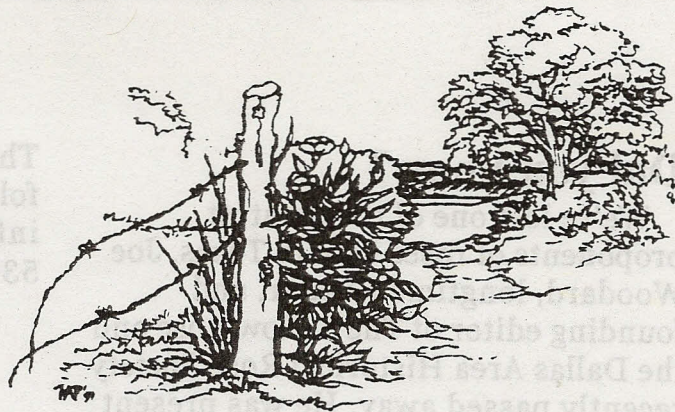


The Old Texas Rose



Number 2

Spring 2001

www.texas-rose-rustlers.com

Spring Symposium 2001

Tyler, Texas

April 21st

1:00 to 4:00

We're headed back into the piney woods of East Texas again this Spring. This year we'll be going a little farther north to Tyler, "The Rose Capital" of Texas. We've moved the starting time back to 1:00 so that members who may be driving a good distance will have time to get there. As a added benefit we'll be able to have lunch without breaking up the meeting.

Tyler has for years been know as a rose growing area and the growing of roses still plays a important role in the agricultural industry of the area. One of the chief attractions of Tyler for the rose gardener has always been the Tyler Rose Garden. The Rose Garden is in a large park setting and is comprised of several beautifully landscaped sections. The main section contains hundreds of Hybrid Teas and others which serves as the backdrop for the annual Tyler Rose Festival held each Fall. This festival culminates with the crowning of the Rose Queen and her court. Other areas of the garden that will hold particular interest to Rustlers include the Heritage Garden which is a mixed planting of Old Garden Roses and other

perennials and annuals. Another newer addition at the complex is the Idea Garden. This area is intended as a educational garden with exhibits on composting, xeriscaping, and other gardening techniques.

Located next to all of this is the Tyler Rose Center. There is a gift shop inside full of the kind of rose related things your friends would surely like to find wrapped up for their birthdays! In addition to the gift shop there is also a Rose Queen Museum containing many of the formal gowns worn by Rose Queens in past years.

Rustlers who can come up earlier are encouraged to do so as the Tyler Mens Garden Club will be having their annual Spring meeting starting at 8:00 that morning at the Rose Garden. They will be giving tours of the Rose Garden starting every hour. They will also be having different garden related vendors and speakers. Part of their meeting will also include plants for sale that came from Kings Nursery in Tenaha so be sure to get there early for a shot at those.

We're going to be having our meeting in the Activities Building located across the parking lot from the Rose Center. We'll begin setting up noon and any help will be appreciated.

Continued Inside

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Did you know?

We've lost one of the greatest proponents of roses here in Texas. Joe Woodard, longtime Rustler, and founding editor of The Yellow Rose and the Dallas Area Historical Rose Society recently passed away. He was present at the very beginning of The Texas Rose Rustlers and was one of the first folks to make the pilgrimage down to Navasota and Brenham on the early rustles. He was a great champion of old roses and he will surely be missed.

Official Texas Rose Rustler Shirts Now Available

We now have an official Texas Rose Rustler logo and a denim shirt to put it on! If you saw them on the Rustlers who manned the phones at Houston's Channel 8 studio and just HAVE to have one, well, we can oblige. Get your \$26 check to Gladys Cronquist (9730 Harrowgate Dr., Houston, TX 77031) by April 10th. If we receive at least six orders, we can bring them to the Spring Symposium or you can pick yours up yourself at Audrey McMurray's house (11031 Dunlap Dr., Houston, TX 77096). Orders received after April 10th will be available at the summer meeting or can be picked up as well.

