



NUMBER 2

SPRING

1999

1999 TEXAS ROSE RUSTLER **SPRING SYMPOSIUM**

**Antique Rose Emporium
Independence, TX**

APRIL 24TH, 9AM-3PM

This year's Spring Symposium will be held at the Antique Rose Emporium, a favorite haunt of Rose Rustlers, owned by our good friend, Mike Shoup. He has generously agreed to provide his facilities for our get-together, which is much appreciated by those of us who make a trip to his place a ritual after each symposium anyway!

Our line up of speakers is really first rate, featuring our own Rosa Pater, Bill Welch, my sister (actually, I'm usually referred to as her sister!), Brenda Beust Smith, a.k.a. the Lazy Gardener, and our host, Mike Shoup.

As usual we will provide vases for

those who bring blooms to display or have identified. Veteran Rustlers are encouraged to bring their rooted cuttings for the Lotto drawing. And as always, bring your own lunch and a dessert for the dessert table, if you'd like.

- 9:00am Bloom display setup & viewing
- 10:00am Brenda Beust Smith, Houston Chronicle columnist and author of the yearly Lazy Gardener Calendar: "Favorite Plants of the Lazy Gardener"
- 11:00am Announcements & 1st drawing for roses
- 11:30am Lunch
- 12:30pm Dr. Bill Welch, Extension Landscape Specialist in the Dept. of Horticulture Sciences at TAMU and author of Antique Roses for the South: "Trends for Color in Texas Gardens"
- 1:30pm Drawing for roses
- 1:45pm G. Michael Shoup, owner of The Antique Rose Emporium and co-author of Landscaping with Antique Roses: "Gardening through the South with Old Roses"
- 2:45pm 2nd drawing for roses, followed by clean-up. Everyone is asked to help with this.

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Did you know?...



I can tell you this for sure: anyone who complains that our postal service is slow has never left off the venue of a big event in a newsletter. The Winter '99 Old Texas Rose went out in the afternoon mail without the location of this year's Symposium and I started getting calls the next morning.



Remember, if you have any publications authored by our Symposium speakers and would like them autographed, feel free to bring them when you come.



Shannon Sherrod wrote to clarify the information on the plant sale at the Stephen F. Austin University Arboretum. The plant sale, a fundraiser, is going to be at the college's arboretum on May 22, from 9am-4pm. They will have a nice selection of antique roses, as well as companion plants. The local nursery with the great selection is Kings Nursery in Tenaha. They have the **Climbing Martha Gonzales** that they're calling "**Speedy Gonzales**". They also have a slightly darker pink sport of **Marie Pavie** that they're calling "**Marie Daly**".



Three people have asked me the same question: Why is Maggie a lighter pink this season? I don't know. The smell is the same, the bushes look healthy, but sure enough, the blooms are a lighter pink. My Maggie is as dark as ever so I can't really figure out what these three Rustlers' Maggies are up to. Any thoughts?

Trader's Corner

Shannon Sherrod is looking for **Climbing Katie Girl** and **Kiftsgate**. He will be bringing several roses to the symposium on April 24th if you're interested in a swap: 409-362-9425

Virginia Sissom is looking for **Sea Drift**, **Malmaison Rouge**, and **Shepherd Street Tea**: dsissom@flash.net or 281-955-2599.

An Update on our Rosa Mater, Pam Puryear

As most of you are aware, Pam Puryear battled cancer last year. I am happy to report that it is in remission and she is doing well.

Her house, however, could use some help now. Pam lives in a beautiful Victorian-style home that is in need of repair. Steve Jenkins of the Pin Oak Home Depot in Houston, Dr. Fred Seay of the First Presbyterian Church of Navasota, and a number of Rustlers have been trying to find a way to fix Pam's house, preferably back to period standards.

It is proving to be a costly and difficult task. Representatives of Team Home Depot surveyed Pam's house in March and, together with Dr. Seay, came up with a game plan. The first thing they suggested was a Clean-Up Day to help Pam remove vines and yard items from around the house so that they can begin repairs unimpeded. Mike Shoup has offered a **Martha Gonzales** rose to anyone who is willing to help with this. It was Pam who introduced Mike to Martha Gonzales herself, who then allowed Mike to take the first cuttings of this valuable landscape rose. How fitting that it should be a thank-you gift for helping Pam. Life really does come full circle, doesn't it?

