



# The Old Texas Rose

Number 2

Spring 2004

[www.texas-rose-rustler.com](http://www.texas-rose-rustler.com)

## THANKS!!!

The rose pruning clinic was a joy for us to host this year, and we can't thank the participants enough for their help in tackling our annual trimming of the roses. It is always amazing to get together with our Rose Rustler friends and to meet new people as crazy (or possibly crazier) about the old roses as we are.

We always get such a kick out of visiting the homes and gardens of our fellow Rustlers, and this time we were so pleased to get to share ours with all of you. The weather might have been a bit cool and damp but that didn't slow any of us down.

If you happen to be in our area in the spring and summer, we would love to have you drop by to see the roses in all their splendor. Your work will help them reach their potential.

We look forward to seeing each of you at the next TRR outing. Again many thanks for your help.

~Phyllis and Faith

## Spring Symposium 2004

Paige, TX

April 24<sup>th</sup> 10:00-4:00

Our Program Chairman, Doana Fite and Co-Chairman, Ursula White, along with the help of Linda and Tom Mieke, have been busy these past few months working out the details for the 2004 Spring Symposium. From all the chatting going around by email, it sure sounds like it'll be a great one!

This year our Symposium will be held in the town of Paige, TX, which is located right off US 290 about 45 minutes east of Austin. We will gather at the Paige Community Hall. Please see p. 7 for a complete schedule of the symposium. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Ramada Limited in Giddings, TX located at 4002 East Austin, (right off Highway 290). A group discount will be \$47 for 2 people, per room. Sunday, we will gather again and visit a couple of nurseries and yes of course, lunch! Don't miss out on this one!



## Notes from the Editor...



Howdy Rustlers! With all the cloudy, rainy days we've had here in the past month, my roses aren't sure what they're supposed to be doing. They have put out new growth, but no blooms yet. However, I do have a confession to make; "Forgive me Rose God, for I have sinned ... it's been six months since I last pruned or fed my roses!" I hope they realize how busy I've been with moving into our new home and that I will be forgiven.

Yes, you read correctly, we finally moved into our new home on January 12<sup>th</sup>. We are settling in and couldn't be more pleased with the outcome of the house. And we have so much room now!

I waited until March 1<sup>st</sup> to start landscaping. I started in the front, directly in front of our 52 ft. x 6 ½ ft. porch. Since we have mostly shade up front, I've planted shrubbery, including gardenias, Bridal's Wreath and Butterfly Iris. On the southwest side of the house is where my rose garden will go (or start!). I've planted a **Vincent Godsif**, a **Katy Road Pink** and a **Natchez** (white) **Crape Myrtle** so far. I want to take my time with the selection of the roses I will use. This self-discipline I am portraying with the planning of my gardens is new for me. It feels good to actually have some self control. I'm usually so hasty with my planting, that I spend the next five years moving plants around, trying to find that perfect spot. But that's the pleasure of gardening, right? Hmm...maybe I'll rethink this new found self control...tomorrow I may have to sneak off to the Antique Rose Emporium...

The roses I planted last fall all survived the winter. They're *almost* taller than the weeds! I didn't have any doubts about their survival, but they were all recent cuttings in one gallon pots, so it was risky. I only hand watered them once, right after planting, from that point on, they were on their own. Last week. So it just goes to show you; when in doubt, plant antique roses. If they can take my harsh abuse and neglect, they're definitely keepers!

~Candy

## Candy's Survival List

If anyone is interested about what roses I had planted in this bed, here's a list:

<b>Old Blush</b> (of course!)	(4)
<b>Maggie</b>	(2)
<b>Caldwell Pink</b>	(6)
<b>Knockout</b> (shhh...yes I rooted it!)	(4)
<b>Gartendirektor Otto Linne</b>	(1)
<b>Mrs. B.R. Cant</b>	(1)
<b>General Scablikine</b>	(1)
<b>Chireno</b>	(1)

I'll say once again, these were planted, watered in and left alone. The **Maggies'** and **Old Blush** were donated by Lynn Betts and the **General Schablikine** and **Chireno** were donated by Robert Stiba and Ray Ponton. I really appreciate your contributions to my rose collection!

