

VOLUME X

S U M M E R 1 9 9 1

NUMBER 1

### SUMMERTIME GATHERING LOTS OF FUN

Sunday afternoon, June 23rd, about 35 to 40 Texas Rose Rustlers collected at R.V. Glauser Nursery, 1707 Ojeman, Houston, to visit and to "talk roses." There was lots of both. While the nursery is never open Sundays, it was open for us to visit and enjoy (and initiate) their newly completed patio area for clubs and organizations to use for meetings such as ours. We enjoyed refreshments served by several of our members and the Nursery.

In the cool shade and light breezes we had a good time comparing experiences growing different varieties of roses and expressing our favorite ones and why - also our "stinkers"! Ray Valligura mentioned he liked 'Charles de Mills' and 'Cardinal de Richlieu' best of the dark reds in a discussion of what roses were closest to "black" under certain conditions. In a discussion of the Damasks several agreed that they seemed to want more cool weather to grow and bloom. A few felt that the best is R. damascena semperflorens, or 'Autumn Damask' - on its own roots. Lera Barlow, who lives in Waller, and Ray Valigura, who lives in Spring Branch area of Houston (near the Nursery) expressed how much they enjoyed their 'Rose de Resch' that blooms freely for them. Of the Perpetuals, few grew any at all but Marion Brandes has grown Compté de Chambord two or three years and Marquise Boccella fairly successfully. Which points up the fact that few of us have very long experience growing old rose varieties and cannot, in truth,

(See Over)

### OUR FIRST EVENING MEETING TO BE AUGUST 15th

We will hold our first evening "gathering" at the Houston Lighting & Power Energy Information Center Auditorium, on 610 West Loop at Bellaire Blvd. August 15th is Thursday and we will be meeting at 6:30 p.m., after dinner time. As you drive south on 610 West Loop use the Bellaire Exit. Between the next to last and last buildings turn right off the feeder road into the parking lot. You may park outside in the lot, or on the ground or 3rd floor of the parking garage at the rear. Enter the left rear of the building. The auditorium is on the ground floor.

Our program will be a viewing of Northern California Rose Gardens of Heritage and English roses. Pictures will be on a very big screen so it will be easy to see the beauty of the gardens and the spectacular roses. Many of the varieties are not being grown in our Texas gardens. It is an opportunity to broaden your experience in the world of roses and perhaps make a few notes on varieties for your garden.

Please be aware that this is not a slides show but a projected video tape. We will be starting the picture at 7 p.m. sharp. Refreshments will be served.

## Wanted

A GOOD PHOTO OF THE "MARGARET SHARPE" ROSE!

Immediately Contact

Pamela Puryear, 708 N. Holland  
Navasota TX 77868 (409)825-3220

CHAIRMAN. . . . .	Mrs. Jackie Fischer, 4807 Benning, Houston TX 77035 . . . . .	713/721-2346
PROGRAM . . . . .	Marion Brandes, Jr., 27326 Farm Creek, Huffman TX 77336 . . . . .	713/324-1457
SECRETARY . . . . .	Mrs. Marti King, 274 Bellingrath, Conroe TX 77302 (DO NOT DIAL 1) . . . . .	409/321-3374
TREASURER . . . . .	Mrs. Deanna Krause, 5020 Fairvent, Pasadena TX 77505. . . . .	713/487-3347
EDITOR. . . . .	Mrs. Margaret Sharpe, 9426 Kerrwood, Houston TX 77080. . . . .	713/464-8607



give very authoritative limited evaluations except for any we have grown for 5 years or more. Some of us have grown some varieties of old roses that long or longer, but most have not. That is what makes meetings as this one so valuable to attend.

Favorite old polyanthas named were 'Cecile Brunner' bush and climber, Clothilde Soupert', La Marne, and 'Bloomfield Abundance'. Lera Barlow pointed out that some of us may have this rose thinking it is 'Cecile Brunner' and the way to tell is by the long sepals and the constant blooming of 'Bloomfield Abundance'. It's time to be suspicious, too, when your 'Cecile Brunner' grows over 3 ft. tall.

Tea roses most popular named were 'Perle des Jardins', 'Mrs. Dudley Cross' and 'Maman Cochet'. Someone pointed out that the 'Perle des Jardins' sold at the Antique Rose Emporium was a light golden yellow with light green foliage. Another remarked that perhaps it was like his favorite tea, 'Marie van Houtte', that was a pale yellow that faded to white in heat. Another remarked that the 'Mme. Jules Bouché' (White 'Maman Cochet') obtained from the ARE was white with pink edges in cool weather instead of pale blush shadings. The general consensus was that 'Duchess de Brabant' was the most popular Tea and good to grow for the beginner to start. 'Mme. Joseph Swartz' is the 'White Duchess de Brabant' and just as good. 'Mlle. Franziska Kruger' is Marion Brandes's favorite Tea, with 'Odee Pink' close beside.

