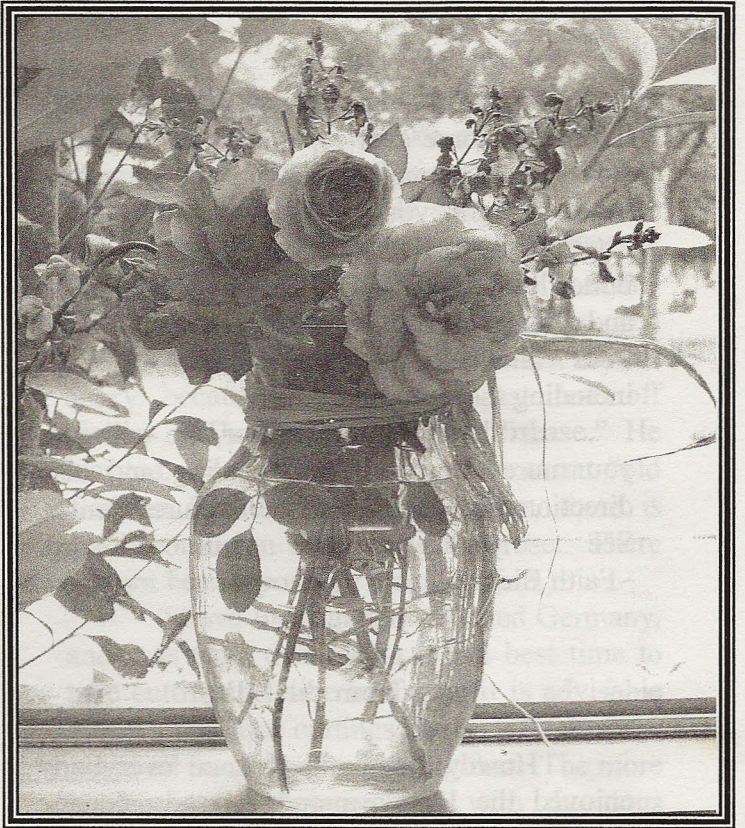


# *The Old Texas Rose*

Number 1

Winter 2006

[www.texasroserustlers.org](http://www.texasroserustlers.org)



## **Spring Symposium April 29, 2006**

### **If it's April, it must be Bay City!**

On April 29<sup>th</sup> the Texas Rose Rustlers will have their annual Spring Symposium in Bay City at the Matagorda County Birding Nature Center (MCBNC), and I thought you might like to learn a little about this neat place before you visit.

The Bay City Nature Club started fulfilling a dream of a local nature center in the fall of 1996. It is amazing to read the time line of events as this has most definitely been a labor of love. The purchase of the land on the Colorado River occurred in 1997, and the application for and acceptance for numerous grants along with a lot of hard work culminated in the official opening in the fall of 2002. The remarkable mixture of gardens, wetlands, and physical structures provides

such an enjoyable and educational area. Matagorda County is noted for its birding opportunities and the Nature Center is a magnet for many species of birds. All the plants in the gardens have been donated with the work in those gardens done by volunteers. In fact MCBNC presently operates solely with volunteer help, including two host couples who live in RV's there at the Nature Center.

I became aware of the facility through my Master Gardener class, as Wharton County and Matagorda County were combined. Several of the participants were very active in the start of the Nature Center. The Nature Center opened while we were taking our class, and we even had a field trip to the site for our insect class. Three of us in the class started volunteering on Friday mornings to do what needed to be done in several of the gardens. We subsequently have taken over the rose garden. The deer about



brought us to our knees last spring, but with the use of some deer repellent, the roses that survived are bouncing back.

I think you will enjoy exploring the MCBNC and all the different gardens (rose, butterfly, hummingbird, palm, cactus, shade and grass). The trails meander through huge trees and along several water features including the Colorado River.

In the spring newsletter, we will give you more details of the meeting and also directions for reaching the Nature Center. See you there in April.  
~Faith Bickley

### Notes from the Editor

Howdy Rustlers! I hope everybody enjoyed the Holidays and is ready for the New Year. The Texas Rose Rustlers have a great year planned. We will travel to Bay City in the spring and then to Tyler in the fall. We are planning to have our fall Cutting Exchange coincide with the events of the Heritage Rose Foundation's Annual Meeting and Conference. Details concerning the 2006 fall Cutting Exchange will be printed in the summer issue of the Old Texas Rose.

