

The Old Texas Rose

Number 2

Spring 2003

www.texas-rose-rustler.com

2003 Spring Symposium

April 26, 2003

Peaceful Habitations Rose Gardens

This year our annual spring meeting will be held in Boerne, TX at Peaceful Habitations Rose Gardens. This unique nursery is owned and operated by our webmaster, Joe Cooper and his wife Juanita. Our Symposium will be somewhat different this year. We will meet at 1:00 p.m. at the rose gardens and will have a presentation by Joe Cooper. There will be tables set up, so bring your blooms for our bloom display. We will have our usual lotto for roses so bring them as well. You may want to bring lawn chairs for the presentation. The entire program should last about 3-4 hours. Bring something to snack on to tie you over until dinner. After the presentation, we will tour the beautiful gardens.

Some of the Rustlers will be staying overnight in Boerne at the Holiday Inn Express. If you would like to reserve a room please call (830) 249-6800. The room rate is \$89/ per night. They have blocked a group of rooms and are listed under Carolyn Feinstein's name. They have limited suites available. If you find the Holiday Inn Express full,

try the Best Western Texas Country Inn in Boerne. Their phone number is (830) 249-9791. It is Fiesta Weekend in San Antonio that weekend, so be sure to book your room in advance. We have had many successful and fun overnight trips in the past several years. By visiting new areas around Texas, our goal is to remain connected with TRR members who live outside of the greater Houston area. We hope our efforts have made a difference. If you'd like to host a TRR event, contact one of the board members.

On Sunday after breakfast, we will caravan out to see the, "Flores Street House Eater" in San Antonio. Some of you might also be interested in visiting the Antique Rose Emporium in San Antonio. I will include a map for Peaceful Habitations Rose Gardens and directions in this issue.

We are looking forward to visiting the Peaceful Habitations Rose Gardens and would like to thank Joe and Juanita Cooper for their invitation. We are hoping for good weather, so keep your fingers crossed!

From the Editor...
queenorosa@yahoo.com



Howdy ya'll! This is the time of year I get very anxious. I grow tired of winter and it seems spring will never get here! I know...in a couple of months, I'll be complaining of the heat and lack of rain.

Hopefully ya'll got your rose beds cleaned out and your roses pruned and fertilized. If not, what are you waiting for? Spring is almost here! So let's get those clippers snipping and the witch's brew spread! (Now, if I could only practice what I preach!)

I've had several cuttings from my previous garden root this winter, and I have put several new roses in the ground. My rose garden will be small until the new house is finished. After that, watch out Brenham, a Rustler will be on the loose!

If anyone, (Audrey), ever got any cuttings to root from those huge Katy Road Pinks next to my old driveway, please let me know. I will pay money for one! My oldest daughter, Jessica, went to spend the night with the neighbor and she informed me that the new owners had dug them up. I know I could always go buy another one, but these were *different*, they were *special*. It's like a mother with her child; *he or she is always, "so advanced and intelligent beyond his or her years"*.

My husband tilled a garden for me this winter and I planted a few winter vegetables and started the warm season seeds in peat pots. In March, I will transfer them into the garden. I hear my biggest enemies around here will be the deer and crows. I put up a scarecrow and an inflatable owl so we'll see if that works. If not, my five year old, Ashley, has volunteered to sit out there and keep watch. It is so funny to watch her creep down the aisles while I'm working and patiently wait. Her favorite are the crows. When she spots them, she jumps up, waves her hands high in the air and screams at the top of her lungs as she chases them away!

My report on the Bethlehem Cemetery rose is as follows: Appears to have new growth, no blooms yet, put down witch's brew, so I will wait and see.

I would love to hear from you Rustlers about your roses this year. Don't forget I am always looking for goodies to publish in the newsletter. Have a great spring and keep rustlin'!

Did You Know???

