

Number 1

Winter 2003

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

### Fall 2002 Cutting Exchange

For those of you who were able to attend the fall cutting exchange, we hope you had a wonderful time! The weekend started early Saturday morning at the plant sale which was held at Stephen F. Austin University. Shoppers scurried down the aisles as they scooped plants. They filled wagons, boxes and overloaded their arms with plants sold by the Arboretum. Then it was off to Kings...

Aubrey King and his family out did themselves, once again, by welcoming us with open arms! They had an entire table of refreshments and were the perfect hosts. Our cutting exchange was a huge success! Thanks to everyone who brought cuttings, I think we had more than plenty! Hopefully, everyone went home with a few. The enthusiasm portrayed by the newer members was quite invigorating! After we made a clean sweep of the cuttings, we had our rose lotto which I believe; we all went home with something. A big THANKS goes out to everyone who brought lotto plants.

Later that evening we all met for dinner. I don't know how anyone else feels, but we sure do eat a lot on our weekend excursions! We're going to give the impression to others that the two basic essentials of life for a Rustler are food and roses!

We ended our weekend with another visit to Greg Grant's home and gardens. His meticulously "swept" front yard, creative yard art, bed spring trellis and sugar cane seemed to be the highlights. After the tour of Greg's gardens, some of us stragglers relaxed on the front porch and engaged ourselves in what turned out to be some rather hilarious conversation!

The next time you see Shannon, give him a pat on the back for a job well done! He organized the weekend for the Rustlers. It seems they just keep getting better and better each time!





## From The Editor...



It's a new year. Out with the old and in with the new. This sure does ring true for my family. We moved to Brenham this past fall. It has been quite an experience for us all! The construction of our new home should begin soon. My husband and I have cleared most of the land, by hand. We have spread over 15 yards of gravel on our 400 ft. driveway with a wheel barrel and two shovels. Even though it was too much like work for me, I know we will always have a deep appreciation of our hard work. And we will treasure our future tractor as if it were made of gold!

I am looking forward to the vegetable garden & roses I will plant this spring. The soil out here is beautiful! Funny how little things like soil, make me happy! Luckily, the neighbors are few and far between, so they won't see me playing in the dirt! I put in a few roses this past fall, I just couldn't help myself. The possibilities of future gardens are endless. We have over 3 acres to work with and needless to say, we have lots of work to do!

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. I am looking forward to this year's Rustler events and beginning my first full year as your editor. Please make a note of my new address and phone number on the back of this issue. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me. Remember, if you want to submit articles for the newsletter you can always email them to me at: [queenorosa@yahoo.com](mailto:queenorosa@yahoo.com) I format the newsletter in Microsoft Word. You can email them as an attachment, in the body of the email itself, send them by "snail mail" or even call me on the phone and narrate them! I welcome them all!

It will be time to fertilize your roses soon. I have included the famous, "Witch's Brew" in this issue. I have fed my roses with this recipe for the past four years and have had lots of success with it. Well folks, enjoy the rest of your cozy winter, because spring is just around the corner!

## Rose Rustler's New Year's Resolutions



1. I will not buy any new roses, while I still have some stuck in containers.
2. I will only take cuttings when I am in the mood to propagate.
3. Con't. # 2-- I will not let cuttings sit in the fridge past 1 week.
4. I will ask for permission when taking cuttings, (in case someone is watching!)
5. I will try to not build new rose beds, unless my others are full.
6. I will refuse to use systemic fertilizers.
7. I will avoid the huge, colorful & tempting blooms of the Hybrid Teas.
8. I promise not to leave my pruners out in the rain.
9. I promise never to "scalp" my roses in the spring.
10. I promise to teach someone new this year about the benefits of antique roses.

**Happy New Year!**



## Did you know???

\*Did you know that back in October Shannon Sherrod, our Program Chairman, was featured in the Southern Living Magazine? I have requested permission to reprint the article and have not heard back from them yet. Hopefully, I will be able to reprint it in the spring issue. Way to go Shannon!

**Your Editor has finally done it now...** I have crossed over that line and taken my first cuttings without permission! My youngest daughter and I visited a few local cemeteries yesterday. We found a large (7x7) rose planted atop of what appears to be a child's grave. It has grown up, over and around the "homemade" headstone that has fallen over. Although not blooming, it had bright red hips. I took a few pictures and cuttings and will check on it this spring, bring it a can of Witch's Brew and report my findings back to you in the spring issue. As I walked away, I whispered a silent thank you to the soul of which the rose belongs.