We have decided to combine this Clean-Up Day with a cutting exchange, so come on May 15th with cuttings, baggies and paper towels, as well as your work gloves, and we'll have tables set up for rose cuttings (map on page 7).

One last note: As mentioned, repairing Pam's house is going to be costly, even if we are not able to meet period standards. Home Depot is willing to fund part of the cost, but we will need to find other revenues as well. If any Rustler knows of funding sources from which we may draw, please contact Steve at 713-664-9426 or email him at lil_lisel3@yahoo.com. If you are in the vicinity of Navasota and would prefer to contact Dr. Seay, his phone number is 409-825-6847 and his email address is donfred@prodigy.net.

Fall Cutting Exchange

by

Francis Brandes

On Saturday, October 23, 1999, we are having our annual cutting exchange and an optional tour of the antique roses in Serbin, Texas, just about seven or eight miles from Giddings, off of Highway 290 toward Austin.

The cutting exchange should begin about 10:00am and last until 12:30 - 1:00pm. We will meet under the covered barbecue pits and tables in front of St. Luke's Lutheran Church and cemetery beside the Wendish Heritage Museum. Also optional is a visit to the charming Texas Wendish Heritage Museum. For \$1.00 you may visit the connected log cabins and building that contain farming and carpenter tools, beautiful Easter eggs and traditional wedding dresses of the Wendish.

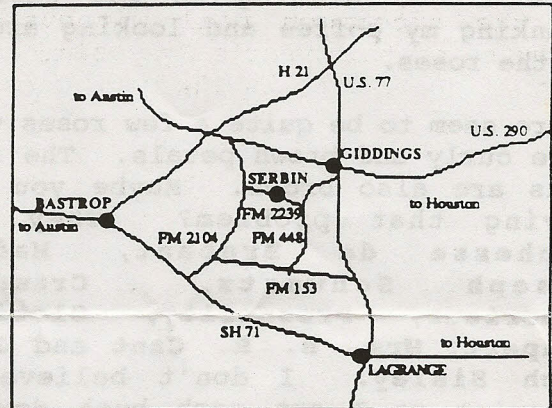
The Wendish came to Texas in the 1850's from Lusatia (Slavic country) to preserve their unique language and pursue religious freedom. Their church is one of the painted churches of South Central Texas.

After our exchange and picnic (we bring our own food and drinks), we will start our tour that is a sight-seeing only trip! We will split up into about four groups with maps to the nearby towns around Giddings - no more than 10 miles one way - to try to find the old roses. We will meet back at the church in about 45 minutes and compare notes. Take detailed notes on the roses. This is like an "Easter egg hunt" for adults. Please do not take cuttings without the owner's permission. We do not encourage taking cuttings on our own. Thanks!!

Giddings has a great Mexican restaurant called Jalisco beside Wal-Mart on the main drag.

Also, after our cutting exchange and museum visit, if you do not care to stay for the tour of Serbin roses, plan on visiting the Antique Rose Emporium.

Brenham is about 35 miles from Giddings on Highway 290. Take FM 105 in Brenham and go toward Navasota. Turn left on FM 50 about 11 miles to Independence to the Antique Rose Emporium. A map is included to Serbin. See you in the Fall!



Future Events

April 24

1999 Texas Rose Rustler Spring Symposium Antique Rose Emporium, Independence, TX 9am - 3pm. See map on page 7.

May 15

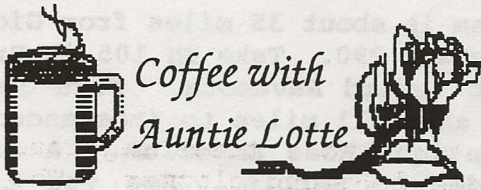
Clean-Up Day at the home of Pamela Puryear, 708 Holland in Navasota. Cutting exchange and free **Martha Gonzales** rose for those who help in the clean up. See map on page 7.

July 24

Summer Rookie Rustler meeting at Mercer Aboretum from 10 am - 3pm. Tips for people new to the area or just starting out with antique roses and hardy companion plants.

October 23

Cutting Exchange and tour of the roses in Wendish country. (This replaces the Fall Cutting Exchange at the Secret Gardens Plant Farm on October 16.)



Here I am, sitting in the garden, drinking my coffee and looking around at the roses.

There seem to be quite a few roses that have curly and brown petals. The rose buds are also brown. Maybe you are having that problem? They are **Duchesse de Brabant, Madame Joseph Schwartz, Cramoisi Superieur, Prosperity, Clotilde Soupert, Mrs. B. R. Cant and Jean Bach Sisley.** I don't believe in spraying so I cut each bush down a foot. Don't know what will happen. I'll let you know in the next article.

