

# Old Texas Rose

VOL 52 WINTER 2022

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR.....BECKY SMITH



Hi Rose Rustler Friends,

What a fun and informative Fall Meeting we had in Schulenburg last month. Jay White of Texas Gardener talked about all the wonderful bulbs we can easily grow in Texas. And, our friend, Peggy Martin brought her wonderful book, A Rose Without a Name. Many thanks to Molly and Robert for setting up our meeting. Also, thank you to Kathy Huizinga for taking photos at the meeting. Check them out on our website at texasroserustlers.com.

# Quotes from Conrad:

Monty Don: "The point of gardening? It's to find solace, to be happy, to make beauty, have fun and muck about. How you do it doesn't matter."

V. Sackville-West: "For the last 40 years of my life, I have broken my back, my fingernails, and sometimes my heart, in the practical pursuit of my favorite occupation."

Some of the recent bloomers in my garden:



Lycoris radiata



'Machu Cemetery' rose



Lycoris Aurea



'Savanna Charlton' Mum



Oxblood lilies



Oxblood lilies



HEB Purple Mum



'Annie Nell'-one of Ray Ponton's roses



'Atocha Gold'-another one of Ray Ponton's roses



Crinum 'Menehune'



'Gethsemane Moonlight' Mum



'Mildred Golden' Mum



White Gomphrena from Rosedown Plantation

Wishing everyone a Happy 2022!!!

Spring will be here before we know it.



# **VINTAGE CORNER**

### A Thornless Rose Descended From Rosa Carolina

# Robert E. Bayse, Fall 1993

When I first began hybridizing roses some 30 years ago, my prime objective was to make at least a beginning on the age-old problem of blackspot. I had already built up a good collection of the wild roses and had become especially attracted to the healthy foliage of *R. bracteate*, *R. Laevigata*, *R. Carolina* and several others. After ten years of hybridizing I began to get a faint glimmer of some of the enormous difficulties involved and my morale began to sag ever so little.

Then serendipity intervened. A thornless rose suddenly appeared in my garden. The story of this rose is the subject of this article.

*R. Carolina* is a tetraploid which crosses easily with many garden roses. One cross which I made in 1956 was *R. carolina x Hugh Dickson*. Among the open-pollinated seedlings of this cross was one which, during its first year of growth, appeared to be thornless. During its second year, however, a few thorns appeared on the laterals. I then grew 15 open-pollinated seedlings of this rose, one of which proved to be completely thornless. It bears the number **65-626**, being seedling number 626 of the year 1965. This implies that the bees carried out the actual pollinating in the year 1963.

It would be nice to know whether the two open-pollinations mentioned above were selfs or involved other roses in the garden. We will never know, but the credit must go to the bees. They achieved in two lazy afternoons what I could not likely duplicate in a lifetime with a pollen brush.

Not only is **65-626** completely thornless, but the midribs of the leaves are perfectly smooth, a property possessed also by its mother. The growth is vigorous to six or eight feet. The flowers are single, pink, small and occur in clusters on strong stems, somewhat reminiscent of *R. carolina*. The foliage has high resistance to blackspot.

My record book shows that in 1961 I made a somatic chromosome count of the mother of **65-625** and found it to be 28. Apparently, I never got around to making the count for **65-626**. But over the last 20 years, its wide compatibility with garden roses, both as male and female parent, leaves little doubt that it, too, is a tetraploid.

Selfed seedlings of **65-626** are generally thornless with smooth midribs. Rarely a thorn will appear. But roughly half will have a few fine bristles low on the canes, close to the base of the plant. This is clearly a throwback to R. carolina, which has a generous supply of these latent (recessive?) bristles in later crossings. I would suggest several recessive selflings of **65-626**. This was one of my oversights as an amateur.

But even without first abolishing the bristles, **65-626** has made some remarkable crosses. When crossed with a thorny rose, the thorniness is usually much reduced. Occasionally the F1 cross will be completely thornless. For example, I have thornless plants with smooth midribs and no bristles by using as pollen parents, **Crimson Glory**, **Don Juan**, **Sibelius**, and some unnamed hybrids. And similar plants have also come by applying the pollen of **65-626** to **My Choice**, **Soria Horstmann** and various unnamed hybrids.

