

# The Old Texas Rose



Number 2

Spring 2000

www.texas-rose-rustlers.com

## Spring Symposium at SFA on April 8th

We will be holding our annual Spring Symposium at Stephen F. Austin University. The university is located in Nacogdoches, Texas about 120 miles from Houston on Highway 59.

The meeting will be in room 110 of the Agricultural Building on Wilson drive next to the Arboretum. The meeting will run from 10:00 to 3:00. Everyone is encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch and a dessert to share, if you wish, for lunch.

Our first speaker, Mike Peters, is the editor and publisher of Gardening on the Gulf Coast. His speech will be "The Roses of Texas Folklore: Revisiting the Yellow Rose of Texas and other Floral Legends".

Our second speaker, Greg Grant, is a lecturer at Stephen F. Austin and co-author of The Southern Heirloom Garden with Dr. William C. Welch. He is a regular contributor to many other horticultural books and magazines. His speech will be "Polly Wants All Her Tea in China" (Easy Roses for the South).

Back by popular demand we will also be having our rose judging, so bring your best blooms and show them off! We also will be giving a rooting demonstration as well. Last but not least we will be having a guided tour of the Arboretum and its wonderful collection of rare plants by SFA

Arboretum Research Associate, Dawn Parish.

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10:00-10:30 Sign in and announcements

10:45-11:30 Speaker Mike Peters

11:30-12:00 Lotto drawing for roses

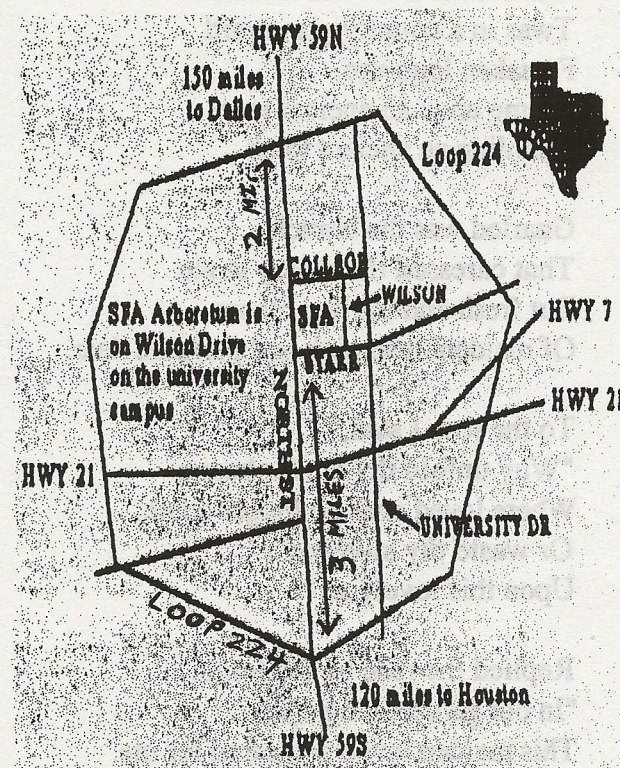
12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:15-2:00 Speaker Greg Grant

2:00-2:15 2nd drawing for roses

2:15-2:45 Rose judging

2:45-3:00 Final announcement and clean-up



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## Did you know?

The rose world lost one of it's greatest hybridizers recently. Professor Robert E. Basye died Wednesday, February 9th. He was 90 years old. He was a retired Texas A&M mathematics professor who had bred roses for over 50 years, toward the goal of developing genetic resistance to black spot disease. The rose he is most often remembered by is the wonderful **Belindas Dream**. A cross between the old once blooming Rambler **Jersey Beauty** and the Hybrid Tea **Tiffany**, it has become a favorite of gardeners. His work is being carried on as scientists continue to work at breaking the roses genetic code with a eye towards even greater roses for the future.

The following poem is by Dr. Basye himself and was published in the American Rose Magazine.

### "THE ROSE BY THE TOMB"

Twas in a country graveyard  
Forsaken long ago,  
I came upon an ancient rose  
Guarding an ancient tomb.

Gnarled was the branch  
That caressed the mossy stone  
But fresh and fair the bloom  
Of maidenblush pink and perfume dear.

To the rose I said,  
"Why unfold thy tender beauty  
Where loved ones no longer come,  
Or waste thy sweetness  
Upon this lovely air?"

Replied the rose by the tomb,  
"In our garden, long ago,  
This maiden loved and cared for me.  
To abide with her now  
is the least that I can do."