I planted a new rose bed in the middle of the yard where it gets full sun all day long. These are not antiques but are very hardy old roses like Mr. Lincoln, Montezuma, Queen Elizabeth, Double Delight, Chicago Peace and Sterling Silver. Going to see how they do this summer in full sun.

Somebody again requested the recipe for my "witches brew". In a garbage can, put in a few good handfuls of cow manure, a small bucket of alfalfa meal and two large cartons of Epsom salts. Let stand for two or three days. Be sure you put a lid on or your neighbors will complain about it. Then take a coffee can full and pour around each bush.

Let's hear from you folks!

Florescence: The Arts in Bloom

This biennial flower and horticulture show will be held Tuesday, April 27 from 10am-5pm and Wednesday, April 28 from 10am-9pm at the Museum of Fine Arts, 1001 Bissonnet, Houston, TX. All proceeds will benefit the civic beautification projects of the Garden Club of America and the River Oaks Garden Club. Admission: \$3.00 adult/\$1.50 child. Info: 713-520-7111

You Might be a Rose Rustler If....

by

Shannon Sherrod

You might be a Rose Rustler if...

- You can find the pruners in your car before you can find your proof of insurance
- If you've planted so many roses, you've had to decide who gets watered and who has to wait on rain
- If your arms are so scratched that you look like you've been in a bar fight with a bobcat
- If some of those scratches came from climbing through a barb wire fence after dark
- If you know that **Variegata di Bologna** isn't Italian for "bad sandwich meat".
- If you have any idea how to pronounce **Ghislaine de Feligonde**
- If your brake repair and chiropractor's bill on your neck have ever added up to more than your house note
- If you've ever considered fencing your dogs out of your yard
- If you've ever rationalized that the sign on the fence just means that post is named Ed
- If you've knocked on more strangers' doors than a door-to-door salesman.

S.O.S. from Audrey!

Friends, if I don't get this problem solved, I'll be editing the next newsletter from a padded room. Every year the squirrels in my yard twist off the blooms of my gorgeous double altheas, eat the base of the flowers and then throw the rest, petals and all, on the ground. Last year they killed my red-purple althea and this year they are staking a claim on my light pink one and a pretty lavender that I rustled from Jackie Fischer.

All homemade recipes and solutions to try would be greatly appreciated! So far nothing I've tried has worked for very long. And to think I used to consider these beasts cute.

Next to my roses, these are my favorite plants. Can anyone help? -ABM

Rustling in the Pines

by

Shannon Sherrod

One of my favorite finds here in East Texas is the Attoyac Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery between Nacogdoches and San Augustine. Most of the cemeteries I've found have only one or two roses, if any at all, while Attoyac has several old varieties.

The standard favorite, **Old Blush**, is there of course. It is one of my favorites and I wonder if any of the new landscape roses will hold up over time half as well? The light pink roses are a reminder that just because something is common doesn't mean it's plain. The reason it's so common is because it's so dependable, and being easy to root doesn't hurt either. People in northern climates are amazed at the blooming power of this rose and go to great lengths to grow it while I'm afraid we sometimes take it for granted.

Another common East Texas rose, **Eutin**, is there also. There's a lot of confusion about the name around here, as most people call it **Seven Sisters**. How a rose that blooms in the Fall ever got that name I'll never know - maybe it was just wishful thinking. I do know that if someone's grandma told them that's what it was, you shouldn't try to correct them. Just nod your head and say it sure is pretty. I suppose its popularity is due again to its rooting ease and that it's one of the truer reds around.

Russelliana, or **Old Spanish** as it's called around here, is also there. Around here it turns up almost as much as **Old Blush**. It comes up from suckers around the base and would have been easily shared this way. For those of you thinking about trying a Spring bloomer, I can't recommend it enough. This rose has one of the longest lasting Spring displays around. The plant is covered in extremely fragrant blooms that I can smell from ten feet away. The individual blooms are small, fully double, and a great

crimson/purple. Since it does get large and very thorny, you'll need to give it some room.