The Rose Rustlers have been asked to sponsor the rose garden at Mercer Arboretum. They are looking for someone to adopt and care for the roses. Those who attended the winter planning meeting following the pruning clinic at Mercer voted on this matter. The vote was a unanimous "yes" and all agreed that volunteering in the community would have a positive impact on the Texas Rose Rustles. It will require someone from our group to go out and devote ½ a day or so, in the garden, about 4 times a year. They also would like some variety added and they are very receptive to new ideas. If you would like to help out with this project please let us know!

Rustler's Request

Last fall I got cuttings of "Dr. Watson's Pink". Don't know from who or anything about it. It is one of my few success stories - I am getting better at rooting. Could you post a request in the next news letter for the name of the Donor to contact me? I would like to get some more information on the rose.

Thank you

Rozanna Tamplin

If anyone out there brought the "Dr. Watson's Pink" cuttings, please contact Rozanna Tamplin. Her email address is ctamplin1@msn.com and her phone number is (903) 678-3308.

Hollywood Bound?

Do you shine under the spotlight? If your answer is yes, give this request some thought.

The Rustlers have had many recent requests to speak for various garden clubs and organizations. If you have any interest in speaking on behalf of the Texas Rose Rustlers, please contact one of the board members. The phone number and address of each board member is listed at the end of the newsletter.

-Your Editor

Who Needs Chemicals?

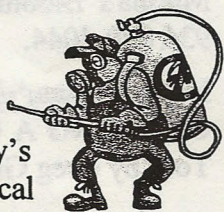
Who needs chemicals when you grow antique roses? Using antique roses allows today's gardener to refuse chemical treatment. They're heat hardy, survive insect infestations and sometimes laugh in the face of black spot! The day I began using old garden roses in my garden, was the day I stopped using systemic fertilizers and pesticides. Along with having healthy soil and a diverse choice of hardy companion plants, antique roses are the icing on the cake.

In the past couple of years I have heard the term, "organic gardening" tossed around and used frivolously. What do the words, "organic gardening" mean to you? To me, they insure that my garden, without the use of harsh chemicals and fertilizers, will be a safe, healthy and beautiful environment. My garden is a place where my girls are able to work along side of me, and I don't have to worry about the effects of dangerous chemicals on their little hands.

Drs. Steven George, Wayne Mackay, Cynthia McKenney, Raul Cabrera, Phil Colbaugh, and Mr. Landry Lockett of the Texas A&M Agriculture Program have come up with *EarthKind Roses*. *Earthkind* is an environmental Landscape Management Program.

Dr. Steven George, a Professor and Landscape Horticulture Specialist at Texas A & M University, was kind enough to respond and grant me the permission the use of their information for this article. In his email he states, "*Texas Superstar and Earthkind are two very prestigious horticultural plant designations bestowed by the Texas A & M Agriculture Program.*" Along with other informative material, the email goes on to say, "*Simply stated, Earthkind and Texas Superstar plants are the finest, most thoroughly tested, and most environmentally responsible plants for use in Texas landscapes and gardens.*"

I know that it is much easier to spray your roses, run back inside and watch the mass destruction from your window. But it is more satisfying to stand side by side with, "Mrs. B.R. Cant" and fight the battle together. If you see black spot on her, just pick off the infected leaves, give her a pep talk and



clean out the debris underneath her. You both will feel better in the end.

"...the use of research-proven gardening and landscaping techniques to provide a maximum of plant enjoyment while protecting our fragile environment."

These are the words of which the concept of *EarthKind Roses* is based. Read them. Practice them. Our children's children will thank us tomorrow.

If you'd like more information please visit the *EarthKind Roses* website. You will be able to link to various A & M Horticulture pages and find a wealth of information!

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

Rose Rosette Disease

by Audrey McMurray

I'm worried about this one. Maybe I'm just over-reacting, but I keep thinking about my relative's rose in Kentucky that looked so strange this past July. I knew something was wrong right away and, as a lover of roses, it was disconcerting to see a bush that looked so abnormal. In the years past, that rose had produced lovely, dark pink blooms. My husband had even brought me a cutting of it a year or two earlier, which had rooted and bloomed for me as well.

