

# World Rose News

The Newsletter of the  
**WORLD FEDERATION OF ROSE SOCIETIES**

December 2023 / Volume 33 / Number 4



'Dainty Bess'  
JPMattia Cover

## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

As the cold weather and snow covers our roses, it is a time to reflect here in the Northern Hemisphere. What will 2024 bring? Should I start planning for the convention in Kalmar, Sweden, what rose trials do I want to judge, what roses do I want to buy, etc. All good thoughts. Yet, the hot days of Summer are hitting our friends south of the Equator.

We continue to gear up for the next Convention to be held in Kalmar, Sweden with pre and post tours visiting gardens in Sweden, Norway and Finland. The pre and post tours have been extended so there is plenty to see. The website is now active, [nordicroses2024.com](http://nordicroses2024.com).

We also offer many Vice President Reports and updates on the 2025 World Rose Convention in Fukuyama City, Japan.

Our cover by John Mattia is 'Dainty Bess' (HT, Archer, 1925), an oldie that is still a favorite today; known for its dark burgundy stamens.

My photograph for this issue is 'Abbe Bramere!' , an 1871 Hybrid Perpetual from Guillot fils.

Enjoy!

Steve Jones, Fiddletown, CA, United States



'Abbe Bramere!' (HP, Guillot, 1871)

*Note: All photos and articles are by the Editor, unless otherwise noted*

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The Editor reserves the right to edit submitted articles for spelling, grammar, or for space considerations.

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Visit our website at [www.worldrose.org](http://www.worldrose.org)

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Do you receive our sister publication  
*by any other name?*

This publication is from the WFRS Conservation & Heritage Rose Committee and covers species, old garden, and historical roses and the efforts to collect and save them.

The latest edition is available at this link:

<https://indd.adobe.com/view/769f0e3b-6a87-4b6a-8186-7c8890f179d4>

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



2022-2025

December 2023



Photo: Diane vom Berg

Diane vom Berg

Kelvin Trimper and I travelled to Japan for 6 days in early October to view the sites, gardens and tours for the 20<sup>th</sup> WFRS World Rose Convention, “Roses for the Future”, to be held in Fukuyama, Hiroshima, Japan, 18 - 24 May, 2025. Kelvin and I had very fruitful meetings with the Governor, the Mayor, and the President of the Japan Rose Society, Organising Committee Directors and Members. Visits to the hotels, lecture hall, opening and closing events were also included. The involvement of school children of all ages was also pleasing as they acknowledge the rose is a symbol of peace and are effectively working to spread this message. An outstanding afternoon was spent at the Holocaust Education Center in Fukuyama, where Senior Students guided us through the rooms that tells the story of Anne Frank and the rose dedicated to her. Bullet trains were an experience; a very efficient form of travel, although not having to navigate the stations on our own made for easy arrivals and departures. Visits to five gardens that are included in the pre/post tours were a highlight to visit as we travelled from Fukuyama to Tokyo. Our hosts are planning a wonderful convention, with many highlights, so make sure you have this convention in your diary for 2025.

Working with the American Rose Society in November, a webinar was presented titled the “WFRS – A Global Experience”. Here I shared an insight into my own Rose Society in South Australia, The National Rose Society of Australia, and the World Federation of Rose Societies. An excellent question time was also conducted and there were many global questions that will be followed up in the future with ideas for further webinar topics.

Our global sponsorship agreement with FELCO will greatly assist the WFRS. The company is a worldwide leader in the production of high precision professional secateurs and pruning tools. It is pleasing to see many member countries promoting this association.

Looking ahead, I encourage you to consider attending an upcoming convention; Sweden in July 2024 and Japan in May 2025. Follow the links on the World Federation Website to view the latest updates to both programs, including pre and post tours as they will both be a truly global experience.

I want to thank the Executive Committee, the Chairman of our Standing Committees, Editors and all Members Countries, Associate Members and Breeders Club Members for their support of the World Federation of Roses Societies during 2023.

Wishing you all a festive season filled with peace, joy and roses.



Being greeted at the Fukuyama Rail Station

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



**Derek Lawrence**

December 2023

Christmas Day draws the contrasts of seasonal climatic conditions experienced by our various Member Countries. In the southern hemisphere, warm tropical climates bring forth the rose to its peak of perfection, whereas here in the northern hemisphere, our gardens remain dormant, with any current weather-beaten rose blooms covered by a light dusting of glistening frost. The 21<sup>st</sup> day of December marks the commencement of the Winter Solstice, where daylight gradually increases, and plant life begins to be steadily awakened.

Holly, ivy and mistletoe are evergreen plants that are closely associated with the festivities, which became very popular during Victorian times. Greenery was originally used by the Pagans during the winter solstice celebrations to ward off evil spirits and celebrate new growth. They believed that holly was a symbol of masculinity and ivy represented the fairer sex. The Druids regarded holly as an attribute of fertility and eternal life, which Christians eventually adopted as a true symbol for Christmas. There's an old English tradition from the Midlands, which states that whichever plant enters the house first during wintertime will dictate whether males or females rule the home for the following year – although bringing either inside before Christmas Eve, is thought to be unlucky by many European countries.

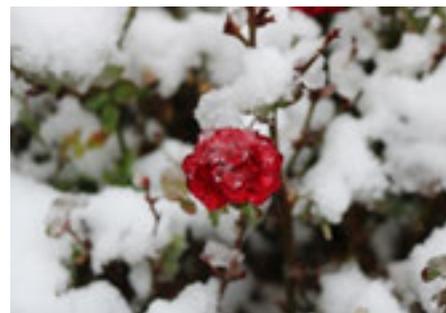
For the romantic hearted, kissing under a sprig of mistletoe has added some spice to the proceedings. It is a wholly British custom which began in the 1700's and was once an indication of a marriage proposal!

England's County of Somerset is the home of the world-famous Holy Thorn Tree of Glastonbury. The first tree was planted during the arrival of Christianity in Britain, and appeared in many historical handwritten texts since medieval times. The current tree is an offshoot from the original sapling, which is reputed to flower on Christmas Day. This remarkable phenomenon is regarded as a miracle by some folk, when hawthorns normally flower during the month of May. On manifestation, the vicar of the Parish of Glastonbury, sends a flowering sprig to grace the Christmas dinner table of the reigning British monarch.

Plants, whether it be the rose or otherwise, continue to give us hope and joy during these challenging times.

Wherever you reside, and whatever plant life will enrich your festivities; I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

*Images by courtesy of Unsplash Publishing.*



From Left: Holly, Mistletoe & Winter Rose

## ROSE NEWS

*News from the Executive Director:*

I am delighted to announce that the WFRS Publications Committee have launched the World Federation of Rose Societies Instagram account. The link is:

<https://www.instagram.com/worldfederationofrosesocieties/>

If Members would like to post an image on Instagram, the contributor should send the image, and supporting short text, to one of the WFRS Instagram team. Please ensure that any images provided are not subject to copyright infringement laws. It will be the responsibility of the contributor that any material posted, is not copyrighted.

The Instagram team are:

Angelika Throll – Keller: [a.throll@beste-natur.de](mailto:a.throll@beste-natur.de)

Martin Stott: [martin.stott@bulletin.co.uk](mailto:martin.stott@bulletin.co.uk)

Marga Verwer [marga.verwer@gmail.com](mailto:marga.verwer@gmail.com)

Yuki Mikanagi [mikanagi@chiba-muse.or.jp](mailto:mikanagi@chiba-muse.or.jp)

Matjaz Mastnack [matjaz.mastnack@hotmail.com](mailto:matjaz.mastnack@hotmail.com)

Please support this new Instagram account as much as possible.

We do hope that you enjoy it!

*Also from our Executive Director:*

As supporters of the World Federation of Rose Societies, our Members have access to the stunning and high quality journal, *By Any Other Name*.

You can find the latest edition here: [bit.ly/BAON28](https://bit.ly/BAON28) or use the QR code:

The journal is increasingly growing in size and stature as a leading worldwide heritage rose magazine. It is hoped that this new system will give Members easier and straightforward access.



However, PDF versions are available, if Members contact my Office. Archived copies of the journal can be accessed via the 'Members Only' section of the World Federation of Rose Societies website: [www.worldrose.org](http://www.worldrose.org)

I sincerely hope that you enjoy the November 2023 edition. As ever, it is a treasure trove of interesting articles from leading experts and enthusiastic rosarians.

*From the Organising Committee for the Fukuyama Convention:*

Dear Subscriber,

I hope this email finds you in good health and spirits.

This message is for those who have joined our mailing list, keen on staying updated with the developments of the 20th World Rose Convention in 2025 to be held in Fukuyama, Japan.

We are excited to share that a new message from the Chairperson of the Organizing Committee, who is also the Mayor of Fukuyama

City, alongside the preliminary program of the Fukuyama Convention, is now featured on our website. You can view the program schedule outline as an image by following the link <https://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp/>.

Preparations for the Convention in May 2025 are underway. Last month, we had the honor of hosting the President of the World Federation of Rose Societies and the Convention Liaison Committee Chair in Fukuyama, cementing our confidence in the success of the upcoming event. Over the next 18 months, we will introduce you to our lineup of distinguished lecturers, share details of tours across Japan, and offer travel tips for those planning to join us at the Fukuyama Convention. Registration for the convention will commence in six months.

Expect to receive our newsletters with these insights approximately once a month from here on out.

If you know of anyone who has an interest in the Convention and its Pre/Post Tours but has not yet registered to receive updates, we would be grateful if you could share the link below with them. By registering their contact details, they too can stay abreast of all the latest news and developments. <https://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp/newsletter/>

We deeply value your enthusiasm for roses and your interest in the World Rose Convention. Looking forward to the pleasure of your company in Fukuyama.

May you have a delightful season, reveling in the beauty of flowers.

Warmest thanks for your attention.

Takayoshi Ohmoto

Chief, The World Rose Convention Fukuyama Organizing Committee

WFRS 20th World Rose Convention 2025 in FUKUYAMA

URL: <https://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp/>

E-mail: [info@wrc2025fukuyama.jp](mailto:info@wrc2025fukuyama.jp)

*From the Executive Director:*

The Member Countries overwhelmingly approved the 2028 World Rose Convention to be held in Bhopal, India.

I am happy to announce the approval by the Executive Committee of the Association Membership for the Heritage Rose Foundation of the United States (Effective 1 Jan 2024) and the approval of the 'WFRS Friends of the Federation Scholarship Scheme'. Details of the latter will be in a future edition of *WRN*.

*Editor: Word came to us late of the passing of the great rosarian MS "Virus" Viraraghavan, a noted breeder of hot climate roses, lecturer, and all around nice person. I personally always enjoyed seeing him and his wife Girija at conventions with his big smile. Our hearts go out to Girija and their family.*



Welcome to the  
WFRS Regional Convention &  
Heritage Roses Conference Sweden  
2-6 July, 2024

The Swedish Rose Society is very proud to host a rose experience in the shimmer of the famous Nordic light. In the month of July, the roses are at their most beautiful peak in the Nordic countries and the line between day and night is barely visible.

# Pre Tour

*June 25 – July 1*

Welcome to Finland



The land of 1000 lakes and many unique rose gardens.

## Program

### **Tuesday, June 25**

Arrival in Stockholm and board ferry to Finland on a night cruise through the archipelago.

### **Wednesday, June 26**

Visit Ruissalo Botanical Garden in Turku and an archeological exhibition of old Turku.

### **Thursday, June 27**

Sight-seeing in old central Helsinki and visit in private garden Meilahti Rosarium.

### **Friday, June 28**

Visit Hataanpää arboretum and sight-seeing in Tampere. Steamboat cruise on the lakes.

### **Saturday, June 29**

Transfer to Vaasa. Visit Kvarken World Heritage Site. Dinner at Berry's in the archipelago.

### **Sunday, June 30**

Visit Stundars Homestead Museum and a private rose-garden. Board ferry to Stockholm.

### **Monday, July 1**

Arrival in Stockholm and your hotel at Djurgården. City tour and afternoon mingle at Waldemarsudde, the lovely rose garden and art museum of Prince Eugen.



## General information

The same bus will be used for the whole trip in Finland.

Weather is usually quite agreeable in the Nordic countries with temperatures around 20 degrees centigrade during the day. Rain showers are possible.



# Main Tour

July 2 – July 6

Welcome to Sweden



Friendly and innovative, yet historical, with a beautiful countryside.



We will welcome you to the historic city of Kalmar during the five-day event and make excursions to Skåne and the National Gene Bank, hosting the trials of found roses according to Sweden's Agricultural University in Alnarp.

Also visits at Sofiero in Helsingborg, Solliden Palace and Rosenlund in Jönköping. Take part in lectures with focus on sustainability and how our old roses can tell stories for future generations of rose lovers. In our fascinating Pre tour to Finland with so many lovely and interesting roses and Post tour to Norway you will find amazing rose collections between the lakes, fjords and the mountains.



## Program

### Tuesday, July 2

Welcome to the medieval city of Kalmar with a Meet & Greet at Kalmar Congress Center.

### Wednesday, July 3

Morning lectures in Kalmar Congress Center. Keynote speaker Lars-Åke Gustavsson presents the POM project.

Visit to Öland. The Swedish Royal family celebrates their summer vacation here and we will visit their beautiful castle garden.

Afternoon Tea and opportunity to experience a bright summer evening.

### Thursday, July 4

Excursion to Skåne and Agricultural University Alnarp for a visit to the Nordic Gene Bank for Cultural Heritage Roses. Also visit to Fredriksdal Rosarium in Helsingborg.

*Alternative program with lectures, guided city & park walks for those who remain in Kalmar.*

### Friday, July 5

Visit to Sofiero Castle Garden before departure for Rosenlund Rosarium in Jönköping. Evening at Leisure in Kalmar.

*Alternative program for those who stay in Kalmar, excursion to Jönköping.*

### Saturday, July 6

Closing day with lectures, rose festival at the town square and music event at Kalmar Castle including the Gala Dinner.

