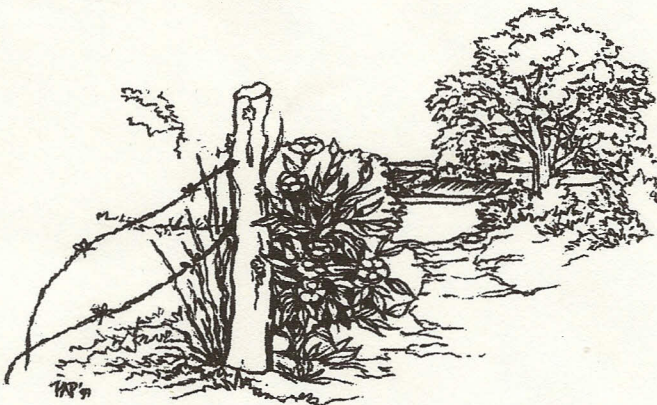


The Old Texas Rose



Number 1

Winter 2000

www.texas-rose-rustlers.com

It's Time to Pass on the Pen

by Audrey McMurray

The last time I had to write an article that made me sad, it was because our founder and personal friend, Margaret Sharpe, had passed away. I am feeling almost the same heaviness now as I write to inform you that I have had to pass on the pen that writes for and edits the Old Texas Rose, Margaret's "baby". The sadness is lessened, though, by the knowledge that the new editor is Shannon Sherrod, a fellow I am sure will do all of us Rustlers proud.

Shannon has a sense of humor that seeps into everything he writes. Even his e-mails make me laugh! When he asked if his first newsletter should be a swimsuit issue I knew we had the right man. (We'll see if he puts the bikinis on the rosebushes or the Rustlers. Anyone want to volunteer?)

I have so enjoyed writing this newsletter and getting to meet fellow rosarians. Thanks to all of you who sent in such great articles. Please keep them coming but now send them to Shannon!

I will try to keep in touch by writing an article once in a while. It will have to be after the school year is over, though, as I now teach high school biology. All you educators out there will understand when I say first-year teachers have no free time. In fact, I never really appreciated how hard teachers worked until I became one. So, come

June, when I get a life again, I will put pen to hand and, well, FIRST, I'm going to write to the governor and demand higher pay for educators. Then I'll write about roses.

Best Wishes,

Audrey

A Hello from the New Editor

by Shannon Sherrod

I almost titled this "What was I thinking?"! Truthfully though, I really am very honored to be given this responsibility. I'm very fortunate to come after such great editors. I have a blueprint to follow for making a great newsletter but I also have a high standard to maintain as well. What I may lack in experience I do hope I make up for in enthusiasm. Audrey has been very helpful in this transition and I will be depending on her help in the future.

One of my favorite things about this newsletter and the Rustlers themselves has been the sense of humor that goes along with both of them. Hopefully I will be able to continue this tradition.

I'm looking forward to hearing from the members and would greatly appreciate any suggestions, comments, or criticisms you may have. The only way I'll know what you would like to see in the newsletter is if you tell me.

I would just like to say thank you to Audrey again for passing on the editorship of this newsletter to me.

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Did you know ?

Auntie Lotte was not able to write for this issue of the Old Texas Rose. Her husband is in the hospital with heart failure. Please keep both of them in your thoughts and prayers.

I received an e-mail from Beth Smiley, Publications Director, for the American Rose Society the other day. They're going to release a "coffee table" type book in April and were looking for contact information and information about our group and newsletter. They're going to have a small section on rose rustling in the book as well. A little extra exposure is always helpful and if any of you know anyone involved with this publication be sure to express our thanks for including us!