## ANOTHER YEAR HAS GONE

By Lucille Idom



Here it is, December 4, 2002. We had a nice rain today. We really needed it, especially before the weather gets too cold. There will probably be a light freeze tomorrow night but the roses usually come through OK. We have had typical Houston weather this fall -- summer, fall, winter and then a combination of the three in one week. Our roses don't know it is winter and are blooming so pretty. Our Sanguinea 'Wildfire' is just loaded. I would recommend this red rose for everyone, even beginners. It has single bright red blooms, is fragrant and blooms constantly. It grows into a large bush so you should have plenty of room when you plant it. Ours is 5x5 feet right now and will probably get taller. Some of the others that are blooming are Mutabilis, Compassion, Babylove, Baby Girl, Old Blush, White Pet, Abraham Darby, Celine Forestier, Dublin Bay, Fellenberg, Maggie, San Felipe Noisette, Archduke Charles, Eutin, Folksinger, Polonaise, Le Pectole, Marie Van Houtte, Perle D'Or, Tip Top and Valentine. The Yellow Jessamine bush has grown to 10 feet and blooms constantly. We also have a lot of perennial Salvias that are in bloom. The tall yellow Salvia is so pretty and goes well with a yellow Angel Trumpet tree nearby. The red Miniata and Indigo Spires Salvia are still showing off. I noticed Buff Beauty clusters peeking out of the climbing Aster planted with it. We have a rose pink double Sasanqua Camellia that blooms in November and December and matches the color of the climber, Parade, blooming along with the rose Mandevilla and white Mandevilla vines. We have one Clematis that blooms in the roses; we are trying to get some others established to see how well they do in Houston. The Shrimp plants are still full of blooms too. Another vine that does well here in the sun is the yellow Butterfly vine. We lost Darlow's Enigma rose but there is a tiny sprout coming out close by so we are hoping the sprout makes it through the winter. We also lost the beautiful Nur Mahal, a Hybrid Musk we grew on a post in back. If anyone has a rooted cutting and would consider some kind of trade, please get in touch with me at 713-453-1274 and let me know. We got our cutting at the former Peaceable Kingdom School. I noticed the

Larkspurs coming up in the beds last month. Larkspurs are beautiful with the roses in the spring. You can probably still plant the seed. Sweet Alyssum is another annual that does well along the edge of the rose bed. Now 2003 is almost here and we hope we have another lovely year of the roses and their companions.



### 'My love is like a blue, blue rose...'



I was recently sent an article by my Dad that he had found in the Chicago Tribune, written by Chris Fusco. The article was about how researchers are only a couple of years away from growing a true blue rose! A flower that has appeared only in literature, art, music and mythology. The researchers at Vanderbilt University say they've only been able to grow ones with blue spots. It all started in F. Peter Guengerich's biochemistry lab at Vanderbilt's School of Medicine. A researcher, Elizabeth Gillam, was re-creating a liver enzyme in bacteria when she saw it turn a deep, blue-jean blue. The tricky part will be of course to transfer the blue gene from the bacteria to the plant itself. They have taken a patent out on their discovery and hope to make the blue rose a reality within a couple of years. Will the standard colors for Valentine's Day now be red, white & blue?

### Treat Your Sweetheart



With the holiday eating binges over, the last thing we want is chocolate this year for Valentine's Day! On another note, fresh cut roses will only last for a couple of days. For the same cost or cheaper, you can have a rose bush delivered to your sweetheart's front door. Nurseries such as The Antique Rose Emporium & Teas Nursery will deliver live rose bushes. You can also contact your sweetheart's favorite nursery and have a gift certificate mailed to him or her. So this year indulge your Valentine with something that doesn't count in calories, but in beauty and will last them a lifetime!





