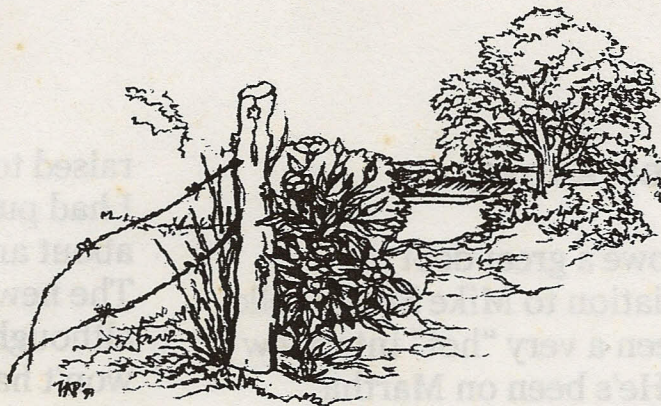


The Old Texas Rose



Number 1

Spring 2002

www.texas-rose-rustlers.com

Texas Rose Rustler's Spring Symposium April 6, 2002

It's almost time for our annual Symposium! So gather your finest looking rose blooms and meet us out at the Antique Rose Emporium in the Chapel for a bloomin' good time! If you are new, look for someone who knows what they're doing! Hopefully, there should be a few of us! Find the welcome table and sign-in, make a name tag and enjoy yourself!

10:00 Set-up and sign-in.

10:30-11:00 Bloom display set-up & announcements. If you have blooms that you'd like to show off, bring them!

11:00-11:15 Mike Shoup founder & owner of the Antique Rose Emporium will talk to us about what's new around the nursery!

11:15-12:00 Glen Schroeter from the Antique Rose Emporium will speak about propagation.

12:00-12:45 Lunch (bring a sack lunch & dessert to share or sample the BBQ at the Emporium).

12:45-1:00 Re-gather and for all of you wanderers, we will know where you are-remember we can shop afterwards!

1:00-1:15 Rose Lotto (for all who haven't a clue-we bring rooted cuttings to give away in a drawing).

1:15-2:00 Rustler Ray Ponton will speak to us about hybridizing. This should be a treat!

2:00-2:15 Bloom display judging

2:15-2:30 Lotto

2:30-2:45 Clean-up

2:45-??? Shop till we drop!!!

More info on page 3.

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Did you know?

We owe a great debt of appreciation to Mike Shoup folks. He's been a very "hot" interview lately. He's been on Martha Stewart's show, in Country Gardener magazine, Texas Highways magazine, and several other places. In every one of these he's mentioned rose rustling and the Rose Rustlers. It's not every day that we get that kind of exposure! Thanks Mike, we appreciate it!

Speaking of people we owe a big thank you to- Thanks Faith Bickley and Phyliss DeGelleke!! Any semblance of order or organization at our meetings is due to their work at manning the welcome desk. They're the ones who give out the name tags and those prized lotto tickets. So the next time you see them at a meeting be sure and thank them for the great work they're doing.

Folks, I've had a bad case of forgetful head. First off I've been forgetting to list Audrey McMurray as our Chairman. I think I mentioned it in the body of a story a while back but I've kept forgetting to put it on the front page. That one I've remedied now.

The other thing is more of a mix up on my end than a forgetful episode. I got the cost wrong on our new subscriptions. The rate was

raised to \$10 dollars and not eight as I had put in a earlier issue. I'm sorry about any confusion I've caused. The new rates will take place now although all who've paid up before won't have to pay the difference. That would be a retroactive increase and only the feds have been able to pull that off. Again, my apologies for any consternation my misreporting has caused.

There's been a lot of DNA testing of roses going on lately. Most of the work is being done to figure out the parentage of some of our most disputed roses. The primary one has been **Champneys Pink Cluster**. Of course as we've seen in some famous trials DNA evidence alone isn't enough to convince some! What I'm afraid of is that they'll identify some of my favorite found roses and they'll have French names I can't spell, much less pronounce!

One rose whose identity has been called into doubt is **Sombreiul**. The form we have now is cold hardy all the way to Minnesota, which isn't your usual Tea rose territory. It also has shown a remarkable resemblance to little known climber from the mid fifties called **Colonial White**. This is a case where a known specimen of **Colonial Whites** DNA could be compared to **Sombreiuls** and maybe shed some light. If they do match at least I'll be able to pronounce its new name!

**Texas Rose Rustler's
Spring Symposium
April 6, 2002
Continued**

We hope that you enjoy the program! Afterwards, most of us will hang around and shop the nursery. If you've never been, boy, are you in for a surprise! The display gardens will probably be absolutely gorgeous! Not only is it prime blooming time for roses, but we will have the advantage of being there when the once bloomers are in action and when they bloom, they can be show-stoppers!