The China rose favorites were numerous and it was pointed out that 'Cramoisi Supérieur' being sold at ARE is really 'Louis Phillipe' due to early misidentification. Both Jackie Fischer and Ray Valigura remarked on the great importance of NOT feeding NITROGEN to Chinas but to give them high phosphates to produce bloom. Ray described the "Seguin Red China" available at Green Gate Nursery in Seguin. Similar to 'Archduke Charles' in growth, it has more petals that are solid red with a button eye. It is a GOOD China. The China Bourbons liked the best are 'Souv. de la Malmaison', 'Maggie', and 'Louise Odier'. 'Hermosa', a China, got poor reports until Jackie Fischer told of obtaining a cutting from her family's 'Hermosa' bush of many years and heavy bloom. The cutting "took off like a house afire" and we are hoping she has a strong plant for us to get cuttings from some day soon!

Noisettes in favor are 'La Biche', 'Jaune Duprez' and 'Rêve d'Or'. Time was getting short and of the Musk hybrids, 'Belinda' and 'Vanity' were dubbed "great" with 'Buff Beauty' and 'Penelope' and 'Cornelia' also on top.

## I REMEMBER ROSES

Fortunate, indeed, the very lottle girl  
Who knew a pink Tea rose beside her window.  
Eagerly, come spring, she watched its buds  
Peep out, then swell, then burst

in pastel bloom.  
With quickened breath she hoped  
its finest flower  
Would linger, perfect on its husky stem,  
Till Sunday came and she might wear it  
on her dotted swiss  
To church for all to see.

Twice fortunate, this same slight,  
brown-eyed girl  
Who found beside her church an Eglantine -  
The sweetest thing God set into our earth  
For us to love, adone and (nearly) worship.  
How right that it should grow beside

the fence  
Where belfry shade refreshed it,  
every breezeless afternoon.  
How stranger that the altar, feet away,  
Its precious, pink, sweet loveliness  
Would bid me pray.

The Sweet Brian's gone. Gone where?  
I wish I knew.

New thoughtless hands have torn  
the Tea rose up.

The little girl into a woman grew;  
Still those two roses fill her memory cup  
So, every spring some alchemy takes place  
And right on cue my head begins to whirl -  
And presto! In our magic trysting place  
We meet! My Tea rose, Sweet Brian  
and the little girl.

-- Clare Campbell

In fact, all the Musks were favorites, their wonderful fragrances being in their favor. Marion Brandes told us that Rose Acres, in Diamond Springs, CA, has a miniature form of 'Mermaid' that grows about 3 ft. tall and about 4 ft. spread named 'Happenstancia'.

All of us were given complimentary \$5.00 coupons for plants or merchandise - which we promptly used! And, with a Houston Police Sky Eye hanging over our heads making a very noisy racket, we took our sweet time browsing the nursery before we thought about leaving. When they saw none of us were rustling any roses they tired and left - and so did we, with our gifts and purchases and new ideas.



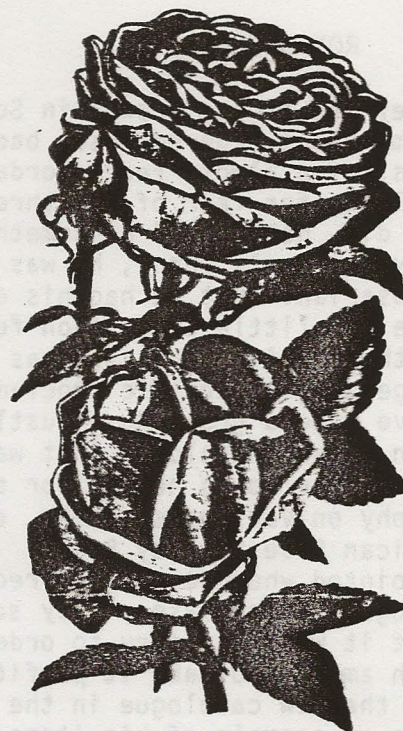
## OLD ROSE POPULARITY

There seems to be a wave of interest in old roses sweeping the world. It is good to read about the efforts to revive an old rose society in connection with the Royal National Rose Society in the British Isles. It is also of great interest to note the differences in the reasons for the enthusiasm. All of us agree that the old varieties need to be preserved for horticultural purposes and some of the Britons and other Europeans want to collect the various old roses like one might collect stamps. In the USA we seem to be collecting what we find were rose varieties that were brought to an area of the country by early settlers and were planted by "great-great grandma by her house."