Registration opens on August 25, 2023 – More info at [Nordicroses2024.com](https://Nordicroses2024.com)

# Post Tour

Welcome to Norway



July 7 – July 14

A spectacular tour in the land of the fjords with love for nature & roses.

## Program

### Sunday, July 7

Departure from Kalmar to Gothenburg for visit at "Trädgårdsföreningen" and guided tours in the Rosarium. Evening at leisure.

### Monday, July 8

Departure for Oslo. Lunch and visit to the famous Vigeland Sculpture Park. Check-in at amazing Wood Hotel by Frich's in Brumunddal, the tallest wooden building in the world.

### Tuesday, July 9

Departure for Ringebru in Gudbrandsdalen where we will visit an old garden with a great collection of old roses as well as Ringebru's famous stave church from the 13th century. Continuing into Norway's fantastic mountain world.

### Wednesday, July 10

Departure to Molde, known as Norway's City of Roses since the beginning of the 20th century. Guided tour of the city, check in at Alexandra Hotel.

### Thursday, July 11

Departure along the unique fjord landscape to Alesund, named Norway's most beautiful city with its fine Jugend architecture. Tour of the city and dinner at the famous fish restaurant, XL Diner. At midnight we will sail on the Hurtigruten to Bergen.

### Friday, July 12

Arrival in Bergen, Norway's second largest city and a heritage city. Afternoon at Leisure to enjoy the city with its cozy streets and squares, surrounded by seven mountain peaks.

### Saturday, July 13

Excursion with Hardanger fjord cruise to Baroniet Rosendal, a baroque castle that lies between mountains and fjords and has become famous for its rose garden and landscape park. Gondola ride to the skyscraper Ulriken for dinner with a view.

### Sunday, July 14

Visit the Arboretum in Milde with Norway's largest collection of roses. With its unique location it is described as one of the world's most beautiful rose gardens. Closing lunch.



Registration opens on August 25, 2023

More info at [Nordicroses2024.com](https://Nordicroses2024.com)



the *Green* guide

Photos by:

Alexander Hall, Destination Öland, Destination Kalmar, Micheal Luther, Johnny Bratseth (Visitnorthwest.no), Andrea Giubelli (Visitnorway.com), Fredrik Ahlsen - Maverix (Visitnorway.com)

## WFRS VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

Inger Schierning, Denmark, WFRS Vice President Northern Europe

*Editor: We decided to move this Vice President Report up in World Rose News as it contains information about the upcoming WFRS Regional Convention and Heritage Roses Conference in Kalmar, Sweden.*

My report today will focus on some of the highlights in the 15 months since my last report in World Rose News in the September 2022 edition with updates on the Kalmar Convention in July 2024.

**At the 19th World Rose Convention** in Adelaide from October 27<sup>th</sup> to November 4<sup>th</sup> 2022, Svein Osen, president the Swedish Rose Society, Michael Luther president the Rose Society of Finland and I manned a booth where we introduced the WFRS Regional Convention and Heritage Roses Conference "Nordic Roses 2024", taking place in Kalmar Sweden from July 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> with the pre-tour to Finland starting June 25<sup>th</sup> and post tour to Norway until July 14<sup>th</sup>.

It was a pleasure to meet and talk to international rose friends again. Many spoke excitedly about their experience of the 18<sup>th</sup> WRC "A Fairytale of Roses" in 2018 and made no secret of the fact that they would like to come back to the Nordics if the opportunity arose.

Svein Osen and I have been working in close cooperation to ensure Nordic Roses 2024 will be a fantastic once in a lifetime adventure for rose lovers from near and far away. Years of volunteer work have been invested in creating this truly magical experience.

**In early June 2023** at the 15th Heritage Rose Conference in Brussels, the "The Swedish Team" (Lars-Åke Gustavsson, Torben Thim, Svein Osen, Christina Högardh-Ihr and I) were on stage to present Nordic Roses 2024. The same day the new website [www.nordicroses2024.com](http://www.nordicroses2024.com) was launched. On August 25<sup>th</sup>, registration opened, handled by Christina and her company The Green Guide.

**At the end of June**, the Nordic Rose Society hosted a rose conference in Kalmar, Sweden. Kalmar is a small, charming town by the sea with just over 36,000 inhabitants. Its history goes back a 1000 years and the city's landmark is the Kalmar Castle from the 13th century.

The five Nordic rose societies take turns every second year to host a rose conference – this year the Swedish Rose Society was the host for a festive rose conference, where we both celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Nordic Rose Society and had a taste and glimpse of what awaits the participants at Nordic Roses 2024. We visited lovely charming private gardens and everywhere the owners were present to meet us.

**Catarina Lund is the leader** of the rose group SydøstRosen. We visited her country garden two miles south of Kalmar on the way to Kristianopel, which is a small idyllic town by the Baltic Sea, where rose bushes have grown at the charming and characteristic Swedish wooden houses for generations. A few years ago, Catarina took the initiative together with Rose experts to identify the many beautiful old rose bushes and place them on a city map of Kristianopel.

Here are impressions in texts and pictures from the Garden of Catarina Lund in 2023:



Catarina Lund Garden: 'Rose de Rescht' in front and in the back 'Mme Alfred Carriere'

"Our garden is at our summer cottage two miles south of Kalmar on the coast. The cottage is an old brewhouse that we built and the garden we started to develop in 2010. The plot is in an open south-facing position in the agricultural landscape. When planning the garden, we have used a "reverse" planning method by placing the flower beds in the gaps that arise between other areas such as corridors and seating areas. The focus of the garden is mainly single-blooming older roses together with suitable perennials such as daffodils, aquileges, irises, peonies, spurs, digitalis and lilies, but we also have some reblooming roses such as noisettes and tea roses. The tea roses are grown in pots and overwintered in the cottage. In total, we have between 150 and 200 kinds of roses, of which a lot are POM roses and other local hit roses, such as 'Linnés Hammarby', which were found near our plot.

We have a special interest in tea roses and have taken care of the POM (program for plant diversity) roses 'Anna-Sofia' and 'Mina' in order to preserve and propagate these roses. On the grounds there is a large bush with the stuffed cinnamon rose, which turned out to belong to the clone 'Hängers källa'. It grows under oaks and birches without any care except that we make sure it doesn't spread too much.

We have a couple of inherited roses. One is 'Blomsterhult' and the other 'Onkel Carl', which originally came from my grandmother's garden in Sörmland and my grandmother's mother's garden in Copenhagen, respectively.



**Catarina Lund Garden:** Left: 'Ghislaine de Feligonde' & 'Mme Boll' in front and in the back 'Leda' & 'Hammar', Right: Left on the wall is 'Alberic Barbier', in the back is 'Reve d'Or', in front 'Strömsro', 'Great Western', 'Yolande de Aragon' & 'Selma Dahlberg'

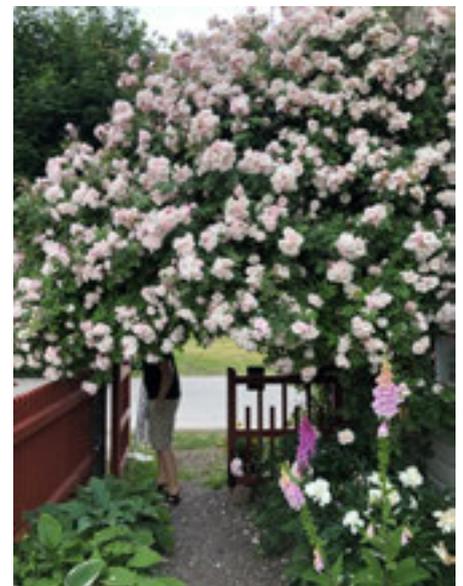
We are fragrance geeks and often choose roses based on how they smell, but their expression and feel is also important. We particularly appreciate the look of roses from around the turn of the last century. The goal is to dress the cottage and the garden in roses and at the same time keep the wild feeling with a meadow that leads into the garden and contact with the open landscape.

We care about biodiversity, so we have meadow instead of mowed lawn and a wild part with trees and bushes. We have sand lizards on the property and keep sand piles especially for their hibernation and egg laying." Welcome to our garden in Hagbyhamn says Catarina Lund.

#### Identification of the roses along the village street in Kristianopel

In June 2021, The Rose Group SydostRosen received a question from Jämjö Garden Society asking for help to identify the roses in Kristianopel in Blekinge, a well-visited tourist destination known for its roses, and visitors often ask for the name of the roses.

On July 9, 2021, the work of identifying the roses along Storgatan and in some accessible gardens began. The identification work continued since 2022 by inviting the members of SydostRosen to a rose walk to help with the identification. After a lot of follow-up work and research, 120 out of about 150 roses were identified. The 120 identified roses consisted of approximately 70 different varieties. Most of the roses are modern roses from the 20th century, but there are also some older roses.



**Roses Along Village Streets:** Left: 'Agatha', Middle: 'Paul's Scarlet Climber', Right: 'Venusta Pendula'

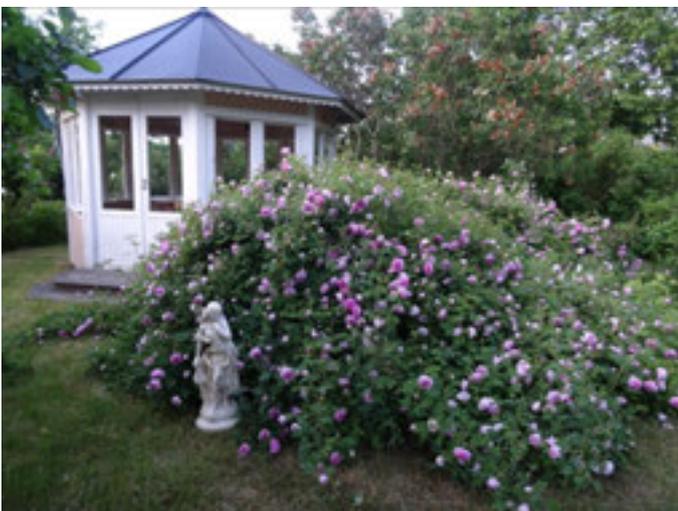
Pictures and information about the roses were compiled in a document that, together with a map, can be used during rose walks. The work then led to applying for and receiving money (from, among other things, the EU's regional development support) and nameplates for the roses could be ordered. This summer, the signs are in place just in time for the Nordic Rose Conference.



More Village Roses: Left: 'Albertine', Right: 'Great Western'

We also visited the garden of Irene Nettelbrandt, north of Kalmar. Through ten years of work with Lars -Åke Gustavsson and POM, Irene has registered 60,000 tested roses for Lars-Åke Gustavsson and POM. Lars-Åke Gustavsson and Irene gave us an exciting introduction to their work.

**On the island of Öland**, we were welcomed to Solliden, the Swedish Royal Family's summer palace, where they spend their summer holiday every year. During Nordic Roses 2024, the Royal Family will be present and hopefully a rose will be christened for HRH. More about this and the adventurous program in future newsletters from Nordic Roses 2024.



Left: 'Blush Damask' in the Garden of Irene Nettelbrandt, Right: Solliden, the Swedish Royal Summer Palace on Öland

**In Denmark** on August 5th and 6th, the charming town of Bogense on Funen was immersed in a world of roses. During this Rose Festival, held every year on the first weekend in August, the entire town is beautifully decorated, offering a multitude of activities. "Roses in Denmark" hosted a rose celebration at Den Gamle Købmandsgård, featuring a rose christening at the square with the statue Manneken Pis, open gardens, art exhibitions, concerts, visits to rose nurseries, guided tours to rose fields and much more.

In the city center, there were numerous large flower arrangements, mostly featuring roses, for the public to vote on. The turnout of guests was impressive. It's fantastic that a small town like Bogense can organize such an event every year.

On Sunday, August 6th, there was a grand garden party in Valbyparken. For more than 20 years we have had a prominent information stand in the midst of the rose garden. I had invited FELCO Denmark with their world-class pruning tools to exhibit at our stand. There was a rose competition, delightful music, and plenty of experiences. It was a perfect and enjoyable occasion to invite family and friends for a picnic in Copenhagen's largest park. The event was free and open to all who love gardens, roses, and green experiences under the open sky.

There was a significant interest in choosing the best rose in three categories – white, golden, and reddish roses among the many available this year. Three winners were drawn from all those who voted, receiving a garden rose from our Rose Society, Roses in



Upper Left: From left: Mayor Mette Holm, Rosa Eskelund, Ghita Nørby and Jim Lyngvild, Upper Right: Jens sells roses,  
Lower Left: Lise is signing up a new member, Lower Right: Rosenposten rose walk



Denmark. Once again, this year's roses for the lucky winners were sponsored by the Danish Rose Breeder Rosa Eskelund, Roses-Forever.

Musical entertainment in the rose garden was provided by Trine Opsahl on the Celtic harp, and in the avenue by the opera singers, part of the Copenhagen Opera Festival. The day concluded with great dynamism, featuring everything from fiery numbers to beautiful ballads by Englishman Paul Harrison and his band. Roses in Denmark – Team Aarhus, together with Knud Pedersen invited everyone for a field trip to his nursery, Rosenposten on August 8th. Despite autumn-like August weather with rain and gusts, there was a good turnout, and it was delightful to meet new and old rose friends. As always, the hall at the nursery was beautifully decorated and Knud Pedersen shared valuable advice on rose cultivation.

From 18<sup>th</sup> August the Odense Flower Festival took place for the third time as part of the HC Andersen Festival, with booths and activities throughout the city center. This year's theme, "Let the Senses Blossom", originates from H.C. Andersen's fantastical literary work and universe. Roses in Denmark, set up in Vintapperstræde, where we shared a booth with Roses-Forever. Many people stopped by, discussing roses, buying roses, smelling the delightful rose bouquets from Roses Forever, and many joined the Roses in Denmark association. At the square in front of the City Hall, landscape architect Helle Nebelung had designed a sensory-rich garden divided into several small themed gardens.

