

Old Texas Rose

VOL 25, WINTER 2015

Greetings Fellow Rose Rustlers ---

Message from the Chair - AUDREY McMURRAY

Hello Rustlers! The Board met at Gladys Cronquist's house for a wonderful meal and a good conversation about new and old ideas. Gladys will outline our upcoming events so I'll just mention the three other points we discussed:

The Website and Ad Hoc Projects

Many thanks to Kathy Neely, Becky Smith's sister, for her work on the website. She does a beautiful job but needs us to send her pictures. If you are heading up a group of Rustlers to work on a specific ad hoc project, please send Kathy some shots of your project so that all may see the wonderful work that is going on. Photos of your garden and blooms are always fun to scroll through as well.

Future Meetings and Speakers

As much as possible, it would be nice to have a good geographic spread of venues - Texas is a big place! - and speakers that are fun and interesting. It's something that will need the input from all Rustlers, however, if we are going to be able to find such places. If you visit, or even hear about, a place that might be good for the Cutting Exchange or Spring Symposium, please pass the information on to our Program Chairman, Gladys Cronquist (gacron@hotmail.com) or via the Contact Us link on our website (www.texasroserustlers.com).

I think everyone is going to really enjoy this year's Symposium with our friends at Nature's Way Resources. If you think you know the place now, just wait until you see how it has changed!

Calling all New Homeowners

We would like to introduce new homeowners to the joy of working with antique roses in the landscape. To that end, visitors to the Spring Symposium who have owned their home for five years or less will be given special chances to win gift cards and giveaways. If you are not a new homeowner yourself, please consider inviting a



neighbor or relative who is. They will most likely go home with an armload of plants and gardening supplies!

And Rustlers, as we thin out our beds this Spring, let's pot up some of our extra companion plants to share.

See you in May



Too Much to Do But Not Enough Time to Do It?

I am writing this as I sit on my patio, looking out over the back yard. If you are like me, where others would see a landscape polka-dotted by fat pink, peach, and white roses and hundreds (no kidding) of paperwhites, you would be noticing that the roses haven't been pruned and thinking, oh Lord, it's close to Valentine's Day, isn't it? You would see the gingers lying on the ground in the shadier parts of the bed that you thinned out but didn't have time to pot up. I've always thought that the second part of "take time to smell the roses" should be

“and don’t sweat the rest”, but for a Texas gardener, there’s always the nagging knowledge that summer cometh. We all know what that means.

So I’d like to pass on a suggestion to those who don’t have the luxury of the large amount of free time needed to tackle all of the garden chores, which is pretty much everyone. It comes from a book called Seven Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen R. Covey. Of all of the continuing education books, seminars, etc. I’ve had for my jobs over the years, this is the only one that actually made a significant difference in my life. I’m not sure Mr. Covey intended it for gardening, but the principles in that book apply to every aspect of one’s life.

Before I start, though, let me say that I’m thinking here of the suburban gardener, with just enough roses that can fit in a suburban lot. If you are the rosarian that has over 100, all I can say is Good Luck and I wish I were you. And retired. I know you work hard but it’s still my idea of heaven.

The first step is to prioritize which of the garden chores *must* be finished in the cool of Spring. There are a lot of things you’d like to get done, of course, but which of those really need to be done *now*? Transplanting, I would expect, would be on that list since roots need time to grow before the dog days arrive. You’d like a nice flush around the patio for your family holiday meal next month? Put pruning those four bushes on the list as well.

Then, once you have identified those must-do tasks, tackle only one or two per day. You can’t prune four bushes between the time you get home and suppertime, but you might be able to do one. This is the hard part...don’t allow yourself to get carried away or discouraged. Force yourself to stop at that small bit of work, then go inside and fix your family’s supper.

I had to do this when the kids were young. I read the book for the second time after I had had surgery. Even a month post op, I could not handle much gardening. So I decided that I had to let 90% of the garden go and concentrate on the part that irritated me the most: the bed that you could see straight from patio doors. Every day I pulled weeds from a foot-square area of that bed, topped it with mulch my husband had dumped nearby, and then went back inside. It took me 20 minutes, tops. By the end of the second week, the entire bed was weeded and mulched.

Of course, there’s always the solution that is at the other end of the spectrum...just take your electric clippers and whack away at those antiques and everything else. You’ll be done in a day. I know a gal with over 100 roses who just said “to heck with shaping” and did just that. I was horrified when she told me. The darn thing of it was, though, her roses were gorgeous and healthier than mine. What could I say? I supposed that is why we grew antiques.

