

# Old Texas Rose



## Message from Chairman

### Coming Events:

#### April 17th,

Saturday: 9am  
SFA Plant Sale,  
10am Spring  
Symposium, 3pm  
Chamblee's tour  
and talk about  
new propagation  
methods.

#### July 10,

Rookie Meeting  
at Mercer  
Arboretum-  
Speaker Peggy  
Martin-Pot Luck  
Lunch We have  
the room  
reserved from 8-  
5pm.

#### October 16-18,

Rose Dango:  
A Celebration of  
Roses 2010 in  
North TX.

Our **Fall Cutting  
Exchange** will be  
in conjunction  
with Rose Dango  
(more information  
at a later date)

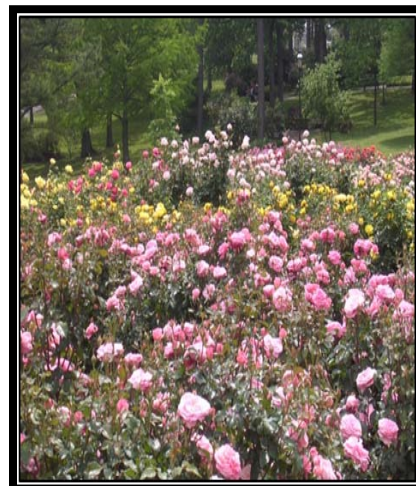
*By Faith Bickley, TRR Chairman*

Usually I am writing about our last meeting but since I did that in the last letter, I will use this space to talk about future happenings. In this issue of the newsletter Becky Smith, our program chairman, will detail the events of this year's TRR Spring Symposium. This will be our first "progressive" event ever and portents to be a fun and informative time. Of course just getting together with other rose addicts is always fun.

The MAST Arboretum sales are always memorable with many plants that are new to us. I have gotten some of my favorite plants from these sales in the past. I am hoping the azaleas will be blooming for our visit.

In Tyler, Mark Chamblee will speak to us about his new propagation method which will interest all of us. Of course buying roses at Chamblee's is always a treat. My van has reached the point where I can about put it on autopilot and head to Tyler! Mark will tell us about the new Buck roses available this spring plus one of Ray's is supposed to be ready to purchase. Don't forget to shop the "bone pile" as there are lots of bargains there and who can resist a rose bargain!

If you have time during your Tyler stay, a trip to the Tyler Rose Garden (the picture to the right is from the Rose Garden last year in April) would be a wonderful stop. Actually it would be an easy stop either before or after the time at Chamblee's as the Rose Garden (on 31 east of the loop and west of 69) is between Chamblee's and our motel. When we were there on March 7<sup>th</sup>, nothing was in bloom but hopefully the blooms will be starting by April 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>.



For those of you who have time on the way home Sunday, Blue Moon Nursery, in Chandler, would be a wonderful way to end a great weekend.

What a weekend we have in store for us! I hope to see many of you there.

### ***Texas Rose Rustlers Board Members***

Chairman - Faith Bickley - [trrchair@texasroserustlers.com](mailto:trrchair@texasroserustlers.com)  
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To submit stories for future newsletters, please e-mail [trreditor@texasroserustlers.com](mailto:trreditor@texasroserustlers.com)

## *Membership Renewal and Due Date Changes*

*By Marilyn Almon, Treasurer*

When the TRR Board met on January 23, 2010, it was decided that, effective immediately, the date for ALL TRR membership renewals would change. Rather than using quarterly renewal dates for membership, the official due date for membership each year for all members will be the date of the July meeting. This year's Summer Rookie Meeting will be on July 10th.

This change will greatly simplify the process of collecting dues and make it easier for members to know when their renewals are due. If you paid dues for one year at any time in 2009, you will need to renew your membership (using the [Join TRR](#) link on the home page of the website) and submit your \$10 annual dues payment by July 10, 2010. Members who attend the July meeting at Mercer Arboretum can submit theirs at that time. Members who do not attend the July meeting will need to mail their dues and membership forms before August 1st. Mailing information can be found on the membership renewal form.

If you have paid dues any time in 2010 and were previously current on your dues and membership, you will be considered to be paid through July 2011. If you paid dues for one year at any time in 2009, your membership renewal and dues payment will become due this July. If you have paid dues for multiple years, your due date will be in July of the corresponding year.

The Members Only password will change on August 1st of each year and it will be emailed to all members who are current on membership and dues payments. If you are unable to access the page, it could be that your membership has expired.

If you do not receive an issue of the quarterly newsletter, which will be delivered electronically in the future, it could be that your membership has expired.

If you have any questions about membership renewals or dues payments, please contact the Membership Chair at [trrmembership@texasroserustlers.com](mailto:trrmembership@texasroserustlers.com).

