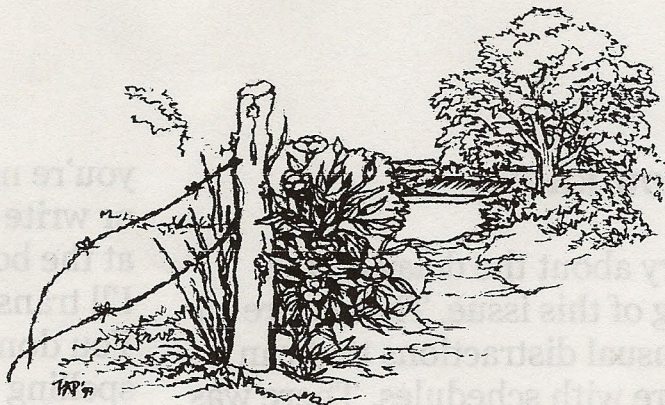


The Old Texas Rose



Number 4

Winter 2002

www.texas-rose-rustlers.com

Spring Symposium in Brenham April 6th

Our next meeting will be at the Antique Rose Emporium just outside of Brenham on April the sixth. Its located on Farm Road 50 in the small community of Independence.

For those of you who've never been this will be a chance to visit the premier old rose nursery in the United States. They have been responsible for saving many of the roses that we all hold dear and sometimes even take for granted. Just one example is if you grow **Martha Gonzales**, odds are yours is tied in with them somehow. Their selection of old roses remains unrivaled and is still expanding with the introduction of roses from their own hybridizing program. Think on that for a minute, roses raised and trialed in Texas! One of their new introductions is named for the early Texas nurseryman **Thomas Affleck** and it is a beautiful rose.

For those who have been before don't worry that you've seen it all because there's always something new that they've brought in. In fact the last few times I've been I've wound picking up more "companion plants" than anything else. Their book selection and seed section in the office also seems to take up more and more of my time every year as well.

The thing I enjoy most about Brenham however is seeing their display gardens. Who among us hasn't stolen at least one small idea from them? It's nice to see a nursery who isn't afraid to show people what their plants look like when grown outside of the black pots.

If all of this wasn't enough there will also be speakers lined up to talk for us in the Chapel building. Its a very appropriate building for us to meet in since we spend so much time in cemeteries, we really should go to church!

We'll have a list of the speakers in our next issue along with more detailed directions. See you there!

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Did you know?

Sorry about the delay on the mailing of this issue. There were all of the usual distractions that can interfere with schedules. There was also a problem I haven't run into before and that was a massive case of writers block. If it weren't for the tremendously appreciated contributions of Joe Cooper, Audrey McMurray, and Candy Fite this issue would be slim indeed!

I would really like to encourage all of the members to send in articles for the newsletter. If you can talk about your garden to someone and keep their attention for 5 minutes you can write it up. If you can hold their attention for a hour you should be writing books!

You don't have to be hyper technical or know the history of every rose in a roses parentage to write. The kinds of things people like to read are things they can use like color combinations. Maybe it's a trellis idea you've had or just a description of one you've seen somewhere else. It could be about roses you've found and the places you've found them.

The manual end of writing isn't hard either. If you have e-mail you can just type it up in the body of a e-mail to me, (sherrod1@lcc.net) and I'll copy it and put it into the newsletter format. You can also send it as a attachment if you would rather and I'll work that in as well. If

you're not online you can just type or write it out by hand, (see address at the bottom of the front page), and I'll transcribe it into the newsletter. You don't have to worry about spelling and such, I'm the editor and thats part of my job. Believe me I won't think any less of anyone because of their handwriting or grammar. I believe there's a saying about people living in glass houses...