Our very own Program Chairman, Candy Fite, has had an article published in the March/April issue of Texas Gardener. It's entitled "Roses of Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow." Candy talks about her memories of roses growing up and how she became aware of and involved in antique roses. It's a really good read and as a side note I'd like to recommend Texas Gardener to anyone who tills the soil down here in our "balmy" climate. If you've ever gotten tired of reading garden advice from people who have to dig up and store cannas in the winter then try Texas Gardener. Thank Candy when you get the chance for getting the word out, the only way people will know about us or our roses is if we tell them!

It seems that Spring is the busiest time of year for gardening events as well as gardeners.

Our friends at The Antique Rose Emporium are having a different event every weekend in April with a rose identification workshop and book signing by the owner, Mike Shoup, of his new book, "The Best Old Roses for Southern Gardens" on the 29th and 30th. You can get more details at [www.wearerose.com](http://www.wearerose.com) or by calling (979)-836-5548.

Then of course the World Federation of Rose Societies will be meeting in Houston on April the 19th through the 24th. There are too many things happening to be listed here but needless to say it's going to be a rose lovers dream come true. To find out about everything that's going on contact the Houston Rose Society at their web site [www.houstonrose.org](http://www.houstonrose.org) or call (713)-227-ROSE.

The Heritage Rose Foundation will also be meeting there on Saturday the 22nd as well. You can get more details about their meeting by contacting them at [Rosefoun@aol.com](mailto:Rosefoun@aol.com) or calling them at (919)-834-2591.



## Spring Symposium cont.

As always we will be having our ever popular rose lotto drawings. Everyone is encouraged to bring any extra rooted roses you might have around to donate. This is a great way to collect some of the rarer varieties and is always a good way to make a first impression to any visitors we have. The La Marne I got at my first event is blooming right now!

For anyone interested in eating out for lunch there are several restaurants in the immediate area although on Saturday at noon it might be tight getting back in time for the afternoon's program. If you want to bring a lunch there are plenty of places to eat at the Arboretum.

For those interested in 'making a weekend of it' we have several other things going on in the area. Some of the members have chosen to stay at the La Quinta in Nacogdoches. Their number is 1-936-560-5453. There are several other places to stay listed on the Arboretum's web site at [www.sfasu.edu/ag/arboretum](http://www.sfasu.edu/ag/arboretum). In addition to the motels there are several bed and breakfasts in the area including the John C. Rogers house in Center, Texas about 30 minutes away. They have a large collection of antique roses in their garden and the owners love them so much they named the guest rooms after different roses. They're running a Rustler Special for the weekend and you can contact them at 1-888-386-0076.

After the regular program ends Saturday we've been invited to go to Kings Nursery in Tenaha, Texas for a reception. It's about a forty-five minute drive from Nacogdoches and is located on Highway 84 just past the Highway 59 overpass. Kings is a family run, ( since 1915 ), nursery that grows many of the rarities found at the SFA Arboretum. The owner, Aubrey King, is also a dedicated old rose fan. In addition to his roses he also has a

great selection of perennials which are all happy living here in our heat. If you've ever read *Passalong Plants*, ( which he has for sale along with several other essential gardening books), you'll be familiar with much of his stock. Expect to find some old favorites that are hard to find in the trade as well.

We've been invited to tour Greg Grant's garden on Sunday morning near Center, Texas in the community of Arcadia, downtown Arcadia actually. His garden is built around his grandmothers dog trot style house. It has all the plants and 'ornaments' that the SFA Arboretum isn't quite ready for.

There will be maps to both Kings Nursery and to Greg's house at the Symposium on Saturday. Hope to see you there!

## ●● Almanac Dates ●●

...from Blum's Farmer's and Planter's Almanacs for the Year 2000.

### For rooting all cuttings

Mar.: 1-2, 5, 21-25, 28-30  
Apr.: 2-3, 19-21, 24-26, 29-30  
May : 22-23, 26-28, 31  
June: 1, 18-19, 23-24, 27-28

### For transplanting rooted cuttings and potted roses

Mar.: 6, 9-11  
Apr.: 6-7, 10-11  
May : 3-4, 7-8  
June: 4-5

### To prune roses for increased blooming

Mar.: 23-25  
Apr.: 19-21  
May : 18  
June: 30



## Future Events

### Rookie Roundup 2000

on July 22nd

by Candy Fite

This year's rookie meeting will be held at Mercer Arboretum on July 22nd. We have enjoyed having this event there in the past. This meeting is usually geared to our "rookie" rustlers, but of course, everyone is welcome!