Effective August 1st, the membership list posted on the website will be purged and will contain only the names of those who are up-to-date on membership renewals. Please help TRR maintain your correct contact information by turning in your membership forms with your dues payments.

**I was born lucky,  
and I have lived  
lucky. What I had  
was used. What I  
still have is being  
used.**

**Lucky.**

## *TRR Website*

*By Barbara Buckley, Webmaster*

Have you visited the TRR website lately? We've had lots of visitors check out the site. In January we had 1,785, February 1,697, and in March 1,464 (thru March 29). We are linked on numerous other rose websites so they send visitors to our site.

The website has undergone many changes in the past months and will continue to change as new

things are developed. The members only section will continue to grow as new pictures are added and the rose inventory is expanded. Remember that your dues must be current to continue to receive the new password each year.

Any member who would like their roses listed in the rose inventory only need to send a list of rose names to Webmaster - Barbara Buckley at [webmaster@texasroserustler.com](mailto:webmaster@texasroserustler.com) . You will be added to the list. It's great to see which roses each member has in their garden.

In the Photo library of the Members Only section we will continue to add to the list of events. If you have pictures of past events please send them with the location and date information of the event to the above email address.

Our chairman, Faith, will post a new message to members each month to keep you up to date. Also, be sure to check the calendar for updates of TRR and other events. If you know of rose related events other than our TRR events that would be of interest to our members please send an email with the details and I will post them. If you have any questions feel free to contact me.

If you have any question regarding the website please feel free to contact me.

## 2010 TRR Spring Symposium

*By Becky Smith, Program Chairman*

Time has come to give you the details for the 2010 TRR Spring Symposium which this year will be a progressive weekend, starting in Nacogdoches Saturday morning to take advantage of the MAST Arboretum Spring Sale and then moving to Chamblee's Nursery in Tyler Saturday afternoon for a talk by Mark Chamblee on his new method of rose propagation followed by time to buy roses. We will end the weekend Sunday morning with a stop at Blue Moon Nursery in Chandler.

### FRIDAY, April 16th

For those arriving in Nacogdoches on Friday, we will be staying at the Comfort Suites with the information on reservations on the TRR website. We are planning on meeting at El Ranchero Mexican restaurant, 123 King St. in Nacogdoches, (936) 569-9004 (the same one we went to in the fall) for dinner. We realize that people will be arriving at different times, but those of us already in Nacogdoches will be at the restaurant around 7pm.

### SATURDAY, April 17th

The MAST sale will be held at Stephen F. Austin University in the lower Aboretum parking lot off Wilson and starts at 9am. We were really pleased with the plant selections available last year. I went saying I wouldn't be buying anything last fall but lied!

Lunch on Saturday will be on our own as we travel towards Tyler for the 3pm meeting at Chamblee's Nursery. The Plant Lotto will take place in the parking lot after the tour of Chamblee's, so don't forget to bring your plants. A bunch of us will be eating lunch at Braum's on our way into town (the Braum's we go to is on Broadway, US 69, south of the loop). The motel many of us will be staying in is the Tyler Comfort Suites (info is on the website). We will meet for supper around 7pm at Traditions (6205 Broadway), which is the restaurant we went to in the fall of 2008. We always reserve the right to be flexible on times as is the custom with TRR.

### SUNDAY, April 18th

Sunday morning we will head to Blue Moon Nursery in Chandler, TX.  
<http://www.blumoongardens.com/> This is a wonderful nursery which you will enjoy as you start heading for home. They open at 10 so your morning will not be that rushed, and we can enjoy visiting over breakfast at the motel.

We think we have a fun weekend planned and hope to see all of you there!

### About Face



**"Nice people like gardens, or liking gardens makes people nice."**

*-The Little Garden for Little Money by Kate L. Brewster, published 1924.*

## Update on the October Meeting

*By Becky Smith, Program Chairman*

TRR has been invited by Dr. Steve George to a private tour of the National Earth-Kind Rose Trial Garden in Farmers Branch with Dr. George as our guide at 2:00 Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>.

What a wonderful opportunity this will be for us! Also he told us about an excellent Mexican restaurant near the gardens, and he will join us for supper there. So put this on your calendar and plan on coming.

## *Trials and Propagations*

*By Audrey McMurray*

Too much of a good thing?

Like most Rustlers, I root a lot of roses. I remember returning from cutting exchanges years ago, and staying up all night with pals, fixing our baggies, and having a ball. Now, though, my time is very limited. My experiments these days have to do with getting the same results in less time.



For example, I use Wally and Wanda's idea of soaking the cuttings in a seaweed/fish emulsion extract before ever pulling out the peat pots, eliminating the need for rooting hormones. And I've switched from using Bobbie McKenna's baggie method to sticking the cuttings in saturated coco pellets, which takes only about 15 minutes, start to finish.