To me the most interesting rose there is a small Spring bloomer. The bloom is flat, quartered, fragrant, and a medium pink with a very prominent button eye. It is growing in an area about two feet wide by three feet long and is coming up from suckers over this whole area. The plant itself is around three feet tall and you can tell that the lawn mowers have cut down many suckers that strayed from the headstone area. I hope to root some more of it and bring to a future rustle so that someone can point me in the right direction of its identity. It is the kind of rose I like the most because it's healthy on its own and because of the element of mystery around it. It's something different, which to me is its greatest charm.

●●● Almanac Dates ●●●

...from Blum's Farmer's and Planter's Almanacs for the Year 1999.

For rooting all cuttings

Apr.: 1-4, 7-8, 11-12
May : 1, 4-6, 9-10, 13-14
Jun.: 1-2, 5-6, 9-10, 29
Jul.: 2-3, 6-8, 11, 30-31
Aug.: 3-4, 7-8, 26-27, 30-31

For transplanting rooted cuttings and potted roses

Apr.: 16, 20-21
May : 17-18
Jun.: 14-15
Jul.: 18-19
Aug.: 14-18

To prune roses for increased blooming

Apr.: 2-4
May : 1
Jun.: none
Jul.: 11-12
Aug.: 7-8



ADVENTURES OF AMATEUR ROSE RUSTLERS

When we first joined the Texas Rose Rustlers in 1991, we had no idea what we were getting into. We had one Lady Banksia rose, a China Doll and a Cinderella. Mayo decided we would build a rose bed in the front yard so I read up on roses and how to plant them. We were ignorant as we could be. I had most of my experience with houseplants, amaryllis, seed and a vegetable garden. After we finished the rose bed and filled it with rose mix, off to Teas Nursery we went. I had my little list and the Rose Society was at Teas giving everyone a little guidance. The first person we met was Frances Brandes. She took us in tow and up and down the rose rows we went. I picked out modern and antique roses alike. Frances started telling us about the Texas Rose Rustlers and how much fun they had. The more she talked, the more excited we got. Wow, this sounds like a fun group! We got the address and sent our money in. We came home and excitedly planted our roses about 2 feet apart. Boy, was that a mistake. Later we had to do a lot of rearranging. At last came the time for the Spring meeting at Lera Barlow's home. We managed to find our way to her house without getting lost and there were all these strangers (except for Frances) milling about. Margaret had one group in tow and Marion had the other half. I started following Marion and Mayo followed Margaret. Marion was telling us all about each rose from it's ancestry on up. All I could say as we looked at each rose was, "Ooh isn't that a pretty one!" Mayo came over and said, "Come talk to this guy, he has roses." This guy turned out to be David Caton who gave us our first two roses - Mrs. Dudley Cross and Madame Berkley. We went by David's home that fall and he had a beautiful yard but said he was in the process of changing everything around so that meant we had a chance to come back. ☺ David is an artist and his paintings are beautiful. We came to love David very much and always enjoy his garden full of roses and perennials. We also came to love Marion & Frances Brandes and Bobbie McKenna. We learned quite a lot about the old roses from each one. We exchanged many roses and cuttings before Bobbie passed away last year. The Texas Rose Rustlers are like a big family and each time we get together it is like a family reunion.

We soon started visiting old cemeteries out in the country. When we were new at this - Mayo was very nervous and would say, "Get the cutting and let's go." One day we were out in the middle of a cemetery in Livingston, Texas. We were casing the roses and thought we were all alone. All of a sudden we hear, "Hey, Texas Rose Rustlers!" Oh my Lord, what do we do? Do we break and run for the car or do we act nonchalant and say hello? Mayo was partial to the first action but we decided to act nonchalant and turned around. There stood Marion and Frances Brandes. Phew, big sigh of relief. We had a lot of fun discussing the merits of the roses in that cemetery. Since then we have become more seasoned and now take our time. If no one is available in the

