUSTLER SPIRIT

Rose rustlers have long touted the low maintenance requirements of antique and old garden roses. Although individual experiences confirm that generally these types of roses perform with less maintenance than their modern counterparts, until a few years ago there had been no scientific evaluation on which roses will truly grow with almost no human care – much less do so in divergent geographic zones and in different soil types.

Thanks to the dedication and work by researchers at Texas A&M University, a collection of roses has now been scientifically proven to grow anywhere in the South without applications of fertilizer, pesticides, fungicides and no deadheading or pruning. Known as "EarthKind Roses", this collection of cultivars also reduces the need for supplemental watering by as much as 75%. "These roses are as close to "plant 'em and forget 'em" roses as you can grow", says Gaye Hammond, President of the Houston Rose Society.

Gaye is the study liaison between the Houston Rose Society (which funded the EarthKind Research Program) and Texas Cooperative Extension (a division of Texas A&M). She is also one of the instructors in the EarthKind schools and seminars that have been conducted in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Mississippi.

The Secret Uses of Compost by John Ferguson of Nature's Way Resources

Mr. Ferguson has over 27 years of business experience. He owns Nature's Way Resources a composting company that specializes in high quality compost, mulch, and soil mixes. Mr. Ferguson holds a MS degree in Physics and Geology and is a licensed Soil Scientist in Texas. He has won many awards in horticulture and

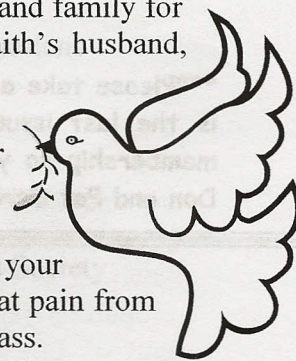
environmental issues. He represents the composting industry on the Houston-Galveston Area Council for solid waste. His personal garden has been featured in several books and "Better Homes and Gardens" magazine and his business has been recognized in the Wall Street Journal for the quality and value of their products. He is a member of the Physics Honor Society and many professional societies.

**On Behalf of the Texas
Rose Rustlers, we'd like
to express our deepest
sympathies to...**



Faith Bickley, Phyllis
DeGelleke and family for
the loss of Faith's husband,
Harold Bickley.

Starlet Taylor and family for
the loss of their son.



Our hearts go out to you and your
families. We hope and pray that pain from
your losses lessen as the days pass.
Peace be with you and your families.



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 |
| Co-Chair. | Mrs. Ursula White | 12103 Atwell, Houston, TX 77035 | 713-723-9217 |
| 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

