

# The Old Texas Rose



Number 3

Summer 2001

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

## **Rookie Rustler Meeting July 21st Mercer Arboretum 10:00 - 12:30**

We will be having our annual Summer meeting at the Mercer Arboretum on July 21st from 10:00 to 12:30. This year we'll be doing something a little different, a more "interactive" type of meeting. Don't worry though it'll still be all about roses.

If you've ever been to one of our meetings you know that some of the most informative discussions occur after the meetings when groups of us talk informally about our rose growing experiences. We've decided to try to recreate one of these chats, minus the Mexican food we usually have in front of us, for the group.

In a effort to keep it organized we'll be talking our way through the whole rose growing experience. From deciding what kinds to plant, to where to plant them, to when to plant them, to what to do to the ground before you plant them, to how to take care of them afterwards. No one can say we're not ambitious!

Candy Fite, Audrey McMurray, and Shannon Sherrod will be leading this Rosy Roundtable discussion. The three of us will each be discussing the different ways we

approach these topics which will hopefully show that there is more than one "right" way to raise roses. We will also be bringing some of our favorite fertilizers, tools, and other rosy toys for a version of show and tell. After we've gone through the topics we'll then throw the whole thing open for question, observations, and yes, if we're doing something bad- critiques.

For this style of meeting to work we'll need your input. This will be the meeting to bring your questions to. If we can't answer your question we'll try to find someone who can or at least make something up! This format will also be more informative for the experienced Rustler as well since we all can learn from others experiences. If there is a Rustler out there who knows everything they can have my place at the table and I'll listen to them all day!

There will be our customary lotto drawings as well and remember that you don't have to bring anything but a smile and a desire to learn more about roses.

Mercer Arboretum is located on Aldine Westfield Road in Humble. Turn north off of FM 1960 and follow the signs to the Arboretum. Show up early and you can see whats looking good that time of year in the Arboretum.

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## Did you know?

We now have a new Treasurer / Membership Officer, Gladys Cronquist. Lucille Idom has decided to take a well deserved break from the job. Gladys was officially voted in at our Tyler meeting and is already hard at work. Many thanks are due to Lucille for all the time and labor she spent on completing her job.

I recently received this note from Pamela Puryear.

*I recall Margaret Sharpe was much taken with the gleanings of a purple gallica (?) she found in La Grange. Did anyone "get it"? Does anyone remember? I never saw it but the fact she mentioned it often makes me suspect it was something special.*

A big thanks goes out to Mike Shoup of the Antique Rose Emporium for mentioning rose rustling and the Rose Rustlers on his two recent television appearances. One mention occurred on Martha Stewarts Show and the other was during a recent Rose Special on Home and Garden Television. I would encourage all to look for reruns of either of these specials and to thank the folks at the Emporium for the publicity.

One of our members has registered a couple of his rose seedlings with the American Rose Society. Ray Ponton has singled out two of his roses as being good enough to register. **Katy Girl** is classed as a Shrub Rose and is described as light pink. **Cameron Bohls** is also registered as a Shrub and is described as being dark red. So much for the "official" descriptions, if you've had the

opportunity to see either of these roses you know how wonderful they are. Both of them were raised from **Katy Road Pink** stock so you can imagine how heat tolerant and disease free they are here in Texas. Cutting wood from both of these has been made available to Kings Nursery in Teneha. Don't bother calling just yet though because the road from cutting wood to selling size plants takes a couple of years. The next time you see Ray be sure to thank him for raising roses here in Texas for Texans.

The American Rose Society recently had their Old Garden Rose Seminar at the American Rose Center in Shreveport Louisiana. It was nice to see the increased interest in our old roses by the membership of the American Rose Society. Several of their members told me of the old roses they've "rustled" near the Shreveport area which is great news. Anything we can do to encourage rustling/preservation should be our highest priority. Recent issues of their magazine, The American Rose, have featured more articles on old roses than in years past. In addition to the increased articles in their main magazine they also publish the OGR & Shrub Gazette which is a newsletter type publication that comes out four times a year. Their membership seems to be concluding what we've known all along, the older roses have proved themselves in the hardest test of all, the test of time.

A recent news article said that more money was spent on gardening than on any other hobby in America. Of course we won't comment on how much money we've spent on our gardens will we? It's really pretty cheap therapy!



## Tyler Spring Symposium Review

We met in Tyler, Texas this year on April 21st for our annual Spring Symposium.