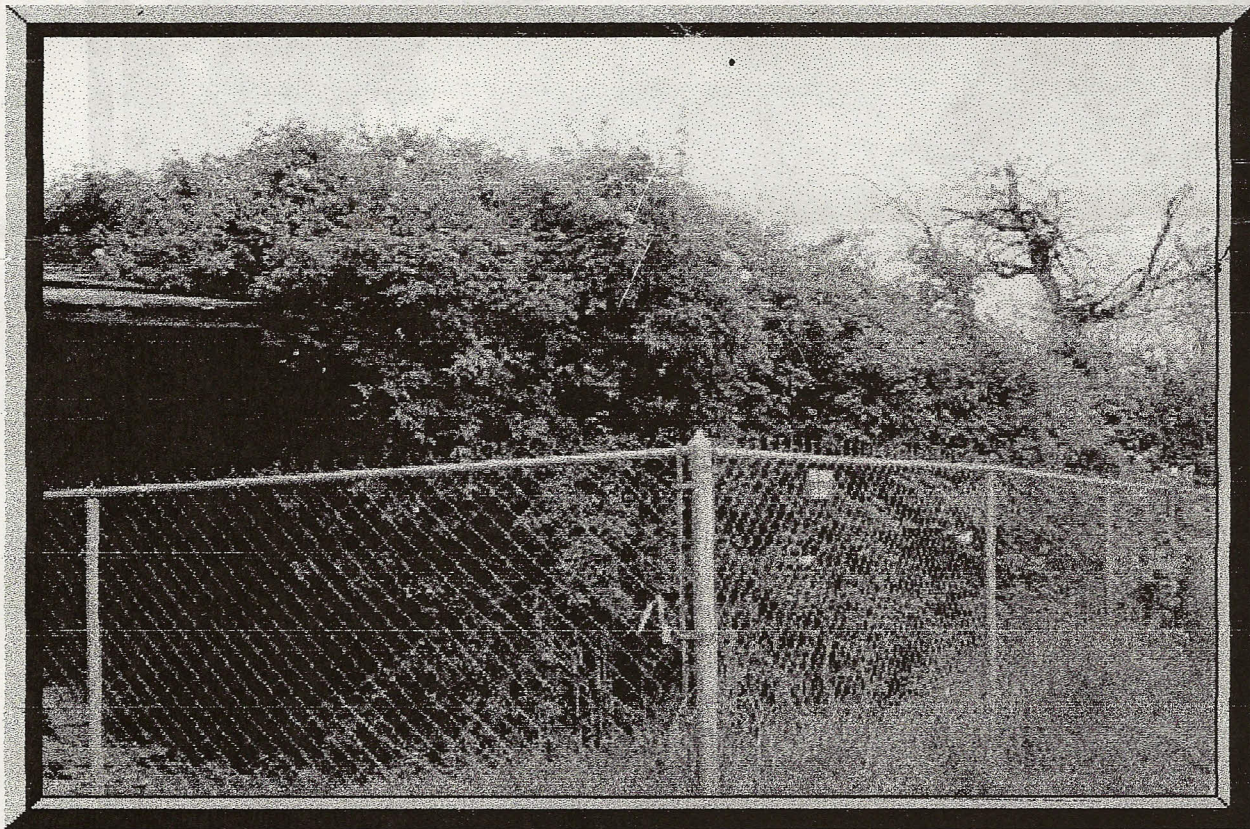
The next time you see someone's eyes roll back in their head when you start describing something that happened in the garden just stop and write it down instead. You'll find a much more appreciative audience here!

We had a real nice cutting exchange in Waco this past Fall. I wanted to take a moment here to thank everyone who came out for making it a fun event. One member in particular needs to thanked for her door prizes she brought. Tereasa Cotter talked her local Lowes into donating some really great prizes along with some great fertilizer packets, thanks Tereasa. There were also a lot of great roses in the lotto so thanks to everyone who brought roses too. Another member was very helpful in scouting out our "road trip" there in Waco, our local connection, Sylvia Harrington. Sylvia had pictures of the roses in bloom at Oakwood cemetery which we visited under her great guidance. If you missed it it was a treat, thanks again Sylvia!

The Flores Street House Eater

by Joseph Cooper

What would you think if I told you that I found a rose that was actually "eating a house? Well it is true and pictures don't lie!



I first heard about this rose from a "friend of a friend", who has been known to snip a bit here and there while wandering around San Antonio. She found this rose on the near west side, and just north of the downtown area on Flores Street. It apparently had been planted in front of the house in better days, and as the house declined, the rose prospered and expanded. Now the house is all but fallen down, (the back wall is entirely gone), and the roof is on the verge of collapse, but the rose is happily eating what remains of the structure.

