



THE OLD TEXAS ROSE

Number 3

Summer 2005

www.texasroserustlers.org

2005 SUMMER ROOKIE MEETING

Now here's an idea! Play in your garden in the relative cool of the morning, enjoying your own lovely gifts of nature. Afterwards, come out to the annual Texas Rose Rustler Summer Rookie Meeting. Chill out at Mercer Arboretum listening to great speakers talking about antique roses and old gardens full of old garden roses.

10:00 a.m. ~Summer Rookie Meeting will begin with self guided tour of the Mercer Arboretum Gardens. We will meet at the fountain outside the meeting hall to tour the fascinating gardens we never seem to have time to walk through. Maps of the gardens will be provided by the Arboretum.

11:45 a.m. ~Bring a picnic style lunch for our buffet lunch with the Rustlers in the Mercer meeting hall. The Arboretum has

soda machines, and of course, we'll have the coffee ready if you bring a desert.

1:00 p.m. ~Our first speaker this year is Patricia Najaiko, a lifelong garden history enthusiast, Master Gardener, member of the Champions Garden Club since 1950 and the Southern Garden History Club since 1990. Patricia got her first antique rose in 1958 as a family heirloom, and I guess you could say she's been hooked ever since.

2:00 p.m. ~Our second speaker will be our own Rustler Extraordinaire, Candy Fite. First, Candy will discuss the various classes of roses and which classes do better here in the Gulf Coast area. She will then introduce the Pioneer Roses, which have been bred by Mike Shoup, of the Antique Rose Emporium.

Of course, the Rose Lotto will be interspersed throughout as always. Join us for antique rose fun and friendship.

Notes from the Editor



Howdy Rustlers! Well spring was sprung and now summer has begun. There for a few weeks, I actually thought we might have a cool summer. NOT! The trusty heat index read 101 yesterday.

As many of you may already know, as of February, I'm now once again gainfully employed. My plant passion (obsession) has won, and I'm working out at the Antique Rose Emporium in Independence. I've joined a very talented and unique staff (a.k.a. plant nuts) out at the retail nursery. I'm delighted to be a part of their antique rose revolution!

The Rustlers have begun a wonderful year with two events so far. In February, our annual pruning demonstration was held at Ms. Patricia McCain's Serenity Pond. Our spring Symposium was held at the SFA Mast Arboretum in April. Thank you to both of our hosts for the warm welcome you expressed to the Texas Rose Rustlers.

Life out here on the Slowin' Down Ranch is anything but slow! We've now added five chickens to our happy abode. The roses had a nice, cool spring. I noticed a bit of Powdery Mildew during April, but they seem to have bounced back. (Not that I ever doubted them!) I have a feeling the grasshopper population will be tough this summer. You can't take a step in the yard without seeing them skipping in every direction. The young Katyids seem to have developed a taste for the buds and new growth on the roses. This is the first year they've been a problem for the roses. Since I don't spray insecticides, the chickens get turned out in the gardens for a few hours a day. It is quite funny to see them running around the yard, snatching grasshoppers. We call it "grasshopper football!"

I'm looking forward to October and having everyone out for the annual Cutting Exchange.

~Candy Fite

Rustler Coming Events

July 9, 2005: Texas Rose Rustler's Rookie Meeting--Mercer Arboretum.

October 22, 2005: Texas Rose Rustler's Fall Cutting Exchange—Slowin' Down Ranch in Brenham, TX. (Candy's house)

Gardening Events Calendar

Sept. 17, 2005: Rose-Ted Pepper Fest held at the Antique Rose Emporium in Independence.

October 8-9, 2005: The Garden Festival of Roses in San Antonio at the Antique Rose Emporium.

Nov. 4-6, 2005: The Fall Festival of Roses at the Antique Rose Emporium in Independence.

Rustlers...Have you checked out our new website yet???

For all of you "computer savvy" members who like to chat online, join our member's forum on the official Texas Rose Rustler's website; www.texasroserustlers.org. Come on...let's talk roses!