I have been receiving letters from one of our members, Ray Ponton. He is being very helpful and patient with me as I quiz him on the fine details of rose hybridizing. He brought several of his seedlings with him to the Fall cutting exchange in Serbin last year. He even had one he named after Audrey McMurray. That one should be a very frantic grower with new shoots going about 100 directions at the same time! (Just having a little fun Audrey). He also brought photos of some of his other roses. He has been doing a lot of work with one of the Rustlers favorites, **Katy Road Pink**. This line of breeding has already paid off with the arrival of **Climbing Katy Girl**. One of the other seedlings he had a photo of that intrigued me was his cross of **Katy Road Pink** and **Mutablis**. If there were ever two roses that didn't mind our heat it would have to be those two! Raising new varieties is a long task best reserved for those with lots of patience. It will be several years before things like the overall size and heat tolerance, (or cold tolerance if that's a problem where *you* live), and other factors work themselves out. Hopefully his roses will pass the test here in our wonderful testing ground and become some of our antiques of the future.

There was a interesting proposal put forward by noted California rosarian Bill Grant recently. His

proposal basically stated that some of the older Hybrid Teas were in need of preservation and could actually be considered antiques themselves. This made me wonder how the members of The Rose Rustlers would define "antique" when it comes to roses? Any opinions would be greatly appreciated and could help us define what roses the members would like to hear about.

From the department of long range planning, the 9th International Conference of Heritage Roses will be held in Charleston (October 14-18, 2001). A report from their last meeting in Lyon, France was very interesting reading. There's a lot of DNA research being done on our old roses to try and sort out the family trees (always risky business). A lot of the research is centering on the search for the true **Champneys Pink Cluster**. They believe they've found the Musk Rose parent but are still analyzing different sources of **Old Blush**, the other parent. Apparently some of the French samples of Old Blush are identical to each other but none are believed to be the "true" Old Blush! If they're having this much fun untangling Old Blush I can't wait to see them tackle a real knot like the red Chinas or even worse, the yellow Teas!

Almanac Dates

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

For rooting all cuttings

Jan.: 1-2, 5, 25-29
Feb.: 1-3, 21-25, 29
Mar.: 1-2, 5, 21-25, 28-30

For transplanting rooted cuttings and potted roses

Jan.: 10, 11
Feb.: 6-7, 10-11
Mar.: 6, 9-11

To prune roses for increased blooming

Jan.: 1-2, 27-29
Feb.: 24-25
Mar.: 23-25

Our next event

WINTER PLANNING MEETING

by Candice Fite

On February 12, 2000 we will hold our planning meeting. Many of you probably know about Bobbie McKenna and her beautiful place out in Splendora. She passed away about a year and a half ago and left her place to her daughter and family. Bobbie was a very generous and giving person. She would share her roses with anyone who was interested. We will have our planning meeting with the board members and any one interested in our future events. After the meeting, we will eat lunch, and then begin the pruning demonstrations. The demonstrations will be given by our veteran rustlers. You may keep the cuttings that you prune. Hopefully, we will be able to help Darla and her family out with the chore of pruning. Remember to bring your lawn chairs, sack lunch, sunscreen, hat, sweater (?), clippers, baggies, paper towels, and water. Darla has told me that any one who is interested in composted horse manure, may take what they want. She says she has plenty! Bring your buckets if you want some.

The directions are as follows: Take US 59 to the Patton Village exit (between New Caney and Splendora). Go east over the railroad tracks. Take the first right after the tracks, then a left on Hill and Dale. Proceed on Hill and Dale for one mile. When the road forks, take the left fork (Spivey), and go about two blocks. When the road curves to the right (name changes to Frye), you turn to the left into their driveway. You will see their brown, wooden fence.

Hope to see you there ! The rain date will be the following Saturday, February 19, 2000.

Future Events

SPRING SYMPOSIUM 2000

by Candice Fite

On April 8, 2000, we will hold our annual Spring Symposium at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches. We will be meeting in the Agricultural building (room 110). The Symposium will run from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Mr. Greg Grant, who is a lecturer at SFA, will be our first speaker. Mr. Grant is the co-author with Dr. William C. Welch of The Southern Heirloom Garden. He is also a regular contributor to many other horticultural books and magazines. His speech will be "Polly wants all the tea in China" (Easy Roses for the South). Our second speaker will be Mr. Mike Peters. He 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".