The shirts are a medium denim blue, long-sleeved, with the logo on the front pocket. Sizes are adult male S, M, L, XL, XXL. (The shirts tend to run a bit large.) We do have one XL ordered but not used, from the Channel 8 taping, that is also available for sale.

We will be looking at fund-raising efforts for the Margaret Sharp Memorial Garden in the near future and have been discussing selling these shirts for more than our cost of \$26.

This is a get-'em-while-they're-hot offer folks, before the price goes up! For more information, call Audrey at 713-729-5307 or email jamac80@yahoo.com.

A Letter of Thanks

My special thanks to the Texas Rose Rustlers, and Candy Fite and the telephone volunteers in particular, for your kind support of Channel 8 and the Lazy Gardener Special. Wanted to let you know that, as of the Monday following the show, we were one of the highest pledge-raisers among the local shows! That really shows Channel 8 folks want local gardening advice. Thanks again for your support.

Brenda Beust Smith

Texas Rose Rustlers Support Public Broadcasting

If you happened to be in the Houston area, watching Channel 8 on Saturday, March 10, you were lucky enough to catch Rustler/Lazy Gardener, Brenda Beust Smith, and Rustler/Master Gardener, Candy Fite, conducting a first-rate segment on OGRs and propagation during Channel 8's semi-annual pledge drive. This was Candy's first television appearance, but you would have never known it. She was so poised and well-spoken, she did us proud!

Helping to record the pledges were ten Rustlers: Darla Gips, Gladys Cronquist, Virginia Sissom, Audrey McMurray, Stuart McMurray, Charmaine Burts, Phyllis de Gelleke, Faith Hill, Doana Fite, and Ursula White.

We had such a good time that we hope to be invited back next year.

Spring Symposium Continued

We'll be having two speakers who will be of great interest to Rustlers. First up is Dr. Brent Pemberton, he's the man in charge of plant trials and evaluation at the Texas Extension Service Station in Overton Texas. He gets to test many of the roses and other plants before they are ever introduced for the general public. The Extension Service does these trials at different areas across our state for the purpose of finding the best plants for our area. You may have seen the labels Texas Tough or Texas Superstar beginning to show up on plants at your local nursery. One of their first rose "Superstars" is one of our favorites, Belindas Dream, so you know they're off to a good start.

Our second speaker is Mark Chamblee, the owner of Chamblees Rose Nursery located on US. Hwy. 69 North in Tyler. Chamblees Rose Nursery has over 400 varieties to choose from in a covered retail area that's over 20,000 square feet. The bulk of their roses are Antique and Own-Root garden Roses with a good selection of miniatures as well. We'll be getting a guided tour of their nursery after our meeting ends so you'll want to plan on taking that in as well. Just so you'll know how much to take a loan for before you go here are their prices, Antique and Garden Roses (1 gallon pot) \$6.95, Miniature Roses (1 gallon) \$6.95, and Miniature Roses (4.5 inch pot) \$3.95.

Since Tyler is a pretty far way from home for most Rustlers we thought it would be nice to include something for Sunday morning for those who've "made a weekend" of it. We'll be traveling out to Blue Moon Gardens located near Chandler about 15 miles

from Tyler. It's a very picturesque nursery that's been featured in Southern Living magazine. They have a very large selection of herbs and many hard to find perennials as well. They also have many fine garden decorations and a very nice gift shop as well. We'll have directions at the meeting and will "caravan" out there on Sunday.