The members who showed up early were able to take in all the sights that the Tyler Rose Garden had to show. The Garden was in full Spring bloom and was indeed a sight to behold. Although the temptations were great the Rustlers were all well behaved. Well nearly everyone was well behaved, one enterprising Rustler did manage to "rustle" some pollen from some of the spent blooms for use in his hybridizing. Not to worry though, he did ask for and receive permission from the Garden Manager before his rustling.

The bulk of the roses are Hybrid Teas planted in large blocks and the view from above in the Rose Center was very impressive. While not many of us grow Hybrid teas in blocks like this we were very impressed by the effort and work involved in maintaining such a large collection. A couple of the more impressive roses there were **Opening Night** and **St. Patrick**.

The Tyler Mens Garden Club was also having their Spring Sale that day. This gave the early risers a chance to pick up a few extra goodies to plant before the meeting.

The meeting got off to a good start with a talk by Dr Brent Pemberton of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service in Overton. He conducts ornamental plant trials to find those plants that perform the best for the least effort. His talk and slide show were very informative. Of particular importance to the Rustlers were his trials with roses. The work done on

blackspot resistance was very interesting.

His talk was followed by Mark Chamblee of Chamblees Roses in Tyler. Mr. Chamblee described how his family became involved in the rose business years ago and how under him their focus has turned to the older and easier to grow types. He went into depth on the subject of rose sports and on some of the ones available at his nursery. The story of **Orange Hearts** and its two sports, **Pink Hearts** and **Red Hearts**, was very interesting and was capped off by his donating of one of each to our lotto drawing.

Our lotto drawing was well stocked and there were lots of good roses to choose from. Just a note about the lotto, don't think its just about roses, there were many other neat plants there with most of them on the "Free-Help Yourself" table. We had experienced Rustlers on hand to answer questions about the different roses and we also had detailed description tags on them. We had one visitor who was flying back to the Northeast who needed a rose capable of surviving there. A search was done and Martha Gonzalez was chosen as long as she was kept in a large pot and brought in during the Winter!

After the meeting we traveled out to Chamblees Roses and the fun was on! There's nothing as fun to watch as a group of Rustlers turned loose in a large nursery. There were the usual complaints of, "Where am I going to plant this?", and the overstuffed trunks and vans that go along with these frenzies.

Sunday morning we traveled out to Blue Moon Gardens and Nursery in Chandler, Texas. Blue Moon Gardens is set around an older house and has more



of a cottage garden feeling than the Tyler Rose garden. Miraculously some of the Rustlers found room for more plants in the same cars they were sure were full the day before.

If you've never been to one of our weekend meetings you really should try to make it. The fun and fellowship alone makes it worthwhile and the rose information and tips you pick up are just the icing on the cake.

### **Our Next Meeting The Fall Cutting Exchange October 20th**

We will be meeting at the Earle-Harrison House and Pape Gardens in Waco, Texas for our annual cutting exchange. The house was built by Dr. Bayliss Wood Earle and his wife, Eliza Harrison Earle in 1858. The house was one of the first Greek Revival homes built in Texas. The House has been fully restored and contains many of the items used in daily life. The home had fallen into disrepair but was restored by Mrs. Nell Pape and Mrs. Lavonia Jenkins in 1970.

The house is now surrounded by five acres. These acres are home to the Pape Gardens. The gardens are filled with with many of the flowers and vegetables that would have been grown in past. Of course that means old roses but you probably knew that!

There will be directions and a map in the the next Old Texas Rose along with more details. See you there!

### **Cutting Exchange Treasures by Shannon Sherrod**

With the cutting exchange coming up my mind wandered over some of the

roses I've found at the exchanges.

One of my favorites would have to be the **"Hillingdale Cemetary Rose"**. It's a small China/Tea that has beautiful little blooms of the palest blush pink fading to white. The name varies depending on who your cuttings come from as its also known as **"Conrads Old Quaint"**. It apparently was found blooming in a tiny family plot that was surrounded by a concrete parking lot in August! Whatever you call it it's definitely a rose worth preserving and as far as I know it's not available in commerce.

Another favorite is a newer one I picked up in Serbin. If my memory serves me right it was found by Marion Brandes. Its study name is **"Brooks Air Force Base Red Tea"**. Don't let the long name keep you from trying it the next time it turns up though. It reminds me a lot of the early Hybrid Tea **Red Radiance**. The blooms are a darker red however and they are held in a more upright position than many of the teas in my garden. The foliage has been very clean so far too. The plants overall health and vigor has really impressed me in the short time I've actually had it in the ground.