My roses struggled tremendously this summer and fall. November seemed to bring some relief with a small amount of rain and much cooler temperatures. They bloomed nicely until we experienced a few nights in the mid-20's. In mid-December two young deer (twin buck) decided to take up residence here in the wooded area between Doana's Camphouse and our house. It seems that someone has handled these youngsters and possibly hand fed throughout their first year. They are extremely brave, overbearing and not afraid of anything. One of the deer reared up and pawed my larger dog when she tried chasing them off! In the past week, they have developed a taste for my roses and have just about defoliated about 15 roses. Call me cruel, but I've tried rocks, Cayenne Pepper, even a BB gun to the rear ends! Nothing!

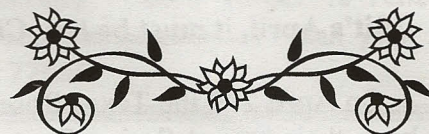
They just sit there and look at me like, "Okay, what's next lady?" My next attempt will be a call to the Game Warden to see if he will come out and relocate them. (*Jan. 3, called them, they just laughed!*) The deer are so bold; they will walk right up to you. My fear is that they will begin to become aggressive with the girls. (*Jan. 5, my deer problem is solved, no more worries.*)

Just a quick note to tell everyone thanks for coming out to our home in October for the fall Cutting Exchange. It was a wonderful weekend, and I hope everyone enjoyed themselves. Thank you to all who helped make that weekend possible.

~Candy Fite

### Did You Know?

That the Texas Rose Rustlers have a new web address? Please take a few moments and visit our great new website. Please feel free to send us your comments. Now you can chat with other Rustlers on the Rose Rustler Forum at [www.texasroserustlers.org](http://www.texasroserustlers.org). Recently, we have been conversing with a Rose Rustler from Italy, and she has had lots to talk about.



### The Quotable Gardener...

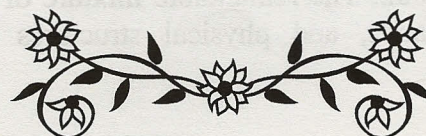
*People who love this world, people who pay attention, are gardeners.*

*People who are invested, people who are aware. They are gardeners regardless of whether or not they have ever picked up a trowel.*

*Because gardening is not just about digging.*

*Or planting, for that matter. Gardening is about cherishing.*

- Terry Hershey, *Soul Gardening*





## **Notes from Serenity Pond**

### **Update on the House Eater Rose**

Patricia J. McCain

Ellen Vickers, who owns and runs a ranch in Ecletto, TX, south of Gonzales, is an enthusiastic rose rustler. So it was only natural for her visit the Flores Street Rose, aka The House Eater Rose, on November 17th while she was in San Antonio. The now famous House Eater Rose had put on a lot of growth and was aggressively reaching out over the sidewalk. She couldn't resist getting out of her truck so that she could walk over and admire the rose. Well, she just happened to have clippers in her hand. Hmmm!

Much to her absolute fright and surprise, 3 dogs began to viciously bark. She did not remember any dogs when on previous visits. The dogs were relentless, so she quickly took a few cuttings. All the while, her heart was in her throat. It was then she noticed the old house was gone, and a large support had been built for the rose. Before she could observe any more changes in the surroundings, a voice called out to her. A gentleman, not too happy about her visit, informed her he had bought the property next door. Then he bought the House Eater Rose property and combined the two. After fencing in the properties together, he informed her he had gotten "guard dogs" to patrol. He said when he hears the dogs bark, he watches whoever is in the area. He finally introduced himself as Christian, saying he was from Germany, and that he was a famous sculptor and artist. Ellen said it was not obvious that the fence had been removed or that the two yards had been combined.

Christian said that after cleaning up the yards, which had shrubs and trees, he had enhanced the yard with numerous unique plants. The scaffolding was built for the rose after removing the ruins of the old house. He was proud to announce a local paper had done an article on the property. Then he went on

at great length, complaining that it was the wrong time of year to take cuttings. "The spring," he insisted. "Spring is the ONLY time to take cuttings." He said people come to get cuttings all the time, and they never ask for permission. He commented on the fact that he had noticed, Ellen had at least used clippers. Christian made it known that he was angry because most people just tear off pieces. "The rose will get a disease." He insisted. He referred to the rose as an "old German Rambler." (To this day, there is much confusion concerning this rose. There has not been a positive identification.)