But what, I wondered, would be the best liquid to wet the peat pots or the coco "soil"? Susan Miller puts her cuttings in regular plastic pots and waters them with Medina and SuperThrive. Would that be best for my two rooting methods, which keep the cuttings a bit wetter? And what would be the best liquid for rooting other plants in just water?

For wetting peat pots and coco "soil" I tried:

1. plain tap water
2. tap water + SuperThrive & Medina Plus (the "Plus" is seaweed extract)

Result: plain tap water worked the best, hands down.

For rooting other cuttings in water I tried:

1. plain tap water
2. plain tap water + a pinch of Miracle Grow
3. tap water + SuperThrive & Medina Plus
4. tap water + SuperThrive & Medina Plus and a pinch of Miracle Grow.

Result: tap water + a pinch of Miracle Grow resulted in faster rooting. The water with the Medina Plus got a little fetid. When I replaced it with tap water, though, most of those cuttings rooted as well.

There are no shortcuts to  
any place worth going.

- Beverly Sills

## *The Wonderful Wacky World of Weeds:*

*by A.Nonymous*

I hate velcroweed, which is also called goosegrass, sticky willy and other colorful names. I just hate it. When it's young, I can pull it out by the bushel full and the next day, more has sprung up. I can use Round Up on it and it thinks it's been sprayed with a blinkin' aphrodisiac. As the plants get older, they contain something on



their sticky hairs that makes my arms itch and get little blisters. I just HATE the stuff. And for some reason, this year everyone has a pretty bad infestation of it, along with other nitrogen fixers which is weird because after three hard freezes you'd think we wouldn't NEED nitrogen fixers because there'd be a lot of dead organic material in the soil.

Nitrogen fixers, to be specific, are the weeds that pop up to remediate soil that has been depleted of, well, nitrogen, among other things. I used the term too broadly, perhaps. But weeds that invade poor soils do so because they are God's first line of remediators. He so has stuff in hand, all part of a Perfect Order, doesn't He?

Go figure.

So it's yesterday and I'm cursing as I'm bending over, pulling it out of the St. Augustine & my rosebeds by the handfuls, asking the Lord why on earth He had to invent such an obnoxious plant? I go inside and, still cranky, try to find a tea that will calm down the ache (from a bladder infection I got because I'm:

- a. a teacher and it's just an occupational hazard and
- b. I stupidly gave my cranberry pills and uva ursi complex away last year, and never replenished my supply and I am too busy, and dirty, to go to the health food store and
- c. the pills that the doc had given me didn't kill the whole colony so I am sure there is a little still hanging around, waiting for me to do something stupid like eat those ten sugar-filled Fig Newtons I just wolfed down.

Where was I?

Oh yes, so I'm cranky and my arms are itching from the noxious velcroweed and I'm rather boldly telling the Lord that that velcroweed idea was just not one of His better ones.

So, finally, today I managed to get to Whole Foods Market and I found the tea I was looking for: Organic Cran-Aid. I made a cup at home and started to feel much better. Ahh...relief at last. I started to read the ingredients: cranberry, uva ursi, cleavers...cleavers? *cleavers?*

CLEAVERS??

Know what another name for Cleavers is? Velcroweed.

**Sigh...**



## *Unique Landscape Style-Natural and Methodical*

*By Sandra Smith*

I know. We have all had these “duh” moments, most of which we keep to ourselves. I didn’t know you could root cuttings until . . . well, until well after the age of consent. I just thought that plants came from nurseries. (Sounds like a blonde joke.) Well, I had several “duh” moments during the last rustle.

Of all the wonderful ideas and information we absorbed at the fall 2009 rustle, Michael and I have already put the one that really stood out for us into action. Greg Grant’s wildflower / butterfly garden was a living ecosystem in the midst of a neatly mowed pasture. As I walked around the rectangular bed, which contained endangered wildflowers, I realized that many gardeners have attempted to create the same beauty, but actually ended up with what looked like nothing but a weed patch, which was begging to be mowed.

I observed that Greg adorned each of the four corners with 90° ornamental iron “fencing” and well-known, lower growing, perennials. However, the one thing that made it “acceptable” in an otherwise, pristine garden was the sharp contrast between the wildflower garden and the fence line. The wildflower area was approximately 3’ tall, but all adjacent areas were neatly mowed and edged. The wildflower area was clearly defined in Greg Grant style. Greg’s old house had a beer bottle border. None of his bottles dared to lean, unlike mine. Each stood as straight as soldiers. I found this very frustrating. We saw his touch at Naconiche Nursery on an earlier rustle. An unusual display of native plants in a manner which appears to be natural, but is every bit as organized as Martha Stewart.

