



The Old Texas Rose

NUMBER 2

SPRING

1998

1998

TEXAS ROSE RUSTLER SPRING SYMPOSIUM

MAY 9TH, 9AM-3PM

It's time to 'gather ye rosebuds' and bring them to the Brenham Community Center again for our annual Spring symposium.

Come learn how to make arrangements with antique roses and native plants (move over Martha Stewart) from Henry Flowers of the Antique Rose Emporium. Mike Payne of Living Earth Technology Company will also be there to talk about composting and Heidi Sheesley will discuss companion plants.

Bring your own lunch and a dessert for the dessert table. As usual, we will have drawings for roses so veteran Rustlers, please bring your rooted cuttings to share.

We have had quite a few new Rustlers join up since an article appeared in the March '98 issue of Texas Monthly (see Did You Know?..., pg.2) and we issue a special invitation to them. This is a great opportunity for you to see antique roses on display and possibly return home with a free plant! There will be rosarians with green "Hospitality Chairman" name tags on who will be happy to answer any question you may have. And don't forget a notepad, as our speakers are sure to give you some great gardening tips.


1998 SPRING SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE


9:00am Doors open - Old Garden Rose bloom display setup
10:00am Henry Flowers - "Arranging with Old Garden Roses and Native Materials"
11:20am Drawing for roses
11:30am Lunch - BYO and a dessert to share
1:00pm Mike Payne - "Composting"
1:55pm Drawing for roses
2:00pm Heidi Sheesley - "Companion Plants with Old Garden Roses"
3:00pm Drawing for roses, followed by clean-up. Everyone is asked to help with this. (Cont'd pg. 8)

CHAIRMAN	C. Ray Valigura	1109 Loesser, Houston, TX 77055	(713)237-0707
TREASURER/MEMBERS	Mrs. Lucille Idom	13106 Blythe, Houston, TX 77015	(713)453-1274
EDITOR	Mrs. Audrey McMurray	11031 Dunlap, Houston, TX 77096	(713)729-5307
PROGRAM	Earl Krause	5020 Fairvent, Pasadena, TX 77505	(281)487-3347
SECRETARY	Mrs. Bobbie McKenna	5426 Candletree, Houston, TX 77091	(713)682-4365

Did you know?...

A+ If you didn't see Suzy Banks' article, "Ramblin' Roses", in the March '98 issue of Texas Monthly, rustle up a copy and have a look. It was really first rate. Ms. Banks braved our Fall Cutting Exchange at Washington-on-the-Brazos last November and wrote "I'm shivering so violently my notes look like they're in Arabic." We know what you meant! Thanks for spreading the word about these old garden beauties, Ms. Banks.

 In response to a fellow Rustler's inquiry about General Schablikine, Dr. Larry Phillips, of Sarasota Florida, Lucille Idom, our Treasurer, and Rustler Tracy Elam did some checking around. General Schablikine fought in the Crimean War between 1853-1856 and later became an elder statesman. Gilbert Nabonnand, a famous French nurseryman, named the rose after him in 1878. Dr. Phillips wasn't sure for whom the General fought but surmised that since he was a hero, it was either Britain or France. No one found any word on whether he was as hearty a general as his rose namesake, though his hero status would suggest that he was indeed. Thanks, Y'all!

 If you hurry, there is still time to register for the Heritage Rose Foundation's 1998 Conference that takes place in Dallas, April 24-26. They have planned three days of tours, lectures, wine and good food! Call Charles Walker at 919-834-2591 or e-mail him at rosefoun@aol.com

A note from

Bobbie McKenna..



Many thanks for the cards, letters, flowers and telephone inquiries that I received. All of them were much appreciated. I'm feeling fine, much better.



Kudos to Joe Cooper

For those of you who have access to the Internet, take a moment to check out Rustler Joe Cooper's handiwork: our very own Texas Rose Rustler home page! It's address is

www.texas-rose-rustlers.com

A short time ago, Marion Brandes volunteered to give a few dinosaurs who are fairly 'Net-illiterate, like your editor, a "tour" of this home page. Marion is our former Program Chairman and the good friend I turn to when my computer decides to get cranky. Don Burger joined us also, and together they showed us neobytes (sorry) how to access Joe's work.

