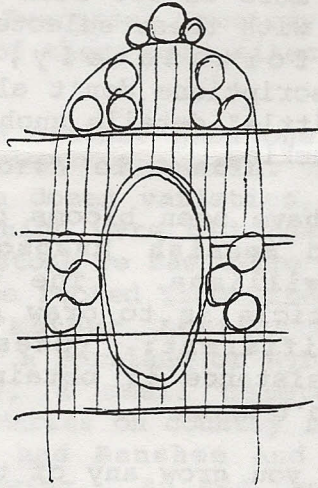


# Rustic Trellises

by  
Pam Puryear

I will always associate my old rose growing ideal with a piece Conrad Tips did once on Violet Granbury, of whose English house it was said, "...and then the roses rose up and engulfed the house." I suppose it was images of this, and fairy tales like Sleeping Beauty and Briar Rose that formed my picture of rosy plenitude and abundance.

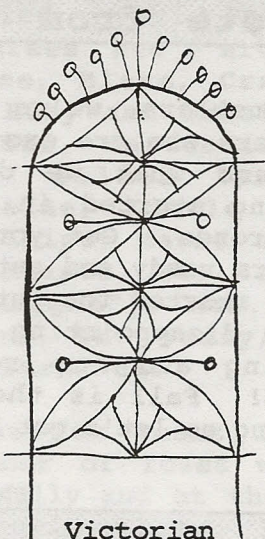
If one chooses to be engulfed, it is always well to have a trellis to support one's floral effulgences, and nothing is nicer than a handmade one of bent wood. Rustic work of this sort had its greatest popularity in early Victorian



Moon Gate

England, when the first craze for the Natural and the Picturesque occurred. One wonders how truly natural their concept of Nature really was -- or ours, for that matter! But philosophy aside, rustic work became exceedingly popular in this country in the late 1860's, and was employed off and on into the 1920's for trellises, rustic bridges, pergolas, garden seats, garden houses, archways, pillars, gates, and suchlike. Furniture was also created of bisected sticks, bark, roots for interior use in camp houses and resorts. Later pieces of the fad were sometimes painted with white, black or dark green enamel.

Their virtues are legion. First, rustic trellises are not only cheap but free!



Victorian

Secondly, one is recycling bush and limbs that would normally be burned or take up room in a landfill. Thirdly, one is creating a unique sculpture, an artistic tour-de-force, as a reproach to any spouse, parent, or child who accuses one of being trifling and lazy. (I say this because I am.) Fourthly, one then possesses a Thing of Beauty - more or less - which is a Joy Forever, or as long as the lictids will allow, of which more later! As one can readily see, one's prize climbing rose deserves such a happy home, and every old roser should design and build at least one of these, and that right speedily as the rustic work season begins with The First Norther!

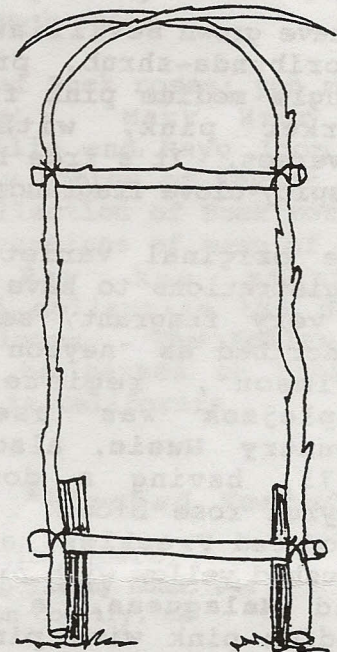
Sit down with a pencil and design your trellis first. One's initial, a heart, a sunburst or even a diamond or a star is your point of departure. Smaller supple limbs of willow or grapevine fill in your main lines, and green vines like wisteria are for fine details and curlicues.

The trellis maker begins with a frame of four stout limbs or saplings. The tools needed are wire, wire cutters, medium nails and a hammer.

Ideally, a picnic table is best, but of course you may scoot around on the ground! Nail and wire - in an "X" - your four square frames.

Go for ten feet anyway. Brace this frame at the corners if one's design does not account for bracing. Smaller twigs and vines are held by crossed wires twisted behind. After several weeks, the wood will shrink so these should be twisted tight again. The trellis is then erected by having stout posts or poles set into ground or concrete. These should be wired securely to the main frame.