Program Schedule

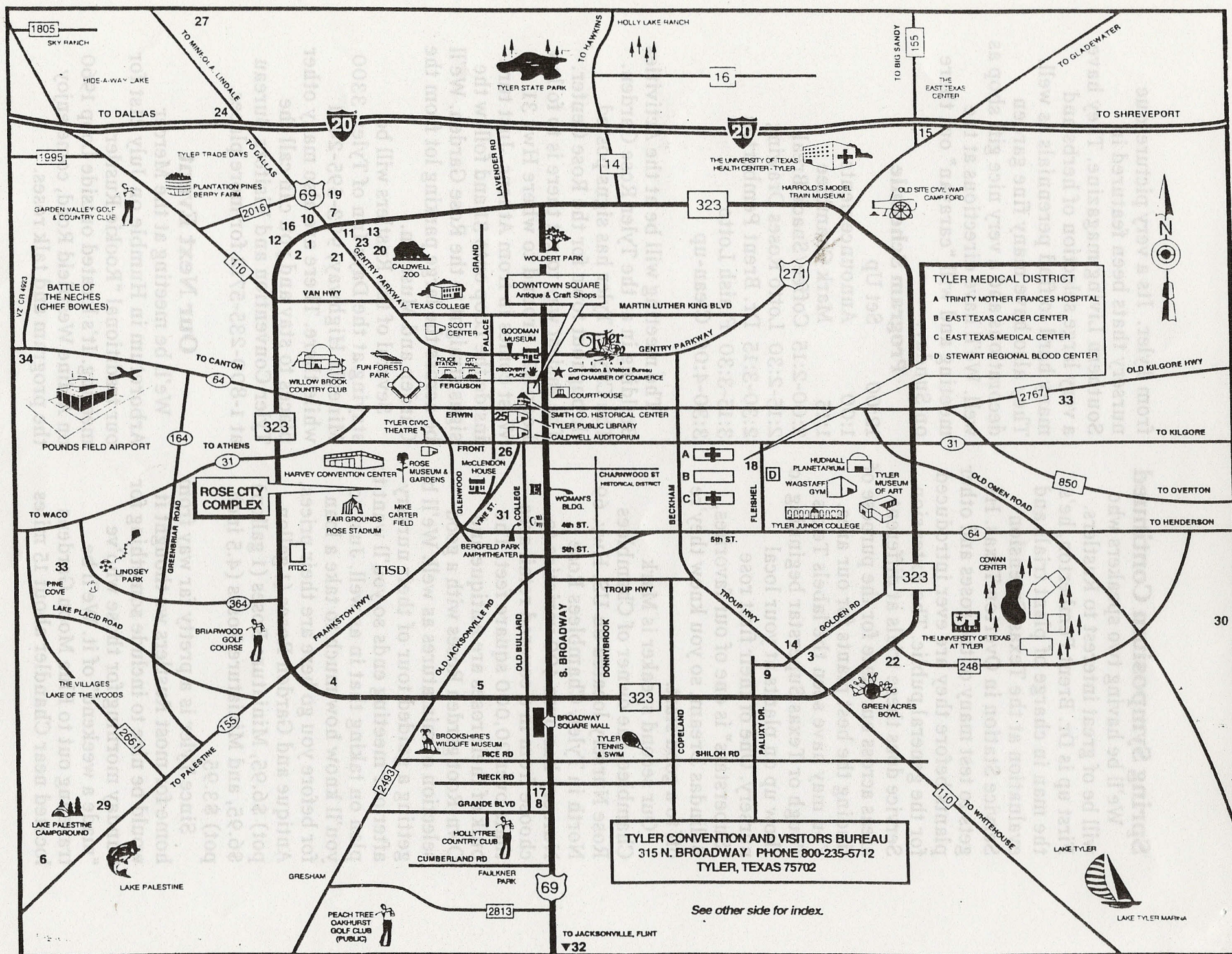
12:00	Set Up
1:00	Announcements
1:15	Mark Chamblee
2:00-2:15	Coffee/Snack Break
2:15-2:30	Lotto Roses Drawing
2:30-3:15	Dr. Brent Pemberton
3:15-3:30	Finish Lotto
3:30-4:00	Clean-up

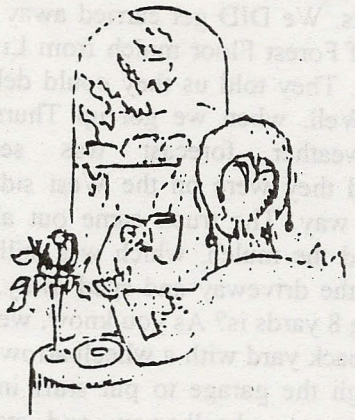
The meeting will be at the Activities Building in at the Tyler Rose Garden. The City of Tyler has signs posted throughout town for the Rose Center. The easiest way to get there is to follow Loop 323 around to where Hwy 31 West comes in from Athens. Just turn inside the Loop onto 31 and follow the signs straight to the Rose Garden. We'll be across the large parking lot from the Garden and Museum.