What a gem! My apologies for not passing this on to you much sooner. If you do not have access to the Internet, or have only limited access and knowledge like I do, ask a friend who is "in the know" to help you tap into this wealth of old rose information. You will be pleasantly surprised, as we were.

Any item that I receive for "Trader's Corner" can now be also passed on to the Internet, increasing your chances of acquiring that one rose you can't seem to find. Just let me know if you would like me to do this. Joe also has 'found' roses listed, in the hope that someone will be able to identify them.

He has put a tremendous amount of time and a considerable amount of his own money into this project. Next time you see Joe, give him a pat on the back. Thanks, Joe! And thanks, also, to Marion and Don Burger for the "tour".

Trader's Corner

Lucille Idom is looking for the following roses: **Happy** (a Polyantha), **Madame Joseph Schwartz**, **Allgold** (a yellow Floribunda), **Europeana** (a red Floribunda), and **Playgirl** (the bush). Her phone number is 713-453-1274.

Our next event

Mark your calendars for our May 23 outing to Rustler Bobbie McKenna's property in Splendora, TX. We will meet there at 10:00am to prune her roses.

This will be a perfect opportunity for rookie Rustlers to learn good pruning techniques. Veteran Rustlers have agreed to demonstrate how to correctly prune climbers and bushes to anyone who needs a lesson. You may keep all of the cuttings that you prune, of course, but our primary purpose for meeting there is to give Bobbie, who is still recuperating from her illness, a helping hand with this Spring chore. She has been under the weather for more than one season and the roses could use some tending.

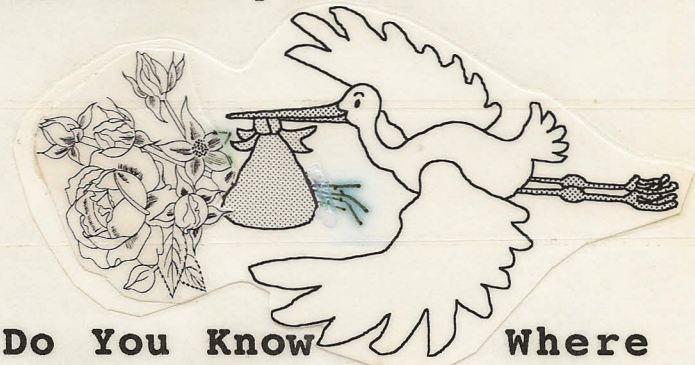
For those of you who don't know Bobbie, she has a "rose island" in Splendora with over 130 roses on it. Bobbie has always been very generous with these roses and over the years, Rustlers have spent hours getting cuttings from them to add to their collection. At our gatherings, it was not unusual to see Bobbie show up with her truck full of her own rooted cuttings, promised to various Rustlers. This will be a welcome way to repay her generosity.

Bring your own picnic lunch, a big hat, plenty of sunscreen, and a lawn chair, if you have one. Bobbie will provide watermelon and iced tea. And of course, don't forget your snippers, paper towels, and baggies!

Directions: 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 Bobbie's driveway. You will see her brown,

wooden fence.

You can call 713-729-5307 on May 22 for a machine message to make sure we will be going the next day. Our rain date will be May 30.



Do You Know Where Baby Roses Come From?

by
Pam Puryear

The recent furor over "cloning" has old rosarians bored: we've been doing it for years! Called vegetative reproduction, by snipping off bits to form a new plant, one gets an exact duplicate. But creating something new in rosedom means sexual reproduction, viz., raising a rose from SEED.

This simple process needs no equipment or arcane knowledge. Nor is it true (as I may have previously intimated) that one must be pure in heart. But like rooting own-root roses, everyone has different methods and stoutly defends their own - but what are meeting for but to argue about these things? And red Chinas. And yellow Teas. And so on...

Germination of rose seed hangs upon the DREADED DOUBLE DORMANCY. The Good Lord, in His wisdom to prevent all the little seedlings from coming up at once and getting zapped by something, decreed that two cold spells would be needed for rose seed to germinate. This the grower must overcome. Thank goodness for freon!!!