One of the neatest roses I've found was in a bag whose label had almost washed off. I thought it said **Lousie Odier** and the cuttings looked nice so I decided to give it a try. After growing it I'm sure its not Louise Odier. What it is is a large pink Tea rose thats a steady bloomer and very healthy. I call it **"Not Louise Odier"**.



## Notes from Serenity Pond

by Patricia J. McCain

It is grasshopper season! Just about the time one is proud of their garden, in come the grasshoppers. There can be immediate devastation. When I first moved to this place, I had a shell of a house and a few plants. The grasshoppers fought to get past me into the house, where they wasted no time eating houseplants. The few yard plants and bushes were totally stripped.

That is no longer a problem, thanks to Semaspore. I have used Semaspore about five years and have greatly benefited from the results. I have seen neither adverse conditions nor any side effects. Semaspore is a virus that affects the stomach of the grasshopper, even the giant yellow-green ones. As the virus takes over, the grasshopper dies. Then because grasshoppers are carnivorous, they eat their dead, spreading the virus even more. Because it is a live virus, hidden in bait, the life of Semaspore is very limited. It can only be purchased the first two (2) weeks of June and must be applied immediately.

Though this virus is not thought to be harmful to humans, it is recommended to use rubber gloves for protection. The appearance is enough to hasten one to do so, a yellow moist substance. It is not harmful to other insects. Most important here at Serenity Pond, Bird Sanctuary, is that Semaspore is not harmful if a bird eats an affected grasshopper. Broadcast in your gardens, along the fence line, concentrating on breeding areas. Pampas grass and Buford Hollies are two places I notice they gather to breed. They have been totally

destroyed, killing two hollies and stripping a large pampas growth. Because I live in the country where the grasshoppers swarm in every year, I must continue to treat each year. In the beginning I used one (1) to (2) pounds per acre. Each year it has become less of a problem, therefore using less per acre, slowly spreading out over 10 acres concentrating on property lines and breeding areas. I never fail to put some around the house as I never want to fight them at my door again.

One thing I have noticed is that the price can vary greatly from one garden supply store to another. When I first used Semaspore, it was still in experimental use, so I paid a low price and the substance came in a brown paper bag. Now that it has become a commercial product, it is sold at a higher price and is packaged. So I would suggest shopping around if you have a large area to treat. By using Semaspore, the benefits are great and each year there is less of a problem with grasshoppers. For more information you may contact me by Phone: 979-589-2314 or Email: [serenitypond@msm.com](mailto:serenitypond@msm.com).

### ● ● Almanac Dates ● ●

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

#### For rooting all cuttings

July: 6-7, 10-12, 15-16, 19-20

August: 7-8, 11-13, 16-17

September: 3-4, 8-9, 12-13

October: 5-6, 9-10, 16

#### For transplanting cuttings and potted roses

July: 20, 25-26

August: 22-25

September: 20-22

October: 16-19

#### To prune roses for increased blooming

July: 19-20

August: 16-17

September: 12-13

October: 9-10



## Rose Sources Review Sequoia Nursery

by Shannon Sherrod

The purpose of this article is not to endorse any one nursery over another but is intended to be a guide to what's out there in the wonderful world of rose catalogs. Reviews of other Rustlers favorites are definitely welcomed.

Sequoia Nursery is owned and operated by Ralph Moore. Let me state right off the bat the Mr Moore is to my mind the most talented rose breeder alive today. He's best known for his miniature roses and the work he's done to popularize them. Those who pigeonhole him as just a mini rose grower are missing the true diversity of his work though. He has worked tirelessly over many years to create the first true repeat blooming Moss Roses. His repeat blooming Moss Roses do stand a little better chance in Texas due to their mixed bloodlines than the old pure bred ones. His Moss roses alone don't tell the full tale though. He also raised the first yellow Rugosa rose and has created several of these. Although these first two groups are nice they don't come from classes of roses that generally flourish in Texas.

A third group he's been working with recently does seem to like it here. The Bracteata Hybrids are a group that come from the old McCartney Rose that bedevils pastures and farmland all over the South. Before his hybrids arrived there were only a few others around for growers to try. One that is found only at a couple of nurseries, (The Antique Rose Emporium in Brenham carries it), is called **Alba Odorata** and has double white blooms. The other more widely available and infamous Bracteata Hybrid is

**Mermaid**. Anyone who's grown her or seen her knows how vigorous she is. For some reason breeding work on the Bracteatas stopped after her arrival, perhaps they were afraid of creating more monsters!