Back by popular demand, we will have our rose judging, so bring your best blooms and show them off! Last, but not least, we will have the opportunity to tour the Mast Arboretum after the program is over.

10:00-10:30 Sign in and Announcements

10:45-11:30 Speaker Greg Grant

11:30-12:00 Lotto Drawing for roses

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:15-2:00 Speaker Mike Peters

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

2:15-2:45 Rose judging

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

Some of the members have chosen to stay at the La Quinta in Nacogdoches. Their number is 1-409-560-5453 and their address is 3215 South Street, Nacogdoches, TX 75961. I have been quoted a rate of \$55/night plus tax, for a room with two double beds. Up to four people may stay in one room.

True Tales of a Tongue Tied Texan

Let me say right off that I enjoy the old-fashioned and sweet sounding names of the old roses that I grow. I hear **Souvenir de la Malmaison** in my head, as it supposed to be pronounced, and it sounds beautiful. What I hear when I actually try to say it myself sounds anything but pretty though. It takes every muscle in my jaws to work those words out and I wind up sounding like Gomer from The Andy Griffith show. I do, of course, have an excuse for my pronunciation faults. I enrolled in the Pepe le Peu School of French most Saturday mornings when I was a kid and as I got older I moved into the advanced Inspector Clouseau School with it's mascot, the Pink Panther.

It's always seemed funny to me that the one class of roses that originated in America would wind up being called Noisettes. It just makes my jaws hurt looking at that word. When they first came out it was easy enough to say them, no one had a problem with **Champneys Pink Cluster**. That was the end of the easy ones though, soon roses turned up with names like **Crepuscle** and **Desprez a Fleur Jaune**! I'm not ashamed to admit that I usually just say Madame Alfred and leave off the Carriere bit at the end. Unfortunately not all of these names are confined to the Noisette class. Just try to say **Cramoisi Superiur** with the muscles you normally use for talking. I've even been informed that **Ducher** isn't pronounced "Dutcher" although I still think it grows better if it's called that!

Another thing that keeps coming up is all of the Souvenirs out there in the rose catalogs. Did those rose breeders ever go anywhere and not bring back a souvenir? With that many souvenirs in their garden it makes you wonder what their mantle pieces looked like.

As much as I struggle with the names I

wouldn't trade them for some of the newer ones. I wonder if anyone will ever be sentimental about a rose with a name like **Purple Tiger**? If I ever manage to raise a rose seedling worthy of my grandmothers names I'll at least have some consolation. Somewhere in France a rosarian will be scratching their head wondering how to pronounce Mrs Eldora Holt and Mrs Merline Sherrod.

Rustlers Favorite (Found) Roses

by Shannon Sherrod

1. **McClinton Tea** - it just looks and smells like a antique should to me.
2. **Georgetown Tea** - one of my most disease-free roses
3. **"Maggie"** - has Dr. Welch ever found a bad rose?
4. **"Bermuda's Kathleen"** - great sprays of blooms in all shades of pink
5. **Odee Pink** - China growth habit with tea-shaped roses: two great traits that grow well together
6. **Vincent Godsif** - hot pink roses so bright you have to wear shades to enjoy it
7. **"Katy Road Pink"**- plant it by a window so you can enjoy it from under the A/C while it blooms all summer
8. **"Natchitoches Noisette"** - honest, Dr. Welch didn't help me with this list
9. **"Caldwell Pink"** - lack of scent is it's only weakness
10. **Smiths Parish** - healthy as a mule although I'm still waiting for the solid red bloom

THE GREAT ESCAPE

by Virginia Sissom

It was a cold, quiet weekday morn when the three frauleins slipped from their cozy abodes from the various outreaches of the sprawling metropolis called Houston to begin their mission. They had been planning their rendezvous for weeks. Quietly tapping out their desires like Morse code on their computer keyboards far into the night, they would send said notes to each other until finally a plan had come together!

This joy ride with a purpose was just what the doctor ordered for the three women who had a bad case of cabin fever. Their domestic engineering jobs had zapped them hard, with all the Christmas shopping and extra food preparations, not to mention having all their progeny home and underfoot for two solid weeks! How does one spell relief? ROSE ROADTRIP!