As Vice President for Northern Europe, it is an exceptional pleasure to recommend and support a WFRS Convention in Sweden with pre-and post-tours to Finland and Norway when the roses are at their most beautiful peak. Don't hesitate, register at [Nordicroses2024.com](http://Nordicroses2024.com). Do not miss out treating yourself to this magical once in a lifetime experience.

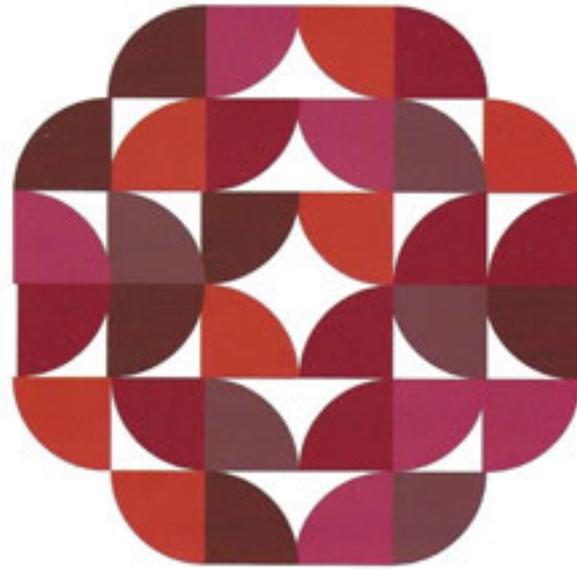
*(All photos courtesy through the author.)*



Above: Left: Rosenposten, arrangement with roses and summer fruit, Right: Valby Park, Denmark Rose Society and FELCO displays  
 Below Left: Rosa, Lise and Inger at the stand during the Odense Flower Festival in the H.C. Andersen area, Below Right: Landscape architect Helle Nebelong designed the sensory gardens and meets Hans Christian Andersen



Left: The hummingbird has flown, Middle: Impressive display of FELCO tools, Right: The lucky winner receives the rose 'Hansastadt Rostock' (synonym Queen Bee)



WFRS 20th  
WORLD ROSE  
CONVENTION  
**2025**  
in FUKUYAMA

# Roses for the Future

A New Future Begins in Fukuyama

Create, Excite, and Shine Together!

**18** (Sun) - **24** (Sat) May 2025



December 2023

Dear Rose Friends:

We are pleased to inform you that in October, the Japan Rose Society and the World Rose Convention Fukuyama Organizing Committee had the honor of hosting Ms. Diane vom Berg, President, and Mr. Kelvin Trimper, Chair, in Fukuyama. This visit was a critical step in ensuring our preparations for the 2025 WRC are on track. The discussions focused on finalizing the plans and confirming that all arrangements for the convention are proceeding smoothly.

The Organizing Committee presented Ms. Diane vom Berg and Mr. Kelvin Trimper with a preview of the activities planned for the 2025 convention. The agenda included a welcome party with views of Fukuyama Castle, a luncheon at the citizen-owned rose beds, showcasing the unique involvement of our community, and a visit to the Rose Expo that highlights the diversity of Japanese roses. Additionally, they reviewed the Day Tours, the Pre and Post tours that we plan to offer. Their feedback was overwhelmingly positive, expressing high expectations and excitement about each element of the program, which reinforces our commitment to delivering an exceptional experience at the upcoming convention.

Registration for the convention will commence in May 2024. We are in the process of finalizing the registration fee, expected to be approximately 120,000 Japanese Yen. We have arranged a range of accommodation options, with prices varying from 10,000 to 20,000 JPY per night. In addition, we are aiming to offer each of the Pre and Post tours for about 300,000 JPY.

This communication includes details about the Pre and Post tours, and we encourage you to incorporate these tours into your plans for the convention.

We invite you to visit our website (<https://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp/newsletter/>) and subscribe to our mailing list to stay informed about the latest developments.

We are excitedly anticipating your participation in the 2025 convention.

Sincerely,

*SHIMURA Yukiko*

SHIMURA Yukiko

President, Japan Rose Society

*EDAHIRO Naoki*

EDAHIRO Naoki

Chair, World Rose Convention Fukuyama Organizing Committee



From left to right: EDAHIRO Naoki, SHIMURA Yukiko, Diane vom Berg (WFRS President), Kelvin Trimper (WFRS Convention Committee Chair), and Professor Yoshihiro Ueda



WFRS 20th  
WORLD ROSE CONVENTION  
2025 in FUKUYAMA

Welcome to the  
**WFRS 20th**  
**WORLD ROSE CONVENTION**  
**2025 in FUKUYAMA**



**Pre Tour 12 ~ 17 MAY**

**Post Tour 25 ~ 30 MAY**

# Pre-Tour 1: Miyajima Mountain Rose (*Rosa sambucina*), Seto Inland Sea, and the Japanese Gardens of the Sanin Region

DAY1 **MONDAY 12 MAY 2025** STARTS FROM HIROSHIMA

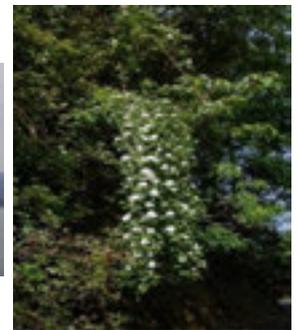
Departure Location: Hiroshima City  
Nearest airport: Hiroshima Airport  
Nearest bullet train station: JR Hiroshima Station  
Start Time: Please check into the designated accommodation hotel by dinner time, as we will have dinner prepared for you.

DAY2 **TUESDAY 13 MAY 2025** WORLD HERITAGE SITE: MIYAJIMA

## ***Rosa sambucina* native to Miyajima**

This rose is the wild rose native to Japan, notable for its leaf size and shoots length. It thrives in sloping forests along riversides, with vigorously extending shoots that entangle and crawl up trees using sharp, hooked prickles. The flowers are relatively big, forming expansive, corymbose inflorescences that resemble a spectacular white waterfall cascading down the forest surface during full bloom. In Miyajima, you can see giant *Rosa sambucina* climbing up the trees. Their flowering season peaks around mid-May.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/3czimBXjnYgL9EvR6>



DAY3 **WEDNESDAY 14 MAY 2025** CRUISE IN SETO INLAND SEA

## **Cruise in the Seto Inland Sea (Sightseeing Cruiser, Sea Spika)**

The deluxe highspeed sightseeing cruiser SEA SPIKA offers a journey around the islands of the Seto Inland Sea. This half-day route from Hiroshima Port to Setoda Port showcases the scenic beauty of this area. Passengers can enjoy the unique charms and beauty of various islands, along with the opportunity to interact with local islanders, a perspective only possible from a cruise.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/uQgDjw88VriSb3j86> (Hiroshima Port)

## **Yoshiumi Rose Park**

Located on Oshima Island along the Setouchi Shimanami Kaido, Yoshiumi Rose Park was established in 1993 and spans an area of 2.8 hectares. The park features a collection of 400 varieties, totaling about 3,500 rose plants. These include Joséphine de Beauharnais's rose collection, and a wide range of species from old roses to modern roses. Within its expansive grounds, the park offers relaxing spaces such as a lawn area for visitors to enjoy.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/8AnkG5f3dmwqWDBi9>

## DAY4 THURSDAY 15 MAY 2025 GARDEN TOUR IN TOTTORI

### Tottori Prefectural Flower Park (Tottori Flower Gallery)

This park offers a panoramic view of Mt. Daisen, with beautifully arranged flowerbeds and diverse floral displays. It includes a 1 km covered corridor, allowing visitors to explore without an umbrella even in rainy weather. Attractions within the park include the Flower Dome, European Garden, Valley of Flowers, Herb Garden, and Fog Garden. The Rose Garden within the European Garden blooms with 900 roses of 190 varieties from mid to late May.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/P1ueFzbGS5cc7hrY8>

## DAY5 FRIDAY 16 MAY 2025 GARDEN TOUR IN SHIMANE, ARRIVE IN FUKUYAMA

### Adachi Museum of Art

Renowned for its gardens, the Adachi Museum of Art has been named the best garden in Japan annually since 2003 by the "Journal of Japanese Gardening". Spanning 16 hectares, the site includes a karesansui garden, a moss garden, a pond garden, and a white sand and green pine garden. The museum's collection features modern Japanese paintings by masters like Yokoyama Taikan and Uemura Shoen, with approximately 20 works by Taikan displayed at any time.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/uvyqioSffqjQy9UN6>



### Yuushien Garden

Located on Daikonshima Island in Shimane Prefecture, known for its tree peony production, the 4-hectare Yushi Garden features a pond and circular garden. The garden encapsulates the topography of the Izumo region, including valleys, rivers, lakes, and the Sea of Japan's waterscape in Okuizumo. It houses 250 varieties of tree peonys and offers year-round viewing of tree peony flowers. The island is also a ginseng-growing area, and visitors can enjoy local cuisine incorporating ginseng in the garden. The park is recognized with a three-star rating by the French tourist guide Blue Guide.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/mLjbakaNjGtr8HMKA>



## DAY6 SATURDAY 17 MAY 2025 FUKUYAMA CASTLE

### Fukuyama Castle

Fukuyama Castle, built in 1622 by Mizuno Katsunari, the first daimyo of the Fukuyama domain, stands out as the only castle in Japan with an iron-plated north wall. This feature, unique to Fukuyama Castle, was designed to strengthen its northern defenses. The castle, a fine example of early modern castle architecture, originally featured a multi-leveled tower with 5 tiers and 6 floors, and an attached smaller keep. Though it was designated a National Treasure in 1931, the castle was destroyed in a 1945 air raid and later rebuilt in 1966. On its 400th anniversary in 2022, the castle was restored to its original appearance, including the unique iron-plated north wall, top-floor windows, and crenels.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/QhFhG5dPmLRBBGM86>

## Pre-Tour 2: Tour of the Kuma River Tsukushii Rose (*Rosa multiflora* var. *adenochaeta*) Colony, Scenic Spots in Kyushu, and Rose Gardens

DAY1 **MONDAY** 12 MAY 2025 STARTS FROM FUKUOKA

Departure Location: Fukuoka City

Nearest airport: Fukuoka Airport

Nearest bullet train station: JR Hakata Station

Start Time: Please check into the designated accommodation hotel by dinner time, as we will have dinner prepared for you.

DAY2 **TUESDAY 13** MAY 2025 GARDEN TOUR IN FUKUOKA

### Uminonakamichi Seaside Park

Situated on a narrow peninsula across the bay from central Fukuoka, this national park spans approximately 350 hectares. It offers seasonal flower views and an opportunity to interact with animals like squirrel monkeys, capybaras, and kangaroos in the Animal Forest. The park includes a rose garden in its flower area and museum, showcasing 1,200 roses of about 220 varieties. The park features a Modern Color Rose Area and a Fragrant Rose Area.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/NcGUKco5KYKeBkPb6>



DAY3 **WEDNESDAY 14** MAY 2025 NATURE TOUR OF KUMAMOTO

### *Rosa multiflora* var. *adenochaeta* along Kuma river

The *Tsukushi Ibara*, a native wild rose of Japan, thrives along the Kuma River riverbanks in Kumamoto Prefecture. This variety, *Rosa multiflora* var. *adenochaeta*, blooms mid-May, turning the riverbanks pink. Originally threatened by overharvesting, local conservation efforts have helped restore its habitat.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/zdQr185zdDMLRayXA>



DAY4 **THURSDAY 15** MAY 2025 NATURE TOUR OF NAGASAKI

### Miyama-Kirishima (*Rhododendron kiusianum*) Colonies on Unzen Nita Pass

During spring, the mountains are covered in pink Miyama-Kirishima, a small-flowered azalea variety, marking the start of Unzen's colorful flower season. The flowers bloom from late April in the Unzen Jigoku area, reaching their peak in mid to late May in the Unzen Nita Pass.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/SKZxT1xiF8VLqPoZA>

DAY5 **FRIDAY 16 MAY 2025** GARDEN TOUR IN NAGASAKI

**Huis Ten Bosch**

This theme park, recreating a Dutch town in Sasebo, Nagasaki, is the largest in Japan. It includes four rose gardens: the Grand Rose Garden, the Flower Plaza, the Rose Canal, and the Palace Rose Garden, covering about 1 hectare with approximately 2,000 varieties and 10,000 plants. The Canal of Roses and the White Rose Garden are particularly noteworthy for their stunning displays.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/Bsqv3D2JjK1YiVJ19>



DAY6 **SATURDAY 17 MAY 2025** ARRIVE IN FUKUYAMA

After breakfast, we will travel to Fukuyama City, arriving around noon.

## Pre-Tour 3: Tour of Osaka's Rose Gardens and Osaka Expo 2025

### DAY1 MONDAY 12 MAY 2025 STARTS FROM OSAKA

Departure Location: Osaka City  
Nearest Airport: Kansai International Airport  
Nearest bullet train station: JR Shin-Osaka Station  
Start Time: Please check into the designated accommodation hotel by dinner time, as we will have dinner prepared for you.

### DAY2 TUESDAY 13 MAY 2025 EXPO TOUR

#### Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai

The Osaka Expo is a World Expo event set to be held from April 13 to October 13, 2025, on Yumeshima, an artificial island in Osaka Bay. This event will bring together over a hundred countries to address global issues under the theme "Designing Future Society for our Lives," divided into sub-themes: "Saving Lives", "Empowering Lives", and "Connecting Lives". The expo will feature thematic pavilions showcasing innovative applications in Internet of Things, Big Data, Robotics, Artificial Intelligence, Renewable Energy, and Biotechnology, promoting the concept of "Society 5.0".

