

Message from the Chairman

By Faith Bickley

Our 2010 Spring Symposium was fun and successful in Nacogdoches/Tyler. Friday night those of us already in Nacogdoches had our traditional Mexican meal at the restaurant we have gone to several times which has the hook of two free margaritas. Back at the motel a group stayed in the lobby to hear Ray Ponton explain how he hybridizes a rose.



Dinner in Nacogdoches



Rustlers at the MAST Arboretum waiting for the sale to begin!



Early the next morning we were off to the MAST Arboretum for their spring sale which was as great as their fall sale - lots of interesting and many new plants. And then it was on to Tyler for the actual meeting at Chamblee's Nursery. Mark took us on a most interesting tour of his remarkable facility which ended in his test gardens. Of course that stop instigated the "Chamblee Rustle" which is featured later in the newsletter.



Tour with Mark Chamblee



Dinner at traditions in Tyler

Saturday night found us enjoying supper at Traditions. But the day didn't end there as Becky was urged to show her rose pictures which many stayed up to enjoy.

Half the fun of our meetings is the camaraderie of being with other "rose nuts". Be sure to join in the fun at our July and October meetings.

This is an article that I was asked to write for The Yellow Rose which is the publication of the Dallas Area Heritage Rose Society. I thought it would be good for the TRR newsletter also as it tells of the Chamblee Rose Rustle. The images showing before and after were taken by Barbara Buckley.

A New Kind of Rustle

By Faith Bickley

Wow! A **real rose rustle** AND at one of our favorite rose nurseries! The Texas Rose Rustlers organization was built on the premise of rose rustles, but these days due to the large number of members, the original group rustles are but a memory. Can you imagine a poor old rose in a cemetery or deserted homestead surviving being descended upon by 40 or more people??!!

At TRR's April meeting in Tyler, Mark Chamblee took us on a great tour of his nursery. Our last stop was at his trial gardens. As we admired the blooms on the roses in the Buck rose trial garden, Mark announced that these would be dug out and destroyed the next month. After a group (and loud) moan, he asked if we would be interested in rescuing these roses or some of these roses. Need I tell you our answer??!!

And so on May 15th nineteen hardy TRR members arrived at Chamblee's to undertake an unusual kind of rustle. Barbara and James Buckley volunteered to organize the event, and Mark kindly identified and marked all the roses. First there was a lotto for the 70+ Buck roses plus some others in Mark's general test garden. Names were drawn from a pot containing three slips for each participant. The participant chosen could claim which rose he/she wanted, and this was recorded.



Before any digging commenced, we were turned loose to get any cuttings we wanted. At 10:30 the digging began in earnest, and I do mean in earnest as all the roses were



out of the Buck garden by 2:00. These roses ranged in size from small to over 5'tall and almost as wide. After much pruning and bundling, the roses were loaded into our vehicles and off we went, very happy rustlers.

Mom and I each got over 4 of the rescued roses each, and they are in the ground hopefully to thrive in

their new homes. Of course not all of these roses will survive, but at least they have had a chance to go on delighting us with their blooms plus some of the cuttings will surely produce additional roses.

Mark plans to plant the Buck trial area with Kordes roses so maybe there will be a Chamblee's Rose Rustle II in three years!

New Chamblee Trial Garden

In the area where we did our rescue, Mark plans on planting more roses to test for their potential in Texas. This area is great as it is in full sun with no obstructions for air flow.

Among the roses he intends to plant are Kordes roses, James Bailey's Easy Elegance, and some assorted roses that he is anxious try.

An alert that he gave us was that he will be phasing out some varieties this summer to make room for new offerings so the "bone pile" will be getting some new additions. He knows that the "bone pile" is the first place the TRR's head when we arrive at Chamblee's. Oh no! Maybe I should keep that a secret!!

TRR July 2010 Meeting

Well summer is here so it must be time for the annual Rookie Rustle at the Mercer Arboretum. Be sure to plan to join us on Saturday, July 10th for this event.

The plan for the day is as follows:

- 10:00 - Welcome and time to tour the arboretum (or stay in the AC and visit)
- 11:30 - Potluck lunch (bring food to share)
- 12:30 - Peggy Martin is our speaker!

Of course we will have our plant LOTTO so bring plants to include in this.