So with sitters in place and clingy children peeled off our legs, we managed The Great Escape. The day was gorgeous. The conversation was invigorating. The scenery wasn't bad either! Our destination that day was to reach Nacogdoches to scout out the site for the upcoming TRR Spring Symposium.

Our host that day was Shannon Sherrod, new editor of our Old Texas Rose newsletter. (More on that thought later.) After sampling some great East Texas vittles, we spent the day touring gardens and of course, looking for antique roses! It started with a first-class tour of the grounds of Stephen F. Austin State Universitys arboretum grounds. We noticed "someone" there liked having antique roses in their display gardens. Wonderful! Next stop was Kings Nursery in Teneha, TX. We saw some massive Climbing Cecile brunner roses, along with many other antique rose varieties growing on arbors and trellises. This will be a

definite side trip to take during the Spring Symposium weekend! There will be a good selection of roses for sale at the nursery then for sure. We made a quick stop at a bed and breakfast in Center, the John C. Rogers House, to look at their antique roses and gather information for our traveling Rosarians. We then made our final stop at Shannon and Melissa's house. He has a fine collection of antique roses at his house. His East Texas yard decor of "bottle trees", a Piggly Wiggly sign in a stand of cedars, and a proper henhouse were a delight to this urban dwellers eyes!

Afterwards, Candy Fite and I got to peruse Shannons rose book collection while Shannon and Audrey did some computer work to set up the workings of getting the Old Texas Rose newsletter done.

Yes, Audrey McMurray was there that day to "hand over her baby" into the capable hands of Shannon. She has had to take her leave as editor due to a new teaching job. It was with a heavy heart that she passed the torch of editorship. We other officers are thankful that she assured us she will be present at meetings to spread her knowledge and enthusiasm for antique roses and rose rustling.

Well, it was dark, and we knew our sitters were probably hoping to see us before too much longer, so we were led back into town from Shannons country abode and headed back to the big city. A great time was had by all! Thank you Shannon, for the great day! Thanks to his wife, Melissa, for being such a great hostess as well! Kudos to our sitters for allowing us to have THE GREAT ESCAPE!



Old Rose Growing Tips (from 95 years ago)

Recently I was able to acquire a old rose catalog dated 1905. "*Home and Flowers*" A Magazine was published by The Dingee & Conard Co. of West Grove Pennsylvania. It contains nearly 75 pages of roses many of whom I had never heard of and have long since dropped out of commerce.

While a review of some of these lost roses is very interesting a review of some of their recommended growing practices was particularly fascinating.

The first piece of advice they recommended is one that still rings true today and should be followed still; "buy good plants, for no matter how careful and attentive one may be, good results cannot come from poor stock. Buy your stock from a reliable florist, and beware of him who would give you something for nothing."

As far as cultivation practices go the same ones applied then as do now. "Select, if possible, the most sheltered sunny location for planting." "To further enrich the soil add to each wheelbarrow of loam about one third it's bulk of well rotted manure." In 1905 gardeners couldn't generally head down to the local Mega-Low mart and pick up things like fertilizers. Most had to make do with what was on hand around the house and most houses at that time had a small stable of animals from chickens to mules and horses. As anyone whose ever raised any of these animals knows manure comes with the territory! Further on the subject of fertilizer, "fine, well-decomposed stable manure is the best fertilizer for general purposes."

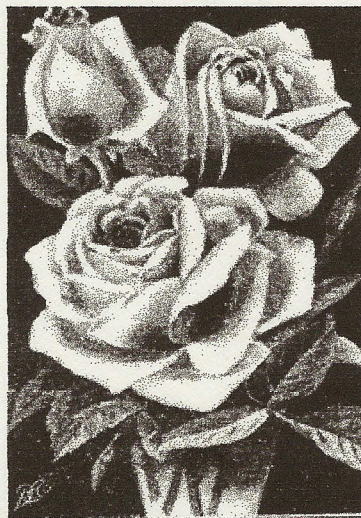
There are times when for one reason or the other a rose must be moved and planted during the hot part of the year. This problem was

dealt with in 1905 by "protecting them from the strong sun by covering for a few days with newspaper."