<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/en/>

### DAY3 WEDNESDAY 14 MAY 2025 GARDEN TOUR IN OSAKA

#### Hamadera Park Rose Garden

Located in Hamadera Park along the Sakai City seafront, Osaka, this unique Japanese-style rose garden greets visitors with a terraced landscape reminiscent of Japan's natural scenery. It features Japanese wild roses in settings that mimic their natural habitats, such as Hamanasu roses (*Rosa rugosa*) on coastal sandy beaches and Ootakanebara (*Rosa acicularis*) roses in high mountainous environments.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/79HzBRFrNa3e4DAFA>

#### David Austin English Rose Garden

Adjacent to Kansai International Airport in Sennan, Osaka, this garden showcases over 3,000 plants from the David Austin Roses collection, a renowned UK rose breeding company. Visitors can also purchase rose plants at the attached plant center.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/9R6urpn99s1BkQWcA>



### DAY4 THURSDAY 15 MAY 2025 GARDEN TOUR IN KOBE

#### Kobe Municipal Arboretum

Situated in the Rokko Mountains near Kobe's city center, this garden utilizes the natural environment to display approximately 1,200 species of woody plants. The hydrangea garden boasts 50,000 plants of 350 varieties, while the azalea and rhododendron garden features about 4,000 plants of 37 species.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/5LWdJWKgpbbd2nZg6>

DAY5 **FRIDAY 16 MAY 2025** GARDEN TOUR IN SHIKOKU

**Ritsurin Garden**

As the largest garden designated as a Special Place of Scenic Beauty by the national government, this circular feudal lord's garden in Takamatsu Matsudaira clan showcases a clever design of ponds and mountains, offering a unique view at every step.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/taJtMPCFoWuPA58EA>



DAY6 **SATURDAY 17 MAY 2025** GARDEN TOUR IN SHIKOKU, ARRIVE IN FUKUYAMA

**Yoshiumi Rose Park**

Located on Oshima Island along the Setouchi Shimanami Kaido, Yoshiumi Rose Park was established in 1993 and spans an area of 2.8 hectares. The park features a collection of 400 varieties, totaling about 3,500 rose plants. These include Joséphine de Beauharnais's rose collection, and a wide range of species from old roses to modern roses. Within its expansive grounds, the park offers relaxing spaces such as a lawn area for visitors to enjoy.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/8AnkG5f3dmwqWDbi9>

# Post-Tour 1: Tour of Gardens in the Ancient Capital of Kyoto and Rosa & Berry Tawada,

DAY1-3 **SUNDAY 25 ~ TUESDAY 27** MAY 2025 HISTORIC KYOTO TOUR

Travel from Fukuyama to Kyoto by bullet train

## Japanese Gardens (Nanzenji, Kinkakuji, Ryoanji etc.)

These gardens represent the quintessence of traditional Japanese garden design, each offering a unique aesthetic and historical significance in Kyoto.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/ffpMQmRVdZ3uET1z7>

## Kyoto Botanical Gardens

Located in northern Kyoto with views of Mount Hiei and the Higashiyama range, the Kyoto Botanical Garden is a scenic retreat that opened in 1924. It features a Western-style garden, an ornamental greenhouse, rose beds, and sunken flowerbeds. The northern half of the garden showcases native Japanese plants and a natural semi-timber forest, complemented by cherry and plum trees, as well as other traditionally cultivated Japanese plants.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/zmtr6rLvJ3BNArNP9>

## Arashiyama, Sagano

Arashiyama offers breathtaking seasonal views of the Hozu River, Togetsu Bridge, and the surrounding mountains. The area is home to famous temples, traditional streets, and natural beauty, with attractions like the bamboo grove path and Tenryuji Temple.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/hpkMMHYcs2G3Qiyn9>



DAY4 **WEDNESDAY 28** MAY 2025 GARDEN TOUR IN SHIGA

## Rosa & Berry Tawada

Nestled on a slope near Mt. Ibuki, Rosa & Berry Tawada combines roses and herbaceous perennials in its English Garden. The garden includes an English rose garden, an Asian rose garden, a kitchen garden, a conifer garden, and approximately 370 varieties of roses. Attractions include a train ride through a tunnel of climbing roses, and hands-on workshops for woolen accessories and baking.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/Cnp7JPfKDiKoy3u66>



### Gifu World Rose Garden (Formerly Flower Festa Commemorative Park)

Renamed in 2021, this park in Gifu features one of the world's largest collections of roses, with approximately 6,000 varieties and 20,000 plants. It includes the Old Rose Garden with wild and old roses, and the Rose Garden with 13 themed gardens. The park also boasts the longest climbing rose corridor in Japan and has received WFRS award for its outstanding garden.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/4VX3BPUoD5GdbLZV6>



### Urakuen (National Treasure)

Located east of Inuyama Castle, Urakuen features the national treasure tea house, Jo-an. The tea ceremony room and garden, relocated to Inuyama Castle in 1972, are renowned for their historical and cultural significance.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/LEoZqELgktVzgmAL8>

Disbanding Location: Disband at JR Nagoya Station around noon.

Nearest airport: Chubu Centrair International Airport.

Nearest bullet train station: JR Nagoya Station.

## Post Tour 2: Echigo Hillside Park Fragrant Rose Garden and North Kanto Rose Garden

DAY1 **SUNDAY 25** MAY 2025 TRAVEL TO NIIGATA

Travel from Fukuyama to Niigata by bullet train and airplane.

### Northern Culture Museum

This museum showcases the architecture and heritage of the wealthiest farmer family in Niigata. The collection, amassed by the seventh and eighth family heads, includes approximately 6,000 art objects from Japan, China, and Korea. The architecture itself is a highlight, complemented by a garden designed by a gardener linked to Kyoto's Ginkakuji Temple.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/WhX15Mow3o5ZpHKx6>

DAY2 **MONDAY 26** MAY 2025 GARDEN TOUR IN NIIGATA

### National Echigo Hillside Park, Nagaoka Fragrant Rose Garden

Located within the expansive National Echigo Hillside Park in Nagaoka City, Niigata Prefecture, this rose garden focuses on fragrance-specific rose varieties. It spans 2.4 hectares with about 800 varieties and 2,400 rose plants, categorized into seven fragrance groups. The garden has been a venue for the International Fragrant Rose Trials, showcasing award-winning roses and promoting the development of new fragrant rose varieties.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/9i1vxEk5dL3yy4Fx9>



DAY3-5 **TUESDAY 27 - THURSDAY 29** MAY 2025 GARDEN TOUR IN NORTHERN KANTO

### Nakanojo Gardens

In Nakanojo Town, Gunma Prefecture, this garden showcases a variety of seasonal landscapes, including a 'Rose Garden' with 400 rose varieties, a 'Spiral Garden,' and a 'Natural Garden' that emphasizes wild flora. The Nakanojo Farm, with its apple orchard and edible roses, offers a hands-on experience with these plants.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/9EVHRatAaknKofJw8>



### Shikishima Park Kadokura Techno Rose Garden

This 4.5 hectare rose garden in Maebashi City's Shikishima Park includes about 600 varieties of modern and old roses and English roses, featuring 7,000 rose plants. The garden's layout reflects a French-style sunken bed design, with roses grouped by their country of origin.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/KEhdko7HScEhpYTm9>

### **Ibaraki Flower Park**

Opened in 1985 in Ibaraki Prefecture, this park centers around roses, the prefectural flower. It features about 900 rose varieties, including a Rose Terrace, Roses by Color, Fragrant Roses, and a Rose Tunnel. The park also includes a conservatory preserving rose varieties since its opening.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/ikMvNBwwpHyLzppr5>

### **Bara-no-le (Kimura-kikaku, Shop and Garden)**

Takunori Kimura, a leading Japanese rose breeder, showcases state-of-the-art breeding techniques at this shop and garden. His 'Rosa Orientis' brand focuses on disease-resistant roses suited to Asian climates. The roses are designed for four-season flowering and are well-adapted to hot, humid conditions.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/y1jCUjqbq27To78e8>

### **The City of Sakura Rose Garden**

This garden, initially established by Katsuhiko Maebara based on the rose collections of Seizo Suzuki, a leading Japanese rose breeder, is now located in Sakura Kusabue no Oka, a public facility in Sakura City. It focuses on preserving heritage roses as genetic resources, featuring 2,500 plants of 1,250 species. The 12th International Heritage Rose Conference was held in this garden. The garden has received the WFRS Award of Garden Excellence.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/WnSqWvofxziEHQTR8>



DAY6 **FRIDAY 30** MAY 2025

[Disbanding Location: Accommodation hotel in Tokyo. Includes breakfast.](#)

Nearest airports: Narita International Airport or Haneda International Airport

Nearest bullet train station: JR Tokyo Station.

## Post-Tour 3: WFRS Outstanding Garden Award-Winning Rose Garden and Hakone,

DAY1 **SUNDAY 25** MAY 2025 TRAVEL TO SHIZUOKA

Travel from Fukuyama to Shizuoka by bullet train.

### Acao Forest

This garden, built on a slope overlooking the sea, features 13 different themed areas highlighting roses and other seasonal flowers. The Soga Sengen Garden leads to various gardens including the Japanese Garden, the Ocean Garden, and the English Garden with 4,000 rose plants of around 600 varieties in total. The French Rose Garden and the Herb Garden are other highlights. The Coeda House, designed by a renowned Japanese architect, offers a café overlooking the Ocean Garden. The garden won the WFRS Award of Garden Excellence in 2015.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/iD3x4noa3R9jeiSR6>



DAY2 **MONDAY 26** MAY 2025 HAKONE ONSEN (HOT SPRINGS)

### Hakone Botanical Garden of Wetlands

Specializing in wetland plants, this botanical garden showcases 200 species from various Japanese regions, along with 1,700 other plant species, including rare foreign mountain grasses. Visitors can explore diverse ecosystems, from lowland to alpine wetlands. The native Hakone sanshoubara (*Rosa hirtula*) can also be observed throughout the park.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/g8aHSWDXXK2NgXzq9>

DAY3 **TUESDAY 27** MAY 2025 GARDEN TOUR IN YOKOHAMA

### Yokohama English Garden

Home to 2,200 rose varieties, this garden is designed to exhibit Yokohama's climate-suited flora through self-guided tours. It emphasizes fragrant four-season roses and won the WFRS Award of Garden Excellence in 2018.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/Fb91s9b7qAufUebV9>



DAY4 **WEDNESDAY 28** MAY 2025 GARDEN TOUR IN TOKYO

**Jindai Botanical Garden**

Tokyo's only botanical park, located in Musashino area, features 100,000 plants of about 4,800 species across 30 blocks. The rose garden, with 5,200 rose plants of 400 varieties, includes a symmetrical sunken garden mainly with modern roses, areas with wild and old roses, and beds for the International Rose Competition. The garden received the WFRS Award of Garden Excellence in 2009.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/CRKwEVdktpc4j64E9>



DAY5 **THURSDAY 29** MAY 2025 GARDEN TOUR IN CHIBA

**Keisei Rose Garden**

Awarded the WFRS Award of Garden Excellence in 2015, this 3-hectare garden houses 10,000 rose plants of 1,600 varieties. It showcases a range of wild, old, and modern roses, including those bred by Keisei Rose Nurseries and varieties from international rose companies. The garden features a shaped sunken bed design with a variety of roses planted around a pond and in the naturalistic garden.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/PfECrUvCvkuK1BnN6>



**The City of Sakura Rose Garden**

This garden, initially established by Katsuhiko Maebara based on the rose collections of Seizo Suzuki, a leading Japanese rose breeder, is now located in Sakura Kusabue no Oka, a public facility in Sakura City. It focuses on preserving heritage roses as genetic resources, featuring 2,500 plants of 1,250 species. The 12th International Heritage Rose Conference was held in this garden. The garden has received the WFRS Award of Garden Excellence.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/WnSqWvofxziEHQTR8>



DAY6 **FRIDAY 30** MAY 2025

Disbanding Location: Accommodation hotel in Tokyo. Includes breakfast.

Nearest airports: Narita International Airport or Haneda International Airport

Nearest bullet train station: JR Tokyo Station.

## 20th WFRS WORLD ROSE CONVENTION - FUKUYAMA CITY PROGRAM OF EVENTS

### PROGRAM OF EVENTS

#### Saturday, 17th May

Delegates Arrive		
09.00 - 18.00	58th Fukuyama Rose Festival in 2025 (Day 1)	Whole City
09.00 - 18.00	Rose Expo FUKUYAMA 2025 (Day 1)	Midorimachi Park
10.00 - 11.00	Grand Opening_58th Fukuyama Rose Festival in 2025 (Day 1)	Whole City
11.00 - 12.00	Grand Opening_Rose Expo FUKUYAMA 2025 (Day 1)	Midorimachi Park
- 16.00	Participants of Pre-Tour Arrive	Midorimachi Park
12.00 - 18.00	Registration Open	Hotel
16.00 - 17.00	<b>WFRS</b> Promotions Committee	Hotel
17.00 - 18.00	Tea Break / Light Meal	Hotel
18.00 - 20.00	<b>WFRS</b> Honours Committee	Hotel

#### Sunday, 18th May (Day 1)

Delegates Arrive		
09.00 - 18.00	58th Fukuyama Rose Festival in 2025 (Day 2)	Whole City
09.00 - 18.00	Rose Expo FUKUYAMA 2025 (Day 2)	Midorimachi Park
08.30 - 18.00	Registration Open	Hotel
08.30 - 11.30	<b>WFRS</b> Executive Meeting No.1	Hotel
13.00 - 15.00	<b>WFRS</b> Publications Committee	Hotel
15.00 - 15.30	Tea Break	Hotel
15.30 - 17.30	<b>WFRS</b> Classification & Registration Committee	Hotel
18.30 - 21.00	Welcome Reception (includes Meal)	Fukuyama Castle