## Our Next Event

### Spring Symposium

April 26, 2003



This year's spring meeting will be held in Boerne, TX at Peaceful Habitations. Peaceful Habitations is a wonderful nursery owned by our webmaster, Joe Cooper. Not only is it a nursery, it is an exhibit rose garden, with acres of plantings. The spring meeting will be somewhat different this year. We will meet at Peaceful Habitations around 1:00 p.m., giving out-of-towners time for travel. We will have Joe Cooper speak for us and take a tour of his gardens. Please put on your best manners and use good Rustler etiquette. **BEWARE: PLEASE LEAVE YOUR CLIPPERS IN YOUR VEHICLE!** (We would also like to be invited back!) There will be lotto rose drawings, so bring those rooted cuttings! For those of you who want to spend the night, a few of us are booking rooms at the Holiday Inn in Boerne; their phone number is (830) 249-6800. On Sunday, we will carpool to San Antonio to see the famous "Flores Street House Eater", the incredibly huge rose consuming a house, Joe has found. It will be a fun-filled event, so mark it on your calendars! We will have more details in the spring newsletter that will hopefully be in your hands no later than mid March.



### Program Chairman Changeover

At the Board Meeting following the fall Cutting Exchange in October, Shannon Sherrod announced that he would be unable to fulfill his term as Program Chairman. He did a fantastic job and he will be missed tremendously! Don't worry though, he'll still be around. Carolyn Feinstein and Doana Fite generously offered to take over the responsibilities for the remainder of the term. They will split the duties of Program Chairman. We are looking forward to the exciting programs they will plan for the future. "Welcome aboard" Carolyn and Doana!



### Almanac Dates

...from Blum's Farmer's and Planter's Almanac For The Year 2003

#### For rooting all cuttings:

Jan: 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30, 31

Feb: 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27

Mar: 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31

#### For transplanting rooted cuttings & potted roses:

Jan: 3, 4, 8, 9

Feb: 4, 5

Mar: 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9

#### Pruning for increased blooming:

Jan: 25, 26, 27

Feb: 22, 23, 26, 27

Mar: 20, 21, 29, 30, 31

*\*Winter is a great time to plan, clean gardening tools and flower beds, prune and fertilize. You can still transplant roses from one area to another at this time. Prune for shape, bloom & health in Feb. Fertilize with your choice also in Feb.*



### Rose Clinic

Feb. 1, 2003

8:00 to 12:00



Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens will be having their annual rose clinic on 2/1/03. They have invited the Rustlers to come out and join them and the public for an informative, hands-on demonstration on the care and pruning of roses.

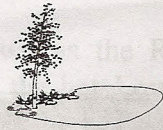
The Rose Rustlers will do a propagation demonstration and pass out literature about our group. If you would like to join us, come on out!

Mercer Arboretum is located at 22306 Aldine Westfield, one mile north of 1960. For more information you can call Mercer at 281-443-8731.

**Hope to see ya'll there!**



## Notes from Serenity Pond



Patricia J. McCain

The first thing of importance I must write about is concerning "Grits and Fire-ants". In my last article I expressed how very pleased I was to learn that grits would kill fire ants. I began using it and the ants were disappearing. Soon, however, I began to notice a difference, as the ants were moving away from the grits, also in apparent good health. Not much more time went by when I noticed they didn't bother to move anymore, they just threw the grits out and to the side. Other native ants stopped taking the grits, pushing them to the side all around their holes in the earth. What a disappointment! I learned something: not to write about anything I have not experienced for a long time.

### The English Still Love their Roses

On June 6, 2002, at 8:10a.m. I arrived at the Manchester, England airport. My friends, Anna and Bret Holland, met me there. Having arrived in typical English weather, drizzle and rain, the drive to their home in Hambleton was as one might expect, slow and cautious. Now the unbelievable part is that it did not rain again for the week I was there, until the day I left. I left by train in Manchester, in a chilling rain.

I had forgotten what it was like to live where it rains and rains often. The gardens were spectacular and blooms were brilliant. Roses with companion plants were huge. That is, the blooms of the roses were huge, while the plants were not as leggy as here in Kurten, TX., more delicate (well, that is not the right word - maybe not so thick, woody) and fuller in leafing. Plants there can be planted close together and nestled up against each other, even overlapping. I have many wonderful pictures, but since here they will show up as black and white, it cannot do justice.

Many times we took leisure walks around their neighborhood. I, with camera, could be seen ducking about, peeping up driveways, and from behind trees that are circled with gardens. My hostess continued to walk in a straight line down the sidewalk. Could it be due to being bored? NO! In embarrassment for the crazy American loose in the

neighborhood! And a Texan at that, so really brazen! One just does not do that sort of thing in England.