Several of the Rustlers will be staying at the Days Inn of Tyler 3300 Mineola Highway, 903-595-2451 while there. There are also many other places to stay and you can call the Tyler Convention and Visitors Bureau at 1-800-235-5712 for more places.

Our Next Event

We'll be meeting at the Mercer Arboretum in Humble on July 21st for our traditional "Rookie Rustler" meeting. It's located outside Loop 1960 on Aldine Westfield Road, come enjoy the program and talk roses.





Coffee with Auntie Lottie

I'm enjoying the beautiful spring morning, walking through the yard and enjoying my coffee. Having had a cold, wet winter helped the rose bushes a great deal - they are covered with buds and flowers.

My yard gets full sun now since I had the last tree cut down. Now I'm going to plant New Dawn and Fourth of July on the stump they left. Then I plan to add blue phlox for a patriotic effect: red, white and blue!

I made two more rose beds. One is in the front of the house with Mrs. B. R. Cant, Puerto Rico, and Strawberry Twist (bought from Secret Garden, in Montgomery, TX). They are in full bloom and are breath-taking. The other one is in the back yard and is full of (please forgive me, this is just an experiment) modern hybrid teas. I once swore off of all modern hybrids but these were so gorgeous and I had a sunny spot - if they die I swear I'll never touch a modern rose again! I planted Brandy, Sultry, Princess Diana, Fabulous, and Voodoo.

Has anyone tried these French Romantica roses? I bought Abbaye de Cluny at Teas Nursery. These roses are from Meilland and are supposed to like Houston's climate even more than the English roses, which I love. Right now Abraham Darby, Mary Rose,

English Sachet, Heritage, and Gertrude Jekyll are lovely.

Now I'll tell you why so many of my roses are in bloom. Three weeks ago I made up one of my witches' brews: a few handfuls of manure, a few handfuls of alfalfa meal, one small bag of phosphate, one Ω gallon box of Epsom salts in a five gallon container of water. But this year I also added a small bottle (about 8 oz.) of fish emulsion. Then I forgot about it until a family friend came over and asked about the raw sewage problem we must have had. It stunk so badly it made me sick to my stomach but I put a one pound coffee can's worth on either side of each bush. The dogs thought it was delicious so they had to go inside. The yard stunk until the next rain came a few days later. And now I have gorgeous blooms!

I'll leave you with this beautiful thought for the day: "*He who would have beautiful roses in his garden, must have beautiful roses in his heart.*" - Dean S. Reynolds Hole