Container gardening was also practiced then with a special emphasis on greenhouse culture for winter blooms. Generally speaking "the conditions most favorable for growing roses in pots are good rich soil, plenty of sunlight and heat ranging from 50 degrees at night to 75 degrees during the day." No suggestions were made for 90 degree nights and 115 degree days though.

So far things in the 1905 rose garden seem to be very much in line with the organic practices in use today. As you get into the question of pesticides things take a radical turn away though. The first piece of advice still holds true today, "healthy, vigorous roses are less liable to the ravages of insects than weak specimens, which do not have the vitality to resist the onslaught of the parasites." When you get into the pesticide formulas things get weird.

"Kerosene Emulsion - To two parts of kerosene add one of slightly sour milk; agitate until the compound unites in the form of a white jelly; dilute with twenty parts of soft water." That should kill all your pests, you may not want to smell your roses right away though!



ROSE, THE PEACH, BOUTONNIER

Rustling in the Pines

With East Texas finally getting a little winter weather lately I've had time to reflect on this last year's lessons learned in the garden.

One thing I've learned is that you can never have too many people to give your extra roses to. We have a good friend who is originally from Pennsylvania who tried to grow the roses she was familiar with from back home down here. Needless to say **Mr. Lincoln** was about as comfortable here as he would have been 140 years ago. She told me that she just couldn't grow roses, challenging words if there ever were any! I told her that she just had to grow the right ones for our area and offered her some of my extra rooted ones. Her children had just outgrown their sandbox so she worked in a lot of organic material to the soil and added a layer of mulch on top. The ground was laid, now all that was needed were roses that were comfortable here.

I usually put down three cuttings of each variety when I root roses just so I can increase my odds of getting one to make it. Sometimes three aren't enough and sometimes I wind up with two extras. I try to grow out the extras for occasions like this when I meet someone who tells me they can't grow roses. I keep them in pots in a semi-shady spot through the summer that's close to the water hose. Since I usually am growing out some of my own for later planting I haven't found them to be a burden to maintain.

Her raised bed was fairly large so I supplied her with some old favorites that I knew would handle our heat. **Vincent Godsif, Cramoisi Superieur, Marie Pavie, Jeanne D'Arc, Maggie, and Georgetown Tea** were some of the ones she wound up with.

It's been almost a year since her roses have been in the ground and I have to say that they look great and her **Jeanne D'Arc** looks even

better than mine which was the source of her cutting. (Don't you just hate it when that happens!)

The lesson I learned from this was brought home a couple of months ago when she told me that she was going to extend her rose bed next year and add more of the antiques! It pays to keep a extra **Old Blush** or something just as tough on hand. Once a person finds out that they can grow roses they hardly ever stop with just one. Before they know it they're tearing out the turf and filling their yards with them. Then as the obsession builds they begin to seek out other people with the same interests which of course leads them to us. We benefit from this by getting to know people we would have never met if not for roses. The roses benefit too, since more people growing old roses means a better chance for their survival into the next millenium.

The biggest lesson I learned this last year was not to expand my garden beds farther than the soaker hoses and mulch could stretch.

These last couple of summers have been really hard on the beds I've had to hand water, there just never seems to be enough time. The soaker hose beds on the other hand have been much easier to tend. I just run out in the morning while it's still cool, (well, sort of cool), attach the water hose to the soaker hose, turn on the tap and come back after a while and disconnect it. This kind of watering is perfect for me since I can do it while I'm getting ready for work in the morning.

There can never be enough good things said about mulch in the garden. One thing I haven't seen warned against enough though is under-mulching. A very thin layer of mulch just benefits the weeds by keeping them cool and damp. I tried to spread my mulch too thin at first and was paid off in weeds. It has to be really thick, (3-4 inches), before you really get the benefits from it.

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