## Did You Know???

\*That our board positions are up for re-election this fall? A list of positions that will be available will be posted in the summer newsletter. Trust me when I say it's not a hard job to be on the Texas Rose Rustler Board. We're just a bunch of rose nuts, banded together, trying to make the TRR the best that it can be. No politics here, we'll save that for the government.

\*That the Mercer Arboretum February Pruning Clinic was cancelled due to weather. I know it's a little late for the announcement. I apologize if anyone made the unnecessary trip out there. I informed everyone I had email addresses for and asked those members to forward the message on to others.

## Mark Your Calendars

<b>April 24-25, 2004</b>	TRR Spring Symposium Paige, TX
<b>July 24, 2004</b>	TRR Summer Rookie Meeting—Mercer Arboretum, Humble, TX
<b>October 9, 2004</b>	TRR Fall Cutting Exchange Tentative location: Victoria, TX



## **GIVE AND TAKE**

by Faith Bickley

Ready for a new column in the TRR newsletter? I imagine all of us hear or read about plants that we really would like to add to our gardens to augment our wonderful roses. I just know that someone out there has an overabundance of a plant that one of us would love to "adopt". It kills my soul to divide a plant and have no one to share the extras. Well, now we are going to try out a column so that you can "give" away your extras and "take" (request) plants that you really want. This column will evolve by trial and error so be patient if the initial processes are a bit rough or in transition.

The way this will work is that you will e-mail me with a list of plants you are looking for or plants that you have to share. The information you send me will be posted in the next newsletter along with your e-mail address. At this point, it will be up to the two individuals to arrange for the exchange (possibly at the next meeting). A secondary plus for this would be more interchange among the members. I also would like to hear about the successes as writing of these might get others involved. Supplies of the "gives" may be limited, so respond quickly. So here we go:

### **GIVE**

Faith Bickley--([bickley@wcnet.net](mailto:bickley@wcnet.net))  
Butterfly iris, root beer plant

Joy Hairston--([hairston@wcnet.net](mailto:hairston@wcnet.net))  
Bulbine (yellow), Pidgeonberry,  
Australian violet, Russellia (red,  
Cream, coral, maroon)

Audrey McMurray--([jamac80@yahoo.com](mailto:jamac80@yahoo.com))  
Cashmere Bouquet (*Clerodendrum bungeii*)

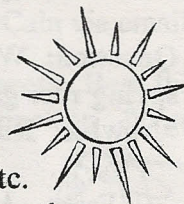
### **TAKE**

Faith Bickley--([bickley@wcnet.net](mailto:bickley@wcnet.net))

Common white bearded iris, bearded iris for  
the Houston area

Joy Hairston--([hairston@wcnet.net](mailto:hairston@wcnet.net))  
Chinese photinia (not Red Tipped or Fraziers),  
Diascia 'Red Ace'

## **Notes from Serenity Pond.....One Day's Blunder** by Patricia J. McCain



There is a lot of talk about how to root roses: How one should take cuttings, what kind of soil to use and what method to use, etc. Most of us follow what our grandmothers taught us, some from our own experiences, or learned from fellow Rose Rustler members. No matter what method one uses, there is one more very important thing to be considered. Light!

If the cuttings are put in too much sun they may burn. If they are put in too shady a condition, they will turn black at the soil level and rot. Most of us do not have the advantage of a perfectly controlled green house. So it is most important to be concerned with the amount of light. I have put pots in various places, experiencing different results. I have found that in fact, too little light can cause more problems than the direct sun. But a "hot" sun can burn them in a day's time.