Mr Moore has picked up this work and has released several new ones with more to come soon. **Pink Powderpuff**, **Out of Yesteryear**, and **Muriel** are three that have found their way into my garden, I'll have more to say about them in a future article. I will say this now though, if you have room give them a shot.

Sequoia's catalog is divided into two parts, one booklet is full of their miniatures and some of the newer shrubs they've released. The other part is of particular interest to old rose lovers like us. The Supplemental Rose List for 2001 has over 450 roses listed on it. Not all of these are old roses, many are harder to find modern Hybrid Teas, English Roses, and a large number of the late Dr Griffith Bucks roses which seem to enjoy our climate so well.

Scattered amongst these roses is a very large collection of Polyantha roses. Such rare old jewels as **Eblouissant**, a dark red from 1918, **Gloria Mundi**, a orange one from 1929, and **Verdun**, a medium red from 1918. With Polyanthas being one of the classes that performs well here in Texas these may deserve a closer look.

Very few nurseries carry as many of the older pre World War II Hybrid teas either. Some of the harder to find varieties available are **Chateau de Clos Vougeot**, a dark red from 1908, **General MacArthur**, a dark pink from 1905, and **Vesuvius**, a single petaled medium red from 1923. Some of these roses are only a couple of



generations removed from the old Tea roses. That extra dose of Tea blood may make the difference during one of our lovely 100 degree every day weeks.

The China roses are well represented with such classics as **Archduke Charles**, **Hermosa**, and **Mutabilis**. Mixed in with these are some of the rarer varieties such as **Comtessa du Cayla**, a beautiful apricot/pink blend, **Irene Watts**, a white one, and **Santa Rosa**, a dark pink one raised by famed plant breeder Luther Burbank. Finally there is another China/Bourbon cross they carry called **Eugene de Beauharnais** that must be mentioned. It is medium red in color and possesses much of the fragrance of the Bourbon roses in a smaller growing plant.

The most interesting group, to my mind, would have to be the Tea roses. Many of the usual suspects are here but again it is the rarer ones that catch the eye, and the checkbook.

Classed as a Climbing Tea, **Devoniensis** is a white rose with a fragrance that admirers claim can be smelled over cigarette smoke, a very high compliment indeed. **Mme Creux** (1890) and **Mme de Tartas** (1859) are both listed as pink blend Teas and are very rare in the nursery trade. Also available is **Niles Cochet** (1906), a "red blend" sport from that famous old Tea rose **Maman Cochet**.

**Niphetos** (1843) is a white tea rose that was very famous as a florists rose in the days before the Hybrid Teas took over. It has a very tall and pointed form for a older Tea rose. It was considered "lost" at one time but a lucky Rustler found a plant and it was restored. Another interesting Tea is **Rainbow** (1889), a sport of **Papa Gontier**, that is listed as a pink blend

but that doesn't tell the true story. The blooms are actually a pale pink splashed with darker pink stripes. Another sport from a popular rose they carry is **Sunset** (1883) a darker yellow sport from **Perle des Jardins**. The last one I'll mention is also rare because of its coloration. **Freiherr von Marschall** (1903) is listed as medium red which is a very hard color to find in Tea roses.

I have ordered several times from Sequoia and have been pleased with their packaging and shipping practices. Their catalog and list are free and describe a little about their business. They also send a free issue of their newsletter, Mini-Rama, with each order as well. Their prices are very reasonable and the shipping is as well.

Their plants aren't nearly as large as the ones for sale at places such as the Antique Rose Emporium though. One reason for this is that it cuts down on the shipping charges. The plants I've ordered have generally come in four or five inch pots and have been anywhere from four to ten inches tall. I generally set them over into larger one or two gallon size pots and grow them there until they're large enough to plant in the ground. Some people plant them straight from the carton and I've been told that can work well also. You can contact them at :

Sequoia Nursery  
2519 E. Noble Ave.  
Visalia, CA 93292  
(559) 732-0309  
[www.miniatureroses.com](http://www.miniatureroses.com)



## Singular and Unique

by Pamela Puryear

After years of rose collecting and growing, and after hours of pouring over luscious catalogues with HTs imperceptively becoming so many colors like a Baskin-Robbins display, the rosarian yearns for a rose, not of shape, nor even of fragrance, but of distinction; a rose at once unique that might never be mistaken for anything else.