In addition to checking out the roses we may even hit the bluebonnet jackpot as well depending on the weather this year.

For anyone unfamiliar with the rose lotto it's a fun event that's open to everyone regardless of whether you brought anything for it. We root extra roses during the year and those are the ones we bring for the lotto. You'll be given a ticket when you come in and later we draw from those to give them away.

Our bloom display is as much about showing the different varieties as it is showing off. It's also a great chance to have a rose identified that you may have found somewhere. Of course our identifications don't come with a guarantee and we've even been known to disagree on them as well.

If you've ever been to the Antique

Rose Emporium's Fall festivals then you may be familiar with some of the BBQ that the local churches provide. They're supposed to be set up for us this year and will be a treat for those who haven't tried them. If BBQ's not your thing be sure and bring a sack lunch.

Rose Rustlers Calender 2002

**Summer Meeting July 20
Mercer Arboretum Houston,
TX**

This is our yearly "Rookie Rustler" meeting, although it's funny how we keep learning things every year. Maybe we're all rookies! It's held in wonderful air conditioned comfort at the Mercer Arboretum every year so come enjoy the AC and talk about roses.

**Fall Cutting Exchange
October 5
Kings Nursery Tenaha, TX**

This is our yearly swap of goodies from our gardens. Everyone's welcome so don't feel like you need to bring cuttings to come. This will be a great place to have our swap since Aubrey King is a man who understands and appreciates what we're all about. For those who haven't been to his nursery before I'll guarantee you'll see plants there you haven't seen anywhere else!

Some of my Favorite Rosy Things

by Shannon Sherrod

It's the time of year when we're all busy working in our gardens. During this time it's easiest to really enjoy and reflect on the things that make our "hobby" more enjoyable.

As far as tools go my cheap nature almost makes me hate to admit this but I love my Felco pruners. Yes I know they're not cheap, and yes I know that there are a lot of good cheap imitations out there. For several years I used a pair of the knock-off ones and was happy enough, I still have them in the glove box of my truck as a matter of fact. I do, however, have a weakness for well made tools. It was this weakness that lead me to buy a pair of Felcos, that and my birthday was coming up! I bought a pair of the number 2 model and I haven't looked back since. I could tell just from the feel of them that they were much better than my old pair. That quality really shows up when you're doing the big clean up in early Spring. The cuts are clean and precise and if the blade ever dulls it's easy to sharpen. The other great thing about them is that when the day comes that the blades or spring is finally worn out they can be replaced. I'm not usually one to recommend high priced garden items but if you grow lots of roses you really owe it to yourself to get a pair of Felcos.

My second favorite garden tool should be expensive considering the source but my weeder from Smith & Hawken wasn't that bad. It's what's called a draw type weeder. It has a blade much like a regular hoe only thinner and set back at an angle to the handle. The blade works by your drawing it back towards you cutting off the weeds at a shallow angle to the ground. It's about two feet long and is my go to weeding tool. It seems to cut through with less effort than any of my other tools.

Now for some truly cheap tools, my favorite would have to be tubs/buckets/containers/ trash cans. How do people garden without these things? One of my happiest days was the day that our local warehouse store started selling cat food in clear 3 gallon buckets. These buckets are like pure gold! Didn't use every bit of that composted cow manure? Well put the rest in one of your clear empty buckets, that way you'll know what's in it. Is there anything better for steeping our various "tea" recipes in than the cheap discount store plastic trash can? I'm sure if you looked hard enough you could send a lot of money on a designated fertilizer condenser but why bother when every dollar store in the country has the same thing?

I'm sure you've got some favorites as well, write in and let us know and we'll let everyone else in on them!

The Good, The Bad and The Bugly By Candy Fite

Well there is one good reason why freezing weather is good...it kills off the pest population! Usually our winters here in Texas are mild and the bugs are big & bad by the time spring rolls around. Unfortunately, freezing temps happen to kill off the good bugs too. Didn't Mom always say, "You can't have your cake and eat it too!"

Do yourself and garden a favor this year, order beneficial buddies for your roses. Just search on the Internet and you'll find dozens of sources. Have yourself a ladybug release party and invite the neighbor kids over to help. Be careful, they're hungry little boogers and they pinch! I remember one time, one crawled up my youngest daughter's nose, but that is a story for another time! Anyway, you can order the green lacewing along with them, they work well together. The praying mantis is also another one you can order, only get a couple. They are lean, mean fighting machines. They consume everything, including each other! All these beneficial bugs are helpful to your roses. The ladybug's favorite food is aphids, mealy bug and thrips. Who will all suck the life out of your roses! Just be careful not to kill the ladybug larvae. They look like strange orange & black

striped mealy bugs. If you are having an extremely hard time with the aphids, try planting butterfly weed. It attracts the aphids, which won't hurt the plant, but keeps them off your roses! Also, you're feeding the larvae of the Monarch butterfly. This year we are supposed to have very few Monarchs in the area because of the freezing weather that hit Mexico. So support the butterflies, keep the aphids under control, the ladybugs satisfied and your roses will reap the benefits! Who said we couldn't have our cake and eat it too?