Do we have a treat for you! We will have our own, Mike and Mary Herr of Herr's Lawn & Landscape speak for us! Please come with a notebook and a pen in hand, because they will share with us their knowledge and love of roses. Get ready for the wealth of GREAT information these two will give us. They can also be heard co-hosting "The Weekend Gardening Show" with Ben Oldag, on Sunday mornings from 7-10 a.m. on AM 950 KPRC.

9:30 - 10:00 Sign-in

10:00 - 10:15 Announcements

10:15 - 11:00 Mary Herr's Top Ten

Antique Roses for the

Houston Area and

Favorite Companion

Plants for Roses. (Q&A)

11:00 - 11:15 Break and Lotto Drawing

11:15 - 12:00 Mike Herr will give us

guidelines for Rose Bed

Preparation and he will

also discuss Organic

Rose Care and Pest

Control. (Q&A)

12:00 - 12:15 Clean-up!!!

We will meet after clean-up, for lunch and a quick meeting to discuss next year's events. Last year we ate at the Potato Patch, it was delightful! WARNING!!! Keep your eyes open and your heads up! They literally throw bread at you! Anyone who is interested in

helping plan next year's events, is welcome to join us!

The Mercer Arboretum is located North of Houston at 22306 Aldine Westfield Rd.

### A Review Of Our Last Event

by Shannon Sherrod

We met on February 12th at Bobbie McKennas' house in Splendora for our Winter Planning Meeting and Pruning Workshop. Virginia Sissom recorded the minutes from the planning meeting which is printed elsewhere in this newsletter. The pruning workshop kicked off after the planning session which was hard for me since everyone else was getting a tour of the incredible collection of roses while I was inside at the meeting!

A few words should be said about the roses themselves. The fact that they had withstood the last two summers and were still there to "tell the tale" were inspiration enough for anyone to plant more of the antiques. There were a large number of roses growing there that I had never seen planted before and they all looked great.

Maybe even more fun than seeing the roses was getting to talk with and just be around fellow rose nuts. To paraphrase Passalong Plants, *rose talk to a rustler is like mud to a pig*, and did we wallow in it that day! The worst injury I saw that day was when Robert Stiba was asked if he wanted a rooted plant of **Peach Blossom**. You should have seen how far his arm had to be bent!

Of course some of the prunings did go home to be rooted and shared with others in the future, a fitting tribute to a wonderful Rose Lady. Thanks to everyone who showed up and helped out with the tremendous task of pruning those 300+ roses!



## A Note from the Garden

by Dawn Parish

We are so excited to be able to host the Rose Rustler symposium this year at the SFA Arboretum. Candy Fite got in touch with me last year some time about this subject and I don't think I could have said yes any quicker. Imagine the chuckle I got when she asked me if we had any roses. If you had been here about three years ago I would have said "NO!" but about two years ago I started finding roses here and there in Dr. Creech's 'bullpen'. (Think of a bullpen as a grownup boy's playpen, only with plants.) I found about twenty varieties of old garden roses given to the arboretum over the years by Scott Reeves from Treesearch Farms. That was only the beginning of a mild obsession slowly growing inside me. Can anyone relate?

Now I have to make a small confession. At one point in time I didn't want to have anything to do with roses, modern, antique, or otherwise. You see, I used to work for Scott at the aforementioned nursery as a propagator. When your first introduction to roses is taking thousands of cuttings of **The Fairy** and **Mermaid** as quickly as possible, it's easy to build a grudge. Well, here in Nacogdoches the pace is a little slower. There's much more time to stop and smell the roses. Pardon the pun. And since I'm in charge, I can make some unsuspecting freshman do all of the cuttings. Needless to say I have been tucking roses here and there in our landscape for about a year and a half. Yes Candy, we've got a few roses!!! At the advice of my old rose guru, Greg Grant, I've primarily stuck with just a few classes that really do well in our hot, humid, black spot ridden climate. He has a saying that keeps things simple. It goes something like "Polly has all her Tea in China." I tell all of the future rose maniacs around here to start with these

easy basic classes: polyantha, tea, and china. As these were my foundation roses, I was never disappointed and have gained the courage to move on to some tougher things. I don't have the space to list every one of the roses around here, but I'd like to share some of my favorites here in the Nacogdoches climate.

**Mutabilis** for the wonderful mixture of colors and easy forgiveness of hacking, oops, I mean pruning with hedge clippers.