We are very pleased to have Peggy Martin coming from Louisiana to speak to us. It must be something to share your name with such a memorable rose.

We hope to see many of you at Mercer on July 10th.

Read the amazing story of the "Peggy Martin" rose, this website provides the full story.

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/southerngarden/PeggyMartinrose.html>

Rose Dango, October, 2008 - Peggy Martin with TRR Becky Smith



Mark Your Calendars - October 15th, 16th and 17th

Again we are reminding you that TRR will be having its Fall Cutting Exchange as part of Rose Dango. Rose Dango is an experience that all TRR members should have as it includes the National Earth-Kind Rose Research Study Garden in Farmers Branch and the Chambersville Heritage Rose Garden near McKinney.

The three links found below provide additional information about the National Earth-Kind Rose Research Study Garden, the Chambersville Heritage Rose Garden and Rose Dango.

Of Special interest for TRR members is a private tour of the EK gardens by Dr. Steve George who has been instrumental in establishing the Earth-Kind program. He has offered to personally lead a tour through the gardens just for TRR members at 2:00 PM on Friday, October 15th.

The exact details of Rose Dango have not been released yet, but it is planned to have the Saturday events at Farmers Branch and the Sunday events at Chambersville. It appears that our cutting exchange will be on Sunday.

We will be asking for help with the cutting exchange and for some demos of various methods of propagating cuttings. Also we will open our lotto to all attending so get those lotto plants going.

We plan to have the motel info online very soon in the "Calendar of Events" section of the TRR website.

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/roses/research.html>

<http://www.chambersvilletreefarms.com/press2.html>

<http://www.rosedango.com/>

A Garden Designed by Mary Herr

Rose Rustler Conrad Tips recently notified TRR Program Chair Becky Smith that a home in River Oaks was for sale; he sent the following blurb that the real estate agent had written about it. Becky drove out to see the house and gardens, and took pictures of the grounds. This is interesting to TRR members as the late Mary Herr designed the original garden and gave the following instruction for the care and maintenance.

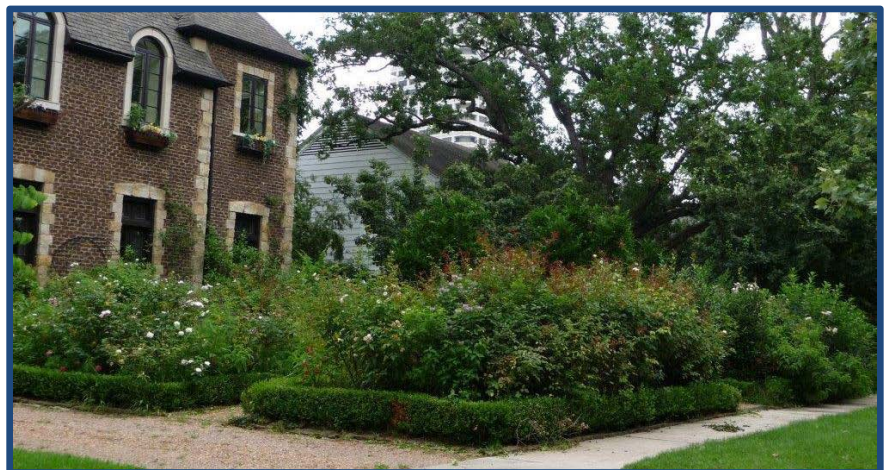


"The magnificent garden at 3050 Reba (in the River Oaks area) is in robust bloom, attracting a variety of hummingbirds and butterflies. And this garden has a wonderful secret: It's care free.

It's care free because this fabulous profusion of antique roses, annuals, and perennials is organic. No chemicals needed or ever used. The birds eat the insects. Created by the late master gardener Mary Herr with elaborate

parterres and winding pea gravel walks, this is a cutting garden to be equally enjoyed inside the house with blooms artlessly arranged in tall vases and antique jugs. Oh, and don't worry about the five-leaf for the roses as Herr's instructions were explicit: Cut them anywhere or let them go to hips and the birds will take care of it.