It will help to paint your rustic work with deck sealer, polyurethane, colored enamel,



Frame: Nail and wire, 4  
stout limbs with tops  
Inside: Nail and wire twigs  
and willow switches  
to design pattern

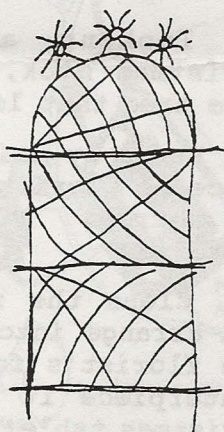
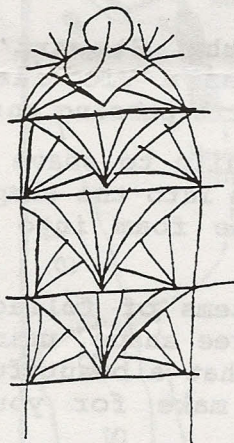


wood preservative or some such. The "disagreeable grub" one old rustic maker cursed is a lictid and still very much with us. This bug lives in wood and eats his way out, reducing rustic work to a heap of yellow sawdust. Any of the above will hinder his depredations.

Many of you if old, old rosarians remember me well, and know sometimes I "break out" as it were, luckily usually in print alone! This time I recommend capping your creation with a halo of sweet gum balls impaled on twigs. Wild. And it proclaims to all the world you're a good East Texan. Employ waterproof glue. Other words of wisdom are to choose a "mannerly climber". Belle Steadman's experiences with Cl. Cecile Brunner are a case in point; she pruned hers with a chain saw; it ate a city trash truck, and she used its wood to build furniture. This might sound somewhat exaggerated but I saw her slides!

Use raffia to tie your rose canes to the front of your trellis ONLY. I planted Elizabeth Lawrence's very own Cl. Old Blush and carefully wove it in and out. Well, pruning time came and I had to cut inches-long segments!! Raffia is better, cheaper than wire and doesn't eat into the cane. Its natural color blends better into the foliage as well. Noisettes and Teas are usually nice. Don't plant a white rose on a white trellis! How about a pale pink like Cl. Clotilde Soupert on a rustic trellis painted with black enamel? Divine!! A good cultivar of Marechal Neil on green enamel? Amazing!!

I get the same feeling at Baskin-Robbins!



Fans

Cobwebs & Spiders  
(with Sweetgum balls)

For more info. on how to make your own trellises, check the box at right for Pam's suggested reading list.

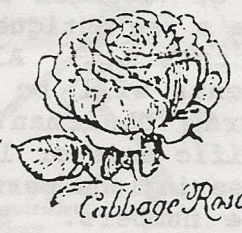
## Trader's Corner

FOR SALE: THE ULTIMATE ROSE BOOK - \$40.00. Brand new, still in original wrapper. 472 pages of antique, modern (including miniatures), and wild roses. 1500 roses shown in color. Sells for \$50.00, plus tax, in the book store. Contact Lucille Idom, 13106 Blythe St., Houston, TX 77015-5018, phone (713)453-1274.

LOOKING FOR: Cuttings of **Hannah Gordon**. Ursula White's much-loved bush died. She will be at the November 15th cutting exchange and would be willing to trade cuttings of whatever she has in her yard that you would like. Ph: (713)723-9217.

FOR SALE: House, guest house and workshop/barn all on 1.6 acres in Chappell Hill proper. Main house has 1800 ft<sup>2</sup>, 2br-1.5bath, brown/gray trim. Den has three fireplaces. Interesting history. Asking \$199K. From US290, go north on FM1155 to 4-way stop, turn east. 1st house on left: #1 Chesnut. Contact Frank & Marcella Shaw (713)665-3605 for more information.

Submit requests for Trader's Corner to: Audrey McMurray, 11031 Dunlap Dr., Houston, TX 77096-5853, (713) 729-5307.



### Recommended reading:

Tea & Cakes Under the Trellis, How to Make Bentwood Trellises .. \$3.95  
How to Make Romantic Bentwood Garden Trellises (incl. fences, gates and arbors) .. \$4.95

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