**Ducher** for letting go of her petals gracefully, and for healthy, dense foliage.

**Vincent Godsiff** for the same wonderful foliage, and for giving me a color that I can call "Barbie" pink.

**Mrs. B.R. Cant** for being a unique union of grace and power.

**Duchesse de Brabant** for the sleepy nod of her soft pink blooms.

**Enchantress** for a truly enchanting color that keeps me mesmerized longer than she should.

And finally, if someone actually tied me down and threatened to tickle me silly unless I actually picked a favorite rose, I'd have to say **Georgetown Tea**. Georgetown Tea has been a massive, albeit one year old, evergreen shrub for me. She's got a beautiful round shape, and the loveliest blooms of pinkish apricot. And last but not least, she makes a great cut flower with her strong necks and uniquely reflexed petals.

I hope I've whetted your appetite for our time together in April. I will be giving a tour of the roses and companions in the arboretum, and I hope you're looking forward to it as much as I am!

Happy Gardening,

Dawn Parish

SFA Arboretum Research Associate and Rose Fanatic

(Editors note: Dawn has taken a lot of time out of her busy schedule to help out with the meeting and we all owe her a big THANKS!)



**Practical Immortality:  
The Old Rose in Your Garden and  
China Cabinet**

By Pamela Puryear

One aspect of old roses has always fascinated me, because they are living things, every spring they do what they have always done-bloom! If the rose wasn't grown from a "blind" cutting or hasn't "sported" that bloom will be the same forever and ever. That Rosa Damascena could have darned well been dumped on Roman banqueters. Empress Josephine may well have fondled, in a nice way of course, that Bengal China in her garden at Malmaison. Queen Victoria could well have stuffed, very carefully, Mme Isaac Perriere into her dumpy bosom. Every spring these roses are recreated anew. In an uncertain and sometimes downright ugly world, this continuity is like a shining promise of an Eternal rose garden, free from black spot!

One portion of this rosy talent bothers me however. Men and women have been hybridizing for a very long time now, and it is a known fact that, like roses, there are sometimes undesirable traits. My grandmother often warned my mother, "Pick the papal!" But who knows what horrid Geneologic Surprises are waiting in human offspring? Heaven forbid, there could creep in traits, always of the spouses' family, that one would not like in ones cooing, burbling babes.

Roses have it better. They can clone themselves by vegetative means. What you see is what you get. This would be ideal for spinsters like myself, who were too proud to marry! It conjures up images of digits in peat pots tended by fingerless but hopeful donors. (No, I am not kin to Gary Larson...)

So, roses have two ways to perpetuate their beauty down through the ages. When we their admirers are dust, they will open fragrant blossoms to bless new worlds. Their offspring

and ours will march down the eons together, and cynic that I am, my money is on theirs.

But recently I have discovered a third way to practical immortality, through art.

While I was laid up in bed with my health problems my friend, the local librarian, undertook to keep me entertained. She delivered and picked up books and magazines, among the latter being two periodicals on porcelain painting.

I was converted. Being a fervent admirer and user of the paper plate, I had never really meditated, as it were, on porcelain, but it is a great invention. When fired at super high temperatures it and its glaze vitrify almost to glass. The test for porcelain is to hold it to the light so as to see ones other hand through it.

As archaeologists know here is yet another practical immortality because broken, even shattered, enough exists of a piece to identify it. The Chinese invented porcelain and had discovered lovely glazes early on. When these wares reached Europe during the Renaissance the nobility decided porcelain was the white gold and began to collect it greedily. The Chinese upped the price and snickered all the way to the treasury. Soon everyone in Europe began experimenting to see if porcelain could be duplicated and in the 1720's in Saxony in the town of Dresden a chemist met with success. The factory he founded is still in business - Meissen.

At first the artists at Meissen copied the Chinese motifs exactly. At that same time European art had its own themes, and one of them were those over stuffed burgeoning floral paintings the Dutch loved. The centerpieces of these were those pale pink fat centifolias with scrunchy petals in the middle - don't you love technical terms??- surrounded with swirls of outer petals. You'd think the things would ball in the humidity of the coast, but maybe that was where the artist intervened ?



Anyway, these bouquets were transferred to the new porcelain and called "Dresden" for the nearby town to the Meissen factory. The artists added other wild and garden flowers they knew and called them Deutcher Blumen. When these works were fired in at 2500 degrees, those fat roses were on that china until the Last Trump.

Dresden is still a valid style today. It depends on the clear colors of the flowers, surrounded by their own varying green foliage and graceful stems. Here again the fat old roses will bloom perpetually, some with frozen dewdrops.