Salt-Spray Tolerant Roses by Candy Fite



Thumbing through our library at the Antique Rose Emporium, I found a book written by the Bermuda Rose Society, titled Roses In Bermuda. I began flipping through the pages because of my interest in the Bermuda Mystery Roses. They've included in their description of each rose, whether or not they are salt-spray tolerant. Before I list the roses found, here are a few facts about Bermuda's climate:

Bermuda is located in Zone 11. It is a sub tropical, frost free climate. Bermuda maintains a constant high humidity level and receives, on average, 50 inches of rain

annually. Their temperatures remain mild. They are rarely below 50 degrees or above 90 degrees. Bermuda's soil is mainly alkaline with a limestone base.

The list I made mainly consisted of the roses we grew at the Antique Rose Emporium. There were many more throughout the book that were salt-spray tolerant. To find this book, I would check your local book stores or library. You may even find it on the Internet.

Without further ado...

Sir Thomas Lipton
Smith's Parish
Emmie Gray
The Fairy
Perle D' Or
Little White Pet
Cecile Brunner
La Marne
Penelope
Buff Beauty
Cl. Souvenir De La Malmaison
New Dawn
Mermaid
Alberic Barbier
Albertine
Reve d' Or
Lamarque
Fellenberg
Champney's Pink Cluster
Souvenir De La Malmaison
Souvenir De St. Anne's
Safrano
William R. Smith
Rosette Delizy
Mrs. Dudley Cross
Mrs. B.R. Cant
Mme. Lombard
General Schablikine
Louis Philippe
Mutabilis
Green Rose
Cramoisi Superieur
Archduke Charles
Spice
Old Blush

Ray Ponton Roses

by Sandra Smith



What do Henry
 Frankenstein, Henry Jekyll,

and Ray Ponton have in common? They are all mad scientists. While Frankenstein and Jekyll were just plain mad, Ponton is simply mad about roses, especially sturdy roses.

Ray came from sturdy stock himself. Family legend says that the Pontons were of French descent having originally come to New Amsterdam, New York, in the 17th century. Ray's ancestors (William, two sons and their wives) came to Texas in 1833, after 14 years in Missouri, and before that, Amherst, Virginia. Indians tortured and scalped William in 1834 on Ponton Creek, north of Hallettsville. Joel (Ray's great-great-grandfather) was a doctor, minister, rancher, and farmer. Having inherited a legacy for determination, it is no wonder that Ray's objective is to hybridize sturdy, fragrant, repeat-blooming, disease and pest resistant specimens, fulfilling every gardener's dream.

Even though roses were cultivated and hybridized in China for at least 2,000 years, they did not start to become popular in the West until the 14th and 15th centuries. According to Roy Shepherd in History of the Rose, the first hand-pollinated rose was Safrano in 1839. Hybridizing in America began in 1811 when John Champney, who was a Charleston rice grower and plantation owner, crossed Parson's Pink Rose China (a.k.a. Old Blush, given to him by Philippe Noisette) with Rosa Moschata, a White Musk, creating Champney's Pink Cluster. Noisette, a Charleston nurseryman, and his brother Louis, of Paris, France, propagated and crossed seedlings of Champney's Pink Cluster with other roses, which resulted in the class of roses known as the Noisettes, the first of which was named Blush Noisette.

Amazingly, sprinkling a little magic potion (pollen) in the right place at the right time can produce a vast variety of color, form, size, habit, and fragrance. You can imagine

the suspense and eagerness to see the color of the first bloom. Occasionally a hybridizer has been known to slowly peel back a bud to sneak a peak. It is truly a labor of love with unknown results as no two seedlings are alike.

The development of shrub roses by Austin and Buck resurrected the use of roses in commercial landscaping as well as home gardens. Ordinary people, who previously shied away from the popular Hybrid Teas, can now successfully grow low-maintenance roses.