Later discussing my strange behavior to her husband, some relief seemed to come with laughing as it occurred to them neighbors would think I was a Judge. Every June there is a contest for the most beautiful garden. They were convinced that each homeowner who saw me photographing their gardens would think they were the winners. Anna told Bret that soon there would be a lot of disappointed people. She was once again hoping no one saw her.

One sunny day we went to downtown Hambleton to do a little shopping. Wonderful rose gardens circled the trees in raised flowerbed of stonewalls. There were numerous little gardens in the center of the shopping area. Benches placed facing the gardens were in use, so I did not go unnoticed with "click, click, click". Patrons walking down the street, in and out of shops did not turn their heads, not wanting to appear that they might be watching me. But I knew and Anna knew - they saw me! I kept saying, "But they should be proud I am enjoying all the gardens".

Walking around the Yacht Club of Hambleton, I could see blooms on the small flowers that had embedded their roots in ancient stonewalls. I could enjoy the beautiful wildflowers with poppies being the most dramatic. England still has their very, very old combined with the most modern, fields and banks covered with lovely blooming wildflowers, next to lovely formal gardens.

The English definitely still have a great love for their roses. Even the Home for Old Folks in the small village of Hambleton had a yellow climbing rose in full bloom. Everywhere flowers could brighten the lowest of spirits, from large estate homes, to middle class neighborhoods, to the poorest homes.

That is with one exception. I pondered if I should add this to the article, but since it impacted me, I have chosen to do so. One small house, a first time owner type home, on a short street in a very small village about 20 minutes from Hambleton was not brightened by flowers, nor anything else.

Anna parked around the corner and walked me down the street. The left side of the street was so very cheery with flowers planted in front yards and blooming flowers filled window boxes.



On the right side, however, one house in the center of the block had a very different appearance - one of darkness and gloom. I was immediately glad we were walking on the left side. I started at the house, and then mentally I picked things apart.



How did this house differ from the others? It had fresh paint, many blooming flowers, but the darkness engulfed the entire lot. I gasped, turned to Anna and commented that the place had a bad "entity", a very bad one!

She had purposely taken me there to see if I could see or sense such a thing, as she thought me to be sensitive to such things. I stopped and refused to go any closer. I did not take any pictures, as I did not want to risk taking the tiniest amount of EVIL with me.

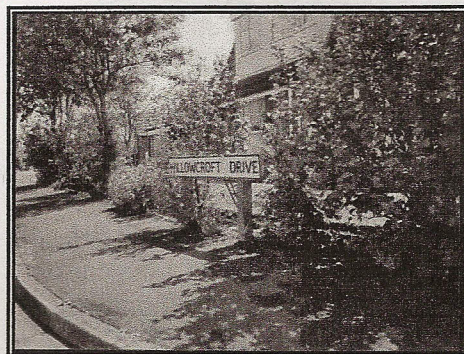
As we drove home, she told me the story. That house had been their first home that they purchased when first married. It was not long before she became aware of an entity, a very evil spirit. They tried everything to get rid of it, which only made the situation worse. So her husband bought another house, moving them before the house had been sold. It was DARK to me, I could see that all the new paint and flowers, but that did not change our perception. The house was for sale again.

Now at home, I do miss hanging baskets, the variety of plants, plus the fullness of the flower gardens. However, I had made the decision to remain in Texas and made my permanent home here, therefore facing the challenge of gardening in the extreme heat, little rain, and where the earth is full of destructive insects!!!!

Each street sign in Hambleton has a wooden sign with painted letters, surrounded by blooming flowers, many roses. So I am enclosing a picture of the sign for Anna and Bret's street. The name of their home is "Merrywinds". I cannot walk you down that street, but I did want to give you a glimpse.

In my next article I will share the lovely old town of Shrewsbury.

Have a rosie day!



The Street where Anna and Bret live



The English rose growing over the sign



## Fascinating Roses

This next article was sent to me by Rose Rustler, Sandra Smith of Houston. I thought it was fascinating and I included a picture of this gigantic rose. (Check out the trunk size!)

The world's largest rose bush first received its title in 1937 when Robert Ripley of the famous "Ripley's Believe It or Not" visited Tombstone, Arizona, and later was included in the Guinness Book of World Records. Lady Banksia attracts thousands of tourists annually between March and April when it flourishes with clusters of white roses supported by pipes and covers about 8,500 square feet. The fragrance is reported to not be overpowering, but can be smelled for several blocks.