The approximately 15 varieties of antique roses selected for this garden are strongly scented and bloom all year: climbers, ramblers, trailers, and bushes with singles and doubles. They are not subject to black spot or powdery mildew. Herr's breezy directive was, just broadcast rose food in



February and June and don't bother to measure, just throw it out there. To prune, just hack 'em back. As for the annuals and perennials, Herr advised, Get your flower seed packets, broadcast the seed. Wait four to six weeks, cut and give some to the neighbors."

Recipe for a Rose Rustle or How to Rescue the Buck Roses

By Barbara Buckley

During the April TRR meeting as we were taking a tour through Chamblee's Nursery we discovered that Mark Chamblee had a Buck Rose Trial bed and that he was going to remove (and destroy) all the Buck roses to plant some from other hybridizers. The collective intake of breathe by the Rustlers on the tour evolved into a plan to 'Rescue the Buck Roses'. After several phone calls to Mark and many emails the following is the recipe that resulted in a fun day at Chamblee's Nursery on May 15, 2010.

Follow instructions loosely, add a desire to save the roses, a lot of digging, pruning, a love of roses, and stir in fun.

Ingredients:

- 1 Nursery – Mark Chamblee's
- 77+ Buck roses in a Trial Bed
- 19 Rose Rustlers
- List of roses available
- Container for drawing names
- Name slips for lotto drawing
- Hat to block the sun (no shade available)
- Sunscreen
- Chairs for weary Rustlers to rest
- Camera to record the fun
- Shovels, Sharpshooter
- Pruners
- Loppers
- Ax
- Paper towels for cuttings
- Water for rose cuttings
- Baggies (large and small)
- Ice chest for storing cuttings
- Really big pots for roses
- Lunch to revive the troops
- Water (drink a lot all day)

Instructions:

1. Mix in 19 Rose Rustlers who love roses
2. Walk around and check out the roses for adding to wish list. Be sure to check out all of them for hidden gems, remember they are Buck roses
3. Take Pictures
4. Drink water
5. Participate in lotto drawing hoping you get the roses you really want
6. Be gracious if someone got a rose you wanted, remember to get cuttings.

7. Take Pictures
8. Stand back and release Rustlers to take cuttings of any of the roses
9. Place cuttings in wet towels in baggies, then in ice chest for transporting
10. Take Pictures
11. Drink water and take a break
12. Remove water drip lines from rose bed, try not to cut, Mark can reuse them
13. Begin digging up the roses, helping each other to be sure everyone gets their roses (Wow, these roses are huge)
14. Drink water and take a break
15. Get down on hands and knees to cut rather large roots, where was that ax?
16. Take pictures
17. Drink water and take a break
18. Eat lunch & drink water
19. Trim roses so they fit in your car, be very careful they bite!
20. Trim roses again if they don't fit, they were bigger then we realized!
21. Help fellow Rustlers get roses in their truck or car, (i.e., tie down the tarp over those roses in the truck)
22. Be sure all orphans are adopted, leave no rose behind!
23. Clean up area so Mark will invite us back!
24. Bid farewell to Rustler friend and get home to plant your new Buck roses!

Results:

We followed the recipe and the result was a fun day spent in the company of fellow Rose Rustlers. At the end of the day we left with a good feeling from saving 77+ roses from being destroyed. The heat (it was hot be the rain the day before kept the temperature under 90°) and dirty work seems like play as everyone pitched in to save each rose and provide them with new homes. The best part was meeting Rustlers you didn't know before, making new friends, renewing friendships and having a great day!

Check out the pictures on the TRR Website - Members Only - Photo Gallery.

Thanks to all the wonderful Rustlers who joined us and thanks to Mark Chamblee for giving us the chance to 'Rescue the Buck Roses'.

Anatomy of a Rose Rustle

By Doana Fite

My friend Connie emailed me in mid April about another friend of hers who had a question about how to rustle a rose. I answered her email with the primary rules of rustling etiquette:

1. Always get permission from the owner of the property where the rose is located.
2. Never, ever harm the rose.
3. Document where the cuttings came from and characteristics of the plant.
4. Propagate cuttings to insure the continuation of the rose if it may be rare.

Then I continued with an abridged description of documenting and propagation of cuttings.

She wrote back a day or so later and said, why don't you just come with us and you can help us follow the rules and propagate the cuttings. Well ! Have you ever known a Rustler who could pass up an invitation like that?