What I looked at that day, though, didn't even look like a rose. The entire bush was totally red, covered by tiny red leaves about a 1/2 inch long. The bush's branches were tiny as well, ending in groupings that looked like broom bristles. It gave the plant an overall lacy effect. The red thorns were weak and too numerous. It just didn't look "right".

It wasn't until last month that I looked at pictures of Rose Rosette Disease and realized what ailed my relative's bush. RRD is caused by a virus or viral-like pathogen and is spread from bush to bush by a mite that travels on wind currents. Since an infected rose does not develop symptoms immediately, it is possible to have an infected bush, which then infects other bushes, before you realize it. You can read about RRD on the Internet. I found the pictures on Virginia Cooperative Extension's website very helpful:
<http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/plantdiseasesfs/450-620/450-620.html#L2>

My own rose from that infected one is now putting out new growth. It's red, of course, like one would expect. I look at it one minute, and it looks a bit strange. I look at it later, and it looks fine. But I'm not taking any chances. I'm pulling it out, as well as the Gene Nabonnand next to it.

I'll hold onto the roses I've rooted for our Lottos for about a year, just to make sure they are okay. Instead, I'll bring rose products like SuperThrive or alfalfa to the Lotto for my contribution. And, of course, I won't be bringing any cuttings to the cutting exchanges. This is the procedure I recommend to all members who have had a rose infected by RRD or any other serious rose disease. Considering how many hundreds of roses and cuttings change hands in this group, we need to be 100% sure we aren't generous with disease as well.



Deformed Flower



**Excessive Thorniness
on a Thickened Stem**

What's Happening Around Texas? by Sandra Smith

Tyler, March 21-April 6, AZALEA & SPRING FLOWER TRAIL - Self-guided Tour, Visitor Information, 315 N. Broadway, <http://www.tylertexas.com/azalea/index.htm>

Nacogdoches, March 22, 29 and April 5, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm, AZALEA TRAIL - Guided Tour, SFA Mast Arboretum.

Navasota, March 22, 11:00 am-12:00 pm, CREATING A TEXAS COUNTRY GARDEN - Presented by Dr. Bill Welch. Seminar is full. Book signing session immediately following the seminar.

Martha's Bloomers, 8101 Hwy. 6 Bypass, Phone: 936 870-4044.

Nacogdoches, March 29, 9:00 am-12:00 pm, CREATING A COTTAGE GARDEN - Lecture & Tour by Greg Grant, SFA Mast Arboretum.

Austin, April 5-6, 9:00 am-5:00 pm, NATIVE PLANT SALE - Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

Austin, April 12, 9:00 am-12:30 pm, BUTTERFLY BASICS - Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

Navasota, April 12, 11:00 am-12:00 pm, HERBS FOR SPRING & SUMMER - Martha's Bloomers staff, 8101 Hwy. 6 Bypass, Phone: 936 870-4044.

Boerne, April 12, CIBOLO WILDERNESS TRAIL NATIVE PLANT SALE & FESTIVAL - The Fairgrounds, Nina Woolard, Phone: 830-249-4616.

Nacogdoches, April 12, 9:00 am-3:00 pm, SFA MAST ARBORETUM PLANT SALE - Directions, details, and list of plants for sale can be found on <http://www.sfasu.edu/ag/arboretum/events/index.htm>.

New Orleans, April 17-21, AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY SPRING NATIONL CONVENTION - Contact Marilyn Wellan, Phone: 318-445-6006.

Independence, April 19-20, ANTIQUE ROSE EMPORIUM OPEN HOUSE.

Tyler, April 24-26, TEXAS MASTER GARDENERS STATE CONFERENCE - Keynote Speaker, Steve Bender, Senior Editor for Southern Living Magazine.