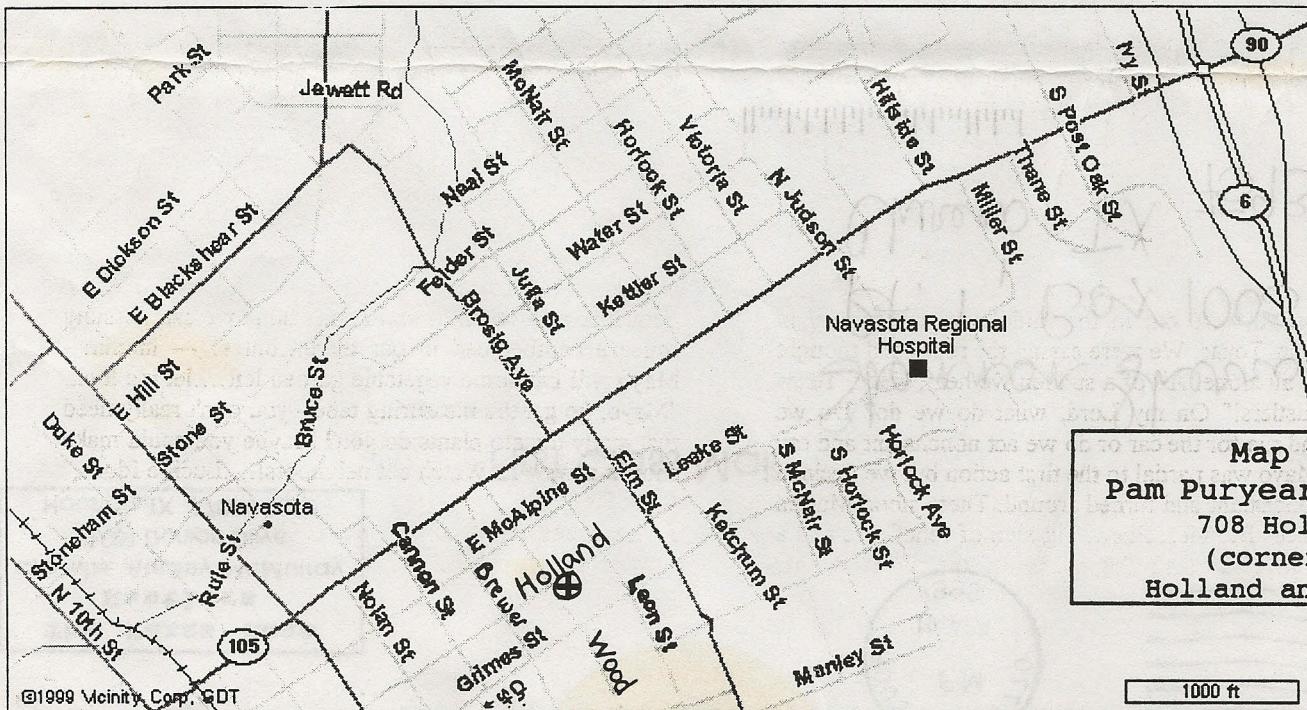
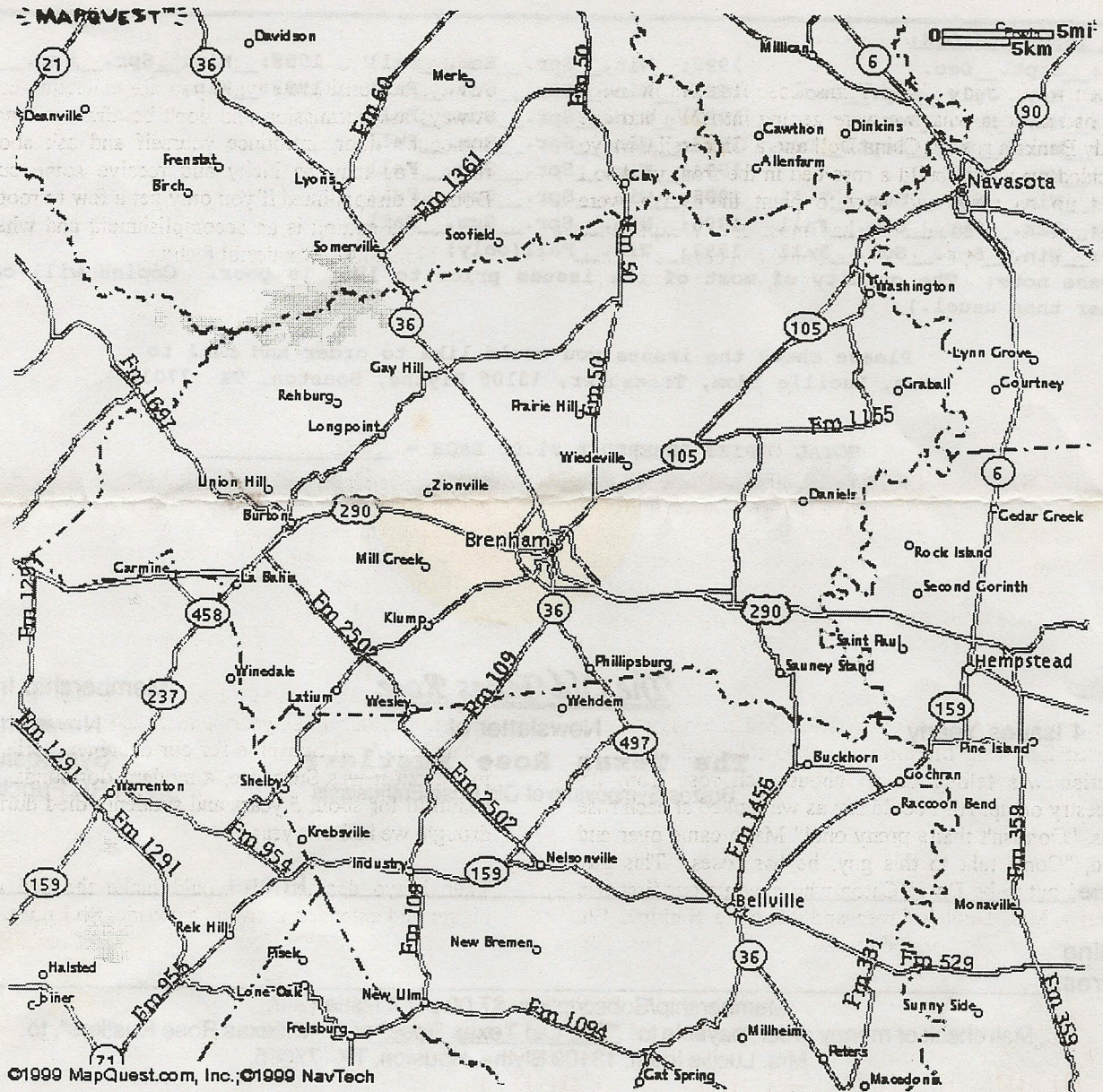
cemeteries to tell us about the roses, we take a few cuttings only if it will leave the bush in good shape. Always be considerate when you are collecting cuttings. Always ask permission and don't be afraid to knock on someone's door, introduce yourself and ask about the roses. You may be lucky and receive some cuttings. Don't be disappointed if you only get a few to root. Even one rooted cutting is an accomplishment and when you see it bloom it's a wonderful feeling.