My friend Connie, and her friend Brenda, my new rustling companion, picked me up and we proceeded with pruners, baggies, permanent markers and mud boots to wherever Brenda wanted to take us rustling.

She explained as we drove that she has been observing this rose for 34 years. The rose is in an empty pasture near property that her husband inherited from his parents. Brenda and her husband now have a country home there, which they visit frequently.

I asked if she knew who the owners of the property were and she did not. I began to mentally calculate how I could get my friends from the title business to run a quick title search of the property and get me a name and address I could run through my computer. I began to steel up my nerves in case I had to approach the nearest neighboring house and ask if they knew how to contact the owner of the property where the rose was located. I figured I could cross that bridge when I got to the bridge.

Brenda went on to describe how she has often wondered and marveled at the rose, but never knew what to do about her curiosity. I still am not clear what finally moved her to mention the rose to Connie after 34 years, but I am so very glad she did.

We were soon at the location of the rose, just North of Hwy 290 near Hockley, and as we rounded the “S” curve in the road, I could see I did not have to worry about ownership issues. The rose had propagated itself, probably by layering, in the road easement and now constituted a billowing bed of pink blossoms that was approximately 20 feet long , 6 feet deep , and 5 feet high. I know it was 5 feet high because when Connie got behind it, still outside the fence in the easement, I could no longer see her.

Two billowing rows of roses flowed up the pasture the same direction as the easement bed. Perhaps this double row, 50 foot mass of pink blossoms was once just a single plant, or on a yard fence, or even perhaps lining a lane that led to a home. An old oak tree further out in the field made us think of a homesite abandoned long ago.

I want you to know right now, my heart was skipping beats and my feet barely touched the ground as I stepped across the shallow ditch to the easement bed and began to describe the perfect cutting to Brenda and Connie. Connie, an experienced farm girl and rose lover, found a fully rooted cane at the edge of the ditch and deftly pulled it up with a full root system in one careful yank. It had no blooms, so we proceeded to take cuttings of canes that had well formed healthy blossoms. They were soft pink, the size of marshmallows, in clusters. We were all a little giddy. It was easy to choose healthy canes as there were thousands of blooms and not a yellow leaf in sight.

When we had about 30 good canes from the thousands available, Brenda drove us to her country house and we cleaned up the cuttings and put them in a solution of SuperThrive water and I described three methods of propagation. I explained The Baggie Method, which Candy and I were taught when we first joined Rustlers, The Mason Jar Method which Faith Bickley now uses, and a third method used by some Rustlers, including Robert Stiba and Kathy Hyatt, involving a clay pot holding water inside another larger pot filled with soil.

The next day I rooted up all my cuttings and emailed pictures to Connie and Brenda. I got an email back from Connie the next day saying hers were blooming!

She was joking of course, but she sent me pictures later of her rooted cuttings and the rose with roots which she took from the ditch. They all looked healthy.

The Saturday following our rustling adventure Kathy Hyatt and I met at ArborGate Nursery in Tomball to exchange some roses and hear Felder Rushing hold forth about plants and things. I took a baggie with the best remaining, though faded blooms from the rustle to show Kathy. Within minutes Felder had spied them and asked, "What do you have there?" I told him the most abridged version I am capable of and he immediately suggested what we found was the original, true Seven Sisters.

As soon as I could drive home I googled Seven Sisters. Lo and behold he was absolutely correct. The description is a perfect match. We know this specimen to be at least 34 years old, and believe it is one of the oldest varieties known as Seven Sisters. Brenda is pleased, and I now have 8 really good starts. I will bump up to 1 gallon before the Cutting Exchange. Anyone looking for a once blooming, startlingly healthy climber/rambler will want a chance at this rose.

The mother plant? I drove back out there the next week to get better pictures of the blooms, as my photography was overshadowed by my rustler euphoria on the original trip. The county mowers had been there just minutes ahead of me. The easement was swing-bladed up to the property fence line and the entire easement rose was gone. The mother plant in the pasture was still there, but her blooms had faded, and the once-bloomer just looked like so much greenery out in the field, unnoticeable. I had to wonder, how long before the county decides to repave this little country road and take this curve completely out of the roadway. Could this rose be gone by next bloom season if the developers continue to move this way with more subdivisions? My heart felt light as I went home and tended my little cuttings and tenderly encouraged them to grow, baby, grow.