Boerne, April 26, 1:00 pm, TEXAS ROSE RUSTLERS - Tour & Lecture by Joe Cooper, Peaceful Habitations.

Nacogdoches, May 3, 9:00 am-12:00 pm, NATIVE PLANTS OF EAST TEXAS - Lecture by Matt Welch, SFA Mast Arboretum.

Fort Worth, May 17, 10:00 am - HERB FESTIVAL - Plant sales and lectures. Herbs are great companion plants for roses. 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd., Phone: 817-488-7262, <http://greaterftworthherbsociety.org>

*NOTE: Send your local events to smith4749@ev1.net or 1111 Lakeview Estates Dr., Coldspring TX 77331.



Almanac Dates

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

For rooting all cuttings:

Apr: 17, 18, 21, 22, 22, 26, 27

May: 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29

Jun: 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26

For transplanting rooted cuttings & potted roses:

Apr: 3, 4, 5, 8

May: 1, 2, 5, 6, 7

Jun: 2, 3, 8, 9, 29, 30

Pruning for increased blooming:

Apr: 17, 18, 26, 27

May: 23, 24, 25

Jun: 19-21, 24-26

Directions to the Peaceful Habitations Rose Gardens

The Peaceful Habitations Rose Gardens is located about 5-1/2 Miles north of Boerne, Texas between Boerne and Sisterdale.

To get there from San Antonio --

- Drive north from San Antonio on IH-10 West (Toward El Paso).
- Exit at the 1st Boerne exit (Exit 542).
- Drive completely through Boerne on Main Street to the 5th stop light.
- Turn right at the 6th stop light (Sisterdale Road Cutoff)
- Go about 1/2 mile on the Sisterdale Road Cutoff until it runs into the Sisterdale Road.
- Turn right on the Sisterdale Road (FM 1376)
- Go about 5-1/2 miles and you will see guard rails on both sides of the road and a very

deep cut (20' deep) where the road passes through a hill.

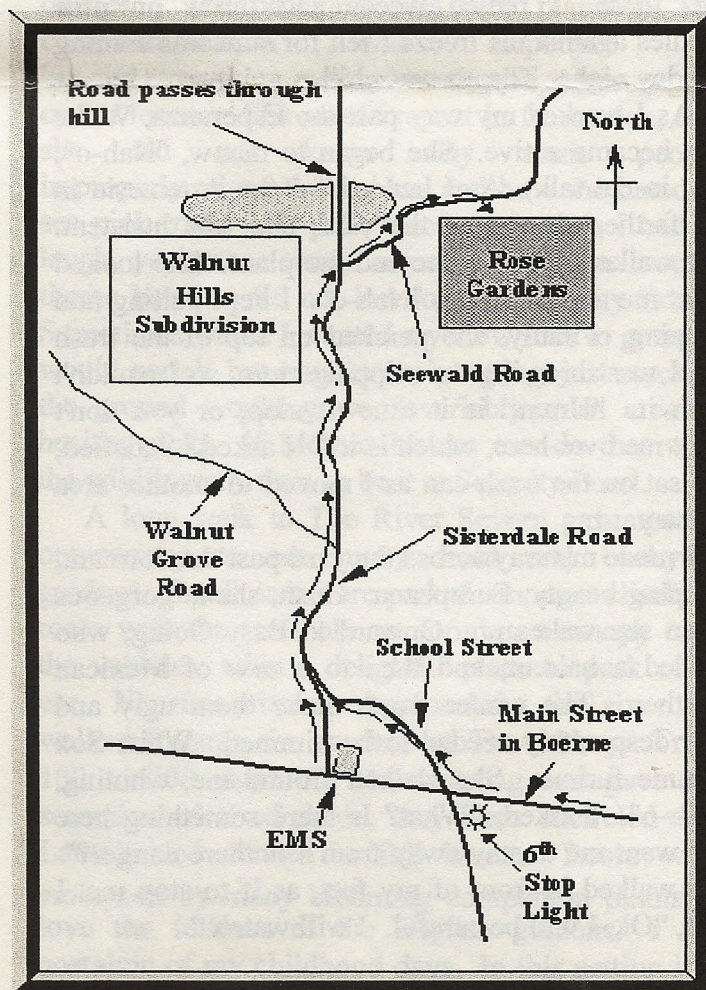
- The sign for the Peaceful Habitations Rose Gardens is on the right just before the cut.
- Turn right at the sign on Seewald Road (a gravel road) and go about 1/2 mile. The rose gardens will be at the first set of buildings on the right side of Seewald Road.