One of the thorniest roses that ever graced my garden is a probable amphidiploid arising in 1967 as a tetraploid seedling of the diploid cross *R. abyssinica* x *R. rugosa*, which I made in 1955. In 1975 I applied to this horrendously thorny rose the pollen of **65-626**. One of the seedlings, **77-361**, was not only thornless and free of bristles but had perfectly smooth midribs! It carries genes of three wild roses and has, like **65-626**, easy compatibility with other roses, both as seed and pollen parent.

Recently I grew 36 selfed seedlings of this rose. None had bristles! 29 were thornless with smooth midribs; three were thornless with rough midribs; three had a few thorns and smooth midribs; and one had a thorns and a rough midrib. Also, five of the seedlings showed some recurrence, possessed also by the mother, **77-361**. This may be a throwback to the *rugosa* ancestor, or even to **Hugh Dickson**.

I consider 77-361 to have high promise for future breeding.

The three roses above described, **65-626**, **77-361** and the probable amphidiploid are now growing in the Huntington Botanical Garden. Interested rose breeders having understocks can obtain budsticks in return for any contribution to the Huntington Rose Research Fund. Letters may be addressed to The Curator, Huntington Botanical Garden, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108.

If **65-626** should, in younger hands, be privileged to play some role in the thornless garden roses of the future, then perhaps it should a name. I have chosen **Commander Gillette**, for the navigator on the light cruiser, USS Marblehead, on which we both served during World War II.

I cannot close without making an embarrassing confession. I have long known that roses which have been thornless in my garden for a number of years may suddenly, for no civilized reason, throw a thorn. Ken Nobbs of New Zealand, in his most interesting article in the 1984 American Rose Annual, mentions such a seedling which grew for seven years before throwing its first thorn. For 20 years I have searched for that first thorn on Commander Gillette, hoping never to find it. But last November, running my hands through one of these bushes, I found it! There's a mystery here. Why? And why must perfection, like truth, be so elusive?

An Update on Robert Stiba's Rose Gardens at the Switzer Senior Center and Home on Park Street from a Taylor Resident

by Becky Smith



Robert Stiba (center)

for at the Senior Center.

Robert Stiba was a long-time Texas Rose Rustler who passed away in June 2019 at the age of 80. For those members that did not have the honor of knowing him, he loved growing all kinds of plants, especially roses.

I was recently contacted by David, a Taylor resident, with an update on Robert's home garden and the garden he cared

In his travels around town, the rose blooms in the yard and especially the hundreds of blooming red poppies along the front sidewalk and driveway caught David's attention one day. After some research he learned that Robert's home had been recently sold. The new owner began renovations, but soon abandoned the project and sold the property again. He continued driving past the property meeting neighbors and learning more about Robert and his love for his plants - how he cared for them.

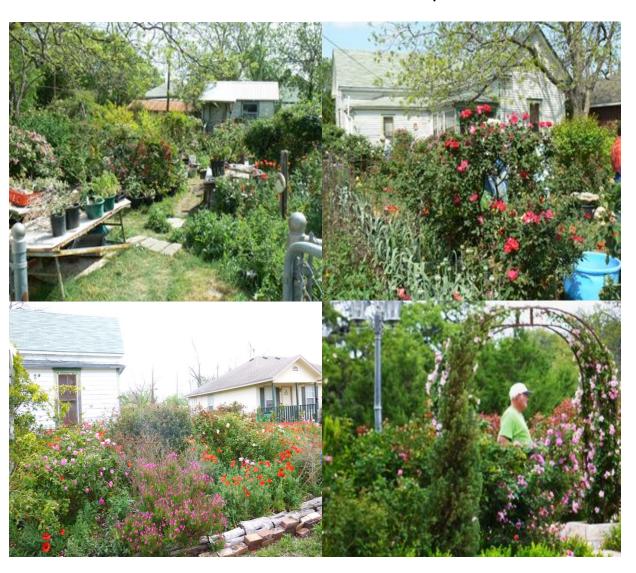
The second home owner began extensive renovations. One day in passing, the new owner mentioned to David that he would be clearing the lot soon. David related the story to him "about the old guy and his home and all his roses, who passed away, how he cared for them, even inventing new ones" hoping to convince the owner to spare some of the plantings Robert cared for so much.

David later drove by the Stiba homestead and found that the lot had indeed been cleared. All the grass and weeds were mowed down and many of the plants removed. But the roses were still there, the beds wrapped with yellow caution tape! Even the old trellis with its climber gnarling through remained. Robert's plants seem to be saved from the bulldozer for now.