That happened to me this past fall. The temperatures were not too high. Some of the days were cloudy. So I had placed all pots with rooting plants, out in the direct light to be sure they would not rot. That worked well for a number of days. Then we traveled one weekend and on the day we left, the sun came out in high temperature. Yes, that one day's blunder cost me most all the plants. That happened simply because I was not there to move them. I had thought of moving them before leaving, and then decided against it. Those that had rooted were unharmed, but those without roots died.

Finding enough light and yet protecting the plants from the burning sun is not always easy. I have noticed if I place the pots up on a porch edge to protect from a freeze, the light is restricted at the soil level. Hence the rot begins. If I use the peat pots and plastic bags, then hang where they cannot get enough light, once again the rotting begins. It is a juggling act. That is why if I have enough cuttings, I will put some directly in the ground as well. It is amazing how one year most of the potted ones will make it. Another year, only the ones in the ground will have the highest survival rate. It is obvious it is not always in my hands; nature has control. One thing is for sure; a single day in the hot, direct sun can kill.



## Spring tips from TRR Vets

**Question: What is your favorite spring rose gardening tip for "Newbie" Rustlers?**



From Audrey McMurray:

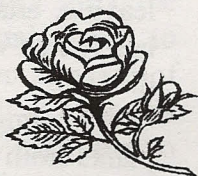
Loosen the soil around your roses with a pitchfork/garden fork or with a spade if you do not have a garden fork. This will help aerate the soil and break up little feeder roots which will encourage new feeder roots to grow. Water with Witches Brew or Super Thrive+Medina.

From Frances Brandes: Get the Ortho Garden Book. It is only \$6.00 or \$7.00 and is a good basic garden bible to start out gardening. Follow it. Feed on April 1 with a good basic fertilizer like 10-10-10 or 13-13-13 and again on May 1 and then don't feed any more.

From Ursula White: (my personal favorite tip): Nothing. They will take care of themselves this time of year. But then she adds that she will give them some Witches Brew, and maybe throw out some fresh mulch. Ursula likes cedar mulch. It's the best she says, but expensive. Read in a garden magazine: Work Epsom salts into the base of roses, hibiscus and other bloomers as a source of nutrients. I did. We'll see.

\*\*\*No one else responded to the question. Probably they were all out playing in their gardens!

*May Your Spring Be  
Bloomey!!!*



**Rose Wrestling by  
Doana Fite**



My daughter-in-Law loves Mermaid. I have always been fascinated by her attraction to the rose giantess. Candy first saw Mermaid at Bobbie McKenna's garden about six years ago. Maybe it was the large, white bloom

that resembles a fried egg. Maybe it was the sheer power, strength and vigor of this rose. Whatever it was, Mermaid touched a cord in her heart and surely stole it.

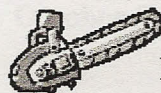
Candy planted a healthy Rose Emporium two gallon Mermaid, in a long 35 foot bed that she and Jesse prepared. The bed was located on the south side of the chain link fence that bordered the dog kennel. She planted Mermaid front and center. Candy used to often say she likes instant gratification from her plants. If she couldn't wait for a propagated cutting to root and flourish, she would just buy the rose.

The first year Mermaid was blooming with wild abundance. She displayed round after round of beautiful glory. The plants around her painted color under her arching canes. We could sit in Candy's den and see the wind rustle her full deep green body and we were always drawn outside to see her more closely. Scent? I don't remember, you'll have to ask Candy. I only remember the size and the amazing ability to grow and bloom.

By the second year, the plants under foot had become a nuisance. She tangled them up and overpowered their area of the turf. Well, actually she stomped them. She bloomed. Forty, sixty, eighty, hundreds of blooms. She never stopped. She was wide now. Eight foot tall and just as wide. Candy pruned her back like a good owner grooms a matted dog. She weaved her long canes in and out through the chain link. She cut out dead wood, shaped her. Tried to set boundaries. She shored up the companions in the corners. She moved the other rose companions which she had defeated. Mermaid detected the new openings and soon took over the space.

By year two and a half, Mermaid covered two thirds of the bed. Twenty feet sounds like an exaggeration, but I was there. I saw it. I pruned it.