***Peaceful Habitations Rose Gardens will have a limited selection of 2 gallon roses available for \$15.95.

Map to Peaceful Habitations

37 Seewald Road, Boerne, TX 78006

(830) 537-9177



Gardening With the Guardian Cat

by Doana Fite



My cat loves to garden with me. She lounges on a mound of mulch and watches listlessly as I turn the earth, prune the roses and pull the ever hardy weeds. She is a hunter and lives outdoors. White Sox knows the yard well since it has been her only home.

Martin and I have raised her since the April night two years ago, when she was born in our storage building. Her mother has since moved away, to a neighbor several blocks from here, we are told. Her only sister lives with our daughters, Rebecca and Sam. White Sox loves me, I think. I am her mother substitute.

Last weekend I was attempting the great St. Valentine's Day rose prune. As I made my way around the heart of the yard first, White Sox followed. I got under the Mrs. B.R. Cant and worked my way up. White Sox was there. I got behind Maggie and worked my way out. White Sox was there. I pulled weeds and threw on pine needles against the freeze I felt for sure was coming Sunday night. The air was chill.

As I worked my way past the Esperanza, White Sox became active. She began to meow, "Nah-o", (no, in cat talk). As I headed for the Artemesia in the farthest corner of the yard, she was insistent. She walked between me and the plant. She looked up at me and repeated, "Nah-o". I kept pulling and clipping. Finally, she perched on top of the trash can I was throwing the clippings into, so I couldn't open it. "Hmm...is it time to stop, or you don't want me over here, which is it?" I asked. Satisfied, she sat on the trash can as I moved to another area of the yard.

I made my way across the yard past the dormant, sleeping beauty, Europeana. Gosh, she is gorgeous when she wakes up. Onward to Easy Going, who needed a haircut, and then to a row of Mexican Heather. The winter frosts make them ugly and they desperately needed to be trimmed. White Sox became furious. She walked around me, whining, "Nah-o". I asked, "What? Is there something here you want me to stay away from? Is there danger?" She walked in front of my feet, as if to stop me. I said, "Ok, I will be careful. I will watch."

All the leaves from my Granddaughter Willow have fallen in this area and make a beautiful carpet of mulch. The are mottled and gray, similar to snake skin. She became more and more insistent. At the fifth or sixth heather she lunged slightly at the base, put her foot on something the way she does lizards when she catches them and bit at something. I saw nothing.

I went on to Heathers seven and eight. Now she is crying, "Nah-o". I worked on Perle des Jardins and then started on a Souvenir de la Malmaison I received from Bobbie McKenna's collection.

She lounged on the deck, listlessly.

I glanced over at the ragged, almost finished line of heathers. It was getting late. My last chance to get any order into this winterscape for another week, or more. I tromped back out to the heathers. White Sox followed whining and walked between my feet. She all but howled. I was oblivious. I only saw those rusty, scraggly Heather tops. As I pulled the eleventh or twelfth to haircut, the cat was desperate to make me listen to her. I was about ready to shove her aside, when I finally realized it! She was annoying me into stopping for a reason. Something was not right about what I was doing or where I was at. The outermost, unused, unvisited area of the yard, was a habitat for what?