**Monday, 19th May (Day 2)**

09:00 - 18:00	Rose Expo FUKUYAMA 2025 (Day 3)	Midorimachi Park
08:00 - 08:45	Depart by bus for Opening Ceremony (15 minutes Drive (by Bus))	
09:30 - 11:30	Opening Ceremony (WFRS events, Traditional Fukuyama's Playing Koto)	Fukuyama Hall of Arts & Culture
11:30 - 12:00	Depart by bus for Lunch Party (5 minutes Drive)	
12:00 - 13:30	Lunch Party	Midorimachi Park
13:30 - 18:00	Delegates visit Rose Expo FUKUYAMA 2025	Midorimachi Park
13:30 - 18:00	Buses From Midorimachi Park to Hotel (Fukuyama Station)	
18:00 -	Evening Free / Optional tourist activities	
14:00 - 16:00	<b>WFRS</b> Heritage & Conservation Committee	Hotel
16:00 - 18:00	<b>WFRS</b> Awards Committee (with Coffee / Light Meal)	Hotel
18:00 - 19:00	Tea Break / Light Meal	Hotel
19:00 - 22:00	<b>WFRS</b> Convention Liaison Committee (with Coffee / Light Meal)	Hotel

**Tuesday, 20th May (Day 3)**

<b>Roses in Asia</b>		
08:30 - 09:10	Lecture 1	Hotel
09:15 - 09:55	Lecture 2	Hotel
10:00 - 10:30	Tea Break	Hotel
10:30 - 11:10	Lecture 3	Hotel
11:15 - 11:55	Lecture 4	Hotel
12:00 - 17:30	Tour A or B (Sera English Garden / Rose beds in Fukuyama)	
18:00 -	Evening Free / Optional tourist activities	
17:30 - 18:00	Tea Break / Light Meal	Hotel
18:00 - 20:00	<b>WFRS</b> International Judges Committee (with Coffee / Light Meal)	Hotel
20:00 - 20:15	Tea Break / Light Meal	Hotel
20:15 - 22:15	<b>WFRS</b> International Rose Trials Committee / The Breeders Club (with Coffee / Light Meal)	Hotel

### Wednesday, 21st May (Day 4)

#### Roses for the Future (1) Conservation

08:30 - 09:10	Lecture 5	Hotel
09:15 - 09:55	Lecture 6	Hotel
10:00 - 10:30	Tea Break	Hotel
10:30 - 11:10	Lecture 7	Hotel
11:15 - 11:55	Lecture 8	Hotel
12:00 - 17:30	Tour A or B	
18:00 - 20:00	Fukuyama Street Dining	Shopping Street in the City Centre

### Thursday, 22nd May (Day 5)

08:30 - 17:30	Day Tour for Hiroshima-City (Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park / Hiroshima Botanical Garden)	Whole Hiroshima Area
18:00 -	Evening Free / Optional tourist activities	
18:30 - 21:00	WFRS Friends of the Federation Dinner (by invitation only)	

### Friday, 23rd May (Day 6)

#### Roses for the Future (2) Disease Resistance

08:30 - 09:10	Lecture 9	Hotel
09:15 - 09:55	Lecture 10	Hotel
10:00 - 10:30	Tea Break	Hotel
10:30 - 11:10	Lecture 11	Hotel
11:15 - 11:55	Lecture 12	Hotel
12:00 - 12:20	Presentation of the next Regional Convention	Hotel
12:20 - 13:30	Lunch	Hotel
13:30 - 17:30	Tour for Tomonoura	
18:00 -	Evening Free / Optional tourist activities	
19:00 - 22:00	<b>WFRS</b> Council Meeting	Hotel

## Saturday, 24th May (Day 7)

### Roses for the Future (3) Other new techniques

08.00 - 08.45	Lecture 13	Hotel
08.45 - 09.30	Lecture 14	Hotel
09.30 - 10.00	Tea Break	Hotel
10.00 - 10.45	Lecture 15	Hotel
10.45 - 12.15	BREEDERS PANEL (5 breeders/) The Chair: Kelvin Trimper	Hotel
12.15 - 12.30	Presentation of the Heritage Roses Conference	Hotel
12.30 - 13.00	Presentation of the 21st WFRS World Rose Convention	Hotel
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch	Hotel
14.00 - 16.00	Visit a local school and meet with the children	
14.00 - 16.00	<b>WFRS</b> Executive Meeting No.2	Hotel
18.00 - 22.00	WFRS Gala Convention Dinner and Awards Presentation	Hotel

## WFRS VICE PRESIDENT REPORTS

Angela Bokor, Vice President, Eastern Europe



On the 3rd November 2022 I was elected as Vice President (VP) for the Central and Eastern part of Europe and I would like to express my thanks to the WFRS for entrusting me with this position. I took over from Breda Čopi who did a brilliant job as a VP before me. I am a chemical engineer by education and a long-term board member of the Romanian Rose Society.

As VP, I represent 10 countries: Austria, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Poland, Russia, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia.

### NEW WFRS MEMBER

Soon after I started my term of office, I succeeded in contacting the new Slovak Rose Society and after a ten-year gap, the new team, led enthusiastically by Alenka Kratka as President and Jana Huttanova as Vice-President, was happy to rejoin the WFRS. The society is named after her, the Rose Countess, Maria Henrieta Chotek, born in 1863 in Dolna Krupa. Part of the Austro-Hungarian high aristocracy, she was a modest person dedicating all of her time to creating one of the largest rosariums in Europe at that time. Thanks to her effort, the genetic works created by Rudolf Geschwind were saved after his death in 1910, when the countess acquired the entire collection of roses and even introduced some cultivars which had not yet been on the market.

The main goal of the Slovak Rose Society is to preserve the rose varieties bred in Slovakia. Many of the cultivars are being planted in the park of the manor house in Dolna Krupa. They map the location of Slovak roses both in public in private gardens and managed to acquire the almost forgotten 'Ferka', a sport from 'Easter Morning' introduced by Michal Sekáč in 1994. And, like the countess did in the past, nowadays roses created by Szilveszter Gyory, an amateur Slovak breeder are saved by the rose society, by being planted in Dolna Krupa. As was 'Ignis' a seedling from *R. x macrantha*, found by M. H. Chotek in her rosarium and introduced in Czech Republic by Jan Böhm in 1934. Based on the manuscript of rose historian Marian Kováč, the rose society members are working on a monograph about Slovakia's rose breeders, planned to be published in 2025.



Left: In the garden at Dolna Krupa (photo source: Facebook), Right: 'Ignis' (M.H. Chotek, 1934) (photo:Helpmefind.com)

### GARDEN OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

In the Arboretum Volčji Potok in Slovenia there is a professional and dedicated team which established a nice collection of both modern and historic roses, with more than 1200 cultivars and varieties. One of the goals of the collection is to gather the roses created in Central and Eastern Europe. There are four thematic rose gardens: the Upper Rose Garden with mostly modern, disease resistant varieties, a Lower Rose Garden with historic roses, then a collection of roses representing EU countries and the Papal Roses, a collection of about 60 varieties with a name related to the church (popes, saints, orders, places of pilgrimage, etc.).

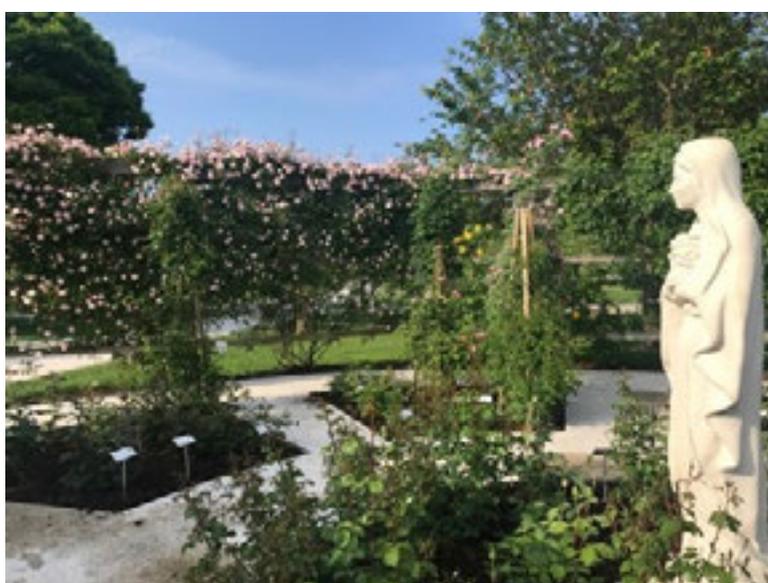
Well maintained, all plants are labelled and visitors can use an interactive map to search for cultivars. I was pleased to see pupils visiting the rose garden with their teacher who talked to them about roses.

At the International Convention held in Adelaide in 2022 the Rosarium in the Arboretum was bestowed the Garden of Excellence

Award. On the 2nd of June 2023 we had the ceremony of to unveil the plaque. The event was well attended by both members of the Slovenian Rose Society and general public.



Left: Participants at the ceremony in Arboretum Volcji Potok, Right: unveiling the WFRS plaque  
 Below left: Roses at the Arboretum, 'Gartenstadt Liegnitz', Below Right: 'Sanders' White Rambler'



Above Left: 'Altissimo' in Arboretum Volcji Potok, Above Right: Papal Roses in Arboretum, 'Mlle Cecile Brunner' in the background

## REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

After taking up my position as VP, I thought that a regional newsletter would help the rose societies in my region to know each other better and also provide a way to inform about what happens in our region. There are roses created in this part of Europe and rose gardens which should be better known by rosarians. The idea was well received by some of the rose societies and the newsletter, distributed to all rose societies in the region, was published on websites and even translated to Slovenian and Romanian. Whilst the first issue was only a presentation of the rose societies, the second one was more informative and can be accessed on Facebook <https://bit.ly/486ob6z> or, if you are interested, you can ask me to send it by email. Hopefully the third issue will be out soon.



Left: WFRS Regional Newsletter, Middle: 'Mauritia' (Tantau Roses) (photo: rosaklub.cz), Right: 'Für Elise' (Kordes Rosen) (photo: warsawrosetrials.pl)

## ROSE TRIALS

As you know, in our region we have two gardens where rose trials are held. In Hradec Kralove, Czech Republic, the rose garden celebrated 50 years since its inception and until 2020 was the only international trial rose garden in our region. The highest award is the *Golden Rose of Hradec Králové* and each year only one variety can receive the award. This year the winner was 'Mauritia', a shrub with pink and peach shades, strongly fragrant flowers from Tantau Roses.

Since 2020, there is a second location for rose trials in the Botanical Garden in Warsaw. This year the *Amber Rose Award* went to Kordes for 'Für Elise'. Both trials use the WFRS standard judging criteria and the results can be seen on the WFRS website.

## ISRAEL

Earlier this year I contacted Dalit Kaslassi, the curator of Wohl Rose Park in Jerusalem and I was told that the garden was undergoing renovations with the rose collection changed and renewed, planning to finish by the end of 2023. I like to say that roses can make the world a better place so let's hope for the best.



Left: Slovak Rose Society visiting Hradec Kralove (photo source: Facebook), Right: Visitors at the Research Station, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

## RUSSIA

I have the same hopes for this rose society too. I tried several times to contact them by email but had no reply. The same with GREECE. Even by different means of contact, I have not succeeded in having any news from the rose society. In AUSTRIA the Rosarium in Doblhoffpark is well maintained and I managed to get in contact with the director of the municipality's gardens who promised to get back to me with more information. Otherwise, I have not been able to learn much about the rose society.

## CZECH REPUBLIC

I have been in good contact with Rosa Klub, the Czech Rose Society which has a new president, Mr. Stanislav Konstacky. The society is active in organizing the Rose Trail in Hradec Kralove. They also had a visit from members of the Slovak Rose Society, proving once again, that through roses the best friendships are built.

SLOVENIA, under the leadership of Breda Copi and Matjaz Mastnak, has a very active rose society, organising meetings on Zoom, workshops, lectures and visits to rose gardens.

In HUNGARY the rose society celebrated 10 years since the rose garden in the Kecskemet town was created at the initiative of the president of the society, Hegedus Agoston.

In ROMANIA the Rose Society had several meetings and workshops over the past year. In June the Research Station in Cluj, where the national collection of roses is located, including the 50+ varieties bred by Romanian breeders, had an open day when the public visited the collection and met the members of the rose society.

In July, the customary Rose Festival was held in a village where the majority of rose nurseries of the country are located.



Left: Rose Festival in Romania



## ROSE FESTIVAL, ROMANIA

In November I gave a presentation to the members of the Romanian Rose Society about the Heritage Rose Convention held in Brussels in June 2023.

The Rose Society in POLAND is very active with many events and activities. The society was partner in organising the Warsaw Flower Competition, promoting the rose, as well as the rose festival in Kutno, where a professional and amateur rose competition is held and judged by members of the society.

The Heritage Rose Convention in Brussels was attended by five members from our region, one from Romania, two from Slovenia and two from Poland.

FELCO. I contacted the representative in Romania and the company was given space in the rose society's newsletter for advertising. In Poland there is an excellent collaboration between FELCO and the rose society and hopefully in the future we can expand on this.

*(All photos by author, unless otherwise indicated.)*

## WFRS VICE PRESIDENT REPORTS

Diana D. Antonition, JP, WFRS Vice President - North America



It has been a very strange year, weather wise, out here in the middle of the Atlantic. Spring was very wet (2023 is currently on course to be the wettest year on record for Bermuda). We had an exceptionally dry and humid summer and the water temperature was right for an early Hurricane season. Late August, Hurricane Franklin brushed by us with Tropical Storm Force winds and we have had to keep an eye out for Hurricane Lee, Hurricane Idalia, Tropical Storms Philippe and Ophelia. Thankfully no direct hits or major damage to the Island and most Rose Gardens fared very well.

In June, I had the pleasure of attending the 15th International Heritage Rose Conference in Brussels. This was an opportunity to catch up with some rose friends and make some new ones. The rose gardens that we visited were lovely, in full bloom and well maintained. Well

done to The Belgian Royal National Rose Society for organizing a lovely event. I am looking forward to Sweden in July 2024.

In May, the Bermuda Rose Society (BRS) had their AGM, with Marijka Peterich being voted in as President (whom many of you know as she is a past WFRS VP and has attended many WFRS conventions over the years) and Sharon Cranfield as Vice President.