When, in my retirement, I plant my 100th rose, I’ve promised myself to give it a try. Until then, I think I’ll stick with the 7 Habits technique. Try it? You’ll be surprised at how much you will accomplish.

Audrey

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We have been asked once again to assist in the sale of roses for March Mart at Mercer Arboretum. Mercer has always been most generous in providing the meeting space for our annual July meetings. This is a way that we can show our appreciation to Mercer for their continued support AND get out information to the public on the roses we all love.

March Mart is scheduled for March 20th and 21st. We will need 4-5 Rustlers each day. You can work the entire day or sign up for a 4 hour shift. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please contact me at rosediva52@gmail.com and I will give you further details. *Kathy Hyatt*

Do you have any gardening stories to tell or hints to pass along? We're always looking for interesting things to share with our members. Just e-mail me at steves223@yahoo.com
Deadline for Spring issue is March 29



I don't know whether nice people tend to grow roses or growing roses makes people nice.

Roland A. Browne

Maintaining Pruning Tools

Pictures and instructions taken from article written by horticultural consultant Lee Reich :

finegardening.com/sharpening-pruners

I find the best way to sharpen pruners is with diamond files. You'll need three levels of coarseness/grit: coarse, fine, and extra fine. The files are inexpensive and will last longer than your pruners.

It takes only about 10 minutes to sharpen hand pruners in relatively good condition. Keep in mind that learning to sharpen hand pruners is not rocket science. It just takes a little patience and practice.

Supplies Needed: □ Kitchen scouring pad □ Clean rag and towel □ Soap and warm water □ Gloves □ (semi-coarse) #3 steel wool □ (fine) #0 steel wool □ Diamond files(coarse, fine, and extra fine) □ A dry or silicone-based lubricant (such as White Lightning) □ Twigs for testing your progress

START WITH A GOOD CLEANING

If the cutting surface is grimy, it will pass roughly over the hook and not cut cleanly, even if sharp.



- **Clean:** Use a scouring pad and a little warm, soapy water, scrub off all the sap, dried plant bits, and other gunk, and wipe the blades dry.
- **Remove rust:** Use the coarse steel wool to remove rust and any tough matter that remains. Then move on to the finer steel wool to restore the sheen of the metal.

SHARPENING BLADES

Begin with the coarsest file and progress to the finest for the best edge. Before you use any of the files, pat them with a moist cloth. The water will keep the file from clogging with the tiny bits of metal you'll be removing from the blade.

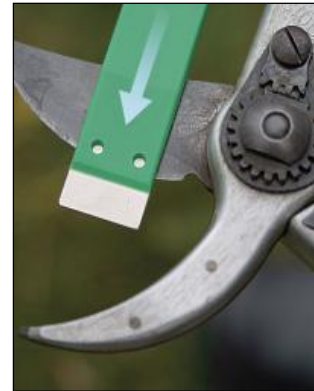
- **Coarse File:** (photo A) Start with the coarse file, holding it at the same angle as the beveled cutting edge (usually between 10 degrees and 20 degrees). (Photo B) Starting at the inside of the blade, use moderate pressure and draw the file toward the tip in a curved motion that follows the shape of the blade. This motion is easy, safe, and sharpens the entire blade evenly. For well-maintained pruners, 10 to 20 draws with the diamond sharpener is usually sufficient, but poorly maintained pruners may need about 40 to 50 passes.
- **Finer File:** Switch to finer grits to further sharpen the beveled edge.
- **Extra Fine File:** Use the fine file first, followed by the extra fine, using the same number of passes with each as you used with the coarse file. Finish by removing burrs by running the extra fine file over the back side of the blade a few times (photo C).



A



B



C

FINISH WITH LUBRICANT

After I'm satisfied with the sharpness of my blade, I apply a dry or silicone-based lubricant to repel water and to hinder rust and oxidation. Once a year, I apply a product made for lubricating bicycle chains. Intermittently throughout the year, I will lightly coat the blades with olive oil, which keeps dirt and other materials from harming the pruners without drying or becoming sticky—and it's a natural product.

*The above article was reprinted from courtesy of Billie Flynn of The Central Louisiana Rose Society.