Ray Ponton roses are also meant to provide more pleasure than pain. He began hybridizing in 1990, after retiring from the banking business in Taylor, Texas. His first two roses that he considered successful were Katy Girl and Cameron Bohls, both propagated in 1997 and registered in 2000. Ponton gave plants to Chamblee's Nursery in 2001, which propagated and offered them for sale in the fall of 2004. As you can see, the painstaking process takes about 8 years. Therefore, we should be very grateful to all of the hybridizing scientists, especially Ray, who have created thousands of roses for us to enjoy.

Ray's hybridizing techniques were improved after he discovered the internet, where many rosarians around the world generously share their personal experiences. That is where Ray met one of his mentors, Kim Rupert of California, who has his roses at Ashdown Roses. Ray was relieved to learn from Kim that 20% germination is considered a "good" success rate for hybridizers.

He now has 13 registered roses, all with interesting, meaningful names: After Dark (dark red) has wine-colored canes. Annie Nell (pink) – Ray described as "a girl I once knew, in fact she took care of me for a number of years, when I was young. I called her mom. White roses were at her funeral, so I took pollen and put it on Lillian Austin and the result was Annie Nell." Baron De Bastrop (deep pink) was an interesting character in Texas history, a friend of Stephen F. Austin. Ray named Cameron Bohls (dark red) and

Meredith Bohls (pink blend) after his grandchildren. Katy Girl (pink) is an open pollinated seedling of Katy Road Pink ("found" rose), which has now been identified as Carefree Beauty. Chireno (deep pink) named for the hometown of Shannon Sherrod, a fellow Texas Rose Rustler. Deanna (pink blend) is appropriately named for Deanna Krause, who, as most of you who know, loves unusually striking rose colors. Peaceful Habitations (pink speckled) has an azalea or orchid likeness with its specks and was named after Joe Cooper's nursery. Sarah Juanita (yellow) is Joe Cooper's wife. San Gabriel (yellow blend – mixed with a dark pink) is a river in Central Texas. Splendora (red) was also the home of several Texas rose rustlers. Tejas (pink blend) is the only climber (12' to 14') so far.

Four other roses have study names, but are not yet registered. Ray is considering naming them: Atocha's Gold (yellow), Ida Red (red), Miss Bloomsalot (pink blend), and Rustler's Dream (white blend). Ray also has several other creations including roses named for his wife, Margaret, and his two daughters.

Most of the Ponton roses can be viewed on www.helpmefind.com search by Breeders. Some can be purchased at the following nurseries: Chamblee's (Tyler), Del Real (Caldwell), King's (Tenaha), Naconiche (Nacogdoches), Peaceful Habitations (Boerne), and Antique Rose Emporium (Independence).

Ray wanders all over Texas sharing his rose creations with gardeners and nurseries, more like Johnny Appleseed than Frankenstein or Jekyll. Why? Any mad scientist can tell you that critical evaluation from different microclimates is crucial to determining the true success of any particular rose. Besides, what better way to spend your time than to share your creations with gardeners who are also mad about roses?



Patented Roses

by Faith Bickley

Now and then an issue suddenly comes into play that before has not been considered. The concept of patented roses is such an issue. Not long ago we could just take rose cuttings and root (or try to root) them without worrying about this. Nowadays with more and more patented and trademarked roses in commerce, we do have to consider this.

At the Texas Rose Rustler's Cutting Exchange last October, some Knockout cuttings were brought. This triggered the issue of patented roses. The board noted the need for discussion of this and the formation of some policies for the organization, thus this article, will start the dialog. I personally do not do well wading through legalese so am most grateful to people like Don Gerard, Candy Fite (finding out from Mike Shoup about his policies at the Antique Rose Emporium) and Renee from Chamblee's Roses in Tyler for their help on this subject.