I have lived in and revisited Germany, and it is true, that spring is the best time to take cuttings. Here in Texas, it is advisable that we take our cuttings in the fall. He was not at all interested in learning that. The more unpleasant he became, and with the dogs constantly barking and showing their teeth, Ellen was relieved to get back in her truck and depart. She immediately phoned me on her cell phone to tell me that she had just had "an adventure."

The good news is that good care is being taken of the rose. Once again, we are reminded of the importance of asking permission before taking cuttings. We stress that point to our Texas Rose Rustler members. This was definitely a learning experience. Of course, Ellen had no idea of the changed ownership. The homestead had supposedly been abandoned for a long time, and the rose had grown out through the chain link fence, spilling over onto the sidewalk.

Happy Rustling folks, but ask permission whenever you can. Should you visit the Flores Street Rose, The House Eater Rose, please ask Christian before taking any cuttings.

Have a rosy day.



## Rosebud, Texas

By Candy Fite

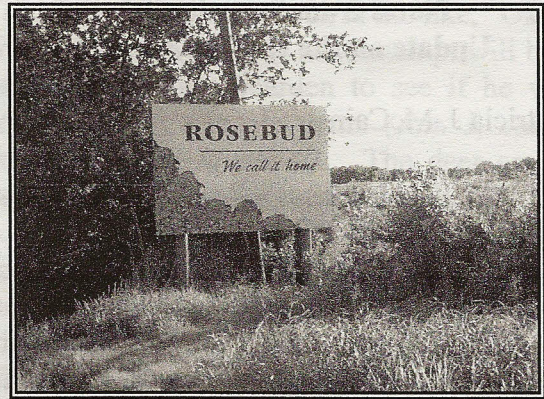
Recently, while traveling, I came upon the town of Rosebud, TX. As I drove through this small town, I was intrigued by its name. I had driven a couple of miles out of town when I decided to turn around and explore. The sun was beginning to set in the western sky, so I only had a short time for pictures. The main road that travels through Rosebud is US Hwy. 77. I turned off of 77 and drove past the quaint downtown buildings.

I've always had a love for the downtown charm of small town squares. It takes me back to childhood memories of when I would go "uptown" with my Gramma Greene after a long morning of tending to the garden. She lived in the small town of Wauconda, Illinois, and that is where I spent my summers as a child. Every day at noon the town's siren would go off, and we knew that it was time to wash up for lunch.

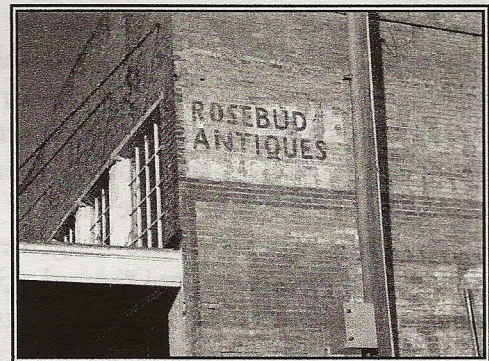
As I drove through the once bustling streets of Rosebud, I felt that old familiar sense of being "uptown." I pulled over to take a picture and sat there for a few minutes. I unrolled my window and could almost hear the sounds of the past; honking, people, a bell on a shop door. The feeling of a small town yearning for its past was overwhelming.

I came to the Rosebud Feed and Grain and decided to drive around back. I found an old Feed and Grain truck and took a nice picture of it. Then I drove over the train tracks, which was not such a good idea being that I was traveling alone. I got turned around in the "not so good" part of town. The townsfolk were staring, and I knew better not to stop and ask for directions. I just kept driving like I knew where I was going, until I found the highway again.

Throughout my adventure I observed a few roses in front yards, but not many. As the sun set, I decided I had seen enough. With one last picture of the "Rosebud, We Call It Home" sign, I drove out of town.



Rosebud, Texas was originally settled on the west bank of Pond Creed in 1878 and was known as Pool's Crossing or Greer's Horse Pen. In 1887, the name of "Rosebud" was chosen by the US Postal Service, and a town was born. Rosebud has a population of 1,700, and the principal industry in the locale is agriculture. In 1937, Robert Ripley, author of "Believe It Or Not" said: "There is a rose bush in every yard in Rosebud, Texas." Obviously, I was on the wrong side of town! Even though I didn't see many roses, I enjoyed my travels through Rosebud. I've included a few pictures.