Of course all of us appreciate old roses that are very strong growing varieties and we like to find old historic roses in hope we can start a cutting for our very own. And the features of some of the old roses that keep them free of blackspot, mildew, and the lack of the gene that causes prickles (plain old thorns!) to grow on some.

While we love many of the old roses here in the USA it is motivated more by who once grew it, who brought it to where, and what is the story behind this or that old rose planted in a certain location. We LOVE to talk about them. We are just simply sentimental over certain roses to the point that it is our motivation for growing and collecting rather than for scientific reasons, or completing a "set" of anything. We truthfully love the stories about the old roses more than their other details.

This seems to be the difference between old rose groups and the American Rose Society groups. Old Rosers love the roses and want to read more about them to know them better. They may love to take pictures of them and to compare fragrances, although this is now down to such a science that the actual chemicals in the rose scents are mostly identified and can readily be synthetically produced. But we enjoy making pot pourris with real rose petals instead of wood shavings dyed unreal colors, painting roses on tee shirts and cabinets, etc., but we are not too great on showing them in shows or perfecting growing techniques to out shine everyone else in rose culture, the features strongly stressed by the American Rose Society and Royal National Rose Society. All of us love roses, but in our own ways.¶



*La France.*

### ROBERT BASYE ENDOWED ROSE RESEARCH FUND

Perhaps you grow a deep red-purple rugosa type rose, or a beautiful, heavy blooming delicate pink, both hybridized by Dr. Bayse. One, the dark red, is named 'Bayse's Purple Rose'; and the pink 'Belinda's Rose'.

Dr. Bayse offered \$50,000.00 to Texas A & M for genetic research. The University set up an initial endowment and \$50,000 in operating funds to provide a Chair in Genetics. The breeder eventually chosen to fill this chair will have the objective of improving the rose especially with respect to disease resistance, winter hardiness and thornlessness.

Toward this end a rose gene pool will be established, beginning with plantings made in January 1991. The pool will also include all the wild roses obtainable, as well as a number produced by tissue culture.

This is an exciting event in the world of roses. As it progresses we may have an opportunity to help by locating species not in the pool, or variations of some. Later, it is planned to add some of the historic roses with outstanding characteristics for breeding.

We became aware of Dr. Basye's concern and efforts soon after the local Rose Rustlers started and we were looking for members who were growing old roses near Caldwell, TX. ¶



## ROY HENNESSEY

Roy Hennessey was a rose grower in Scappoose Oregon, from whom I ordered roses back in the early 1950's. You almost feared ordering his beautiful plants for fear of his threats if you had one die, get "sick" or something. He was not only extremely funny, he was also an excellent rosarian. But he had his eccentricities. He had little admiration for college degrees, authoritative books such as Modern Roses, and general scientific proclamations. He would have made a great Rose Rustler! He published an annual catalogue that was a combination of the roses he had for sale and his philosophy on various subjects, especially the American Rose Society Board. We were very disappointed when we got our request for a catalogue in too late. They sold for a quarter but it was necessary to order a large enough amount to make it profitable to send you the new catalogue in the winter. Following is an example of his items:

### BLACK AS WELL AS BURNED ROSES

Some analytical ability is necessary in realizing that the red is darker just according to amount of water available at the bloom during growth with humidity and coolness high enough so that there is little transpiration.

In the coolness and exceedingly high humidity of a Pacific Northwest Spring when there is almost no transpiration you will see that most red roses are very dark and the darkest almost black. Naturally this is to a great extent governed by variety as some being far darker than others under normal conditions. Then these same roses when grown under humidity very low will be far lighter, often only cerise this regardless of the water content of the soil, for the water cannot get to the bloom fast enough. So when you want black roses you are never sure that they will be dark except at favorable times.

Then, too, a dark rose will absorb far more heat than a lighter rose and if the sun is strong will burn, it cannot help it. Take a look at a snapshot of a red rose and you will see that it looks black for it absorbs far more light than a lighter color.

So if you buy a very dark red that has size you will have to plant it so it will not get strong afternoon sun or else be prepared for the bloom's destruction when the temperatures get in the 90's.

Then again, those red roses that are remarkably good at rather higher temperatures, will be very poor in very cool weather such as to be

in the Pacific Northwest in spring, then some will send in reports that the rose burns. It is true it does not look at all satisfactory, yet it is because the rose is made for more heat and should not be even judged at such conditions, while those with a lot of Foetida will be gorgeous and brilliant and get a lot of acclaim and when they are put in the hot East they look like something the cats brought in and the people there will wonder what brand the judges were drinking when they gave the gold medal to Red Snapper or Gorgeous Gussie or some other brilliant hussy during the cool weather. It is just that the judges do not have sufficiently broad viewpoint - yet these same people insist on passing judgement on roses they don't know anything about except as of the moment. That is why we have so many Eggsperits because the rose is obliging and will do well in spite of so many conditions, in spite of the guy who loads the hole with fertilizer and then if one part survives he says, "Replace so many because the rest were o.k." etc., etc., and so forth. In fact, some of our roses will stand most any old treatment, and if they don't the nurseryman is a so-and-so, yet these same people will be very reasonable as neighbors.