A thing of beauty is a joy forever, the poet said. Old roses seem to have found three ways to prove the adage!

### **Further along the rustling trail** by Joe Cooper

Today, Marion and Francis Brandes went Rose Rustling with me. After having little success tramping through a 20 block area of cemeteries on the East Side of San Antonio, I suggested that we check out a large Catholic Cemetery on the Southwest side of town. PAY DIRT!

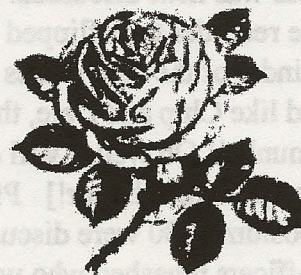
The cemetery is surrounded by very poor Barrios, the single most prominent characteristic of which is the abundance of pass along roses in the front yard of nearly every house. My conjecture is that as the older generations passed away and the little houses were sold off to settle estates, the children and grandchildren dug up the cherished roses and moved them to the grave sides. There is a huge collection of roses of all ages. Some are modern, some miniature, some OGR's, some OGR hybrids, and some seedlings of unknown but interesting parentage. What a treasure!

There appears to be something like 1,000 roses there. The disturbing thing, however, is a sign that says that the new rules call for

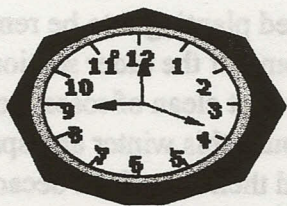
"unauthorized plantings" to be removed by the staff, and some of the older sections appear to have been swept clean of roses. So I guess that we will be busy this winter and spring taking cuttings, and then busy for a decade or two trying to identify what we rooted. It is great fun, but I guess you have to be an eternal optimist and longevity probably helps too.

The climbing Martha Gonzales that I got at the cutting exchange last fall (1998) came within 2 sepals and three leaves of the compost pile during the winter. Having narrowly escaped a fate worse than black spot, it now looks like teenager with a bad hair day. The canes are very narrow and flexible, and they are growing to lengths of 4' (so far) in every imaginable direction. I took some cuttings in early October and it looks like when you get this thing within ten feet of the ground it strikes roots. The foliage is identical with the bush form of Martha Gonzales, and this week it started blooming, the flowers are blood red and identical to the bush form. It really looks like a winner!

I have a number of Martha Gonzales bushes at my house in San Antonio, and one of them has produced a PINK sport. The foliage, bloom size, and bloom configuration are identical to the normal red Martha Gonzales, but the color is a bright pink, similar to but a little brighter than the color of Radiance. I am watching it carefully in hopes of making some cuttings in the spring. If all goes well, I will probably name it "Mary Gonzales"---- that way I can have a Mary and Martha rose bed.







## **Minutes of : Winter 2000 Planning Meeting, Feb. 12, 2000**

Officers Present: Lucille Idom, Shannon Sherrod, Virginia Sissom, and Candy Fite. Also in attendance was Audrey McMurray, former editor.

The meeting started out with a discussion of old business from the previous officers meeting held last summer at The Potato Patch restaurant. It had been decided then that active board members would be exempt from membership dues. Also, Candy Fite had been voted in as new Program Chairman. She accepted with the understanding that she would have guidance from the previous officer in this position. It was also decided that we needed to reduce the number of speakers at the Spring Symposium from three to two. The idea of how to now organize rustles was brought up by Candy Fite. It was decided that the old ways of conducting rustles no longer would work due to the increased size of our group. It was proposed that Candy submit an article for the summer 99 newsletter on how to set up a rustle. She agreed to do so. The final old business was the fact that Audrey McMurray had announced that she was going to have to step down from the editorship of The Old Texas Rose newsletter due to her new job.

New business was next discussed. [At this point my tape recorder tape flipped out on me and the remainder of the tape makes all the officers sound like Chip and Dale, the famous Disney chipmunks!! Oh well, I will do my best to decipher the chatter!] Plans for the Spring Symposium 2000 were discussed at length. The officers rehashed who was

speaking and on what topics for this April 8th event. Shannon had new information to share about what else was being offered to those in attendance after the speakers were through. It seems a local nurseryman is going to offer a reception with refreshments to the TRR members Saturday afternoon at the conclusion of the symposium. Shannon will publish an article in the Spring 2000 newsletter about this.