"What is a plant patent? A plant patent is granted by the Government to an inventor (or the inventor's heirs or assigns) who has invented or discovered and asexually reproduced a distinct and new variety of plant, other than a tuber propagated plant or plant found in an uncultivated state. The grant, which lasts for 20 years from the date of filing the application, protects the inventor's right to exclude others from asexually reproducing, selling, or using the plant so reproduced. This protection is limited to a plant in its ordinary meaning." (This definition is found at <http://www.usto.gov/web/offices/pac/plant/in dex.html#1>) Something more practical to add to the above is that a plant patent costs \$20,000.

The TRR organization cannot condone propagating patented roses as it is not ethical and frankly, not legal. We need to remember that the organization began with the purpose of perpetuating the old roses. Mike Shoup of

the Antique Rose Emporium made a good point; the Rose Rustlers have gradually evolved more toward educating gardeners and sharing information. Interestingly, Mike Shoup has chosen not to patent his new Pioneer Rose Series as he is still waiting for the test of time to see how these "young" roses perform. Not to mention, that patenting a rose is a real undertaking.

Of course, we are still thrilled to find an old rose in a cemetery, old homestead or receive a cutting from a friend. Always, our main purpose is to focus on keeping the old roses alive in our gardens for future generations.

David Austin roses are some that also have to be considered. The Antique Rose Emporium has to pay David Austin royalties on every cutting they take of these roses whether they root or not. Some of these are in the trademark category. Renee of Chamblee's commented that only licensed growers can propagate and sell roses under their patent or trademark name.

Don found a list of the patented roses at <http://fpms.ucdavis.edu/Rose/RosePatPermission.html> which was an eye-opener to me. I was about to get some cuttings of Brass Band from a friend, but found it on the list. Now I will instead buy one for my brother.

In reality, there are numerous old roses for collecting and sharing cuttings so let's concentrate on them.

Notes from Serenity Pond

by Patricia J. McCain

Found Roses



The Rose Rustlers began out of a small group of people interested in adding old roses to the History of Texas. They went everywhere, including old homesteads and cemeteries hunting for old roses. Today it has grown into a large group; members of wide diversity, who still wish to preserve and

propagate the old roses. They share roses and information freely.

In the beginning, when an old rose was found, but could not be immediately identified, it was given a study name. As the roses were identified, they were labeled with the correct name. A few have never been identified, so these roses still have their study name, therefore are classified as "Found Roses."

Rose Rustlers always have their eyes trained to find a rose wherever it may be growing. They find great joy in seeing a healthy rose in full bloom and they're anxious to share such information, even if it is one of a well-known name. In growing the old roses, it became clear that the antique roses survived because they were growing off their own roots (not grafted). The old roses proved to be less susceptible to disease, one of the reasons the old roses have become more popular with gardeners. So as the knowledge increased and the numbers of people involved increased, more and more of the roses were identified. We have a few very knowledgeable people among our Rose Rustlers who are experts for identifying roses.

Since it is the nature of Rose Rustlers to always be on alert, many are still searching today; hence roses are added to the found roses with their study names. It is of the utmost importance to remember that one must NEVER rustle a rose from private property without consent of the landowner. Anyone interested in roses may develop a desire to preserve old roses. Take for an example: Aunt Suzy passes away. You always admired a lovely rose she had growing in her garden. You want something to remember her by, so you take cuttings. With success in rooting the rose, it now grows in your garden. Through the rose you can treasure the memories of your beloved Aunt Suzy. Since you never knew the name of the rose, you may find you are referring to the rose as "Aunt Suzy's Rose." That label may remain until a time when someone may be able to properly

identify the rose. With the proper name attached, in your heart it will always bring memories of Aunt Suzy and the beautiful rose she had growing in her garden. That is also an example of the love affair between Rose Rustlers and their roses. One often hears "My Mother's Rose" or "My Grandmothers Rose" in explanation of a rose one may have growing in the focal point of their garden.