Roy has been deceased for several years but his catalogues are still full of good tips and information. He sold quite a few old rose varieties. In his descriptions of them he put "it must grow in the heat", or "medium sized blooms on lax plant", or "needs to be let grow and never pruned." His description of 'Gruss an Teplitz' gives is a clue as to our identification of it and of "Maggie": "Much has been written as to what this rose is but a study of roses plainly shows it is like the rest, ALL BADLY MIXED UP, in parentage like trying to tell the parentage of a friendly mixed up pup, so why not just realize it is the type of everblooming shrub type (if frost will let it) going above six feet in favorable climates and always in bloom in bright red with quite double blooms. To me the growth resembles the H. Musk as much as anything, and they are distinctly a type."

Recognized as an excellent old rose grower and authority, he was highly respected by the best known in the USA in recent times, Roy Shepherd. It would be a treat to again be able to get a rose catalogue such as Hennessey's Prize Winning Roses. His definition of "old roses" is, "To the purist an old rose is one before the addition of any China." Is it? ¶



## TEA ROSES

These are the original Everblooming roses from which the Hybrid Teas described in the previous section have descended. They are less hardy and need careful protection in severe climates, but they bloom more freely. These Roses are suited best to the warmer parts of the country, and southern planters should rely upon them to a large extent because of their continuous bloom, resistance to disease, and their great beauty of flower. In the North they make fine pot plants.

All these Roses are \$1 each, \$9 for 10, \$85 per 100

25 or more of one variety at the 100 rate. Prices include delivery by Parcel Post or Express

ALEXANDER HILL GRAY. T.(A.Dickson & Sons 1911) Pale lemon-yellow deepening in the center of its perfectly formed, fragrant flowers. Moderate growth and bloom. One of the hardiest and most beautiful tea Roses, but likely to ball in unfavorable weather; best in autumn. 57 petals.

BON SILENE. T.(Hardy,1835) Small buds and semi-double, regularly cupped flowers of soft rosy red, shaded with golden yellow; very sweetly scented. Liberal with its bloom. One of the oldest and most charming Tea Roses It should do well in mild climates.

DUCHESSE DE BRABANT. T.(Bernède 1857) Small tulip-shaped double flowers of pale pink and flesh color. Vigorous, bushy growth, with excellent foliage; fairly hardy. An old-time decorative Tea of very vigorous, shrubby habit. Growth small in North but splendid where it does not freeze. 48 petals.

HARRY KIRK. T.(A.Dickson & Sons,1907) Lovely buds of elegant shape and substance, opening to deep straw-yellow, semi-double, cupped blooms of great size, with some fragrance. Bush erect and strong; foliage good; plant is hardy. A Tea Rose with distinctly Hybrid Tea character, especially in hardiness, shape, and carriage of bloom. An excellent bedding variety, and delightful if cut when half-open. 13 petals.

LADY HILLINGTON. T.(Lowe & Sawyer,1910) Slender, pointed buds and elegantly cupped flowers of deep saffron-yellow, paling toward the edges and becoming lighter as they expand; fragrant. The plant is erect, with perfect foliage. Hardier than most Teas but requires careful protection. Flower stems are weak in hot weather but sufficiently strong in fall. Very free flowering and lovely. It requires and repays good feeding and attention. 21 petals.

LADY PLYMOUTH. T. (A.Dickson & Sons,1914) Ivory buds and blooms of tapering form and petals of excellent substance, with some fragrance. Plant is strong with foliage impervious to disease. A Rose of almost perfect form and habit. It is without fault except that it needs careful protection at zero. 64 petals.

MAMAN COCHET. T.(P. Cochet,1892) Carmine-pink double blooms of fine form and substance, creamy buff at the center. Spreading, wiry growth; free blooming and very hardy for a Tea Rose. Grows very large in favorable climates but is usually dwarf in the North. Foliage is never troubled by disease and it is a splendid fall bloomer. 80 petals.

MAMAN COCHET, WHITE. T.(J.Cook,1896) A white form of Maman Cochet but often flushed with pink on the outer petals. Foliage equally good and the plant just as hardy and free flowering. One of the very best Teas for northern gardens. The blooms are seldom imperfect and the stems are strong for cutting. 80 petals.

PRINCESS GHICA. T.(P.Nabonnand,1921) Large, full flowers of elegant form, brilliant red with dark reflexes. This Rose is attractive for its graceful form, although its flowers have not been of more than ordinary size. Probably the reddest Tea Rose we have ever seen. 21 petals.