The Victorians thought they had such individuals in those cultivars striped, blotched, and edged. It must have taken a certain type of rosarian to grow these when they were introduced, and it really does today!

"Commandant Beaurepaire", Honoriene de Brobant and Variegata de Bologna are closely kin Bourbon roses with fat and fragrant blooms. "Comm. B" is a heavy but single bloomer with "astonishingly bizarre" flowers of light crimson or crimson-pink splashed wand striped with purple, maroon, rose, and even scarlet. "CB" broke upon the rose world of 1874 bearing (as is so often the case) the name of a French soldier on a bloom almost too gorgeous for a woman!

"Honorine de Brabant" blooms on a chunky bush for a loner time. Her flower is lilac and pink with deep lilac stripes. "Variegat di Bologna" a Bourbon introduced in 1909 which boasts white blooms striped in purple. "Ferdinand Pichard" classed as a HP (though probably a Bourbon) of 1921 is like "CB" though ever blooming and on a taller bush. "Roger Lambelin" is a sport of "Prince Camille de Rohan" in which the marron crimson blooms were both indented and edged in white.

It was introduced by Schwartz of Lyon France in 1890. In 1879 the same nursery's crimson Eugene Furst had sported "Baron Girod de l'Ain". The "Baron" has a cup and saucer sort of bloom with white edges, but the contrast is not as great as "Roger Lambelin".

These roses were Bourbons and HPs, and while they may be grown in our area, they are happier in cooler, wetter summers. All are in commerce, but here must be watched for black spot and mildew.

The Rose Rustlers had no hopes of finding these on our hunts, but we were always secretly hoping for the two Prairie roses- "Flag of the Union" and "American Banner". Alas! never seen. Both are obviously red and white striped.

The only striped rose that fell to our clippers was Mrs. Meyer's sister's China, located in Brenham. We got it in the mid 1980's. Its loose bloom had dusky rose and pink stripes, and we study-named it "Peppermint China". Does any Rustler volunteer to see if anyone has it, and discover its "real" name? It is really a horse of a different stripe!

A garden is like those pernicious machineries which catch a man's coat-skirt or his hand, and draw in his arm, his leg, and his whole body to irresistible destruction.

Ralph Waldo Emerson  
*The Conduct of Life* (1860)



## **10 Reasons Roses are better than Grass-**

- 1. Roses don't, (usually) spread where you don't want them.**
- 2. There's no challenge to growing grass, even the highway department can do it!**
- 3. Roses only need pruning twice a year.**
- 4. Pruners are quieter than lawn mowers.**
- 5. Pruning is usually done when its cool outside, the grass usually needs mowing in the hottest parts of the year.**
- 6. Grass only comes in one color.**
- 7. Grass only smells good when you cut it.**
- 8. Your neighbors won't complain if you're roses get too tall.**
- 9. If they do complain you can always say that they're climbers and are supposed to look like that.**
- 10. Try giving your sweetheart a dozen grass clippings on Valentines Day. You first!**

In fairness to grass here are a couple of reasons grass is better than roses.

- 1. Its easier to pronounce San Augustine and Bermuda than Jaune Desprez and Cramoisi Superieur.**
- 2. It's not as hard to grow, even the Highway Department can do it!**

## **Getting Rid of Bermuda Grass**

by Shannon Sherrod

If you've ever had to pull Bermuda grass out of a flower bed you know what a headache it can be. It's even harder to pull out from under roses since the thorns always seem to be the worst at the base.

The easiest way to avoid having to pull it out is to remove it before you plant the bed. Digging it out is hard work since you really have to dig deep to get all of the roots. You can also mulch very deeply which does seem to stop some of it and makes the parts that pop through easier to pull. The only problem is that once you ever let down your guard it's back and you have to start all over again. Another idea is to lay down thick layers of newspaper or cardboard which stops the grass and eventually decomposes into the soil.

Chemical controls are another option. The problem with most weed killers like Roundup is that they also kill your roses and other flowers.

There are products you can spray on Bermuda grass and your roses that only kill the grass. They are sold under several names such as Grass-B-Gone, Over the Top, Poast, and Bermuda Grass Killer. Grass-B-Gone is sold already mixed and the others are mixed with water in your sprayer. These products are not rated as being safe for food crops so don't use them if you're making rose hip jelly. They are very effective in killing Bermuda grass however and haven't damaged my roses since I started using them over a year ago. If you have ornamental grasses you should avoid getting it on them however. The roses seem to have prospered from the lack of competition for water and nutrients and the garden looks much neater.



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