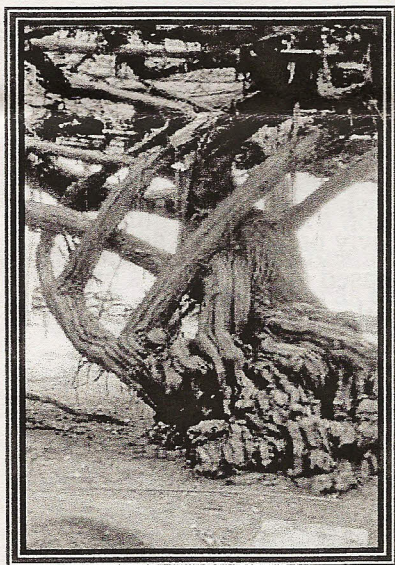
The Lady Banksia rose bush was originally sent from Scotland to Tombstone in 1885 as a gift to a young, homesick woman named Mary Gee, who was married to a mining engineer. While their home was being built, the Gees were living at the



Arcade Hotel, which is now known as the Rose Tree Inn Museum. Mary Gee and the hotel owner planted the rose bush cutting behind the hotel. The plant adapted well and spread over a nearby shed in only a few years.

Lady Banksia is resistant to disease and insects because it stabilizes once rooted. No fertilizers or special minerals are required. The current owners, Burton and Dorothy Devere, who are the 4<sup>th</sup> generation to care for the plant, water the bush and keep it trimmed of dead wood. During the summer, the plant is watered about once a week. The Deveres flood the plant with a slow stream of water for 12 hours so the ground can slowly absorb the moisture.

The museum takes cuttings from the rose bush throughout the year to sell in the gift shop. Approximately 25% of the cuttings will reproduce. Potpourri, made from the fallen white rose petals, is also sold at the museum.



On the internet the only picture I could find was this one of the trunk, which has a circumference of 13 ½ ft. I guess the thought of an aerial shot hasn't occurred to anyone yet! I also read that when in bloom in the spring, it has over 200,000 beautiful white blooms on it! What a sight to be seen! So if any of you folks, find yourselves anywhere near Arizona, take a day and visit the Rose Tree Museum in Tombstone!



\*\*\*A word of warning from your Editor\*\*\*

**This next article may contain explicit adult material. I believe in freedom of press and freedom of speech. Therefore, as you read the next article, keep in mind...I DIDN'T WRITE THIS ONE! (Okay, I will admit, I am guilty of locating the picture. You all know how much I like to include graphics!) Any desire to respond to this article, please email [jamac80@yahoo.com](mailto:jamac80@yahoo.com)**

## **Pull out Your Checkbooks, or Else!**

Audrey McMurray



How many of you remember back when Shannon Sherrod first took over the newsletter and joked about making his first newsletter a *bikini* issue? I asked him if he expected the bikinis to be on the rose bushes or the gardeners?! Well, folks, if you're still waiting for that issue, I hate to tell you but we've been *gazumped*. Now to make our mark, we'd have to do a lot better than bikinis, let me tell you. I just got a newsletter from the Lazy Gardener that talks about the First Men's Garden Club of Dallas gardening in the NUDE. Check out their website if you don't believe me: [www.dallasgardeners.org](http://www.dallasgardeners.org). (Brenda Smith said the very same thing...I couldn't believe it, I did check out the site, and yes, unless that big sign of theirs is hiding a bunch of gents in bathing suits, they look pretty unencumbered.) Holey moley, when we see articles



that teasingly talk about sex in the garden, it's usually about pollinating squash plants! If nothing else, the First Men's Garden Club of Dallas' efforts are proof positive that gardening is not a boring hobby. They have made a calendar, presumably of these fellows hoeing, tilling, pruning, etc. in the buff, as a fund-raiser. My hat is off to them...but that's all. If we want to raise funds, fellow Rustlers, start baking. Design T-shirts. Raise cuttings for a plant sale. But take off our...no way. Unless of course you are into extortion. Now that's worth pursuing. How about if we put out the word that we're going to get our plumpest Rustlers, male and female, to also do a calendar, serve coffee at our events, and pose for drink mugs – I'll volunteer to emcee! – UNLESS we start getting in donations? I don't know about you, but I'd write a check for donation that very day.