The first rule in raising your own rose - or your own human baby for that matter! - is pick the mommy/papa. In roses, the mommy needs to be (1) ever blooming and (2) a good setter of fruit. The best seem to be Hybrid Perpetuals, Bourbons and suchlike. However, just about everything in the

rose kingdom is in these classes, so there is literally no telling what will come out! Theoretically, I believe there are four forms: a very low spray form, a standard shrub, a climber, and a miniature. A rose recently bred will often "sport" a climbing form soon after, sort of as if its chromosomes were "settling in", after which the chances of other sports/mutations drops. (This is an odd phenomenon, and I wish some learned genetics savant would explain it to me in words of one syllable, if possible.)

This April during rosetide, pick your parents. It is best the seed parent be in full sun - which it probably is anyway. E.B. LeGrice recommends pulling off the petals and sepals so they do not rot with botrytis. Dust the pollen onto the hep of your seed parent. LeGrice recommended covering the hep with say, a toe cut out of ruined pantyhose to protect from other pollen. He also dusted a few days later with Captan. Avoid watering from above. Also, label your cross.

As Edward G. Robinson proved (he played Mendel in the movie!), one-quarter of the babies will be like the mommy, one quarter like the daddy, and the rest will mix everything in the whole line. This is where the fun and surprises come in.

Wild roses have a chromosome count of 7. The resulting progeny will have 14. But if a species (7) is crossed with a species hybrid (14), the result is a perfectly fine rose (21) but it will be a mule, and be incapable of further breeding. 'Mermaid' is a "miracle baby" because one parent *R. bracteata* was a mule and shouldn't have produced a fertile seed.

There is also spontaneous addition of chromosomes in some crosses. Occasionally this will happen and the resulting plant is bigger, better, and healthier. 'Souvenir de la Malmaison' is a spontaneous tetraploid, and those of you who have grown it know why it is often the only Bourbon surviving without care in Texas!

In early Fall, the heps of your crosses will swell and begin to turn yellow and red. Store these in freezer bags for six weeks at 34°F - in the crisper of the fridge. Remove for 6 weeks and keep at 70°F, then return to the icebox at 40°F. Remove from the pods at this time and store in dampish paper towels. Any seeds that float are not fertile and should be discarded.

Plant like any other seed in March and wait patiently! Germination is always irregular. But just think, you have raised an entirely new rose and you can pass the time considering who in your life deserves having a new rose named for them!



◉●●Almanac Dates●●◉

...from Blum's Farmer's and Planter's Almanacs for the Year 1998.

For rooting all cuttings

Apr.: 12-14, 18-19, 22-23
May : 12, 15-16, 19-20, 23-24
June: 11-12, 15-17, 20-21
July: 10, 13-14, 17-18, 22

For transplanting rooted cuttings and potted roses

Apr.: 27
May : 1-2, 28-29
June: 24-26
July: 29-30

To prune roses for increased blooming

Apr.: 13-14
May : 12
June: none listed
July: 22

◉●●◉●●◉●●◉●●◉●●◉

Roses, By the Way

by Mary Herr
Herr's Lawn & Landscape

Spring is here and our mailboxes are filled with garden catalogs galore, inspiring us with pictures and promises of bloom. Add that temptation to the roses that are 'new to you' from Rustler friends, as well as other plants you want to try...and the conclusion is we all need more flower beds!

There are many ways to construct flower beds, incorporating timbers or rock work - which can become labor intensive. Most of the roses on their own roots, however, can exist happily in a slightly raised ground level bed, with less expense and without the daunting aspect of moving a pallet of rock - we can still achieve the effect we desire.

If you have trees in your yard, consider pruning the lower branches to let in more light. Select the areas for your bed and experiment with various free form shapes, using a garden hose or landscape marking paint. Keep the proportions of the rose you are planting in mind and remember that most roots of roses and perennials run horizontally - very narrow beds often look out of scale. And, as avid gardeners, we can all agree that it's better to have too much bed space than not enough!

After you have decided on your bed shape, remove the top layer of sod and dig a small trench around the border, throwing the soil from the trench into the future bed. This will provide you drainage and raise the bed's level at the same time.

At this point, add and till in a good amount of your favorite rose soil or compost until you are happy with the consistency. Renting or borrowing a tiller is advisable, if you don't already have one. Before and after planting, use products that are soil activators such as Medina™, and amend

your beds periodically with good organic matter.

Now, back to those garden catalogs...