It is a truly astonishing site. The rose is about 20' wide and more than 15' high, and it is draping over the entire roof are and into the back yard. I have no idea how old this specimen is, but I must admit that I left skid marks on the street from panic braking when I first saw it. **WOW! WHAT A ROSE!**

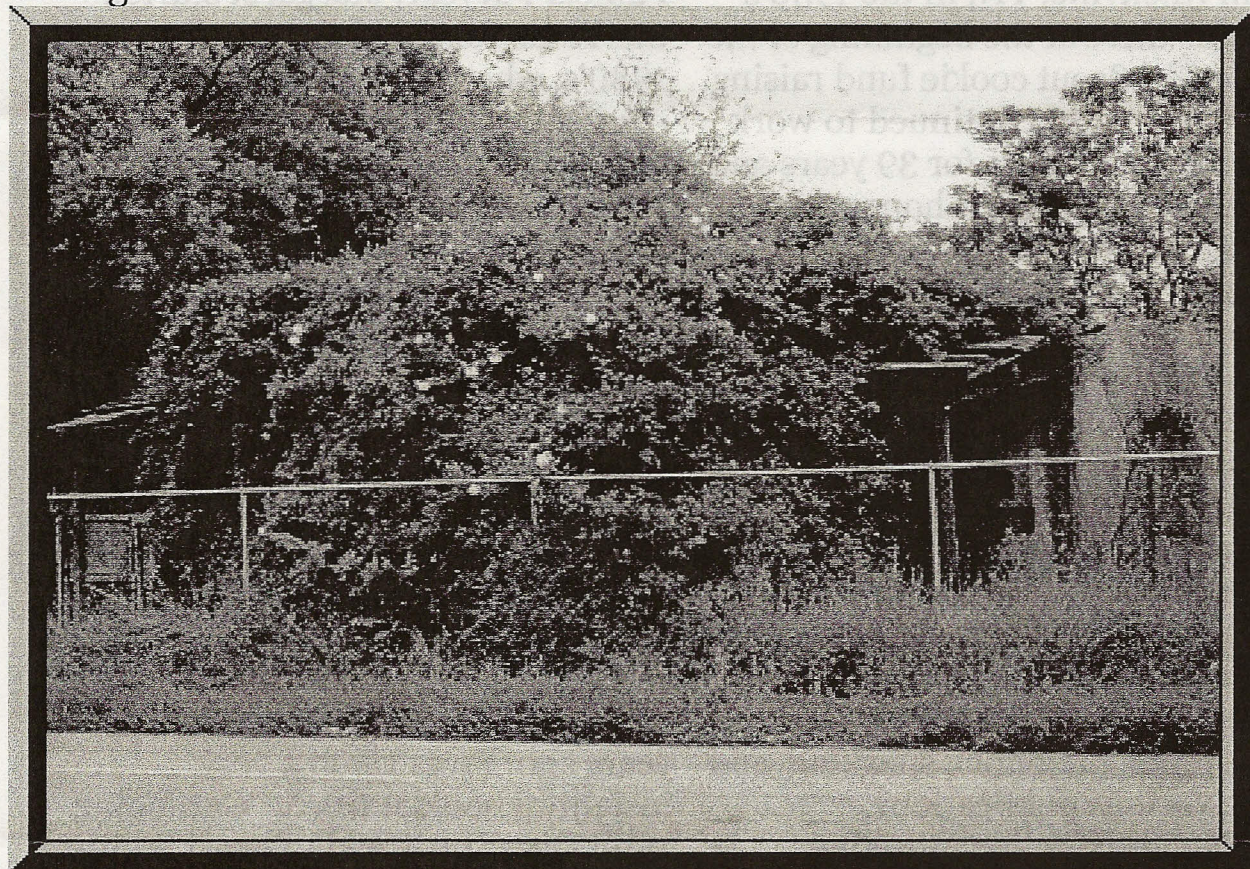


Best of all, it is beautiful as well as huge. The buds are a light buttery yellow and they open to pale creamy, very double blooms. In late March and early April of 2001, the entire plant was covered with flowers, and the blooms persisted until well into the late Summer. When I last checked it in January of 2002 , it was still blooming!



The flowers occur in large clusters, and it is almost certainly a Noissette. In talking it over with Marion Brandes, we decided that it is probably a very large specimen of "San Felipe Noissette", (AKA "Brightside Cream"), but we will address its identity and the reasons for our tentative certainty in a upcoming issue.

Suffice it to say, if you want to see an amazing site, visit the Flores Street House Eater". But do not delay too long because it could fall victim to urban renewal any day now. Fortunately it is easy to propagate, and cuttings are available from the sidewalk.