Hurricane Franklin 2023



From left: Author, Dr. Malcolm Manners (USA) & Crenagh Elliot (Canada)

On 14th October, the BRS was invited to be part of The Bermuda National Trust Open House at Vermont, one of their historical houses, which is over 300 years old. With sweeping views of the South Shore, the gardens contain an assortment of herbs, fruit trees and a selection of Old Garden Roses.

The BRS had a table where we sold potted Bermuda Mystery Roses, our rose book and talked about the importance of Heritage Roses. I gave demonstrations on how to prune and take cuttings for propagation.

At the BRS November members meeting, I gave a PowerPoint presentation on my recent trip to Japan where I visited the Hitachi Seaside Garden and Asikaga Flower Park and highlights of my trip to the 15th International Heritage Rose Conference in Brussels.

On the evening of 7th November, BRS new president Marijka Peterich, hosted the BRS Annual Prize Presentation at her home 'Woodlands'. I had the honor of presenting some of the Annual trophies to the winning members.



On 11<sup>th</sup> November, I gave a 'Sip and Propagate' workshop to BRS members at our Tulo Valley Tunnel. Members enjoyed sipping Mimosas, while learning how to propagate our Bermuda Mystery Roses and at the same time adding to the BRS stock of future plants for their annual sale.

On the 2nd of December, the BRS held a very successful rose sale, which raised funds for their scholarship program, maintenance of Tulo Valley Tunnel and Waterville, their rose repository garden.



Left: Vermont House, Right: From left: Sharon Cranfield, Marijka Peterich, Author



Left: At Woodlands, Right: Sip & Propagate

Following several storms and damage over time, the BRS tunnel at Tulo was revived by a dedicated team. The team turned what was a sad space into a thriving nursery dedicated to growing Old Garden Roses and Bermuda Mystery Roses. The pen was overgrown with weeds



and Zoysia grass, the outer trees created too much shade and leaf droppings.

The entire perimeter of the tunnel and pen were cleared of trees, stumps and grass. The water tank was cleaned and filled and new housing was installed for the pump.

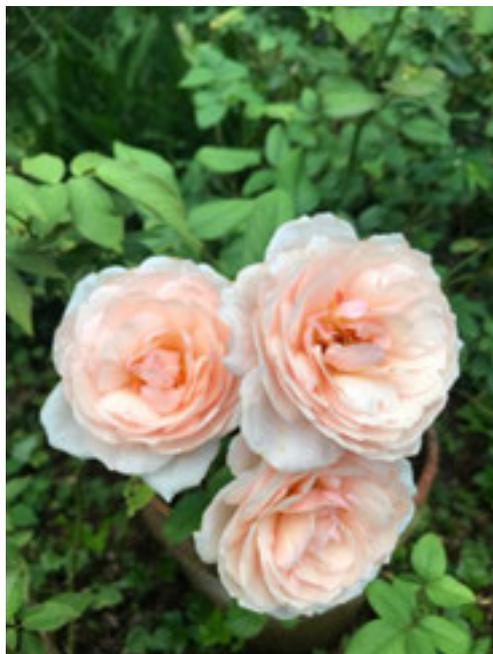
In March 2024, the Bermuda Rose Society will celebrate its 70th Anniversary.

Plans are well underway with overseas guest speakers and a gala Dinner.



From left: Author, Marijka Peterich, Middle & Right: BRS Tunnel at Tulo

Below: 'Heritage'



## WFRS VICE PRESIDENT REPORTS

Shiwei Zhao, WFRS Vice President - Asia

### Sanya Rose Festival

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, the Sanya Rose Festival was held in Sanya Rose Valley. The Rose Garden at Sanya is the only rose garden on a tropical island in China. The rose garden was built in 2012. Since Sanya has the best beach and a tropical forest in China, it attracts a lot of tourists from the mainland China. People like to spend their holidays here, especially in winter time. The rose garden is situated near the famous beach and the tourists would choose the rose garden as a main destination so the rose garden attracts more than one million visitors every year. Mr Klevin Trimper, the chairman of the WFRS Liaison Committee came to Sanya and attended the opening ceremony. Kelvin was accompanied by Mr Zhang Zuoshuang, the President of Chinese Rose Society (CRS), and Ms Wang Bo, the Vice President of CRS. Kelvin was happy to see that the rose garden was well maintained. In the evening at the opening ceremony, a fantastic performance with a light and sky show was impressive. The Mayor of Sanya interviewed Kelvin Trimper and delegates from CRS.



WFRS President Diane vom Berg (right) and WFRS President Emeritus Helga Bichet (second from right) visiting the rose exhibition in Nanyang

### International Rose Exhibition in Nanyang

Nanyang is the main production area for rose plants in China. The WFRS Regional Convention was held in Nanyang in 2019 and many rosarians who went to Nanyang had a good visit. In January of 2020 in Kolkata, India during the Regional Convention, I submitted the proposal of holding an international rose exhibition in Nanyang every year and I hoped that WFRS can officially support the exhibition by allowing the

name of WFRS as supporter to be used during the exhibition. Members of the Executive Committee who were in Kolkata approved my proposal. But after the Regional Convention, the Covid-19 pandemic came and lasted for three years. The International Rose Exhibition was planned but delayed and canceled again a few more times. At the end of 2022, China stopped the policy of strict sanitary checking and opened its border so international events can be held. The first international rose exhibition was held.

The rose exhibition was combined by a famous event called "Green Parade in China" which was supported by the State Administration of Forestry and Grassland, together with the Henan Provincial Government. The Chinese Rose Society was one of the organizers. WFRS officers Helga Bichet and Diane vom Berg attended the event. Since she got her visa late, Diane missed the opening ceremony and rose parade on the 28<sup>th</sup> morning. Helga attended the opening



Diane, Helga & Mr Zhang Zuoshuang (far right)

ceremony and she made a speech on behalf of WFRS. In the evening, Diane joined the night gala performance. On the 29<sup>th</sup>, a symposium was held in Nanyang Agricultural Vocational College. Wang Hui, Ping Lim, Helga Bichet and others gave speeches. In the end, a panel discussion was held which I moderated the discussion. The topic of the discussion is on the protection of plant

varieties in China. For the rose exhibition, roses from other provinces and cities gathered in Nanyang. They were in different sections, including potted roses, rose plants, standard roses, and a new variety competition.

### Award Ceremony of WFRS Garden of Excellence in Shanghai

During the 2022 Adelaide World Rose Convention, Everland Rose Garden from Korea and The Rose Garden at Shanghai - Chenshan Botanic Garden won the WFRS Garden of Excellence Award. We planned to invite our friends from WFRS to witness the award ceremony. I have been contacting Wook-Kyun Kim after the world convention.



Madame Jiang Zehui (right) with President Diane vom Berg (left)

We planned that we can hold the ceremony on April 26<sup>th</sup> in Seoul, Korea, followed by the award to be held in Shanghai two or three days on 29<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, the proposal was not approved by Samsung HQ, the parent company of Everland. Wook-Kyun wrote to me that Everland had pursued this project vigorously in close collaboration with the rose society, however, this decision was thought to be due to the last global economic recession that had hit the electronic industry hard. According to a source here, Samsung's fourth quarter operating profit plunged 69% last year. In addition, the performance of semiconductors, smartphones, and home appliances, which represents a majority of this company's products, is not expected to rebound easily in the first half of the year. Wook-Kyun was very regrettable and felt sorry about the cancellation. After three-years' of the Covid-19 pandemic, the economy went into a recession all around the world. At this time, roses didn't seem to be more important.



Gardens at the Shanghai - Chenshan Botanic Garden

We went to Shanghai to attend the award ceremony of WFRS Garden of Excellence at Shanghai - Chenshan Botanic Garden. It was a nice, sunny day. The roses were in full bloom. A lot of visitors came to the garden with joy and happiness. Diane, Helga, Mr Zhang Zuoshuang and I attended the ceremony at the rose garden. As the award plaque didn't arrive, the host asked a local company to make a plaque according to the plan. But they enlarged the plaque and make it quite showy. Madame Jiang Zehui, the Chairman of the China Flower Association interviewed Diane and Helga before the ceremony and gave her books on bamboo for Diane and Helga.

Diane made a speech at the award ceremony. She praised the rose garden in her speech. At the end, Diane, Madame Jiang Zehui unveiled the award plaque. The rose garden is composed of two parts, the rose island and the rose garden around the tropical glasshouse. More than 1000 cultivars of roses are collected and displayed. And this is the fourth rose garden that has won the WFRS Award of Garden Excellence in China.

## Meeting with Breeders' Club and the Seminar on Plant Variety Protection in Nanyang

In late August and early September, a meeting on the plant variety protection was held in Nanyang, as Nanyang is the largest production area of rose plants in China. It is very important for international rose breeders and Nanyang rose producers to communicate on how to upgrade their rose varieties. For many years, the rose producers used only out-of-date rose varieties as they don't know how to cooperate with international rose breeders. The WFRS Breeders' Club worked together with the Chinese Rose Society and held this meeting which lasted two days. On the first day, the main focus was to communicate among the rose breeders, rose producers, and the government bodies. Mr Long Sanqun, the director of Plant Variety Protection Office of State Administration of



Forestry and Grassland attended the meeting. He introduced the current situation and the policy of plant variety protection in China and pointed out some important issues on how to protect the rose varieties. Participants from the Breeders' Club include: Jean-Luc Pasquier, Chairman Breeders' Club, Gareth Thomas, David Austin Roses, Norman Kordes, Kordes Rosen, and Matthias Meilland, Meilland International. Alessandro Ghione, NIRP International, planned to attend but had to cancel his trip at the last minute. Mr Kelvin Trimper also attended the meeting. Participants from the Chinese Rose Society include Mr Zhang Zuoshuang, President, and Mr Zhao Shiwei, VP of WFRS and Secretary-General of CRS. Local officials include the Vice Mayor, the Director of Forestry Bureau, and others. At the end, the meeting reached a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and stressed on how to cooperate in the future on protection of rose varieties and encourage new rose trials to be held in China. Also, it encourages Chinese rose breeders to take part in the Breeders' Club.

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, a seminar was held at the Nanyang Agricultural Vocational College. Mr Long Sanqun, Mr Zheng Yongqi, Mr Gareth Thomas, David Austin Roses and Matthias Meilland, Meilland International gave speeches. More than 200 people attended the seminar.

### Other Events

This year, I attended several rose events, including the Rose Festival in Beijing in May, the Landscape Garden Rose Seminar in Guangzhou, and the Landscape Rose Exhibition at Shoufa Tianren Shengtai Landscape Co. In August, we helped Yanqing, Beijing to build a new rose garden in the Expo Garden. We invited people from Beijing, Jiangsu, Sichuan, Guangdong and Hebei to discuss on the possibility of building up the rose trails in China. Finally, we designated five rose gardens as the first rose trial gardens.



Above photos: Delegates at the International Symposium on Rose Intellectual Property Protection

As the International Symposium on Rose Research and Cultivation will be held in Beijing in 2024, we work together with China Agricultural University and Mentougou District Government to prepare for the symposium. We will organize a national rose show at that time.

*(All photos courtesy of the Author.)*

## DEREK LAWRENCE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PAYS HOMAGE TO THE ROSE KING

Our Executive Director, Derek Lawrence, wrote this excellent article on Dean Reynolds Hole who is considered the King of Roses, and was the catalyst for many international rose societies including those in Great Britain and the United States. The article was originally printed in the American Rose, bulletin of the American Rose Society.



Dean Hole Reynolds

It was a gloriously sunny February morning. I glanced up to the Cathedral spire, which shone like a magnificent beacon against the vibrant blue skyline. I paused, listening to the gentle birdsong that encompassed this grand medieval stone edifice. I stood in quiet contemplation; realising that my visit to Rochester in Kent was something sacred and exceptional. Entering the Cathedral, I headed towards the South Nave transept, where the memorial tomb of Samuel Reynolds Hole lay. Standing at the foot of the Dean's sculpture, with an elegant wreath of fine rose blooms circulating his feet; it became apparent of the deep respect and admiration that I developed for the Dean since my life-long passion for the rose began. In many respects, I share many of his interests as an avid writer; a fanatic of the dramatic arts; classical music and a total respect for animals. Like many other rosarians, his influence has had a profound impact on my life; and his observant, sometimes amusing writings have been instrumental in the development of the 'Queen of All Flowers' in modern times.

Samuel Reynolds Hole served the Church of England as Dean of Rochester from 1887 until his passing in 1904. During his tenure he revitalised the inner faith of worshipers and was influential in raising vast sums of capital to enable huge restoration of his beloved Cathedral. He exemplified the Victorian obsession of the great outdoors becoming a passionate sportsman and gardener. According to various sources which have chronicled his life, Reynolds Hole also had a passion for horses, the theatre, adored fine wines and had a wandering eye for beautiful ladies! To fully appreciate and

understand the mindset of this exceptional character of the rose world, I decided to journey to Caunton in Nottinghamshire in my quest to learn more about the man whom will forever be graciously known as the 'Rose King' – aptly named by his loyal friend, Lord Tennyson.



Arriving at the idyllic English village of Caunton, I felt that I'd drifted through the passages of time. In many respects, the suburb has retained its historical past, with rustic horse stables, fine English stone cottages and ale houses. However, my ultimate holy grail was to visit the Parish of St. Andrew's Church, where Hole became Vicar. As I entered the building, my attention was immediately drawn to a framed black and white photograph of the Dean, which hanged on one of the stone pillars. As I explored the church, I could almost feel the presence of this remarkable clergyman.



Left: Dean Hole Memorial statue, Right: Rochester Cathedral

His eternal spirit seemed to warmly embrace and welcome me.