ROSETTE DELIZY. T.(PNabonnand,1921) Small, slender buds and firm high-centered flower of heavy texture, deep yellow with dark rose-pink outer petals. Free flowering and vigorous. Of excellent habit and most attractive variegated color. One of the latest introductions in this class and has attracted much attention because of its odd coloring which is especially striking in the autumn; beautiful shape and liberal vrooming. 55 petals.

SOUVENIR DE PIERRE NOTTING. T.(Souper & Notting 1902) Very double, yellow flowers deepening to copper and apricot; sweetly perfumed. A bushy vigorous plant, floriferous, free from disease and very hardy for a Tea Rose. Valuable because of its immunity to mildew but the flowers shrivel in heat and ball in cold, wet weather; fine in cool, dry autumns and a superb variety for indoor growing. Really good only in the South. 74 petals.

WILLIAM R. SMITH. T.(Bagg 1908) Pale flesh-colored flowers of splendid shape, mottled with cream and pink; only slightly fragrant. Plant is very vigorous and spreading, blooms freely all season, and foliage is never troubled by disease. A useful, all-round variety

(over)



which grows very large in warm climates. Flowers seldom scorch as many Teas do, and its foliage is immune to mildew under almost all conditions of weather and exposure. 34 petals.

MARIE VAN HOUTTE.T.(Ducher 1871) Lemon-yellow flowers of good size, darker in center, edged rose; well formed and fragrant. Plant strong but liable to freeze back in the North. A favorite old Rose which makes huge bushes where it does not kill back. Recommended for mild climates. 44 petals.

MISS ALICE DE ROTHSCHILD.T.(A.Dickson & Sons 1910) Light canary, double, well formed flowers, deepening to yellow at the center. Fragrant. A beautiful Rose with the color and fragrance of Maréchal Neil. Suitable for general planting where climate is not too cold. 86 petals.

MME. ANTOINE MARI.T.(Mari,1901) Flesh colored blooms opening with lilac and rose shadings; very well formed; somewhat fragrant. Plant strong. Flowers are small and discolor badly in the fall but are rather pleasing at times. Recommended for mild, dry regions. 40 petals.

MRS. DUDLEY CROSS.T.(W.Paul & Son 1907) Pale yellow blooms of medium size sometimes flushed with pink, full, well formed and lightly fragrant. Plant vigorous, moderately free. Flowers last a long time when cut. Especially recommended for dry climates. 68 petals.

MRS. HERBERT STEVENS.T.(S.McGredy & Son 1910) Fine shaped, double white flowers tinted with pale lemon at center and sweetly perfumed. Growth moderate and blooms well. Very beautiful and extremely free flowering. The plant is sometimes astonishingly strong. 37 petals.

MRS. MYLES KENNEDY.T.(A.Dickson & Sons 1906) Flower large, full, perfectly finished, delicate silvery white, tinted buff with darker pink center, and shaded pink on reverse of petals. Vigorous, long canes. An old Tea Rose which we are very fond of and recommend to all of our friends in mild climates, and to those in less favorable regions who are willing to give it slight protection in winter. 23 petals.

### HYBRID CROSS

```

F R J G M P C O K T W N F S L R D B
T N U X B D S B E P I L O T C G O R
A C I G R V N H Y O M A D B H U L K
H E R K O R L D E R A P H A R M S Y
S Y N T H S N O L T C E C B Z U T W
A H B U O R A Y J L K T E C M P O H
H O U R S E S O R A E T N I S E L B
T E Q U I L F L D N O E S F O T H C
N U M A W D J O T D G S B A S Q J H
A C R C D K T R O S E I R H I S U M
Y S E L J N G E T P C O L E Y A V R
L F A N S Z U M A E L N A K I N C D
O Y M C T G R B Y F C R D S T A R A
P B C L I I C H I N A U I C P I U M
N R A T S L F T D R H C T E X A N A
E V H K S N L O E S O G E B U R T S
D M G J O U R A L I B L O X N U S K
R E L B M A R U G I C R F L O H I P
B L N A U T O V C S A E D E L C U R
Y C H S L A U T E P R E P N D I Q B
H E N I T N A L G E T Y H S H W T S

```

Find the listed words in the diagram.  
They run all directions, forward, backward  
up, down & diagonally.