Robert enjoyed visiting friends at the Switzer Senior Center. He was proud to plant a garden for the residents using many roses propagated from his home garden. On May 1, 2014, the Center dedicated the garden in Robert's honor. He lovingly tended the garden for several years before his health failed.

Last summer David learned from a longtime Taylor local of the roses Robert planted years ago near the Senior Center and went to check it out. He found no blooms or new growth on the bushes and some plants were even missing. With permission from the owners, he started watering, feeding, and pruning the few remaining bushes. Three months later the big changes show beautifully and he is now committed to continue tending the garden for the community and in Robert's memory.





# Rose Garden at the Switzer Senior Center at Taylor High School



SAVE THE DATE



# **February Pruning Party**

Join us this month for our Pruning Party to learn from Consulting Rosarians how to correctly prune bushes that will be given away as door prizes! It is great time to ask questions and leave the meeting with new information along with a new rose bush!

As in the past, the HRS accepts donation of healthy rose bushes to be used in the pruning demonstration. Members are encouraged to bring any healthy bushes from their yard to donate to a new home. Just dig up the bush with all the roots within a day or two of the meeting and bring it in a plastic bag. Rose growers who have experienced an episode of rose rosette disease in their garden within the last three years should treat their plants as if they are in quarantine and not donate bushes at this time.

This meeting will be a "hybrid" meeting so if you do not feel comfortable joining us in person on Thursday, February 10th at 7 pm at St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 1819 Heights Blvd., Houston; you can join us virtually using Go To Meeting.

The meeting link will be available on The Houston Rose Society website at

http://www.houstonrose.org/



# **SAVE THE DATE!**

Texas Rose Rustlers Spring Symposium

WHEN: May 14-15, 2022

WHERE: Chambersville Tree Farms in Celina, Texas

https://chambersvilletreefarms.com



# Texas Rose Rustlers MembershipForm

Dear Texas Rose Rustler friends.

Membership in TRR runs from July through June of the following year.

Your membership supports the organization by providing speakers and venues and include the following:

- 1. Old Texas Rose newsletter published four times a year
- 2. Three events per year, including:
  - · Spring Symposium
  - Summer Rookie Rustle
  - Fall Cutting Exchange

Membership Dues are \$15 per household for one year. Please include this renewal form with your personal check or money order.

Please make your personal check or money order payable to Texas Rose Rustlers and mail to:

Texas Rose Rustlers c/o Elisabeth Castro 28423 Wild Oaks Magnolia, TX 77355-1995

	Please return this completed form with your dues payment. (Pleas print clearly)
Name:	
Mailing Add	ress:
City:	State & Zip:
Email Addr	ess:
Phone Num	nber:
Alternate N	lumber:

This is your newsletter. I'm always looking for articles on your garden, your favorite rose, how you became interested in roses, photos of your garden, etc. Please send them to me at steves223@yahoo.com.

# Rose Sources

Greenmantle Nursery
Garberville, CA 95542
www.greenmantlenuresry.com
Listing of roses that you can only
order via Phone or by mail
707-986-7504

Heirloom Roses 24062 Riverside Dr. NE St. Paul, OR 97137 Antique Rose Emporium
9300 Lueckmeyer Rd.
Brenham, TX 77833
www.antiqueroseemporium.com

Chamblee's Rose Nursery
16807 CR 363
Winona, TX 75792
www.chambleeroses.com

# www.heirloomroses.com

Rogue Valley Roses
P.O. Box 116
Phoenix, OR 97504
www.roguevalleyroses.com

A Reverence for Roses
7073 N. Lecanto Hwy
Hernando, FL 34442
www.areverenceforroses.com

Roses Unlimited
363 North Deerwood Dr.
Laurens, SC 29360
www.rosesunlimited.com

Angel Gardens
P.O. Box 1106
Alachua, FL 32616
www.angelgardens.com

Rose Petals Nursery
16918 SW 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue
Newberry, FL 32669
www.rosepetalsnursery.com

## Rose Websites

Texas Rose Rustlers: <u>www.texasroserustlers.com</u>

Rose File: www.rosefile.com (Rose ID)

Help Me Find: www.helpmefind.com (Rose ID)

American Rose Society: <a href="http://ipm.ucanr.edu">www.rose.org</a> (Rose information)
UCI IPM website: <a href="http://ipm.ucanr.edu">http://ipm.ucanr.edu</a> (Pest information)

Baldo Villegas Bugs and Roses: <a href="https://www.sactorose.org">www.sactorose.org</a> (Rose and pest information)

# Texas Rose Rustler Board Members