The second rose bed was made under our Pecan tree in the back yard. I've heard that nothing will grow under a Pecan tree but we didn't know that at the time. We planted Madame Berkley and Katy Road Pink in that bed and every cutting we brought home was put in that bed to root. It seemed like all of them rooted but I soon found out most of them were ramblers so we dug them up and potted them in one-gallon pots to give to friends who wanted a rambler. Mayo said that bed would be the last one we would have so we planted Katy Road Pink at the back corner and Madame Berkley along with rooted cuttings of Aloha, Old Blush, Mrs. B.R. Cant and two climbers that I later found out were Prosperity and Gruss an Teplitz. Then I found a beautiful yellow rose down the street at a deserted house. It rooted easily and bloomed profusely all year. Under the Pecan tree it went. I named it April Sunshine for our daughter April. I later found out it was Sunsprite, a modern floribunda. It was beautiful for about 5 years and suddenly died during the drought we had that year.

Then Mayo decided we would make the bed a little bigger and extended it on the backside. So I put a rooted cutting of Marie Van Houtte behind Katy Road Pink. We then made a bed of Daylilies. Meanwhile all of these rose cuttings were rooting. Mayo built a little cutting bed in the edge of his vegetable garden and put a shade cloth over it for me. We had roses all over the place. Mayo said, "OK, we will make one more rose bed but this one will be the last." So we made one more bed and I put the taller roses at the back. We now have three more rose beds behind the first ones and climbing roses around the fences. As Mayo built each rose bed he always said, "This is the last one I'm going to make." Then I would see him out there looking and measuring and pretty soon there would be another rose bed. Each bed has the taller roses at the back because each bed was supposed to be the last. ☺ We love the grace and beauty of the old roses and have the scars to prove it. ☺ We also have a miniature rose bed now and I don't think we can possibly squeeze another bed in out there...unless --- hmmm - Mayo still has some vegetable garden left...let me look. "Mayo, go get the measuring tape - you don't really need that many tomato plants do you? Maybe you could make shorter rows." ... Watch out neighbors!... Lucille Idom

A honeybee may collect nectar from up to 10,000 flowers a day, but will make less than 1 tablespoon of honey in its 6-week life.

Map of the Texas Hill Country



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