Greg has a way of displaying the wild with the tamed. The natural with reason. His style of incorporating native, endangered, not run-of-the-mill plants, is a well thought-out landscape plan in a pure manner that can be universally accepted. We can all learn from his perspective.



## *Stone Plant Markers*

By Joy Hairston

- Quickrete Vinyl Concrete Patcher (40 pound or 10 pound bucket at Sutherlands)
- Water
- Plastic Letters (Poetry Stones by Magnetic Poetry from Amazon, under \$30)
- Newspaper
- Container for mixing concrete
- Old towel
- Container of water (large coffee can will do)
- Plastic sheet (plastic tablecloth, garbage bag, etc.
- Gloves

The 40 pound bag of concrete patcher will make approximately 10-15 markers, depending on the size. I wouldn't make over 5 at a time unless you work very rapidly; the concrete starts to harden and it's difficult to do the letters.

Mix vinyl concrete patcher and water in container. I usually use a wheelbarrow but a large plastic dishpan will work. Add water till mix is the consistency of brownie mix. Hold a glob in your hand...if it runs, it's too thin. It should relax in your hand but stay there. On a flat surface covered with newspaper, form into random stone shapes.

Smooth shape with your hand but avoid patting-that causes water to come to the surface and your letters will not be sharp and crisp. Space letters before you make depression to be sure they fit. Try to keep stone size just large enough for letters. After using a letter, immediately swish in container of water to remove any concrete that has adhered to letter. Blot on towel and it's ready for the next time you need to use it. Cover stones with plastic and leave overnight or longer.

Uncover and if there are sharp edges, these can be removed with a stout metal tool (i.e. screwdriver, file rasp, or even a trowel). Or you can leave the edges as they are; they won't show with a little soil or mulch around the edges.

**These are PERMANENT!!!**

*Perseverance is a great element of success. If you only knock long enough at the gate, you are sure to wake up somebody.*

*-Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*



## *A Recipe: Basil-Lime Cookies*

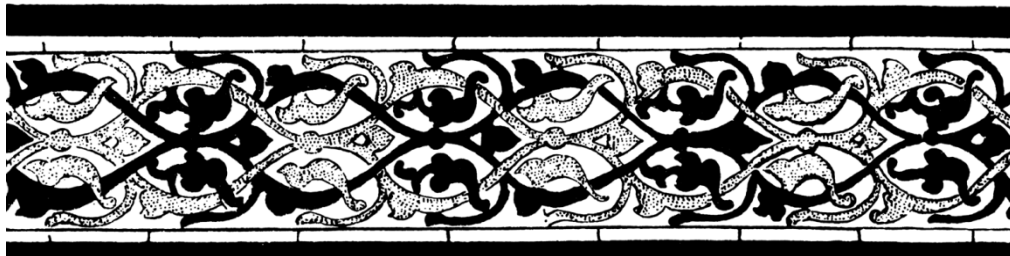
From: Southern Herb Growing and made by Ginny Grant for the Fling with Felder.

- 2 C. all-purpose flour
- 1 ½ tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. salt
- 2/3 C. softened butter or margarine
- 1 C. sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 3 T. fresh cinnamon basil, chopped
- 1 T. finely chopped lime peel
- 1 C. pistachios, chopped (maybe pecans)

Sift first 3 ingredients: set aside. In large mixing bowl beat butter or margarine at medium speed until light. Gradually beat in sugar and add egg, vanilla, basil and lime peel, beating until very light. At low speed, beat in dry ingredients. Stir in chopped nuts.

Turn dough onto lightly floured surface and divide in half. Shape each half into a roll 6-7" long. Refrigerate until firm, at least 8 hours.

When ready to bake, preheat oven to 375°. Cut dough into 1/8" slices and place 2" apart on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 8-10 minutes until lightly brown.



## Order Your TRR Nametag

Wally Brown is now accepting orders for TRR nametags,  
so please submit your information and payment as soon as possible.

### TRR NAME TAG ORDER FORM

NAME TO APPEAR ON TAG \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ CHECK ENCLOSED FOR \$7.00. DELIVER NAME TAG TO ME AT THE NEXT  
ROSE RUSTLER MEETING.

\_\_\_\_\_ CHECK ENCLOSED FOR \$7.50. PLEASE MAIL NAME TAG TO;

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please submit to:  
WALLACE BROWN, TEXAS ROSE RUSTLER  
8811 ABBOTTS GROVE SCHOOL ROAD  
SCHULENBURG, TEXAS 78956-5512  
wwbrown@cvctx.com

*This is a sample of the TRR name tags. It has  
a white background with black lettering and a  
red rose. It is held in place with a magnet.*