Winter Report

By Candy Fite

For those of you who read my "Pruning By The Light Of The Moon" article last year, you know I have very little time for pruning. With the kids, hubby, house, job and dogs, I am left with very little time for much else. This year I have spent the past four weeks trying to get everything pruned and my manure tea ready. I had almost everything pruned when Jack Frost blew into town last week. He took all of us by surprise, including all the new growth and baby buds. He left them wilted and burnt. So I was back to square one and this weekend I started cutting back again. I made up two big batches of tea and gave everyone a refreshing drink. My sis-in-laws were over while I was

brewing and they said, "What is that???" I just looked over and said, "Dinner!" They thought I was kidding! Oh well, maybe I will be done pruning by April, or May!

Just for F.Y.I. there were a couple of plants that went throughout winter, green and healthy. One was 'Pinwheel Princess' verbena, I have never had a verbena that was evergreen! I took a few snips from a place I cannot mention! I didn't actually get permission from the owner, my bad. But they had so much and it DID need cutting back and I only took a few snips! Needless to say, it roots easily and blooms spring to frost. The other plant I want to applaud is 'Powis Castle' artemisia, it survived beautifully this winter! You have to cut it back every now and then to keep it in line, but WOW what a nice plant! Both of these make excellent companion plants for roses, try them!

On the other hand, I lost several plants. Copper Canyon Daisy-dead, 3 out of 5 rosemary-dead, Crown of Thorns-dead, all new day lily foliage-burnt, blooms on my azaleas, Mid-Pride peach and believe it or not the blooms on my hawthorn bushes-burnt! What a discouraging sight my garden is right now. I will keep my fingers crossed for what I have lost and close my eyes till spring.

Helpful Tips

By Candy Fite

Got this idea from an article I read in The Houston Chronicle: When you find a decayed or dead cane, cut it back all the way to the base. Then fill with Elmers glue! It will keep out all the unwanted pests. I found that Elmers dried too slowly for me, so I used my low temp glue gun. I had a cane infested with Carp. ants, the glue plugged the hole and the heat killed the ants!

If you are having a hard time tying up those loose canes on a large climber or bush, try using the tube of a bike wheel. My husband actually came up with this one. He cut the tube into several pieces and then threaded them with heavy gaged wire. He used the tubed part to wrap around the cane of the rose and the wire he twisted around the gutter spout. My fear is that it will soon pull the gutter down, but don't tell him that!

Hope it Helps!

● ● Almanac Dates ● ●

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

For rooting all cuttings

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

May: 2-3, 7-8, 29-31

June: 3-5, 8-9, 26-27

For transplanting cuttings and potted roses

April: 14-16, 19

May: 12-13, 16-17

June: 12-13, 16

To prune roses for increased blooming

April: 1, 10-11, 27-29

May: 7-8, 29-31

June: 3-5, 26-27

Roses on the Web

by Shannon Sherrod

The internet has become more and more a part of peoples lives. Perhaps the most useful thing it has become is a tool for learning.

The amount of information available online is simply staggering. Where once it took a person years of hard detective work to track rare, dusty, volumes filled with rose knowledge it now only takes a few minutes on an online search engine.

The quickest source to much of the rose information online is through these search engines. I'm going to write about the web sites that I'm most familiar with so as far as search engines go I'll stick with google.com. You can use Google to search for any information you can think of. You want to know more about who the rose **General Schablikine** was named for, just type his name in the search space on Google and hit the search button. When you type in your search topic you will be given topic lists that you can then use to go to the information held there.

You can also use the search engines to find nurseries as well. More and more nurseries have their rose lists on-line now and some of them are even offering ordering services on-line as well. While on-line ordering is a new service that some aren't comfortable using yet it is a good tool to see what roses are

currently available from the different suppliers. Many of the nurseries are also providing pictures of their different roses. This is a great help in ordering and is also a great tool for the possible identification of some of our found roses. Currently some of the best on-line nursery sites are run by The Antique Rose Emporium, Heirloom Roses, Vintage Gardens, and Ashdown Roses. These sites also are a great way to keep up with some of the events that are happening at them.