◆●Almanac Dates●◆

...from Blum's Farmer's and Planter's Almanacs

For rooting all cuttings

April: 8-11, 15-16, 20-21

May: 8, 12-13, 17-18, 21

June: 8-10, 13-15, 18-19

For transplanting cuttings and potted roses

April: 24-25, 28-29

May: 22, 25-26

June: 22-23, 28-29

To prune roses for increased blooming

April: 10-11

May: 7-8

June: 5

SPRING OF 2001 AT THE IDOM HOUSE

It is Spring again. The garden beds are looking great. We had some wonderful rain this Winter and Spring at just the right time. We cut back our roses in January and Mayo did the Spring fling thing with Ag-Org P/L, Epsom salts, bone meal, cottonseed meal and bat guano. The next few days we had a nice rain and the buds and shoots on all the plants went wild. Right now in the middle of March the roses starting to bloom are Mutabilis, Pinkie, Fortune's Five Colored Rose, Old Blush, Parade, Baby Love, San Felipe Noisette, Francis Dubreuil, Nearly Wild and Duchess de Brabant. Bengal 'Wildfire' (a China) is in full bloom. This rose has won my heart with its continual bloom, healthy foliage, thornless branches and wonderful shape. It is only two years old and is 5 feet tall and 4 feet around - I can't prune it because it never stops blooming long enough for me to do the job. The Crape Myrtles have put out their leaves and the Heliotrope made it through the Winter just fine so we planted another one. We have a big round bed of yellow and orange Bulbine that is in full bloom and the large Aloe Vera plant in the same bed has a lot of buds on it too. There is a large yellow Jessamine bush that is in full bloom also and the Sweet Olive bush is putting out a sweet fragrance from the tiny blooms it puts out. The orange striped Abutilon that Marion and Frances Brandes gave us never stopped blooming all Winter. All the perennial Salvias are blooming and we are trying to keep them from taking over the beds where they are planted. Perennial Salvias are wonderful plants but know that when you plant them to give them plenty of room. They think their sole purpose in life is to run underground and spread their beauty to the entire world. Violas are another plant that thinks the same way - they reseed the world. Every year when we are busily pulling up Salvia and Violas the word spreads throughout the neighborhood - "Mayo and Lucille are thinning out their plants, bring your buckets". We are trying out two new perennials this year. One is a pink Marguerite Daisy from Australia (they call it a Cobbity Daisy) and the other is Gold Coin Asteriscus. (No, I have no earthly idea what an Asteriscus is.) The Tiger lilies and Casa Rosa lilies are up and it won't be long before they will be blooming. They made it through our 110 degree weather the last two years so they have won my admiration and respect.

If you have been reading my articles from the beginning, you are probably wondering - did they

put out the manure this year? Yes, we put out horse manure this year but we were only able to get a little bit in buckets. We DID get carried away and ordered 8 yards of Forest Floor mulch from Living Earth Technology. They told us they could deliver on a Thursday. Well, when we got up Thursday morning the weather forecast was severe thunderstorms and they were on the West side of town headed our way. The truck came out about 9:30 AM, dropped the mulch, which was still hot and smoking, on the driveway and sped away. Do you know how big 8 yards is? As you know, we can only get into our back yard with a wheelbarrow and have to go through the garage to put stuff in the back yard. I got one wheelbarrow and started putting mulch on the front beds and Mayo got the other wheelbarrow and started in the back yard. The neighbors ran in the house and locked the doors. One neighbor took pity on us and showed up with a wheelbarrow and shovel to help. She said, "I need the exercise". She started on the side yard and worked until 11:00 AM. Then everything came to a screeching halt as it started to rain. Mayo covered the mulch with plastic and we ran into the house. We sat in the living room for the rest of the day watching dolefully out the window as it rained and rained. When we got up Friday morning, guess what, it was still raining. It finally stopped around 8:00 AM and we started again. At noon I stopped and as I staggered into the house unable to straighten up, I told Mayo, "I will NOT be back today". He just groaned and kept working. I DID have the grace to feel sorry for him and fixed dinner and supper for him AFTER scrubbing mulch out from under my fingernails. Usually when we are working it is "fend for yourself". Finally on Saturday morning we only had two more yards to go. I got a cooler that I could sit on and dragged it and the wheelbarrow along the side of the flowerbeds. I would have used a chair but the ground was so soft I would have sank into the ground. I knew if that happened I would never be able to get up and Mayo might not be inclined to come help me up. Rosie helped a lot by following me around and lying against my foot when I stopped to dump the mulch. I carried a small fork in my pocket to dig up the gazillion Oxalis bulbs that had sprouted and pulled another gazillion sprouting acorns up. Isn't gardening fun? ...Yes, gardening is a lot of fun so get out there and enjoy yourselves! Relax and smell the roses.

Pruning by the Light of the Moon

By Candy Fite

Well here we are again, early spring and everything needs a good pruning. With the days getting longer and the sun a bit warmer, everything is beginning to awaken from it's quiet, winter slumber. Gardeners everywhere are scrambling around, trying to remember where it was that they last saw their pruning shears, garden clogs and sun hat.