A New Orleans Journey – Faith Bickley

Last November I flew to Texas to join Becky in a neat journey to the annual membership of the Heritage Rose Foundation in New Orleans. Our March trip to speak for TRR to the New Orleans Old Garden Rose Society got us interested in this group.

The weather was certainly not the best or the usual for NO at this time of year damp, cold and windy. Did that bother a bunch of rose nuts? - well, I don't have to answer that! We stayed in a hotel in the French Quarter which was an experience in itself.

Thursday morning two buses of us headed on a day-long tour starting with Peggy Martin's house and gardens. We continued on to Houmas House Plantation, Oak Alley Plantation, and Laura Plantation which all were so different. We were shown roses at each stop plus the interesting house tours.

Friday was a walking tour day, starting with Armstrong Park. If you ever are in this area, you must see the wonderful collection of old garden roses there. It was an education for Becky and me for sure. Leo Watermeirer oversees this garden, and the New Orleans Old Garden Rose Society takes cuttings every year from this garden to raise the plants for their sale. We also walked around the French Quarter visiting private gardens not usually seen by the public.

Saturday we had several interesting speakers. One of the highlights of the trip for the two of us was getting to know quite well two women from the San Francisco Bay area. They told us about the outstanding spring bloom

at the Historic Rose Garden of the Sacramento Old City Cemetery. They introduced us to Anita Clevenger, the director of this cemetery garden and as a result, we are all set to meet in Sacramento in April to experience this and get together with our new friends. One of them has set up a private tour of the San Jose Heritage Garden while we are there. No telling where our love of old garden roses will take us next!! (See photos on page 11)



Book Review – Conrad Tips

Andrea di Robilant, *Chasing the Rose: an adventure in the Venetian countryside*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2014.

Lucia Mocenigo didn't have many friends in France, but she had one -- Josephine, the recently divorced wife of the Emperor Napoleon. The two women met in Venice and later in Milan, at the court of Prince Eugene, Viceroy of Italy, and, as it happens, Josephine's son by her first marriage. In the summer of 1813, Lucia and Alvisetto, her only surviving child, though not by her husband, travelled to Paris, where the boy was to be educated. Of course she took the opportunity to visit Malmaison. Welcomed with open arms, Josephine's country house became Lucia's second home. Inspired by her hostess's passion, she took up botany, all the rage then with ladies of fashion. She befriended Rene Desfontaines, Andre Thouin, and Louis Noisette. Dupont taught her how to graft. The Jardin des Plantes was, in effect, her classroom, and she was an apt pupil.

But after the collapse of the First Empire and Josephine's death, Lucia saw no reason to linger in Paris. She returned to Italy laden with plants and seeds -- her roses, 200 varieties, came from the hands of M. Noisette himself -- and she was determined to remodel the place in the manner of Malmaison; but her husband was dying and the estate in ruins. Nothing daunted, for she was a formidable lady indeed, Lucia saved her child's inheritance from desolation and then fulfilled her dream of a garden.

Many years later, her several time great grandson, and biographer, walked through the abandoned property and discovered a rose. "It was," he wrote, silvery pink, very light at the centre and darker on the outside. The diameter was about three inches. The petals were loose, and fell to the ground as I observed the flower the scent was strong and reminded me of peaches and raspberries. Although I did not know much about roses, everything about this one, the delicate colour, sweet fragrance,

the way it carried itself, suggested it was an old rose of some importance that had been growing wild in these woods for a very long time. Its presence was mysterious yet assertive.

The Rose of Macenigo. So what is it? Ever-blooming, like Old Blush in some ways but not in others, thicket-forming, glamorously perfumed -- from Malmaison? Sensibly, Mr. di Robilant sought the advice of the leading historians of the Rose and this book is the record of a journey. It lead him, to his surprise not to Paris nor yet to Malmaison, but to a farmhouse in the Chinese countryside.

Josephine died at Malmaison, 29 May 1814. Strolling through the gardens one evening, too lightly dressed, she took a chill.

Napoleon died in exile on the island of St. Helena, 5 May 1821. Poisoned?

Marie Louise, his bovine but fertile second wife, died in Parma, 17 December 1847. She married twice more and produced a number of children, some legitimate, some not.

Napoleon II died in Vienna, 22 July 1832 -- of natural causes?

Prince Eugene married Princess Augusta of Bavaria and died in Munich, 21 February 1824. He was a brave soldier and a loving son.

Queen Hortense, his sister, died 5 October 1837, in Switzerland, exiled by an unsympathetic French government. Her son became Napoleon III; but who, really, was his father?