*Coffee with
Auntie Lotte*



What a beautiful morning! I'm walking through the garden, drinking my coffee and enjoying my two favorite climbing roses, **Climbing Pinkie** and **Prosperity**. They are so hardy, they have never stopped blooming since they were planted.

I received a letter from Jerard Seligson. He enclosed copies from the Wall Street Journal of an article by Patti Hagen entitled, "Behold the Banana, Sub Rosa Breakfast of Champions". Laid just below the surface of the soil, banana skins have long been said to be very good for roses. They rot quickly and are a considerable source of calcium, magnesium, sulfur, phosphates, sodium and silica. My husband and I have a banana every morning and throw the skins on the roses. Hey, that's a wonderful idea - here you get your calcium, etc., and you have healthy roses too. So start eating those bananas!

Ms. Hagen also wrote about fat drippings buried beneath a never-to-do-well rose, causing it to flower "stunningly". No wonder I have some healthy weeds. I've been drowning them in fat drippings to kill them.

Thanks a lot, Jerry, for the helpful information. Let me hear from you folks.

1997/98 WINTER FAVORITES

BY

Lucille Idom

Madame Berkeley, a Tea rose introduced in 1899 is my favorite any time of the year. She was the first rose I received from a Texas Rose Rustler. We built a rose bed underneath our Pecan tree, not knowing roses weren't supposed to grow under Pecan trees. ☺ We planted Madame Berkeley and she must have been as ignorant as we were because a few weeks later she started blooming with fragrant salmon pink blooms and has bloomed continuously ever since. She is a big healthy bush with dark green foliage.

Monsieur Tillier is a Tea rose introduced in 1891 is an upright shrub with dark green foliage and very beautiful double blooms described as a mix of pale rose, salmon and purple. Monsieur Tillier is a good beginner's rose because he is healthy and very easy to grow. He is very fragrant, never without blooms, and could probably be grown as a small climber here. I usually keep him clipped to 5 feet but this Fall we got behind in our trimming so he quickly grew to 8 feet. My husband, Mayo, put a Cedar support behind him to keep him in our yard. ☺ What a show he put on from October until January and still has blooms at the end of January. We also have him in the backyard and he is just as happy back there. ☺

Compassion was introduced in 1973 so is not an old rose but is a fine rose nevertheless. It is a climber with large, Hybrid Tea shaped blooms of salmon pink shaded orange and apricot. It is healthy with dark green, bushy foliage. The fragrance is outstanding. It blooms continually all year but from October through December it put on a show that produced many gorgeous blooms.

Le Pactole is a Tea that is rarely offered at nurseries. It is famous for it's creamy yellow 3" blooms. It is fragrant and blooms repeatedly. Compact and low growing, it is a cross between Lamarque and a yellow Tea. It blooms well even in dry heat and will get about 4 feet tall by 3 feet wide. I kept this rose in a gallon pot for 3 years before planting it in a bed. I almost gave it away several times but something always stopped me. Finally, after seeing that it just kept on blooming in that little pot, I planted it in one of the rose beds and have never been sorry. It is covered with buds and bloom right now and is a lovely little rose. Introduced in 1841.

Fortune's Five Colored Rose is a rare and unusual rose collected by Robert Fortune in China over 150 years ago (1840s). It produces blooms of several different color combinations at the same time: red shaded white, pink and red, white with a red stripe and occasionally a red bloom. I was privileged to find a solitary red bloom on my bush in the midst of all the white and shaded ones in December. It is a bushy rose that keeps it's pretty foliage all year and is always in bloom. It's about 6 feet tall and needs very little shaping. This rose is listed in the ARE catalog as Smith's Parish.