As I stare out my kitchen window, enslaved by a sink full of dishes, I long to be out there. I can almost hear the faint whispers of the roses, "Do you think she has forgotten about us"? "She does realize what time of the year it is, right"? I feel like screaming out the window, "I haven't forgotten about ya'll, I will get out there as soon as I can"! But as I look over at my husband, I know better. He has recently started a list of my neurotic behaviors when it comes to gardening. He says that he is going to start a group on my behalf, it will be called, "Gardeners Anonymous". I'll admit there may be a slight obsession, but I refuse to give him the satisfaction!

Being a Mother of two and having a full time job, I am lucky to be able to sit down by 9:30 p.m. When I finally do, I am usually asleep in 2.5 seconds, on the couch, television on, and I am more than likely snoring! My busy life leaves very little time for my gardening. Gardening I will add is my passion, my therapeutic tool for sanity. As I stare out the window, with the hubby watching, I strategically plan my escape. The plan goes as follows, at 10 o'clock when the kiddos are in bed

and the husband is lost in a great John Wayne movie, I will sneak out the back door.

The insane feeling of NEEDING to be out in the garden is, I'll admit, a bit humiliating. I find myself making up excuses to go out whenever possible. All the time and dedication I put into the garden is well spent, at least I think so. My husband probably would argue and ask, "Isn't folding the laundry more important"? Looking over at him now, I am almost sure that he can see the "plan of escape" in my eyes. Although, I know that these thoughts of panic are all part of my imagination, I wait patiently, as I watch the clock.

The clock strikes ten and I quietly creep out the back door. Clippers and gloves in hand, I slip into my garden clogs and gaze up into the night sky. Luckily the moon is full and the night is young. I dare not turn on the flood lights, for I would surely blow my cover. As I walk along the lawn, I listen to a chorus of crickets, singing it's sweet songs. There is a light cool breeze that prevent the mosquitoes from landing for their nightly feeding. How I love to be out here amongst the roses, now this is what I call, a little bit of Heaven. As I begin clipping, I hear the back door open and the lights turn on. I duck down behind the roses, quiet so he won't see me. "Honey, I know you're out there, just don't stay out too long now". He quietly closes the door.

As I move from one rose bush to the next, I contemplate my busy life and wonder, how did life become so crazy? Working full time with a family doesn't leave much time for anything else. It is just my luck that these old garden roses are so forgiving. Waiting patiently for some attention, any attention. No sprays, no round-the-

clock feedings, just some light pruning and a snack once in a while, keeps them quite content. Wouldn't it be nice if everyone in our lives required such little care?

Sometimes, we must find time to do chores in the wee hours of the night. I find pruning by the light of the moon, a great management of time. It also is a bit adventurous I might add! Everyone needs to take time for themselves and find a hobby. If your not careful, you can easily lose yourself in the hustle and bustle of life.

However being out here, down in the dirt, scratched by the thorns and smacking at the mosquitoes, will definitely bring you back down to earth. One thing for sure is, I WILL get all the roses pruned, even though the hubby is, as we speak, signing me up for "Gardeners Anonymous"! I'll admit, by taking these extreme measures to prune the roses, there might be a slight problem! Happy Gardening!

Rustling in the Pines

by Shannon Sherrod

It's been a busy and wet Spring out here in the piney woods. My wife, Melissa, and I live at the end of a dirt road here in the bustling metropolis of Chireno. When we found our place out here we decided that we needed some chickens. Not just any old chickens would do, we wanted the "pretty" kinds who laid the brown eggs. Luckily some friends had some extra chickens so they gave us a few of the hens and the smaller, bullied, rooster Hens don't need a rooster around to lay eggs but we wanted one to add to the soundtrack of life in the country. We now have Woodrow, our rooster, and our hens,

Lucy, Eunice, Shirley, Claudette, Sadie, and Wayne, (Wayne hatched on my Uncles birthday in case you were wondering). This Springs big project has been to enlarge their pen, attach a outside run and connect their pen to our fenced vegetable garden. Now the chickens till our vegetable garden all day while we're at work, and wipe out any bugs they find too, and in return they leave us eggs and fertilizer! Now how do you beat a deal like that?