Compared to Rochester Cathedral, the church was tiny and rather humble, but nonetheless equally important. I was pleased to discover that parishioners fondly acknowledge the Dean's incumbent service of 43 loyal years in various prominent locations. There is a fine wooden frieze; he is also remembered in a brass plaque on the altar steps and in an elegant tablet over the priest's door. Just as I climbed up the narrow spiralling stone stairwell, towards the belfry; shafts of brightly coloured light greeted me that illuminated the usual dark steeple. The intense rays of the sun created a bright projected tapestry from the magnificent stained-glass window, which was commissioned to commemorate Dean Hole's extraordinary life.

He was born in Ardwick, near Manchester in 1819 and son of a renowned family brewing business. His parents purchased Caunton Manor, which is located near the church, to enable their four children to enjoy the delights of country living. Although he was Christened 'Samuel Reynolds', his family always referred to him as Reynolds. Little 'Reyn' explored the surrounding area with



Left: St Andrew's Church, Caunton, Middle: Stained glass window at St Andrew's, Right: Author climbing the stairs to the bell tower

eagerness, and soon developed a fascination for plants. He wrote: *"And then the first plant which I could call my own, the salvia, which I brought for sixpence from the nurseries near to our school! I have grown and shown a multitude of specimens in the greenhouse and the stove since then; I have won prizes of gold and cups of silver, but I have never exhibited nor seen others exhibit anything half so precious as that....no colour which could compare with its crimson flowers."*

On roaming around the grounds of St. Andrew's Church I stumbled upon Caunton Beck brook, which meanders beside the graveyard, where young Reynolds spent endless hours fishing. The schoolboy explored areas which contained ancient hedgerows, where he vainly searched for bird eggs. His adventurous spirit made him rather headstrong at times and on one occasion, in a moment of rage, he vindictively kicked and spat at his father during an altercation. Thankfully, the rather rebellious young Hole was a complete contrast to the rightful and spiritual man whom he'd eventually become known. Maybe his behavioural misgivings became a source of absolute inspiration to seek an ecclesiastical pathway? On graduating from Brasenose College, Oxford in 1844, he took Holy Orders and became curate and eventual vicar in his family's Parish. His strong and illuminating personality made him a popular figure amongst churchgoers. Whilst delivering sermons in the pulpit, he never spoke of anything which he hadn't had any personal experience of. Canon Hole was well-known for having a great sense of humour, making some of the congregation roar with laughter! However, he was also conscious of the abject poverty, starvation and subsequent illness which blighted an extensive number of communities in the Industrial North. He would speak of their plight and encourage active support from the parishioners. Reynolds Hole frequently visited these fractions to offer hope and comfort. He became a much-revered personality within workingmen's clubs. Indeed, it was a visit to a Nottingham miner's flower show which inspired him to found Britain's first-ever Grand National Rose Show.

It is well-documented that the first rose that truly captured his heart was 'd'Aguesseau' (Gallica) which he lovingly described: *"It glowed in the splendour of the setting sun with intense and burning crimson, the tints of vivid scarlet gleaming amid the purpler petals, as light in jewels or in dark red wine, that I shall never lose my first admiration."*

In his memoirs he wrote: *"There was a time when, although I had taken the degree of Bachelor of Arts, if I had gone for an examination into a school of botany and had been requested to write a description of the distinctive features of the peony, the dahlia and the rose, the most lenient examiner must inevitably have torn my paper into shreds; and yet as soon as I became overpowered by the conviction that the rose was the loveliest of all flowers and had steadfastly resolved to devote myself to its culture – from that time every effort which I made to acquire and apply information inspired me with a stronger determination and with confident hope".* As an aspiring, young vicar he soon discovered the joys that gardening can bring; once remarking that it was *'the purest of human pleasures, and the greatest refreshment to the spirit of man.'*

Hole intently began to study books about rose culture and enthusiastically perused the listings of varieties available in rose catalogues. It is recorded that in his pursuit to fully indulge himself in the delights of the *genus rosa* he planted a few hundred cultivars in the rambling grounds of Caunton Manor, which by the mid 1840's, had amassed to an extensive collection of five thousand bushes. The celebrated gardener, Gertrude Jekyll was a visitor to the gardens and years later, she enjoyed the rosy splendours of his Deanery in Rochester. He was renowned for hating angularity in the design of gardens preferring, throughout his long life, to the *"sweet contrived disorder"* of the English garden.

Like all rosarians, the Reverend Samuel Reynolds Hole, had his favourite roses. He greatly admired the Noisettes, 'Cloth-Of-Gold' and 'Maréchal Niel'. Another cultivar that he relished was 'Madame Alfred Carrière' which was also adored by Gertrude Jekyll.

Similarly, he was enraptured by the rampant beauty and charm of the Banksian Rose, introduced to Europe from China in 1796 that first reached the British Isles in 1807. For exhibition purposes, he recommended, 'Charles Lefévre', 'La France' and 'Safrano'. His all-time favourite was the climbing Tea Rose 'Gloire de Dijon'. It is an extremely fragrant creamy buff coloured rose with up to 40 petals. He trained it up the chancel wall of St. Andrew's Church. It grew luxuriantly and describing it with "two hundred flowers upon it in full simultaneous bloom." He once lovingly recalled that, "It is what cricketers call an all-rounder; good in every point for wall, arcade, pillar, standard, dwarf en masse, or as a single tree."



Favorite Roses, Left: 'd'Aguesseau', Middle: 'Gloire de Dijon', Right: 'Madame Alfred Carrière' (Photos courtesy of David Austin Roses.)

He became increasingly interested in exhibiting his blooms, because he wanted to share his passion and educate the general public on the sheer pleasures of growing roses. Exhibiting his roses at local Nottinghamshire village flower shows was just the foretaste of better things to come. The pinnacle of his skills was admirably highlighted when Reynolds Hole's roses won fourteen first prizes out of sixteen collections shown, including the first award for amateurs given by the Royal Horticultural Society at their Grand National Flower Show.

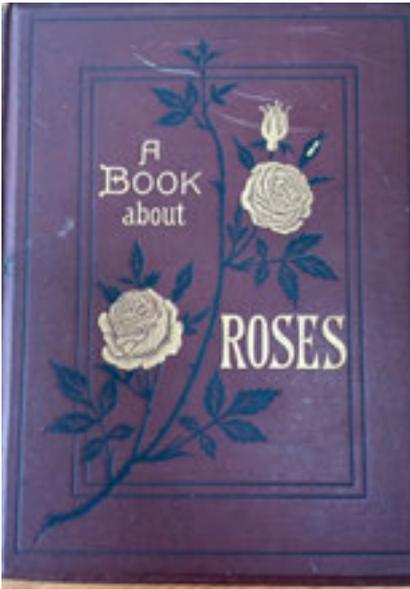
Although there was a cluster of specialist flower shows being held in respect of auriculas, carnations, chrysanthemums and dahlias, Hole was astonished that none were being held to honour the majesty of the rose. He wrote a letter to suggest that a Grand National Rose Show be held, which was published in the April 1857 edition of *The Florist* magazine. Referring later to this enterprise, he wrote: "And I must confess that, when I made this proposal to the world, I rather purred internally with self-approbation. I felt confident that the world would be please." After a number of weeks, he eventually received positive responses from the highly reputed rose nurserymen of Messrs Thomas Rivers, Charles Turner and William Paul whom pointed out that such a prestigious event would require meticulous planning. It was agreed that the event would be held the following summer.



The first Grand National Rose Show was held on 1st July 1858 at St. James's Hall, London. Large posters had been distributed throughout the Capital and subscriptions had come pouring in, enabling a schedule of prizes to the value of £156. On that momentous day, Hole arrived at 5.30 am after a considerable long journey of 120 miles. He must have felt a mixture of excitement and trepidation. The prizes were 36 Silver Cups engraved with roses and public admission was set at one shilling. As soon as the doors burst open, over 2,000 members of the public besieged the hall with immense elation. They were impressed by the dazzling fragrant blooms that even defied and defeated the foul smell from the River Thames, which at that time, overwhelmed the City. The triumph of this spectacle led to the next national show being held in Hanover Square the following year and in 1860, the show moved to the Crystal Palace where a record number of 16,000 people attended.



Left: St James Hall, Right: 'Dean Hole', the rose (1904, HT)



Reynolds Hole adored literature and became a prolific writer. He formed mutual friendships with publishers and was the author of several books. By far his most successful work was *A Book About Roses* which was published in 1868. The text includes three chapters which focus entirely on exhibition roses, which to show and how to show them. The book contains cultural tips, interspersed with humorous anecdotes; becoming a best seller. It remains a classic piece of work; its guidance is still relevant today and testament to Dean Hole's enduring passion for the rose.

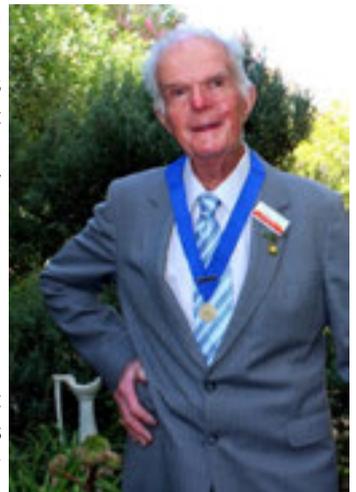
In an edition of *Gardeners' Chronicle* published in 1876, it details a conference between rose exhibitors and growers that was held at the Horticultural Club House in London on 9<sup>th</sup> December where it was proposed that a national rose society be formed. The Revd. Canon Samuel Reynolds Hole who presided, was installed as its first President. His fellow Church minister and cherished friend, the Revd. D. Honeywood D'ombrain was appointed Honorary Secretary. During his 28 years of presidency, Hole witnessed the continual popularity of the rose heighten, and the Society's Membership numbers during his term of Office rapidly increased to over 900. However, the most noted increase was in 1966, when the then Royal National Rose Society expanded to over 109,500 members.

The resounding success of this highly regarded British institution led to other countries such as The United States, Australia, South Africa and Germany forming their own national rose societies. Their committed determination paved the way to the founding of the World Federation of Rose Societies in London, during 1968. The organisation consists of 39 Member Countries and in its heyday represented 100,00 rose growers. Historically all national rose societies have been influential in actively promoting the attributes of the rose. The overseeing of various society international rose trials, has ensured that the expected high standards are met by the hybridisers who continue with their quest to breed the perfect rose.

Dean Hole was awarded the Victoria Medal of Honour from the Royal Horticultural Society in 1897 for his devoted service in promoting the sheer beauty and majesty of the rose. His health gradually began to deteriorate during 1904. He increasingly became breathless as he slowly climbed the steps of his beloved Rochester Cathedral. According to his congregation, he remained buoyant and in good spirits. The rose garden that he had created at the Deanery gave him joy and comfort during the last days of his life. He passed away peacefully in his sleep, aged 84 in the August of that year. The world had, indeed not only lost a fine Church Minister, but a morally upright character who simply adored roses. He left this planet leaving many ideological resources which remain in the very core of the rose world.



One of the abiding legacies in his honour, was the founding of the Dean Hole Medal in 1909 by the National Rose Society. This highly sought-after Award recognises rosarians who have contributed outstanding service for the benefit and advancement of the rose. This distinguished Award instantly became internationally acclaimed and highly respected. Since it was instituted, over 100 recipients have been bestowed with the Medal, which have included Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, David Austin, Baroness Lily de Gerlache de Gomery, Dick Balfour, David Ruston, and Michael Marriott.



As the new Millennium dawned, it soon became apparent the world had become a digital domain, and the public's perception of the rose had slightly shifted. Like many other specialist societies, membership numbers of the RNRS

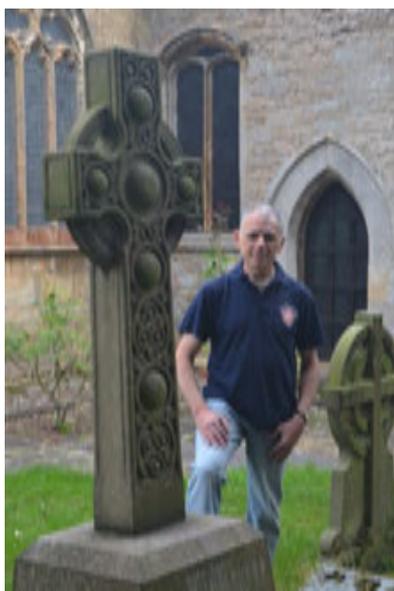
gradually diminished and this caused financial difficulties. Despite this, no one envisaged that the Society would announce its swift departure from the rose world in May 2017. However, undaunted, a band of rose enthusiasts; exhibitors and myself were summoned to a meeting held at a church hall in Pelsall in the West Midlands. As discussions ensued, it became apparent that the absolute passion and determination to create a new society with the same values, which our forefathers had nurtured long ago still burned. 140 years earlier, Reynolds Hole had presided around a similar table, to deliberate the possibility of the birth of a national rose society. A tingling sensation ran down our spines, with the feeling that the spirit of this great man had returned to prompt us to retain his foresight and great vision. With nothing but sheer gumption, The Rose Society UK was formed. There was an

Top Left: *A Book About Roses*, Lower Right: The Dean Hole Medal, Lower Right: David Ruston wearing his Dean Hole Medal

increasing interest in the new society and membership numbers began to flourish. In 2019, it was decided to revive the Dean Hole Medal to enable it to be continually recognised as a highly prestigious award for the benefit and enjoyment of 21<sup>st</sup> Century rosarians.

For many decades, the Rose Society has acknowledged Hole's profound influence to encourage amateur gardeners to exhibit their roses, with the introduction of the Dean Hole Challenge Classes. The exhibitor who is the overall victor at all of the Society's yearly shows is declared as the rightful winner of the 'Dean Hole Championship' and presented with the Dean Hole Silver Challenge Cup. In 2013, fledgling exhibitor Neil Duncan from Hampshire; was presented with the trophy, and has won it consecutively every year since then. It's a remarkable achievement, and testimony to Neil's sheer skills as a master showman.