I picked up my pruners and my cat and went in for the night. I'm not sure what was out there, maybe a hibernating copperhead. I have killed several over the years. I am glad I didn't find out. I truly think White Sox, the hunter cat, saved my life and warned me off of danger. She is amazing and I listen when she speaks.

The Bethlehem Cemetery Rose

This picture was taken in January with my 5 yr. old daughter, Ashley, standing next to it. (No doubt, that one day she'll become a Rose Rustler!)



Coffee With Auntie Lotte



Hooray for the sunshine after all this rain. While sitting on the patio and writing this article, I'm overlooking the yard. Sorry to say it is a mess, needs a lot of work.

I did take time out to purchase the ingredients for the witch's brew. With 103 rose bushes, I had to make the brew twice. So far the bushes are looking good.

Did buy a Belinda's Dream rose tree at Wal-Mart, believe it or not. If the tree does like the bush, there should be a nice tree. Well, time will tell.

Now some more rose history. Sure hope you people are getting something out of these articles. Let me know if you want me to write on or stop. These are some of the writings of Fleur Cowles' The Life and Time of The Rose.



Roses were used in a lot of religious paintings. "A Madonna without a rose in hand is a rarity", she writes. Roses decorated shrines and candles, and were gathered as the symbol of divine love into baskets, vases and garlands.

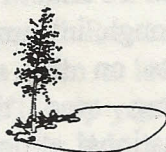
"The Hebrew Talmud also pays its tribute to the rose: it was written that only rose gardens were to be allowed in Jerusalem, where they have existed since the time of the earliest prophets. When Buddha was preaching once he simply held up a beautiful rose as the sum total of his sermon." Wouldn't you like to have your preacher preach that kind of sermon?

Before I close, I wanted to let you know that Rustler Drew Meyer answered my question about the Rose of St. David. It is a medium, single rose...not bad. I got a cutting of it at our last cutting exchange because one of my sons is named David. But he is no saint.

Let me hear from you all (AuntieLotte93@yahoo.com). My next article is going to be about the symbol of roses in time of war.

Notes from Serenity Pond

by Patricia J. McCain



The English Still Love their Roses

The train ride to Shrewsbury was fun, and once on the train I had no fear of getting lost. I had the train schedule and map in hand, however when the

Conductor recognized my American accent, he assured me he would tell me when to depart the train. Each stop he warned me not to get off yet and I was to learn this caring attitude of a Conductor is not seen nor known to fellow Englishmen. In the mean time I was amazed to see all the young people coming on board with backpacks and bicycles. There is actually an area in each car, as well as between the cars, suitable for bicycles and many were completely filled. I enjoyed the view of villages and fields with wildflowers from the window.

My dear friend, Elizabeth Ashbee, met me at the Shrewsbury train station. She and her family had visited me many times when I lived in College Station. Now she was going to be the Hostess and she knew my interests and devoted several days to my visit. She said I was just going to love Shrewsbury as it is a lovely old town. First was a slow leisure walk in her gardens. The small area in front of her lovely very old brick home was full of blooming roses with clematis, Digitalis and daisies. The backyard was well planned. The color combination was important to her and everything was planted with roses as the center focus. She would repeat in frustration, that she did not know why some people improperly mixed their colors and how she hated to see pink roses with yellow roses. At that, I had to laugh, yes at one time I attempted to have a color theme but that did not last long at Serenity Pond. Sometimes where I wanted a yellow rose to grow, it would perish, but another such cutting, just stuck in the ground would grow, invariably in an area of healthy pinks. If Mother Nature can do that with the wildflowers, than so be it at Serenity Pond.