Next it was decided that it would be beneficial to have Shannon periodically print the officer's email addresses somewhere in the newsletter. That way members would have access to them for easy correspondence.

The Program Chairman, Candy Fite, then informed us that she had set the Summer 2000 Rookie Rustler Meeting at Mercer Arboretum for July 22nd, from 10-12. She had not yet secured a speaker at this time. Candy announced that the Fall Cutting Exchange would be held at The Secret Garden, a quaint nursery near Magnolia, Texas that favors / offers / displays antique roses. The tentative date is October 12. She will submit an article for the newsletter with more details and directions.

The long-range plans for the year 2001 Spring Symposium were to set it up at the Brenham Community Center for a Saturday in March or April that coincided with a spring event offered by The Antique Rose Emporium. Candy said she would contact them to see what date they were planning their spring event. That way rustlers could enjoy a trip to the ARE after the symposium ended. Shannon suggested we extend an invitation for the Dallas-based antique rose group to come to this symposium, so the two groups could meet. The other officers liked this idea.

This concludes the minutes.  
Virginia Sissom, Secretary



## Rustling in the Pines

by Shannon Sherrod

Our meeting on April 8th will be a chance for Rustlers to visit East Texas and see one of it's real gems. The Stephen F. Austin University Arboretum is a wonderful collection of plants adapted to our climate. It also serves as a testing ground for many new introductions into the nursery trade. Visitors will be getting a sneak preview of new plants as well as a glimpse of rarities donated to the Arboretum.

We're lucky to have a couple of people who were instrumental in the recent changes to the Arboretum speaking to us that day. One of them is our guide for the tour of the grounds, Dawn Parish, whose "Dusk to Dawn" mirroring borders adjacent to the Agricultural building was just planted last year. I tell you this so you too can be amazed at the size of the plants that she achieved even through last year's drought. Like so many of her plantings the plants have exploded into growth and leave you wondering what they will look like with a couple of seasons on them.

Also of particular interest to rose fans will be her planting along the backside of the greenhouse area. Her use of the colors found in the different old roses along with the under planting of verbena is inspiring. Where I'm happy just to find plants that will survive she actually finds plants that survive and look nice next to each other.

The other person who has had a big impact on the Arboretum is Greg Grant. Greg is a familiar person to many of the Rustlers from some of our early trips to the time he spent at The Antique Rose Emporium. Greg has been very instrumental in getting COLOR brought into the grounds. He also travels extensively and seldom comes home without a start or seeds of something new in his truck. A list of plants he's introduced into the nursery trade is

found on the SFA web site and is very impressive.

In addition to the plants he brings, Greg also brings a lot of "individuality" to any garden he's around. Hopefully some of his slides will be taken from the garden at his house. His found plants all come with a story, from the 'Summer Sweet Peas', to the "Big Mommas Blush" rose that his Big Momma grew.

Anyone can have a Bottle Tree, (I have three myself), but only Greg would come up with a Bluebonnet Bottle Tree! The fact that it's in his privy garden at home should tell you just about all you need to know.

The roses and other perennials are just recent arrivals to the Arboretum compared to some of its other treasures. There's a very large collection of Japanese maples put together by Dr. David Creech, the Arboretum Director. Along with the Japanese maples there are many other rare and interesting trees and woody plants that are co-mingled with the rest of the plantings. There's also a Shade Garden with a mixing of trees and understory plants that makes for a cool retreat in the Summer.

Two newer additions include a Children's Garden and the Mast Arboretum. The Mast Arboretum is a collection of azaleas just across the creek from the rest of the grounds. Just installed this last Fall it's already teasing viewers with the promise of many years of enjoyment ahead. More Japanese maples are included inside it along with several camellias all under a canopy of large pine trees.

I really hope you get a chance to come up in April and enjoy all the Arboretum has to offer. If for any reason you can't make it then you can still visit anytime. There's no gate so they never close and there's never any charge. Now how often do you find a better deal than that?



**BACK ISSUES OF OTR:**

|                            |                           |                           |
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| 1982: Sept. Dec            | 1990: Win. Spr. Sum. Fall | 1998: Win. Spr. Sum. Fall |
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| 1984: May Sep. Dec.        | 1992: Win. Spr. Sum. Fall | 2000: Win.                |
| 1985: March May Sept. Dec. | 1993: Win. Spr. Sum. Fall |                           |
| 1986: May Sep.             | 1994: Win. Spr. Sum. Fall |                           |
| 1987: Win. Spr. Sum. Fall  | 1995: Win. Spr. Sum. Fall |                           |
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