## Climbing Plants to Grow With Roses

By V. Sissom

Ah, it's cooler weather time! I love grabbing a mug of something warm, and breaking out the seed catalogs, in anticipation of planning for new additions to my spring gardening efforts. I am currently looking for climbing plants to go with my roses, since they'd add visual interest, height, and fill out structures such as obelisks, tripods, posts, as well as arches. I'm tired of viewing bare fences behind my rose beds, too. But I prefer knowing about selections that are Texas friendly, don't you?

The following suggestions were sent by various TRR members who so graciously replied to my emailed poll, with their favorite non-rose climbers to grow with roses. The majorities of these vines are vigorous in the south Texas areas and are meant to grow amongst your roses in the garden, not on them. Among the most commonly mentioned are:

- Moon Vine (*Ipomoea alba*) – looks like a big, white morning glory; fragrant blooms open at dusk
- Morning Glories (numerous varieties) - pick from many cultivars
- Red Cypress Vine (*Ipomoea quamoclit*) – Hummers love them, and they add color interest in the heat of summer, says Sylvia Harrington of Waco. She plants them on once-a-year blooming roses.
- Cross Vine (*Bignonia capreolata*) “Tangerine Beauty”- evergreen and a hummingbird magnet
- Hyacinth Bean Vine “Ruby Moon” (*Dolichos lablab*). - takes the summer heat, has lovely purple flowers and pretty seed pods at summer's end.
- Coral Vine (*Antigonon leptopus*) - there are pink white varieties; also known as Queen's Wreath.

Interestingly enough, the above nominees got mixed reviews, with half the people saying they turned out to be

“somewhat invasive” and the others saying they loved them. More vines to consider:

• Sweet Pea (*Lathyrus odoratus*) – Sylvia H.'s favorite variety is “Matacana”, ordered from Thompson & Morgan catalog. She plants the seeds at the base of rose bushes about Christmas time, and really enjoys their strong fragrance in late spring.

• Thunbergia “Mercer Blue” – a favorite of Kathy Hyatt of Tomball; nearly evergreen and bloomed continuously for her with sky blue trumpeted flowers.

• Passionflower Vine (*Passifloraceae incarnate*) - Doana Fite grows it trellised, and flanked by Katy Rd. Pink and Maggie roses. It's fragrant, has unusual flower heads, and serves as a host for certain butterflies.

Some of the most uncommon suggestions of vines Rustlers grow here in Texas are:

• Firecracker vine or Candy Corn Vine (*Manettia cordifolia*) small tubular blooms in red, orange, gold

• Blue Butterfly Pea vine (*Clitoria ternatea*) – <http://www.plantoftheweek.org/week043.shtml>

(Reference and picture)

• Dutchman's Pipe (*Aristolochia littoralis*) - unusual, pipe-shaped, calico-colored flowers which bloom summer and fall

• Butterfly Vine (*Stigmaphyllon ciliatum*) – described as a vigorous grower with brilliant yellow flower clusters followed by butterfly-shaped seed pods; does well in semi-shady or sunny locations; evergreen

• Scarlet clematis (*Clematis texensis*) was mentioned as having nice bell-shaped flowers and interesting seed pods

• Bowtie Vine (*Dalechampia dioscoraefolia*) - Audrey was intrigued by it at Candy Fite's garden; in Brenham. She liked the fact that it was blooming in a shady spot. See a picture of it at Logee's Greenhouse website: <http://www.logees.com>

I have been interested in which of the hundreds of varieties of clematis grow well here in central and south central Texas. My final plant suggestion is Sweet Autumn



Clematis (*Clematis armandii* "Snowdrift"...I think) – has white, vanilla-scented blooms late summer/early fall for Lynn Betts in Tomball area. She suggests giving it a strong fence or support for its billowing growth to clamber upon. Said to be evergreen; prune after winter freezes. Additional Seed sources:  
 •Natives of Texas; Hill Country Native Plants; Kerrville, TX:  
<http://www.nativesoftexas.com>  
 •Select Seeds: Heirloom and Open-Pollinated seeds and plants: <http://www.selectseeds.com>

### Earthkind Rose Field Test

By Don Gerard

The Brazoria County Master Gardeners have volunteered to participate in the Texas Cooperative Extension Earthkind Rose field test trials. The Earthkind Rose Program is directed by Dr. Steve George from Texas A& M University. It will be a 3 year test on the following roses:

Carefree Beauty	(Buck, 1977)
Dublin Bay	(1975)
Earth Song	(Buck, 1975)
Flora Dora	(1994)
Martha's Vineyard	(1995)
Penelope	(1924)
Prairie Harvest	(Buck, 1984)
Quietness	(Buck, 1984)
Seminole Wind	(Kordes, 1977)
Summer Wind	(Buck, 1975)
The Fairy	(1932)
Winter Sunset	(Buck, 1997)

They are to install a drip irrigation system for the roses and for the first 2 months, hand water them. Compost will be added to the test trial rose beds and should be mulched well yearly. Absolutely no commercial fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides or miticide are to be used for any reason. They are to begin taking notes monthly on the roses after the first year and submit the information. We look forward to seeing the end results. If you have any questions concerning the Earthkind Rose Program please visit the website.