BOURBON	GALLICA	POLYANTHAS
CENTIFOLIA	HYBRID TEA	PORTLANDS
CHINA	MOSS	RAMBLER
DAMASK	MULTIFLORA	RUGOSA
EGLANTINE	MUSK	SPECIE
FLORIBUNDA	NOISETTE	TEAROSE
FOETIDA	PERPETUALS	WICHURAIANAS

### NEWS OF THE HERITAGE ROSE CONFERENCE May 17-18, 1991 Santa Rosa, California

The Rose Rustlers are group members of the Heritage Rose Foundation and we receive their newsletter quarterly. Of course, we are always interested in the annual conference events. This year some of the members in California published a paper back book of 64 pages that has the presentation of each speaker and a written description of the gardens that were on the tour. Copies are still available if you wish to order one from the Heritage Rose Foundation, 1512 Gorman St., Raleigh NC 27606. Postpaid cost is \$15.

Another interesting fund raiser for both the HRF and the Heritage Roses Group is the printing of unusual notecards using color plates from rose catalogs of 1896-1912. In those days 6 to 12 different color separations were used compared to the present day four. At least 6 were used on each of the prints, which come in sets of 6 with envelopes. They may be ordered from Eclipse Books, P.O. Box 1099, Forestville CA 95436 for \$8.00 per set. Profits will be equally divided between the HRFoundation & HRGroup.

The only ones who attended from our Texas Rose Rustlers group were Marion & Frances Brandes, Jr., and Joe Woodard, from Dallas, editor of "The Yellow Rose." It is most unfortunate many of our members missed it.



## WORKSHOP ON OLD ROSES SUCCESS

On Saturday, June 29th a Workshop on growing old garden roses was held at the home of Marion and Frances Brandes, Jr., in Huffman. About 8 or 9 people attended, braving the threat of rainstorms (that failed to appear). More would have attended had the weather not been so threatening. Judging from the reports from those participating another such workshop will have to be held in the very near future!

This was the result of our meeting the Sunday before at the R.V. Glauser Nursery. Members attending expressed a desire to learn more about the growing tips necessary to be successful in growing many of the old roses as well as advice and tips about what old roses will grow well for them in their locations. If you think you would be interested in attending such a workshop let Marion know and he will be glad to do what he can to help you or perhaps hold another workshop. His home telephone number is on the front page of this newsletter at the bottom.

All of us owe a big thank you to both Marion and Frances for the great programs they work together to bring to us. They are busy this summer scouting around for a good location for our Rose Rustle in November and they may be able to clue us in at the next "get together" August 15th at the HL&P Bldg. The video tape we will view on the BIG screen is truly a treat we can also thank them for making available to us.

We can also thank our Chairman, Jackie Fischer, for arranging for us to have free refreshments at our "gatherings". Thanks to members who so freely donate cakes, cookies and drinks for us to enjoy. This is all a part of your membership dues, but mostly due to the generosity of our hosts and members.

THANKS, Y'ALL!

---

## DR. BILL WELCH TO SPEAK ON LANDSCAPING WITH OLD ROSES

On Thursday evening, September 12th, at 8pm in the Houston Garden Center in Hermann Park, Dr. Bill Welch (Rose Rustler) will speak to the Houston Rose Society on Landscaping With Old Garden Roses. Guests are always welcome to the HRS meetings. They have so many members they don't know the difference. So plan to come!

## WHAT ABOUT THE RAINS?

Several members have wondered what they need to do about their old roses with all the rain we have been having. Of course the old roses love to departure from the usual dry, hot soil that puts them under terrific stress every summer. But the problem comes about the amount of blooms to expect and the quality of them.

Do not depend entirely on the rains to supply adequate water, especially since the roses are not stressed for moisture and have come to expect it. Yellow leaves come from both excess ground water and also from not enough if your roses are in a well drained location. Watch for yellow leaves and try to determine which problem you may have to correct.

Should you have leaves to turn a silvery green, then begin to show yellow and brown spots, you may have spider mites. Hot weather will bring this on. They always start at the ground and work up the plant, making fine webs on the backs of the leaves and webs around the stems and prickles of the branches as the progress. Turn a leaf over and rub your thumb across it to see if you roll up a lump of fine webs. Maybe you can even see the mites - they are all colors but most commonly red. They are not really a spider, but big spiders and lizards eat them readily. On most of the old roses they are not important enough to spray insecticides because you 1) risk killing the spiders and lizards, and 2) some of the old roses, like specie roses, cannot tolerate the spray materials on their leaves. So, BE CAREFUL. A strong stream of water from the hose nozzle is safest, but needs 3 to 4 treatments daily to slow them down, and this overwaters the roses. Spider Mites have about a 10 to 15 day life cycle, if that is any consolation. After they leave you can expect 10 to 15 days before looking for another return. If all else fails and you have to use an miticide use Vendex @ 1½ teaspoons per gallon of water or AVID @ ¼ to ½ teaspoons per gallon. Remember that most old roses that lose their leaves due to any reason will probably grow new leaves and keep on living.