In addition to nurseries there are also gardening forums. There a few of these but as before I'll speak of the one I'm most familiar with, gardenweb.com. The Gardenweb actually covers a lot more ground than just roses. When you first arrive at the site click on the gardenweb forums which will take you to a menu with many gardening topics. These different topics are called forums and you can read the question or comments posted by other people there and all of the responses to them. Some of the forums of particular interest to Rustlers include the Antique Rose forum, Rose, Organic Rose Growing, Rose Gallery, Rose Propagation, and Texas Gardening forums.

The Antique Forum has a pretty large group of Rustlers there on a regular basis already. I've been known to post there myself

occasionally under the name of my favorite cartoon character and the only one I've been accused of talking like. It's a nice place to find out how other people's roses are doing around the world. Just keep in mind that if someone says their tea roses do poorly they may be writing from England.

The Rose forum is mainly geared towards modern roses but there is still information there that would be useful to Rustlers. The Organic Rose Growing forum is chock full of ideas on fertilizer recipes, sprays and other goodies. The people there also list their roses that are least affected by disease and other pests. The Rose Gallery is one of those sites for cold Winter days since it's full of nothing but pictures of roses sent in by the posters there. Some of the most beautiful rose pictures I've ever seen have been posted there.

A real favorite of mine has been the Rose Propagation forum. I haven't been there in a while but when I first started on-line it was a great favorite of mine. People post the roses that they have available for cutting there or they list the ones they would like to receive cuttings of. One of the trades I first worked out involved a lady who lived near Seattle. She was very interested in trying **Maggie** and a few other of our found roses. I checked out her list, picked out a few that I wanted to try and we e-mailed each other our mailing addresses. I'm glad to say

that several of the ones she sent survived their shipping and even rooted here. Of course a few took one look at our hot weather and immediately died but the ones who made it made the trade worthwhile. By the way, **Maggie** is doing great near Seattle the last I heard.

The Texas Gardening forum is also another place that's full of different plants but with the emphasis squarely on what will do well here. It's also a place to go complain about the heat in August, trust me, you won't be alone in doing that there.

Of course as nice as the internet is it's still hard to beat the feel of an old rose book in hand and the joy it can bring. Finding these old books is the hard part though, but not if you use the internet. One of the sites I've used in the past to find old, out of print books is called bookfinder.com. Bookfinder is a service that many of the used book stores across the nation use to list their books. One of the books I really wanted to find was Landscaping with Antique Roses by Mike Shoup and Liz Druitt. It was out of print so I searched Bookfinder. For a long time there were no matches but finally one day a book store in Denver listed a copy. I was able to get their phone number from their web site, called them up, mailed them a check and had the book at my house inside of two weeks.

Not only can you find newer out of print books but you can also find some of the original classics printed in the 1800s there as well. Just be advised that there are some dealers who are very proud of their old rose books.

Of course no discussion of buying things on-line would be complete without mentioning e-bay.com. E-Bay is without a doubt the worlds biggest flea market. You can find everything under the sun for sale there. The buying is done by bidding during the time allotted for each item and the winning bidder makes arrangements by e-mail for payment. They have a nice buyer and seller rating review system that makes it possible for both parties to review the past E-Bay activities of the other.

The places on E-Bay that I've had the most luck are the book sections. You can narrow down your search from there. As an example I went to the catalog section and typed in rose under its search area. It then gave me a listing of all the catalog descriptions that had the word rose in them. From these searches I've been able to find old editions of the *Roses of Yesterday and Today* catalogs, and my prized 1905 Dingee and Conard Rose Catalog. These old catalogs make great reference tools.

Some of my other book finds on E-Bay include *My Friend the Rose* by Francis E. Lester, *Climbing Roses* by Helen Van Pelt Wilson, an

autographed copy of *All About Miniature Roses* by Ralph Moore, and the 1917 edition of *The Practical Book of Outdoor Rose Growing* by George C. Thomas. My greatest book find was a 1882 copy of *The Rose* by H.B Ellwanger, I won't say I stole it but I will say that I got a very good price on it.

Of course rose books aren't the only things on E-Bay, you can also but pruners, sprayers, shovels, and whatever else you can think of on their as well. One often neglected area to look is at the old greeting cards for sale there. A lot of the old cards had beautiful rose paintings on them and most of the cards for sale on E-Bay include pictures in the description. If you're very computer literate you can copy these pictures onto your own computer and use them as backdrops for your screen.

Another part of the web that's growing are the personal websites that people have of their gardens. You can take "virtual tours" of their gardens and get all kinds of ideas for yours. You can access a lot of these through what's known as web rings. Web rings are groups who have something in common such as roses.

Of course with all of this talk about roses on the web I can't not mention my absolute favorite, www.texas-rose-rustlers.com. These Rustlers seem like a strange group who are doing a good thing and they seem to be having one heck of a good time doing it!