A long walk to The River Severn gave me an opportunity to see many front and backyard gardens. Small cars were parked amongst climbing roses with the roses almost forming a canopy over the vehicles; what a delightful place to park one's car. No mosquitoes! Approaching the river we walked through the gardens of The Abbey. Trees 100 to 200 years old stood strong and gave the sometimes desired shade; they were encircled with Laurels and Azalea in full bloom. Roses were embraced by many blooming companion plants. I love the fullness of the English gardens. I felt nostalgic of my childhood days. In this setting it is easy to realize the English homes and gardens had an influence of early homes and gardens of

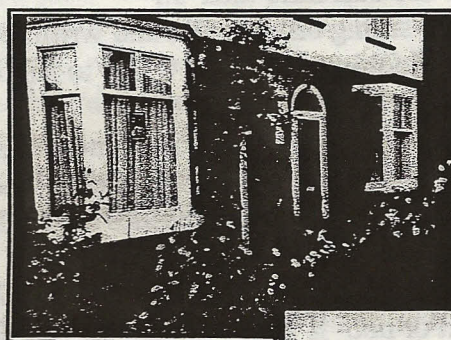
our heritage. Large estate homes and elegant gardens gave a welcome, almost seemed to beckon one to walk the paved sidewalk between the gardens and the river. We walked along the river toward The River Severn Bridge. Many flower petals and some small green leaves floating gently on the water.

Down town Shrewsbury had winding pathways that sometimes went up and down small hills, then between shops, just to reveal more shops and gardens in the back. It was in the back, in a charming garden Tea Room that we had tea and a bite to eat. Even on the main streets, most businesses had hanging baskets overflowing with bright blooms. An ancient brick wall and gate to a castle were lined with brilliant flowers in hanging baskets. Climbing roses and blooming shrubs arched over old stone walls protecting ancient estate homes. Shrewsbury is a lovely old town, and it is apparent the rose is still a favorite of the English. There was not a garden to be found that did not have a spectacular rose in full bloom.

Elizabeth took me sightseeing in her van to small villages of quaint homes, modest gardens, never failing to be full of color and so beautiful it could almost take one's breath away. On my last day, driving several hours from Shrewsbury, we arrived at the Stanmore Estate House and Gardens. Shrub roses towered over me with blooms of a size I have never before seen; they were huge! There was a nursery next to the estate, Stanmore Nursery. It was cold and raining when we arrived. It took half a day to just "walk through" and I was so entranced by all the fragrances and blooms, I did not realize when the rain had stopped and a warming sun had appeared. The potted roses for sale were artistically grouped in small areas of grass openings lined with shrubs. Each area had a theme, such as occasions: The Birth of a Child, Weddings, Anniversaries, Birthdays, etc. There were even areas for names, such as Sally, William and so on. The hybrid roses were not so charmingly displayed, lined up in a commercial display, the same as one would see here. The rain returned. Time ran out and we had to leave for me to catch a plane at the Manchester Air Port to fly to Munchen, Germany. My youngest son, Steven, was flying from Anchorage, Alaska on the Concord and we were to arrive within 15 minutes of each other, therefore we had planned to meet in Munchen.

Next we will go to the Historical town of Bad Toelz, Germany.

Have a rosie day!



Entrance to Elizabeth's charming home.

Hedge roses along fence at Stanmore House



Is it Time for Us to Form Chapters?

by Audrey McMurray

It's an idea that has been discussed before and even those who are heartily against it, can at least understand the reason some members want the subject revisited: it's such a big state, groups of antique rosarians want to form local chapters in areas farther away from the Houston-Brenham-College Station cluster we seem to have. In fact, I received three such well-written emails on the subject, from individuals who lived hundreds of miles from each other, that I thought it was time to take the subject off the table and consider chapters again.

I started with the Board members, past and present. After much discussion, it was time to get a larger sampling of opinions so I posed the question to every Rustler I had in my email address book. I expected a Pandora's Box of differing opinions and sure enough, in came email after email with definite thoughts on the matter. But what was truly surprising was that the *lack* of a strong organizational structure and the *infrequency* of the get-togethers was the thing that the Rustlers liked *most*. In this time of being overworked and stressed out, a low-maintenance organization was just what the members wanted.