Thrips are the other summertime mite we have to contend. They attack the bloom buds ONLY. Buds that refuse to open or looked burned or bruised, or that turn at a 90° angle, probably have thrips. Spray buds and blooms ONLY with Safer Soap. ¶



## MORE WATER

The biggest thing we need to watch is the leaching from the soil of the minerals and nutrients that feed the soil bacteria that make plant foods effective. Believe Me! Our soils HAVE been washed! Old roses do not respond to fertilizers like the modern roses do, at least most do not. Old roses don't "force" well so we need caution about feeding. Remember, the blooms increase on old roses as the amount of old wood increases, requiring 3 or 4 years to reach the age of being capable of heavy bloom. Organic fertilizers, such as manures and fine milled bark mulch to which is added alfalfa or fish meal is the safest treatment. A very good monthly treatment for July and August is a "tea" of alfalfa pellets ( $\frac{1}{2}$  gal.) and 1 cup of Sequestrene 330 into 20 gallons of water (use a garbage can with a lid). Allow this to "steep" four days, stirring well daily. After that you may dip it out and pour it around your roses, stirring well before each bucketful is taken. The decaying organic matter of the mulch materials around the rose has nitrogen in the making and the alfalfa serves to "set" the nitrogen in the soil. The Sequestrene 330 is a chelated (slow acting) trace mineral product. It will replace the leached minerals in the soil. It will put green color back into leaves in a few short weeks and does not need repeating until next February or March.

Epsom Salts is Magnesium Sulfate and it makes the plant produce new growth from its base. Magnesium is the 2nd most important mineral (Calcium is 1st) in the soil and is great to add IN THE SPRING. Fall use may cause new basal shoots that do not have time to harden off before our cold weather about December. It is not recommended to be used this fall, and no feeding should be done after September 1st. Two feedings in July and August should carry through until the first of 1992.

If you choose to use a prepared Rose Food remember to withhold it from the China Roses. The nitrogen in it seems to "shock" and slow their growth. If the Chinas need anything use phosphates, such as superphosphate or Bone Meal. Some find that using 13-13-13 general lawn food does fine for old roses used about 3 times a year or less. You will have to find what each of your old roses responds to the best.

Of course the biggest problem rains bring roses is making it right for blackspot to get a foothold. Please be aware that the powder seeds of the fungus must stand in a drop of water on the top surface of a leaf for 13 hours by which time it has sent a probe down through the hard cutin covering the leaf surface and penetrated between leaf cells. It then begins to chemically dissolve the cell walls and feast on the cytoplasm (plasma) and the cell dies. After a few cells are thus destroyed a black spot appears on the leaf and as more cells are affected a yellowing occurs as the cells continue to die. By this time the fungus has sent out growth on the under side of the leaf that begins making seeds. As soon as they are ready they erupt and send powder "seeds" into the breeze to further spread. Powder "seeds" that fall to the ground die for lack of live plant tissue to feed upon, so fallen blackspot leaves do not present a problem of spreading the fungus; even if green they are dead for the plant plasms are not moving.

Two methods are successfully used in the combatting of blackspot: put a chemical in the cytoplasm that prevents the fungus spore from feasting on the cell, and 2) coat the leaves of the rose with a chemical powder that destroys the spore. In our high humidity climates we find Triforene (Ortho) @ 1 teasp. per gallon of water sprayed on the new growth weekly to 10 days. It is systemic where it touches the plant and does not travel through the plant. It IS TOXIC but the active ingredients are quite safe (LD50: 16,000)\*; however, the INERT ingredient used proved to be highly toxic to the EYES. The same is true of the weaker form of triforene, Funginex. So use with caution, especially to the eyes - wear goggles! (\*The higher the LD50 number the safer it is to use. This is the laboratory dosage to kill 50% of the test animals.) The American Rose Society continues to use and recommend it as problems with human use has not been unfavorable.

The product to use if it is desired to coat the leaf with a fungicide deterrent is Maneb Flowable @  $\frac{1}{2}$  Tablespoon per gallon. It, is placed in the Class III (Caution) category and is relatively safe but protecting the breathing, skin and eyes is still important.

Fall blackspot will be in evidence in a few months, so it will be worth while to watch for it and prevent all possible on your roses.¶



## THE ENGLISH ROSES

Several of us are growing some of the English Roses. Much has been written and said about them but nothing found yet of which ones do what and which ones grow best in our heat; which ones really do not blackspot, mildew, or grow well on their own roots here in our Southern climate. We are thinking of making a survey of information among our membership to better inform ourselves about these new group of roses. Are they really different from their ancestors and if so, is it truly an improvement?