Lucia Memmo Mocigno died in Venice, 7 March 1854, just before her 84th birthday -- a long and uncommonly eventful life. The remains of her garden are now protected by the World Wildlife Fund.

See Andrea di Robilant, *Lucia: a Venetian life in the Age of Napoleon*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2008.

Welcome New Members:

Susan Armstrong, Cypress
Elizabeth Fisher, Houston
Shirley Nix, Bellaire
Sarah Sharpe, Colmesneil
Bill Thiessen, La Grange

We look forward to getting to know you and your gardening ways!



The oldest garden rose is the *Rosa Gallica Officinalis*, the apothecary rose. The oldest rose classes include the Albas, Centifolias, and Damasks.

SAVE THE DATE

March 20 & 21 – March Mart at Mercer Arboretum
22306 Aldine Westfield Rd.
Humble, TX 77338

One of the Texas Gulf Coast area's largest and most anticipated horticultural events, the sale attracts amateurs and experts alike. March Mart features a huge selection, more than 2,000 varieties, of quality plants rarely found at local retail nurseries. Exhibits by local garden clubs and organizations allow gardeners with similar interests to share ideas and information.

Friday

VIP Membership: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
TMS Members: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
General Public: noon to 4 p.m.

Saturday

8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

March 21 – The Greg Grant Collection *

10:00 a.m. – reservations suggested
Arborgate
15635 FM 2920
Tomball, TX 77377


- This is one of many classes offered by Arborgate this spring. Check out their website for a full list of classes at www.arborgate.com.

April 11 – Stephen F. Austin Spring Plant Sale


2900 Raguet St.
Nacogdoches, TX 75962
9:00 a.m.
Website – <http://sfagardens.sfasu.edu>



April 25 – Harris County Master Gardener Spring Sale and Symposium
3033 Bear Creek Dr.
Houston, TX 77084



May 16 – Texas Rose Rustlers Spring Symposium
Details below:



This year the TRR Spring Symposium will take place at Nature's Way Resources, 101 Sherbrook Cir, Conroe, TX 77385 on May 16th starting at 10am. If you have visited Nature's Way Resources in the past, you will certainly be in for a surprise at how they have expanded to include a nursery with many fruit trees, berries (~20 varieties of blueberries alone), heirloom and hard-to-find plants, olive, fig, and avocado trees, greenhouse plants, and of course, a wonderful selection of roses.

Members who come with children will find Nature's Way Resources a family-friendly place, with a rain garden and a butterfly garden that children will enjoy.

10:00am Sign in and welcome.

10:30am Speaker and tour – John Ferguson, owner of Nature's Way Resources
Many of us have heard John's lectures and can attest that he is generous with his knowledge and speaks from a sense of duty to treat our earth with respect. This is especially evident in the mission statement, itself, of Nature's Way Resources:

Our mission is to provide a source of natural products that work within and with the laws of nature, not fight against nature, and to help restore our earth to the way GOD loaned it to us. Our goal is to provide products that are safe for children, beloved pets, and our neighbors.

Following Q&A with John, we will have our 1st lotto drawing for all, plus a special drawing for new homeowners.

11:30am Lunch – hamburgers and drinks provided by the Texas Rose Rustlers
Potluck sides and desserts appreciated

1:00pm Speaker – Mark Bowen, general manager of Nature's Way Resources
“Novel Companion Plants” Interesting and new plants to consider growing with our roses, including herbs and edibles.

Following Q&A with Mark, we will have our 2nd lotto drawing for all, plus a special drawing for new homeowners.



Laura Plantation



Peggy Martin's Garden



Oak Alley



Walking Tour



Houmas House



Faith & Becky



Peggy Martin's Peggy Martin

Texas Rose Rustler Board Members

Chairman.....	Audrey McMurray
Program Chairman.....	Gladys Cronquist
Historian/Communications.....	Becky Smith
Secretary.....	Conrad Tips
Treasurer/Membership.....	Arnold Knoche
Old Texas Rose Editor.....	Steve Spears
Hospitality.....	Molly and John Buenrostro

Did you know that Southwest Fertilizer is offering a 10% discount year round for anything rose related to Texas Rose Rustlers? This includes thngs like garden tools, soils, fertilizers, mulches, etc. it does not apply to seeds nor lawn mowers. Just bring in this page as proof of membership.