By year three, Candy needed help with Mermaid. Deadheading was out of the question, as was cleaning out dead wood. Jesse sometimes went near her with the chainsaw buzzing. Candy said, "No, I've got her under control."



The blooms were incredible. When Mermaid bloomed, she BLOOMED!

Then a storm blew in, maybe a tropical storm, I don't remember. Katy, TX is famous for the little twisters that form where the



cold northern air meets the Gulf wind, on a line that cut just about the middle of Candy's back yard. Mermaid, well anchored in a well-mulched bed, never rocked, but the wind lifted her limbs, swirled her about and threw her back down in a tangled mess. But not on the fence. She was laying over in the yard, well, like nothing we had ever seen. A slumped mass of wicked thorns.

Candy and I got an idea. We tied her larger canes with rope and tried pulling her back onto the fence. We pulled. We wrestled. We tugged, she tugged. No such luck. Jesse then brought out his high lift jack to hoist her back over onto the fence. Slowly we forced her back up onto the fence, but she was too punch drunk, too heavy to stay up.

Weight is what we needed. We grabbed one of Jesse's 55lb. weights and his weight belt. We secured the weight belt to the rope and then looped it around the weight itself. We let go of the weight to see who would win the fight. Mermaid tried with all her might to fall back over, but finally lost the wrestling match. Suspended about 4 feet above the ground, tied to Mermaid's main canes, the 55 lb. danced and swayed. She was stabilized. She was up!

Exhausted, we licked our wounds and dragged ourselves inside. We were confident that Mermaid would grab that fence by the jugular vein in no time and hold on tight.

When Candy moved a year later, we retrieved the weight from the kennel. A souvenir. Mermaid was full, filling the bed almost to its entirety. She had become like an umbrella over the dog kennel. How glorious to have all the room you need to grow, a good fence to support you and a good woman to tame you. Mermaid was blooming her beautiful best as a final farewell in September.

The belt? Well, I'm not sure. But Mermaid might still be wearing it. After all, "wrestling" champions do get to wear the belt, don't they???



\*\*\*Yes, Rustlers it's Mosquito time! Here are some tips to rid yourself, loved ones and your critters too, of those pesky little blood suckers.



## Ways to Ward off Mosquitoes!

Sent in by TRR member Pat McCain via email.

\*Use Bounce Fabric Softener Sheets...Best thing ever used in Louisiana...just wipe on & go...  
**Great for Babies.**



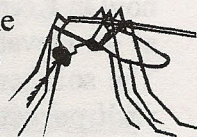
\*Bob, a fisherman, takes one vitamin B-1 tablet a day April through October. He said it works. He was right. The odor the tablet gives out through your skin (YOU can not smell it) repels mosquitoes, black flies, no seeums, and knats. It does not work on stinging insects. Hasn't had a mosquito bite in 33 years. Try it. Every one he has talked into trying it works on them. Vitamin B-1 (Thiamine Hydrochloride 100 mg.)

\*Kenn said NPR reports that if you eat bananas, the mosquitoes like you, something about the banana oil as your body processes it. (Maybe they need the potassium too.) Stop eating bananas for the summer and the mosquitoes will be much less interested.



\*This is going to floor you, but one of the best insect repellents someone found (who is in the woods every day), is Vick's Vaporub.

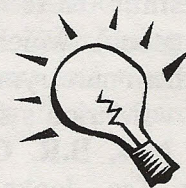
\*Plant marigolds around the yard, the flowers give off a smell that bugs do not like, so plant some in that garden also to help ward off bugs without using insecticides.



\*"Tough guy" Marines who spend a great deal of time "camping out" say that the very best mosquito repellent you can use is Avon Skin-So-Soft bath oil mixed about half and half with alcohol.

\*Mix your own:

- 20 drops Eucalyptus oil
- 20 drops Cedar wood oil
- 10 drops Tea Tree oil
- 10 drops Geranium oil
- 2 oz. carrier oil ( such as Jojoba )



Mix together in a 4 oz. container. Apply to skin as needed avoiding the eye area. Keep out of reach of children. Test on a small area of skin for sensitivities. Experiment with different percentages of essential oil.