I have many roses growing here at Serenity Pond and each is tagged with their name so that family members and visitors can know the identity. On a few, both names are noted, the Found/Study Name as the rose had been known (because that was how I first knew the rose, before identified), and the proper identity name. However there are a few that I have not been able to identify as yet. The latest are the ones we found during the Spring Rose Rustle of 2004. Of the ones rooted, but not yet identified, the study names given were Oak Hill-Kemp and Elgin Latin Cemetery-Castillo. In this instance, the name of the Cemetery and the last name of the person at the gravesite were noted so as to know the location of where the rose was found.

Of course once roses are identified, they then can be purchased from the commercial market by their proper names. A few of the very old Found Roses, still unidentified, can also be purchased under their study names.

Have a rosy day!

***Thanks to SFA and Dr. Creech for accommodating the Texas Rose Rustlers in April. Dr. Creech, we enjoyed your talk.

***Thank you Matt Welch for speaking to us. Your companion plant list was great! Also we appreciate the warm welcome we received at Naconiche Gardens. Everything is looking wonderful.

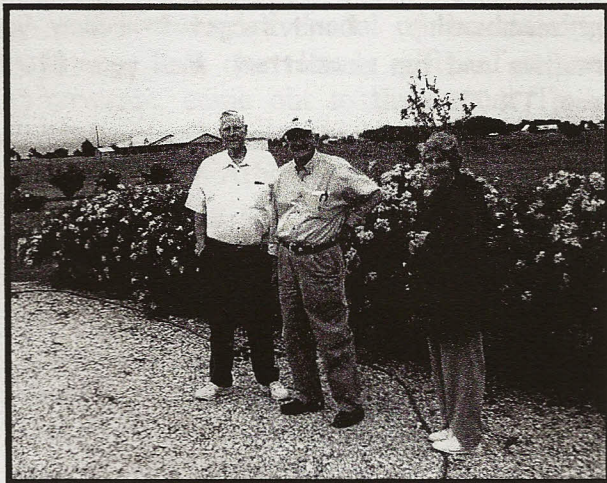


A unique sign for a unique nursery



Bloom Display at 2005 Symposium

In Remembrance of Mayo Idom



Left to right: Mayo Idom, Ray Ponton and Jane Miller

In Loving Memory...

This spring we lost two members of the Texas Rose Rustlers. One of our founding members, Ms. Pamela Puryear and Mr. Mayo Idom. They will be missed tremendously. On behalf of the members of the Texas Rose Rustlers, we offer our condolences to the families of the dearly departed.

Insert taken from Ms. Puryear's Obituary...

Pam was one of the original three founders of the "Texas Rose Rustlers" and is credited with locating heritage Texas roses given the names "Pam's Pink" and "Climbing Lady Pamela." Through her pioneering effort she helped collect in Navasota the "Martha Gonzalez," a semi-double red China rose, and in Anderson, the "Mary Minor," later identified as the "Souvenir de la Malmaison." Thomas Christopher's *In Search of Lost Roses* credits her with finding a 19th century Belgium specimen, "Marie van Houtte." He also describes how Pam carried an old cavalry saber while out rose hunting to ward off snakes. The New York Times reviewer of that book must have had Pam in mind when she writes: "What sticks in the mind...is stories he tells and the people he's met, researched, or gone to look for--the mad, passionate, wildly uncompromising people, fixed on a flower." Ken Druse in *The Collector's Garden* describes Pam as a passionate gardening extremist who turned a particular species of plant into a mission in life. Dr. William C. Welch in *Antique Roses for the South* generously recognizes her expertise and research skills in historical gardening, and includes a picture of her with close friend Greg Grant "rustling" cuttings of a "Canary Island Rose" in San Antonio during the mid-1980's. Recognized for her rosarian skills, Pam was one of the official judges sponsored by a major corporation to identify and award a prize for the "genuine" San Antonio rose. Roses were not her only horticultural discoveries.



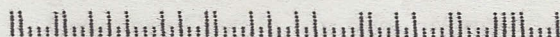
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