For more information contact-
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Who Was Margaret Sharpe

by Audrey McMurray

Margaret Post Sharpe was her full name. She was a mover and a shaker, one of those people who left her mark wherever she lived. She was active in Girl Scouts, Troop No. 10, in Knoxville, TN, in the 1930's and was there at the beginning of the whole Girl Scout cookie fund raising effort. Margaret continued to work with the Girl Scouts for 39 years and received their highest honor: the Golden Eaglet Award.

I have seen papers saying she was in the first group of women to enlist as WAVES, in 1942. She married Mel Sharpe after he returned from Naval duty and when they were both discharged, they moved to Corpus Christi. There she was active in the Episcopal Church, in the PTA, in the Girl Scouts, and in garden clubs, with a particular interest in roses. She edited newsletters, learned to judge roses, did public speaking, and wrote various publications.

When the Sharpes moved to Houston in 1968, Margaret continued working with the American Rose Society, Texas Garden Clubs, the Houston Federation of Garden Clubs, the Houston Rose Society, the Heritage Rose Group, the rose garden at Hermann Park, and many other societies. And believe me, when Margaret was in a group, it wasn't as a name on a membership list. She

WORKED. And, of course, she still volunteered in the Episcopal Church and worked rose shows as a judge.

In 1975 she became a Life Judge in the American Rose Society and for a time, taught others how to judge.

Together with Bill Welch and Pamela Puryear, Margaret started the Texas Rose Rustlers in the early 1980's, when her interest in antique roses grew and she worked to build that organization until her death in November of 1998.

And you know what? I still miss her. When a mover-and-shaker dies, the world seems a little emptier.

-A.

Don't Plant Pansies!!!

by Candy Fite

This article was written by request of a fellow rustler. A few years ago, I was given a very insightful booklet titled, "Gardening With Dogs" by Brenda Beaust Smith, (a.k.a. The Lazy Gardener), she had published along with a dog trainer, whom for the life of me, I cannot recall her name! After reading their words of wisdom, I passed this booklet along to someone else in need.

I learned so much about gardening with our canine friends and I give these two women credit for a lot of my own present

knowledge.

I will start with these words, plain & simple: If you plant it, He will try and dig it! I mean, think about it, he sees you digging. He only wants to join in and help! From my own experience, I found that my dogs would dig out of pure boredom. I have always had large dogs and that presents a HUGE problem when gardening. If you constantly find yourself battling your pooches to stay out of your beds, stop, you'll only drive yourself insane. Placing "Dogs Keep Out" signs throughout will not work either.

If you watch your dogs, they will pick out their own favorite places to hang out. I suggest giving them these spots! Because in the end, you will lose.

Garden around your pets. If they run the fence line, which most dogs do, give them several feet between the fence and the beds. If they lay in your beds, dig up a few bushes and give them room.

May I suggest you not use any Bone or Blood meal in your flower beds. Can you say, "Dinnertime?"

I once had a German Shepherd who loved to dig under the fence and roam. He was no ordinary, "Pokey Little Puppy", he would kill the neighbors cats or be gone for days! We even put up a hot wire and still he would find a way. So I decided to plant long, thick, thorny canes of Mermaid 3-4 inches under the soil line along the fence. I could always

tell when he was attempting an escape, because he would yelp out in pain! Some thought this was cruel, but I was desperate!

If you are having a problem with your canine friends stepping on your flowers, may I suggest an obvious tip? Don't plant the pansies!!! Leave the pretties for the front yard! Plant hardy, rough & tough plants in the back yard. That is one reason I love my antique roses. After they reach a good size, not even I would attempt removing them! If you plant newly rooted cuttings, use a tomato cage to cover them, or you can kiss those babies goodbye!

We must find a peaceful way to co-garden with our dogs. Give them their space. If you accept them for the animals they are, your whole perspective will change about them. Let them know what is right and what is wrong. But don't try to fight them on this one, you'll only wind up frustrated and defeated!

● ● Almanac Dates ● ●

from Blum's Farmer's and Planter's Almanac

For rooting all cuttings

February: 2-5, 9-11

March: 1-5, 8-10, 29-31

April: 1, 5-6, 10-11, 27-29

For transplanting cuttings and potted roses

February: 14-15, 19

March: 13-15, 18-19

April: 14-16, 19

To prune roses for increased blooming

February: 4-5, 9-11

March: 3-5, 31

April: 1, 10-11, 27-29

Once Bloomers for Texas

by Shannon Sherrod

No this isn't a article about old underwear, it's about roses who only bloom once a year! These roses are sometimes referred to as being non-remontant but I've always thought that sounded a little stuffy, like calling thorns prickles. People who do that haven't been "prickled" enough in my mind.