Whats all this got to do with roses you ask? With all of this new fence I now have room to plant a lot of the climbers I never had a place to plant. First to be planted was **San Felipe Noisette**, the very fragrant, white, found rose. Fragrance is a wonderful thing to have around the chicken pen come Summer time! Other climbers I have slotted to go in are **Climbing Souvenir de la Malmaison, Gloire de Dijon, Lamarque, and Mme Alfred Carriere**. I still will have room for a couple of more, (its a big vegetable garden, we have four acres in all, and I tried to fence off as much as I could to avoid having to mow it)!

Another thing that I've been trying out this year is my new Black & Decker Power Sprayer. I've been using it to foliar feed my roses and other plants once a week with fish emulsion and seaweed extract. It uses the same batteries as many of their other "Versa Pack" tools. It comes on wheels and has a handle to pull it around by and a three gallon tank. So far I've had no problems and have to say that it beats pumping up a hand sprayer by far. It's definitely something I'd recommend to people with a lot of roses or anything that needs lots of spraying.

My Ten Favorite Fragrant Roses

by Frances Brandes

1. Blanc Double de Coubert - Hybrid Rugosa by Cochet-Cochet, 1892. Very dense, bushy, summer-flowering, fragrant white blooms. Like heavy perfume!

2. Crimson Glory - Hybrid Tea by Kordes, 1935. Rich red, fragrant like perfume. Dense, good foliage.

3. Louis Phillipe - China. Not to be confused with Cramoisi Supérieur. Louis Phillipe is a cupped, fragrant, two-toned carmine flower, like a Bourbon. Beautiful, fresh, prolific bloomer. Very desirable. Gets very large.

4. Souvenir de la Malmaison - Bourbon, 1843. Hot weather plant with large pink, flat, fragrant flowers. A "must" for every garden.

5. Francis Dubreuil - Tea by Dubreuil, 1894. Marion and I were some of

the first people in the Houston area to grow this beautiful, dark red, very fragrant Tea. Blooms are like velvet. Bush doesn't get very tall.

6. Duchesse de Brabant - Tea, 1857. Gets very large! Wonderful, true tea fragrance. Pink flowers and vigorous shrub. Very desirable tea for Texas. Sister is white (same flower, growth habit): Madame Joseph Schwartz (1880). Both very desirable, large. Make good specimens.

7. Marquise Boccella - Hybrid Perpetual by Duprez/Cochet, 1840. Also confused with Jacques Cartier. Very upright, thorny bush. Flowers are soft pink, flat "powder puffs" - very fragrant.

8. MarÉchal Niel - Noisette by

Pradel, 1864. Very double, full globular cups. Beautiful yellow rose. Needs to be pruned often so plant won't exhaust itself over blooms. Probably a better rose in cooler zones, 7 and up.

9. La Reine - Hybrid Perpetual by Laffay, 1842. Very vigorous, hardy rose with large, purplish, fragrant blooms. Found in old cemetery with no care for many years. La Reine means "The Queen".

10. Kaiserin Friedrich - Noisette by Drogemuller/Schultheis, 1889. Very vigorous climber, very fragrant; beautiful colors reminiscent of sunset tones. Very desirable, highly rare, should be preserved. More details on Joe Cooper's web site (www.ph-rose-gardens.com).

Unfolding The Rosebud

It is only a tiny rosebud
A flower of Gods design;
But I cannot unfold the petals
With these clumsy hands of mine.

The secret of unfolding flowers
Is not to such as I.
God opens this flower so sweetly,
When in my hands they fade and die.

If I cannot unfold a rosebud,
This flower of Gods design,
Then how can I have the wisdom
To unfold this life of mine?

So I'll trust in Him for His leading
Each moment of every day.
I will look for His guidance
Each step of the pilgrim way.

The pathway that lies before me,
Only my Heavenly Father knows.
I'll trust Him to unfold the moments,
Just as He unfolds the rose.

-Author Unknown-

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