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkindrose>

### In the Old Rustling Days...

By Francis Brandes

Back in the old rustling days, Marion and I would scour the back county roads and old cemeteries throughout central and south Texas. We organized a rustle in Victoria, where we found about 40 old roses. Mr. Paul Locher, who was with the Parks Department in Victoria, invited the Rose Rustlers to the City Park on Vine Street, which is just off the Guadalupe River. We also visited the Evergreen Cemetery. In the cemetery, we found "Hwy. 290 Pink Buttons", Marie Van Houtte, Duchesse de Brabant, Madame Joseph Schwartz, "Evergreen Red" China and Louis Philippe.

Beside the gravesite of Olga Urban, was the most amazing little rose that yielded three colors. It was very compact and loaded with blooms. It had the characteristics, size and shape of a Poly-Tea rose. Marion and I saw the rose at just about the same time, but my car door was closer. I just about broke my leg trying to get out and see it!

To this day, we still haven't seen this rose in commerce. We lost our original bush years ago, and thanks to Earl and Deanna Krause, we now have another one. Although, this rose is slow to become established, it is well worth the wait. It has cream, carmine and yellow blooms and makes an outstanding container rose. We call this rose, "Tip-Top." Right now, on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, it has about two dozen blooms on it. Mr. Cleo Barnwell once identified it as Trier crossed with Austrian Copper (circa 1909). "Tip-Top" is now gone from the Evergreen Cemetery, as are many of the other antique roses.

I just recently visited the Pleasant Valley Cemetery in Marble Falls, and I found the rose Hermosa thriving. It was 18 years ago that we first came upon this rose. That is not the case for many of the roses we've



found growing in cemeteries over the years. Many we have revisited and found extinct. See folks, it is true that a lot of roses would be lost if it weren't for a Rose Rustler to come along and perpetuate these old beauties.

### **Fall Cutting Exchange 2005**

Once again, the Texas Rose Rustlers had a successful Cutting Exchange. This year it was held at the home of member Candy Fite's home in Brenham, Texas. We had an outstanding turnout with many new faces. Rustlers started arriving around 10:00 a.m. and began signing in. Thanks to Candy Fite's father-in-law, Martin Fite, for being the official "Director of parking, ice-chest hauling, ATV driving and front-yard greeting!" Candy's husband, Jesse, was very helpful keeping the place tidy and under complete control. Patty and Eric Varnado surprised everyone and brought a delicious brisket to share. Thank you to all who brought dishes and deserts to share. We exchanged cuttings on the back porch. Which was an interesting view for the lawn chair section of people, so I heard! After we stuffed our bellies & baggies, we strolled through Candy's gardens. Afterwards, it was time to head over to the ARE. We would like to thank the hosts, Candy, Jesse, Jessica and Ashley Fite for inviting us to their lovely home.

Candy Fite led a caravan of over 25 cars to the ARE, which is 23 miles from driveway to parking lot! The other drivers on the road must have thought we were a funeral precession due to the number of cars, headlights and Candy's blinking hazard lights! We were greeted by Mike Shoup and a wonderful staff at the ARE. Mike was gracious and led the Rustlers on a tour of the growing fields. He also gave out lots of cuttings from his Pioneer Roses. The Rose Rustlers would like to thank Mike Shoup and

the entire staff at the ARE for once again, such a warm welcome.

We concluded our day at the Southern Flyer Diner at the Brenham Airport. We sat outside, where we could dine and watch the planes take off. We enjoyed the atmosphere and southern hospitality at the Southern Flyer, not to mention great service and terrific food!

Sunday we met at Candy's and walked over to the Stufflebeam's Home Sweet Farms. We were greeted by the delightful Stufflebeam family and we were served refreshments. Brad gave the Rustlers a tour of their organic farm and shared his knowledge and love for gardening and agriculture. We would like to thank the Stufflebeams for a wonderful and informative visit to their farm.