Start jotting down notes on the ones you may be growing. We want to get a questionnaire ready soon to pass out to begin gathering information.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

"Modern Maturity", magazine of the AARP, published quite a nice article about old roses in the June-July issue. If you haven't read it you really should. In it the Rose Rustlers were mentioned and our "contact" was listed as Marion & Frances Brandes. As a result they have been getting volumes of inquiries. Some of us have been helping them reply and we printed a form letter answering the most asked questions. Specific questions require more information and some of our other printed materials take care of it while special notes are often needed. All are being answered that we have a good return address to use. Hopefully we will have more members as a result.



*Perle des Jardins.*

## ANTIQUE ROSES FOR THE SOUTH

Signed and numbered First Edition copies of Dr. Bill Welch's popular book is still available for you to order. If you want to buy one or more at the \$29.95 price (no tax) they will be available at the August 15th meeting. If you wish to order one mailed see order form.

There is a great review of this book in the May-June issue of "Fine Gardening" if you get an opportunity to read it. It is a book every old rose lover MUST have!

### ORDER FORM for ANTIQUE ROSES for the SOUTH

A 9"x 9" hardback book of 200 pages of superb information, nostalgia, and beautiful color

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Books \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ Cost each X \$29.95

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

SHIP TO \_\_\_\_\_ Postage & Handling  
@ \$2.05 each book \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$32 ea. book mailed)

Make checks to LANDSCAPE CRITICS COUNCIL, TGC, Inc. and  
MAIL TO THEM at 9426 Kerrwood, Houston, TX 77080

(This is a non-profit organization in Texas and 50% of the cost of each book goes to the William C. Welch Scholarship Fund, to be at Texas A & M University, and tax deductible.)



# CHECK ITEMS DESIRED AND MAIL CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO THE TREASURER

BACK ISSUES OF OTR: Mar '84 \_\_\_ Mar '85 \_\_\_ Jan '86 \_\_\_ Sum '87 \_\_\_ Sum '88 \_\_\_ Sum '89 \_\_\_ Sp '90 \_\_\_  
 Sep '82 \_\_\_ Jly '83 \_\_\_ May '84 \_\_\_ May '85 \_\_\_ Sep '86 \_\_\_ Fall '87 \_\_\_ Fall '88 \_\_\_ Spr '89 \_\_\_ Su '90 \_\_\_  
 Dec '82 \_\_\_ Sep '83 \_\_\_ Sep '84 \_\_\_ Sep '85 \_\_\_ Jan '87 \_\_\_ Wint '88 \_\_\_ Wint '89 \_\_\_ Fall '89 \_\_\_ F '90 \_\_\_  
 May '83 \_\_\_ Dec '83 \_\_\_ Dec '84 \_\_\_ Dec '85 \_\_\_ Apr '87 \_\_\_ Spr '88 \_\_\_ Spr '89 \_\_\_ Wint '90 \_\_\_ W '91 \_\_\_  
 Sp '91 \_\_\_

EACH ISSUE COPY COSTS \$1.00 postpaid

\_\_\_ Revised set of "Cuttings & Propagation" \$2. pp \_\_\_ List of related societies .50 pp  
 \_\_\_ Texas Rose Rustler membership list \$1. pp \_\_\_ Commercial list for OGR's .50 pp  
 \_\_\_ Revised Bibliography of recommended books on old roses AS SOON AS AVAILABLE @ \$2. pp

MAIL ALL ORDERS AND MONIES TO: Mrs. Deanna Krause, Treasurer  
 5020 Fairvent, Pasadena, TX 77505

## COMBINED ROSE LIST 1991

This publication compiled and published by Mrs. Bev Dobson is a complete current listing of all available roses and sources for them. Published annually and only in a limited quantity, the 1991 issue should be

ordered this summer to assure your copy. It is a "must" for the rose collector as well as general rosarian. Send your check for \$15 to Peter Schneider, P.O. Box 16035, Rocky River, OH 44116. You may expect March '92 delivery.

4 Issues  
 Yearly

### "THE OLD TEXAS ROSE"

NEWSLETTER OF

THE TEXAS ROSE RUSTLERS

South Central Texas Old Garden Rose Enthusiasts

Membership Includes  
 Newsletter  
 Symposium  
 & Rustle

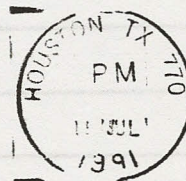
NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Membership/Subscription @\$7 per 4 Issue year. No extra charge to same address.

Make checks or money orders to: THE OLD TEXAS ROSE OR TEXAS ROSE RUSTLERS  
 and mail to: 5020 Fairvent, Pasadena, TX 77505

Mrs. Margaret P. Sharpe  
 9426 Kerrwood Lane  
 Houston, TX 77080-5428

Address Correction Requested  
 Return Postage Guaranteed



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Conrad Tips Sp92  
 1007 Highland  
 Houston TX 77009

102