Now I know that I have a long row to hoe to get some of you to even consider planting roses that don't bloom year round. Just consider this though, what if your sweetheart decided to send you one rose a month instead of all twelve at once on Valentines day?

Being able to grow everblooming roses is one of the great things about living in Texas instead of up North with "those people" as Robert E. Lee used to call them. To paraphrase General Lee, most Southerners refer to once bloomers as "those roses".

Lets be honest for a moment about our everblooming roses. In my garden there aren't that many roses who are still really going full speed in the middle of the Summer. Sure there are a few exceptions like **Caldwell Pink**, and **Katy Road Pink**, (hmm, could there be a pink connection), and I'm very glad to have them. I'm not saying that I don't get any blooms on the rest of my roses in the Summer but the ones I do get are a pale comparison

in terms of size, scent and color to the ones I have in the Spring and Fall. I'm not criticizing my roses, I'm not too much to look at in August myself and I'm definitely not at full steam.

So what does this have to do with once blooming roses? Well I think that what I'm trying to show is that we really have two prime blooming periods instead of one long one. One is in the Spring and the other in the Fall. I'm trying to maximize those two blooms by packing as many flowers into them as I can.

Many of the once blooming roses can pack as many blooms into a four week period as others can scatter throughout as year. Sometimes the blooms are so thick you almost can't see the foliage. But what about the fact that we don't have enough cold weather in Winter to get these guys to bloom right? Well what if I told you that the best once bloomers for us are in fact Tea Roses?

Yes, the same family of roses that are our best everblooming roses also contain the best once bloomers. The one thing these Tea roses seem to have in common is their large size. Unfortunately a lot of people who won't hesitate to put in a 10' x 12' storage building will balk at putting a large rose in their back yard. To my mind rose supports are what storage buildings and any other stationary things are meant to be. You don't even have to build fancy trellises, just plant them close to the building

and they'll do the rest. If you don't have any vertical things to use then plant them along fences and if you don't have any fences then just plant them alone and let them grow as freestanding mounds.

One of the prettiest roses at the American Rose Center in Shreveport is a mound of **Mermaid** about twenty feet across. The effect is sort of like a grouping of azaleas except much prettier of course! Of course one side benefit of this is that you've eliminated a good bit of mowing but then I may be the only one who thinks of these things as I plant. The one thing this kind of planting will require is some patience as the plant fills in. In other words it'll look a little sparse for a while.

So why are there once blooming Tea roses, shouldn't they all be "repeaters"? Well I'm no geneticist but I'll throw my opinion out there. The Tea rose are all descended from the species **Rosa Gigantea**. In the wild this rose is a once bloomer. The repeating bloom didn't come about until they were crossed in with China roses and then not until the second generation crosses. That sounds like it should make them Chinas but there's some classification rules that hybridizers have and its all confusing so I won't go into it here. The important point is that the species grows in the jungles of Burma which are almost as hot and humid as Houston! This has lead me

to think that the once blooming Teas are actually closer to the species which should make them even stronger.

So who are these roses? Well the most famous is actually **Belle Portugaise**. She's a long tall beauty with a pale pink blush and lustrous green foliage. I'm currently in the process of running one up a pecan tree in our front yard. Thats the kind of space that I was referring to earlier, the tree just stands there all year so why not put it to use and grow a rose up it! Belle does get to twenty feet or so but you can still enjoy the blooms because they're so heavy they'll nod down to greet you when you walk up. She's not all snooty like some of the Hybrid Teas!

Another great one is **Souvenir de Mme Leonie Viennot**. She's another large one whose blooms are a mix of coppery yellow with a little reddish tint thrown in.

Two others that I've only been able to admire from afar are the Senators, **Senateur Lafolette** and **Senateur Amic**. Both of these rose are large, and are direct descendants from the species. They're not commonly available but I'm keeping an eye out for them.

Of course there are other once bloomers we can grow besides Teas, they're Ramblers with Tea and China bloodlines, Musk roses, and other obscure little roses out there but we'll save those for the future.