Well, it's just food for thought. I'm here to serve, so let me know what you think. In the meantime, I'm going to consider donating to the First Men's Garden Club of Dallas (no calendar, please - I have children at home). Anyone who is willing to, in the buff, prune a bush that has *thorns*, must be pretty desperate for money. -Your fully-clothed Chairman





Hope all of your holidays were great. Mine was good, for one thing I got enough coffee to last into the next century. One of the good presents I received was a pair of rose gloves. They were put to good use by trimming down the Puerto Rico and Mrs. B.R. Cant roses in front of the house. Those two are very hardy—they have had to be cut back three or four times this year. Puerto Rico is a beautiful rose. She is creamy white with a hint of apricot-pink.



Now a little history on roses...roses have existed on earth longer than man, as is shown by fossils over thirty million years old. One is in the collection in a Montana museum. Excavations in Crete also uncovered rose-bedecked vessels and jewelry. In Roman times, gentlemen required roses by the tons to adorn tombs and to cover tables and floors at banquets. Slaves were decorated with roses to serve food to nobles, who consumed rose pudding, rose honey, rose vinegar and who then washed themselves in rosewater. So important were the roses that fertile fields were converted from olive groves and food in order to grow roses. Flowers were forced to bloom out of season by hot water pipes in special rooms or heated by tubs filled with hot water. These were the beginnings of the modern-day greenhouse. Nero was said to have drilled holes in the ceiling of his palace to rain petals down on his guests as they ate. Some even suffocated. The cost of this was equal to about \$220,000 a meal—a fortune in that time and this time both! How do I know all of these bits? I bought myself a present this holiday too: The Life and Times of The Rose by Fleur Cowles. It is full of the history of old roses. Next time I will tell you more interesting facts from this book. Before I go, I would like to ask if anyone has heard of a St. David rose? I got the cutting at the last Cutting Exchange in Teneha. I would like to know what it looks like and how it grows. All I know so far is that it's growing fast! My email is down and Audrey McMurray has agreed to print out mail for me until I am back on-line. Her email address is [jamac80@yahoo.com](mailto:jamac80@yahoo.com)



## Is Your Soil Verklemt? Try Some Witch's Brew!

Audrey McMurray

(Reprinted by request)

Here's the most common question I'm asked by gardeners who regularly spray liquid fertilizer on their roses... "I've been doing this for years and my garden has been great! My roses were never without blooms! So why is everything suddenly dying now?"

It could be that your garden is *verklemt* – all choked up. Liquid fertilizer has phosphate in it and if you remember from high school chemistry, phosphate is a molecule that will bind to just about anything. In the soil, over time, it will bind to the nutrients that your plants need to thrive and will render some of them incapable of being used by the plant.

The first thing you need to do then, is to stop using the liquid fertilizer. A spring and a fall application is about all that is needed for that stuff and really, if your soil is healthy the plants are going to bloom anyway. All roses will bloom in the spring and if they are repeat bloomers, they'll bloom whenever they feel that reproductive urge! It takes a lot out of a plant to reproduce so why stress it by forcing it to bloom without a rest?

The second thing you need to do is to put back nutrients into the soil now, while you are waiting for those bound ones to slowly break down again. Here is a wonderful "tea" based on the witch's brew Auntie Lotte, a veteran Rustler, published a few years ago in the Old Texas Rose. Apply this every spring and fall and your plants will LOVE you.

In a knee-high garbage can put:

- 4 chimpanzees\* of Medina, any variety
- 1 chimpanzee of SuperThrive
- 2 chimpanzees of fish emulsion, liquid if you can find it
- 1 cup of Epsom salts
- 2 cups of manure or 4 cups of manure/ humus mix
- 2 cups of alfalfa, pellets or meal – it doesn't matter

\*Start pouring and say, "One-chimpanzee, two-chimpanzee, three-chimpanzee..."

Mix well. You can put a small coffee can's worth at the drip line, (where most of





the branches end) right away, but most Rustlers let the mixture sit for a couple of days. Two days in the Texas sun makes it smell like something crawled in the wall and died. That's how we know it's ready. Be sure to water the mixture in after applying. You can be a good neighbor and go outside with your small coffee can at night, if you want, and the smell will be gone by morning. Hopefully.