\*From Sharon: One of the best natural insect repellents that I've discovered is made from the clear real vanilla (not the grocery store vanilla extract which is mostly alcohol). This is the pure vanilla that is sold in Mexico. It's cheap there if you know of someone that lives there or in the US close to the border. If not, health food stores usually carry it or can order it for you. I use it half vanilla and half water and find that it works great for mosquitoes and ticks, don't know about other insects. When all else fails--get a frog!



\*\*\*Veteran Rustlers, Marion and Frances Brandes are extending an invitation to us to visit their gardens on May 11<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions or need directions, please contact Frances by email.

### Growing Roses in the Hill Country by Frances Brandes

Marion and I have been growing modern and old-fashioned roses for about 16 years. When we lived in Houston, Marion had to deal with heavy clay soil that roses seem to love. Meanwhile, we are now in Kerrville, one hour from San Antonio, live at an elevation of 1900 ft. and have little soil. The soil here is alkaline (caliche and sandy loam with pocket of soil) once in awhile. The better soils seem to be in the valleys, along creeks or rivers. Since our soil is much like China, we grow the Teas, Chinas, Noisettes and Species very well. The species that grow well here are: **Cherokee**, **McCartney Rose**, **Lady Banks (lutea & alba)**, **Odorata** (rootstock, also known as **Texas Wax**), **Chestnut Rose (R. roxburgii)**, **Fortuniana** (rootstock), which is used in grafting by many southern nurserymen.

Marion's five favorite roses to grow here are: **Mrs. B.R. Cant** (1901), a very large, silvery pink Tea, looks good as a specimen, some fragrance. **Bon Silene** (1835), a huge Tea, 11 feet at our house! It blooms heavily all year, pink blooms, slight fragrance. **Marie Van Houtte** (1871), another huge Tea that has creamy blooms edged in violet and has purple canes year round. It has a true "tea" fragrance. **Mutabilis** (the **Butterfly Rose**, date unknown), has three colors

on the same bush; soft apricot, pink and cerise. It makes a great hedge or specimen. **Reve d'Or** (1869), is a Noisette, with a heavy fragrance. Its apricot blooms are heavy in the spring with a good flush again in the fall. It is easily trained upright on a pole, espalier, arbor or trellis. The canes are pliable and easily trainable.

Here are the differences between the three classes we grow well here in the Hill Country. **Teas**: Do not confuse with Hybrid-Teas. These roses were bred throughout the 1800's up until WWI. They make large shrubs with narrow canes that branch in many directions. A Tea's flower is medium sized, usually double, sometimes very full, mostly soft, pastel colors. The leaves are thick, glossy and very healthy. A Tea blooms throughout the growing season in flushes - they will re-bloom after dead-heading spent blooms or hips form. Fragrance is rarely strong, but some have the "tea" fragrance. Class derived from France when the ever-blooming roses were brought from China.



**Chinas**: Are usually smaller than Teas, very shrubby with narrow leaves. Its branches are skinny and canes originate from the base of the plant as basal breaks. The flowers are usually in clusters and are aligned in a flat array with stems at narrow angles. The flowers are semi-double, but sometimes single. The most common colors in this class are rich reds.

**Noisettes**: This class of rose is the only one developed in America (the only one among OGRs), contains mostly climbers. They began as a cross between a China and a Musk rose. As they were further developed, the early Noisettes were then crossed to Teas to develop the flowers into colors and doubleness of the Teas. They vary in frequency of bloom from spring to fall. Some Noisettes are ever blooming and have a greater range of fragrance than the Teas.