Last, but not least, it was off to Must Be Heaven for wonderful food, fellowship and let's not forget Blue Bell ice-cream. We won't mention who went back for more! Some of us shopped the charming downtown square, and then we parted ways. Thanks to all who made this event a huge success!

### **Winter Rose Pruning Clinics**

#### **Antique Rose Emporium—San Antonio**

Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> 2:00 pm

#### **Antique Rose Emporium—Independence**

Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> 2:00 pm

Call 979-836-5548 if you have any questions.

#### **Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens**

22306 Aldine Westfield in Humble, TX

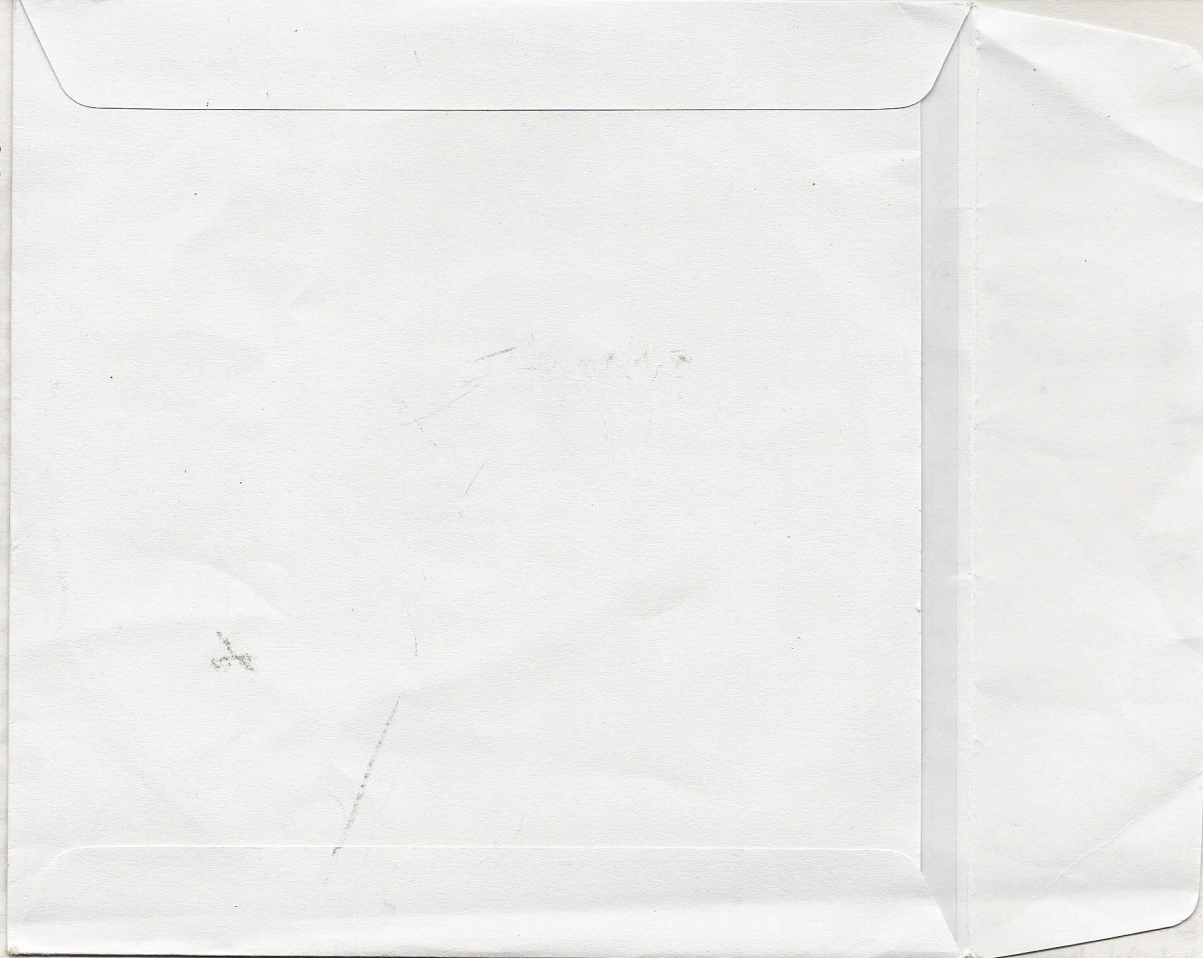
Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Call 281-443-8731 to RSVP and details.



Don't forget your pruning shears, gloves and appropriate gardening attire.





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. Don't 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

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