Before the winter planning meeting, I emailed again, this time a notice that we would address the issue of forming chapters at the Board meeting and asked those Rustlers who wanted chapters to present concrete ideas on how they would work, or at least email them so they could be read aloud.

At the meeting, we continued the discussion. Soon it was clear that even the anti-chapter members liked the idea of Rustlers forming their own, local antique rose groups, with their own catchy names. Don Gerard suggested calling them gangs, as in the "Brazosport Gang" (we're Rustlers after all!). True to our Texas individualism, each "gang" would be completely independent, not bound by TRR rules.

All members were willing, however, to travel to nascent groups who had no current Rustlers, with materials to help them get started, talk to them about rustling etiquette and so forth. All also liked the idea of having a forum, both on the Internet and in the newsletter, whereby the groups could chat and keep the Rustler membership at large informed of their events.

In the future, it would be fun if these groups even hosted one of the two state-wide get-togethers: the Cutting Exchange or the Spring Symposium. Two Rustlers interested in forming local groups of their own brought up the fact that having another rose group host an event might even mean we could get back to regular rustling, since it is the local residents who know the best places to find roses growing wild.

It wasn't the formation of local groups that was at issue, then, it was a fear that if there were true chapters, in a legal sense, we would have to necessarily become a bit more rigid, deal with collection of dues, have to have more by-laws and therefore more rules...our laid back attitude would have to become a little more bureaucratic and carry more responsibility, which they saw as the exact opposite of what the Texas Rose Rustlers were all about.

So, to that end, we encourage all Rustlers and non-Rustlers who would like to form a local old garden rose group to DO IT! We'll help you! Until we get an Internet forum set up for this purpose, please send your name, contact numbers and/or address to Candy Fite at queenorosa@yahoo.com or 8020 FM 2502, Brenham, TX 77833, who will put a note in this newsletter for you. Include any information you would like prospective members to

know, like what areas you would like the group to represent, or the name of the group, if you already thought one up. In addition, if you will email Virginia Sissom, our Secretary, at rosebandita@yahoo.com, the same request, she will hold onto it and will post it once the Internet forum is set up.

Please let us know if there is any other way we could assist you as well. Good luck!

Red Harvester Ants

by Sandra Smith

If leaves from your flowers and shrubs seem to disappear overnight, chances are you may have Red Harvester ants. They can be identified by their red to dark brown color, squarish heads, and no spines on the body which is approximately 1/4 to 1/2 inch long. The Texas Leafcutter ant, which causes the same damage, is rare, but can be differentiated by the spines on their thorax. For ant identification: <http://fireant.tamu.edu/materials/factsheets/fapfs010.pdf>

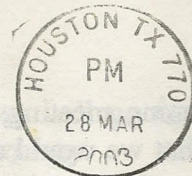
Texas Leafcutter ants make mounds, but Red Harvester ant colonies are usually located in flat, open areas with no vegetation within a 3 to 6 foot circle. Both colony types usually have only one opening. Foraging trails radiating from the colony can be identified by their lack of vegetation. Red Harvester ants also colonize in ornamental turf areas, but do not invade homes or structures.

Winged males and females, which are larger than worker ants, swarm and mate especially after rain. Males soon die and females find a nesting site. After dropping her wings, the queen ant digs a burrow and produces a few eggs. Larvae hatch from eggs and develop through several stages. Worker ants produced by the queen, care for other developing ants, enlarge the nest and forage for food. They are generally reluctant to attack, but can give a painful bite.

Red Harvester ants are native and generally not considered to be serious pests. Workers are commonly sold for ant farms and in west Texas; they are a major source of food for the endangered Texas Horned Lizard. If elimination is desired, any insecticide registered to control ants can be used.



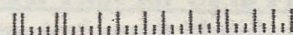
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