Climbing Pinkie (1952) is a climber with a split personality. ☺ I planted two of these roses, took a cutting off one and gave the rooted cutting to my Grandson in Dallas. He planted the rose next to a brick pillar on the back porch of his brick house. It was in the hot sun and wind in the Summer and faced the cold wind in the Winter. A few months later this rose was 8 feet tall by 6 feet wide and very bushy. I looked at my plants and they were 4 feet tall by 2 feet wide and not bushy at all. OK, I just figured the conditions in my yard weren't quite right and let it go at that. About six months later we were sitting upstairs in the house in Dallas and all of a sudden we heard all this squealing and clatter outside the window. I asked my son what all the racket was and he said, "Oh, it's the squirrels who have built a nest in that pink rose you gave my son. That rose is eating my house and that is what you see growing over my roof and up my windows on the second floor." ☺ My son did grudgingly admit that the rose was very pretty and bloomed a lot when he wasn't chopping on it. Mayo and I and my son-in-law asked if we could prune his plant while we were up there on Thanksgiving. He said OK so we started cutting. My son kept standing there and with each snip he would say, "Don't butcher my plant, you're cutting off too much!" Finally my daughter-in-law said, "Ron, just go back in the house, finish your cooking and don't even look out the window until they are through." ☺ We pruned his plant away from the walk and put it on a support so it would grow around the windows and let the light in once again. My son came out after we were through and was pleasantly surprised - we hadn't ruined his rose at all. ☺ That rose just loved the place where it had been planted even though it never got fertilized. Please don't be afraid to plant Pinkie because of my story, it can be controlled. I have never seen another Pinkie that grows like that

one in Dallas. The rose has shiny full foliage, is healthy and, of course, easy to grow. ☺

Darlow's Enigma It's ancestry is unknown. It has small, pure white semi-double blooms that open flat to show golden centers. The flowers are produced in clusters on an up-right healthy plant. It has a wonderful fragrance that you can smell from 10 feet away. Even without blooms it would be beautiful but it is hardly ever without blooms. After each cluster of blooms fade, it produces a cluster of small orange rose hips which adds to the attractiveness of the bush. We grow ours as a small climber.

Lamarque introduced in 1830 was named for General Lamarque. It is a Noisette climber with fragrant double white blooms. It is a steady bloomer all year and is in bloom right now, the last week of January. It is bushy, healthy and easy to grow.

White Pet introduced in 1879 is a nice container plant. It is about 2 feet tall by 2 feet wide. It has clusters of small white double blooms. It makes a bushy plant, blooms all year and is fragrant.

Safrano and it's sport Isabella Sprunt Safrano's parents are unknown. Introduced in 1839, it has double fawn colored flowers with long pointed buds. The new foliage is plum colored to contrast nicely with the blooms. Isabella Sprunt, introduced in 1855, is a sulphur yellow sport of Safrano. They both grow 4-6 feet tall and are repeat bloomers.

Dublin Bay, introduced in 1969, bloomed quite well from October through December. It is a dark red, fragrant rose with rich green foliage and usually blooms in clusters. It is one of the finest modern red climbers and blooms all year.

Prosperity is a Hybrid Musk that we grow as a climber. In fact, we grow all our Hybrid Musks as climbers. ☺ It has fragrant clusters of white flowers and is also growing under the afore-mentioned Pecan tree. ☺ It repeats and was introduced in 1919.

Vincent Godsif a found rose blooms continually all year. He has semi double 2" flowers in shades of soft mauve to dusty pink. He is compact and healthy, grows 2-3 feet tall and is also good as a container plant. He's good anywhere we put him. ☺

These are just a few roses that stood out during this mild Winter. Each old rose is special in it's own way and are all my favorites at one time of the year or another. Maybe I will write about them at a later time.

Tip: Plant your roses in raised beds and keep a mulch on them all year.

Tip: If your rose bush isn't growing well where it is, don't be afraid to move it around until you find a spot it likes. ☺

Tip: (from Bobbie McKenna) Use old venetian blinds for labels.

RECIPE FOR ROSES

This is good for a jump-start in Spring

- 1 bag composted manure
- 20 cups alfalfa meal or pellets
- 3 cups Ironite
- 2 cups fish meal
- 1 cup blood meal
- 2 cups cottonseed meal
- 1 cup superphosphate
- 2 cups greensand
- 1 cup Epsom salts

Mix together and spread a cup around each rose.

ROSES IN MUSIC

'Old Blush' is the rose which inspired Thomas Moore's 'The Last Rose of Summer'; one of the few songs where we know the name of the rose. That poignant song of the fleeting passage of beauty and love was inspired by a bush of 'Old Blush' flowering in November in a garden in Dublin.

'Harison's Yellow' is the favorite candidate for a lot of rose lovers on the identity of the 'Yellow Rose of Texas'.