### Review of "The 2003 Lazy Gardener's Calendar"

compiled by Brenda Beust Smith, the Houston Chronicle's "Lazy Gardener" columnist.



I just received the latest copy of the Lazy Gardener calendar and a review of it is long overdue! This is the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of Brenda's calendar, which is packed full of gardening tips and hundreds of area horticulture events.

Every year when I get my annual Lazy Gardener calendar, I sit down the very first night and read it from cover to cover! It offers a wealth of information such as: daily gardening tips, plant society shows & sales, workshops, classes, gardening events and a horticulture directory for the Houston/ Galveston/Beaumont areas. It not only lists events in these areas but also events in Navasota, Independence, Nacogdoches and Round Top.

The Lazy Gardener's Motto: *If you have a plant with unacceptable levels of insect or disease damage, don't treat! Replace it with a plant that doesn't have unacceptable levels of insect or disease damage in your area.*

You can find your own calendar at some of your better nurseries. They can be mail-ordered for \$11.50 (price includes all postage fees & tax). Make checks payable to River Bend Company and mail to: 2003 Lazy Gardener's Calendar, 9039 Katy Freeway, Suite 502, Houston, TX 77024. Buy your copy today and I guarantee you won't be disappointed! They also make terrific gifts for your friends or loved ones!

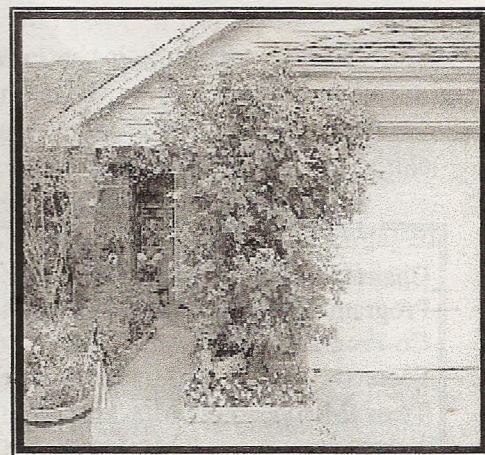
\*\*\*Remember to check to see if your annual membership is due. Look on your address label for the expiration. If your label is highlighted-this will be your last issue! Please mail your checks to our Treasurer/Membership:

\$10.00/ annually  
Gladys Cronquist  
9730 Harrowgate  
Houston, TX 77031

### Everyone Will Want The Shirt Off Your Back!

Does anyone remember the t-shirt I made a couple of years back? It had a picture of an antique rose on the front with, "You Know You're a Rose Rustler If...", and then on the back it listed ten funny descriptions of being a Rose Rustler. They were written by our Program Chairman, Shannon Sherrod. Well I'll admit, I have no future in the t-shirt designing business, but I have a contact that will print them for us. The cost would depend on how much print we had on the shirt. I have estimated that it will be anywhere from \$12.00-\$15.00 per shirt. I would like to have some made up and sell them as a fundraiser for the Rose Rustlers. (No posing in the nude for this Rustler!) The money would go towards things like, honorariums for speakers or speaker gifts, meeting rooms and refreshment expenses. The t-shirt would be a light color, like white or beige with black lettering. The picture of the rose will be in color. I'd love your feedback on this idea! Email me at: [queenorosa@yahoo.com](mailto:queenorosa@yahoo.com)

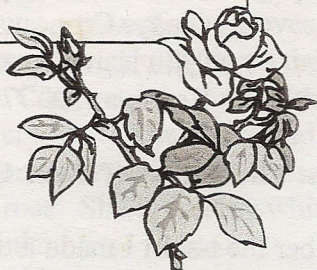
\*\*\*When I moved this past fall, pieces of me were left behind. Like this huge Katy Road Pink who thought she was a climber! She was about 8 x 4. Twice a year I had to whack her back



so she would stay within her boundaries. Let me tell you, she could stop traffic! If I had dug up any of my roses, it would have been her; she was my first antique. I can only hope that someday I will have another just as beautiful & happy as she.



**The Texas Rose Rustlers**  
C/O Mrs. Candy Fite  
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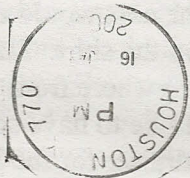


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