Marion is going to graft some of our favorite roses that need some vigor. He will use the **Fortuniana** root-stock that is nematode resistant and makes the grafted roses grow faster and stronger. He wants to try our darling **Tip-Top** (1909), a sweet Polyantha with three colors. It has flower that are canary yellow on the outside, creamy white on the inside, and tyrian rose edges. **Sophie's Perpetual** (1928), a red and pink blend



cupped flower, powerfully fragrant China that looks like hybrid bourbon to me. What do you think? Anyway to sum this up, the roses in these classes like the alkaline soil of the hills just like the country of China. We are having open gardens on Tuesday May 11, 2004 and again on Saturday, May 15, 2004. ([mbrandes@maverickbbs.com](mailto:mbrandes@maverickbbs.com))

\*\*\*By the way, I am wondering if anyone has **Cardinal Richelieu** rose in the area and if it does well for them? I think it's a Gallica, has a spectacular purple bloom. Please email Rustler, Allison Strong, if you have any information on this rose.

~Allison Strong ([moonbeam@txucom.net](mailto:moonbeam@txucom.net))

### Paige, TX Spring Symposium Line-up

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 9:30        | Greet / mingle / sign in  |
| 10:00       | 1 <sup>st</sup> Speaker, Deena Spellman, owner of Bastrop Gardens.                                |
| 10:45       | Break / Rose Lotto  |
| 11:00       | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Speaker, Ray Ponton, Texas Rose Rustler   |
| 11:45-12:00 | Rose Lotto  |
| 12:00       | Lunch! Sack lunch and feel free to bring a dessert to share.                                      |
| 1:00        | Audrey McMurray, Texas Rose Rustler, will talk about forming a TRR chapter in the Paige, TX area. |
| 2:00        | Rose Propagation Demo   |
| 2:30        | Clean up/ leave for cemetery tour   |
| 5:00        | Break for snack / soft drinks/?   |
| 5:30        | Visit Bastrop Gardens   |
| 6:30 -7:00  | Dinner  |



### **Around the State**

Horticultural groups interested in advertising their events in the Old Texas Rose are welcome to send in their advance notices with the understanding that we will include them only as time and space permit. Please include a contact number for our members to call or email if they have any questions. Rustlers are advised that The Texas Rose Rustlers are not responsible for these events and have no control over their activities, nor changes of time and venue.

### HRS Spring Rose Show & Bloom Sale

The Houston Rose Society will host its annual Spring Rose Show & Bloom Sale on Saturday, April 17, 2004. We are delighted to announce that this year's show will be held at Deerbrook Mall, located at the intersection of FM 1960 East and US Hwy 59 North in Kingwood (1 exit north of Houston's Intercontinental Airport). Deerbrook Mall, besides having excellent shopping and food establishments, provides exhibitor-friendly accommodations to our exhibitors, judges and show volunteers. If you need additional information, please give either me or Donald Burger (713/880-2000 & [burger@burger.com](mailto:burger@burger.com)) a call.

Gaye Hammond, Vice President  
Houston Rose Society ([gayeh@oqlaw.com](mailto:gayeh@oqlaw.com))

### 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Johnson County Lawn & Garden Show

The Johnson County Master Gardener Association would like to invite you to our 1st Annual Johnson County Lawn & Garden Show, Saturday May 8, 2004. 9:00 - 4:00, at the Cleburne Civic Center, 1501 W. Henderson (Bus. HWY 67) Cleburne TX. Tickets: \$3.00.

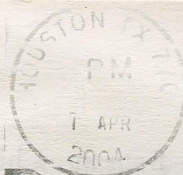
Our emphasis will be on "Gardening Texas Style" with specialized speakers and many local vendors that can answer your Texas gardening questions.

Pat Kriener, Johnson County Master Gardener  
Texas Cooperative Extension/Johnson County  
Ph: 817-556-6370 ([www.JCMGA.org](http://www.JCMGA.org))





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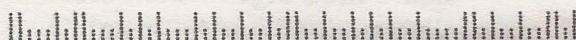


**First Class Mail**

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**Welcoming Committee** Faith Bickley and Phyllis DeGelleke

**TRR recorded message** 713-729-0785