As I continued to amble around the pathway of St. Andrew's Church tranquil graveyard, I began to reflect on what a remarkable life this fine gentleman had led. Standing by the granite cross, which bears his name and where he is laid to rest, I paused respectfully in quiet thought. When breeder William Paul named a rose in his honour, Dean Hole responded by saying, *"I did not think I should live to be described as a splendid maroon dashed with crimson, large and globular, generally superb."* Reynolds Hole's legacy lingers



Left: Author at Dean Hole's gravesite, Right: Dr Philip Hesketh at Belgium Regional Convention, Below: Neil Duncan, Dean Hole Sweepstakes winner

on amongst rosarians the world over. His boundless energy, tireless devotion and eternal spirit remains in the heart of every rose garden: enriching our lives with joy and happiness, unbeknown to anyone not yet acquainted with the infinite charms of the rose.

At the 15<sup>th</sup> WFRS International Heritage Rose Conference, held in Belgium during June, the Federation had the honour to have the presence of the current Dean of Rochester Cathedral, the Very Reverend, Dr Philip Hesketh. I had the absolute privilege to welcome this fine gentleman onto the stage. In his inspirational speech, Dr Hesketh spoke of Dean Hole's immeasurable achievements and accomplishments in the world of roses. He reflected on how Hole is still lovingly remembered and highly regarded by many thousands of rosarians around the world. With sheer enthusiasm, the Dean announced the formation of an exciting project to create a fitting permanent tribute to Dean Hole to be located at Rochester Cathedral in Kent, which will include a museum and befitting rose garden. It is hoped that immense support for the project, will ensure Dean Hole's legacy will be continued to be celebrated by future generations of rose lovers. Details of which will be published in future editions.

*(All photos by the author unless otherwise noted.)*



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## MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

### **President**

**Mrs Diane vom Berg**  
124 Avenue Road, Clarence Gardens, 5039, Australia  
(+61) 8 8297 2645  
[vombergs@bigpond.com](mailto:vombergs@bigpond.com)

### **Treasurer**

**Mr Sushil Prakash**  
Omega Colony, Anadnagar, Raisen Road, Bhodal,  
Madhya Pradesh, 462021, India  
[sushil.prakash@omegarenk.com](mailto:sushil.prakash@omegarenk.com)

### **Executive Director**

**Mr Derek Lawrence**  
76 Bennetts Court, Yate, South Gloucestershire  
BS37 4XH England  
(+44) 1 454 310 148  
[dereklawrence@talktalk.net](mailto:dereklawrence@talktalk.net)

### **Immediate Past President**

**Countess Ghislain de Briey de Gerlache**  
Avenue du Prince Héritier 181, Bruxelles, Belgium, 1200  
(+32) 2 732 9778, (+32) 496 167936  
[hdebriey@hotmail.com](mailto:hdebriey@hotmail.com)

## REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

### **AFRICA**

**Mrs Vivienne Black**  
510 Krause St., Beaulieu, South Africa, 1684  
[Vivienne@globalsourcingafrica.com](mailto:Vivienne@globalsourcingafrica.com)

### **AUSTRALASIA (2)**

**Mr Gavin Woods**  
26 Fraser Street, Kadina, South Australia, 5554  
[gbwoods@adam.com.au](mailto:gbwoods@adam.com.au)

### **Mr Doug Grant**

326c Patumahoe Road, RD3 Pukekohe 2678, New Zealand  
[douggrant99@gmail.com](mailto:douggrant99@gmail.com)

### **CENTRAL ASIA**

**Mr Vijay Kant**  
Shanti Kuteer, Yidyanagar, Hyderabad,  
Telengana State, 500044, India  
[vijaykant2512@gmail.com](mailto:vijaykant2512@gmail.com)

### **EUROPE (3)**

**Ms Angela Bokor**  
2, B.L. V1/11  
Crisan, Zalau, Salaj, 450061 Romania  
[angela1710@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:angela1710@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Mrs Inger Schierning**

Vejdammen 114, DK-2840 Holte, Denmark  
[i.schierning@gmail.com](mailto:i.schierning@gmail.com)

### **Ms Mireille Steil**

L-5367 Schuttrange, 113, rue Principale, Luxembourg  
[mireille.steil@gmail.com](mailto:mireille.steil@gmail.com)

### **FAR EAST**

**Dr Zhao Shiwei**  
Wofosi Road, Xiangshan, Haidian, Beijing 100093, China  
[2668587780@qq.com](mailto:2668587780@qq.com)

### **NORTH AMERICA (2)**

**Mr Robert Ardini**  
150 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Apt. 520  
Long Island City, New York. 11101, United States  
[robertardini@yahoo.com](mailto:robertardini@yahoo.com)

### **Mrs Diana D. Antonition**

#9 Holly Lane, Jennings Land  
Smith's Parish FL 04, Bermuda  
[diana.antonition@gmail.com](mailto:diana.antonition@gmail.com)

### **SOUTH AMERICA**

**Ms Inés Diaz Licandro**  
Edificio Bulevar, Bulevar Artigias 1285, AP. 401  
Montevideo, 11200 Uruguay  
[inesdiazial@gmail.com](mailto:inesdiazial@gmail.com)

## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

### Council

The President, Ms Diane vom Berg  
[vombergs@bigpond.com](mailto:vombergs@bigpond.com)

### Executive Committee

The President, Ms Diane vom Berg  
[vombergs@bigpond.com](mailto:vombergs@bigpond.com)

### Awards

Mr Daniel Boulens  
[danielboulens@gmail.com](mailto:danielboulens@gmail.com)

### Breeders' Club

Mr Jean-Luc Pasquier  
[pasquier@ilpasquier.ch](mailto:pasquier@ilpasquier.ch)

### Classification & Registration

Mr Markus Brunsing  
[markus.brunsing@baden-baden.de](mailto:markus.brunsing@baden-baden.de)

### Conservation & Heritage Roses

Mr Behcet Ciragan  
[bciragan@rosenfreunde.ch](mailto:bciragan@rosenfreunde.ch)

### Convention Liaison

Mr Kelvin Trimper  
[ktrimper@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ktrimper@bigpond.net.au)

### Honours

The President, Ms Diane vom Berg  
[vombergs@bigpond.com](mailto:vombergs@bigpond.com)

### International Judges

Mrs Pauline Martin  
[paulinemartin50@hotmail.com](mailto:paulinemartin50@hotmail.com)

### International Rose Trials

Ms Marga Verwer  
[marga.verwer@ziggo.nl](mailto:marga.verwer@ziggo.nl)

### Promotions

Ms Henriette de Briey  
[hdebriey@hotmail.com](mailto:hdebriey@hotmail.com)

### Publications

Ms Angelika Throll-Keller  
[a.throll@beste-natur.de](mailto:a.throll@beste-natur.de)

### Editor - World Rose News

Mr Steve Jones  
[scvrose@aol.com](mailto:scvrose@aol.com)

## MEMBER COUNTRIES

The World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS) is comprised of 40 national rose societies from all around the world. The list below also annotates their year of joining the WFRS.

Argentina (1977) - Rose Society of Argentina  
Australia (1968) - National Rose Society of Australia  
Austria (2001) - Österreichische Rosenfreunde in der Gartenbau-Gesellschaft  
Belgium (1968) - Société Royale Nationale 'Les Amis de la Rose'  
Bermuda (1981) - Bermuda Rose Society  
Canada (1968) - Canadian Rose Society  
Chile (2000) - Asociación Chilena de la Rosa  
China (1997) - Chinese Rose Society  
Czechia (1994) - Czechia Rosa Club  
Denmark (1994) - The Danish Rose Society  
Finland (1997) - Finnish Rose Society  
France (1979) - Société Française des Roses  
Germany (1968) - Gesellschaft Deutscher Rosenfreunde  
Great Britain (2018) - The Rose Society UK  
Greece (1997) - The Hellenic Rose Society  
Hungary (2008) - Hungarian Rose Friends Society  
Iceland (2007) - Icelandic Rose Society  
India (1968, 1982) - Indian Rose Federation  
Israel (1975) - The Jerusalem Foundation  
Italy (1968) - Italian Rose Society  
Japan (1968) - Japan Rose Society  
Luxembourg (1983) - Luxembourg Rose Society  
Monaco (2012) - Société des Roses de Monaco  
Netherlands (1976) - Nederlandse Rozenvereniging  
New Zealand (1968) - New Zealand Rose Society  
Northern Ireland (1982) - Rose Society of Northern Ireland  
Norway (1988) - Norwegian Rose Society  
Pakistan (1992) - Pakistan National Rose Society  
Poland (1981, 2017) - Polish Rose Society  
Romania (1992) - Asociația Amicii Rozelor din România  
Russia (2007) - Russian Association of Rosarians  
Slovakia (2023) - Rose Society Maria Henrieta Chotek  
Slovenia (2000) - Slovenian Rose Society  
South Africa (1968) - Federation of Rose Societies of South Africa  
South Korea (2018) - South Korea Rose Society  
Spain (1992) - Asociación Española de la Rosa  
Sweden (1994) - The Swedish Rose Society  
Switzerland (1976) - Gesellschaft Schweizerischer Rosenfreunde SA  
United States (1968) - American Rose Society  
Uruguay (1985) - Asociación Uruguaya de la Rosa

*Note: for website information on the above Member Countries, go to the [WFRS website](#)*

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Association de la Rosa de Coyhaique, Chile

Associazione 'La Compagnia Delle Rose', Italy

Fondazione Roseto Botanico "Carla Fineschi" di Cavriglia, Italy

Geografisk Have, Denmark

Hana no Miyako Gifu Flower Festival Commemorative Park, Japan

Heritage Rose Foundation of the United States (Starting 2024 Jan 1)

Heritage Roses Australia, Inc.

Heritage Roses New Zealand, Inc.

Historic Roses Group of Great Britain

LARN, Switzerland

Les Amis de la Roseraie du Val de Marne à L'Hay-les-Roses, France

Liga Gaart An Heem ASBL, Luxembourg

Patrimoine Pour Le Roses, Luxembourg

Piccolo Roseto Giovanni Chilanti, Italy

Polish Association of Rose Breeders

Rosenlunds Rosarium, Sweden

Roses Anciennes en France

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The Botanic Garden, Meise, Belgium

The Rose Culture Institute, Japan

Vrijbroek Park, Belgium

*Note: for website information on the above Associate Members, please go to the [WFRS website](#).*

## WFRS BREEDERS' CLUB MEMBERS

### DAVID AUSTIN ROSES

United Kingdom  
Contact: Emma Weaver  
[emma@davidaustinroses.co.uk](mailto:emma@davidaustinroses.co.uk)  
[www.davidaustinroses.com](http://www.davidaustinroses.com)

### ROSE BARNI s.s.

Italy  
Contact: Beatrice Barni  
[beatrice@rosebarni.it](mailto:beatrice@rosebarni.it)  
[www.rosebarni.it](http://www.rosebarni.it)

### BOLAR ROSES, LLC

United States  
Contact: Dr. Suni Bolar  
[sunibolar@gmail.com](mailto:sunibolar@gmail.com)

### EARL PÉPINIÈRES ET ROSEAIES PAUL CROIX

France  
Contact: Dominique Croix  
[Domijac.croix@orange.fr](mailto:Domijac.croix@orange.fr)  
[www.pepinieres-paul-croix.fr](http://www.pepinieres-paul-croix.fr)

### ROSEAIES DORIEUX

France  
Contact: Georges Dorieux  
[contact@dorieux.fr](mailto:contact@dorieux.fr)  
[www.dorieux.fr](http://www.dorieux.fr)

### ROSES ANDRE EVE

France  
Contact: Jérôme Râteau  
[J.rateau@roses-andre-eve.com](mailto:J.rateau@roses-andre-eve.com)  
[www.roses-andre-eve.com](http://www.roses-andre-eve.com)

### VIVEROS FRANCISCO FERRER

Spain  
Contact: Matilde Ferrer  
[mati@viverosfranciscoferrer.com](mailto:mati@viverosfranciscoferrer.com)  
[www.viverosfranciscoferrer.com](http://www.viverosfranciscoferrer.com)

### ROSEAIIE GUILLOT

France  
Contact: Jean-Pierre Guillot  
[jpguillot.roses@gmail.com](mailto:jpguillot.roses@gmail.com)  
[www.roses-guillot.com](http://www.roses-guillot.com)

### IUROAEA ROSE RESEARCH SRL

Romania  
Contact: Cătălin G. Iuroaea  
[la\\_rose\\_2021@yahoo.com](mailto:la_rose_2021@yahoo.com)

### KEISEI ROSE NURSERIES, Inc

Japan  
Contact: Ms Chiaki Tazama  
[tazama@keiseirose.co.jp](mailto:tazama@keiseirose.co.jp)  
[www.keiseirose.co.jp](http://www.keiseirose.co.jp)

### W. KORDES' SÖHNE

Germany  
Contact: Thomas Proll  
[proll@kordes-rosen.com](mailto:proll@kordes-rosen.com)  
[www.rosen.de](http://www.rosen.de)

### ROSEAIIE LAPERRIERE

France  
Contact: Philippe & Richard  
Laperriere  
[rose.laperriere@wanadoo.fr](mailto:rose.laperriere@wanadoo.fr)  
[www.rose-laperriere.com](http://www.rose-laperriere.com)

### LENS ROSES

Belgium  
Contact: Rudy Velle  
[info@lens-roses.com](mailto:info@lens-roses.com)  
[www.lens-roses.com](http://www.lens-roses.com)

### MEILLAND INTERNATIONAL S.A.

France  
Contact: Matthias Meilland  
[meilland.matthias@meilland.com](mailto:meilland.matthias@meilland.com)  
[www.meilland.com](http://www.meilland.com)

### NIRP INTERNATIONAL S.A. (Les Roses du Succès)

France  
Contact: Mrs Deborah Ghione  
[info@nirpinternational.com](mailto:info@nirpinternational.com)  
[www.nirpinternational.com](http://www.nirpinternational.com)

### ROSEAIIES ORARD

France  
Contact: Pierre Orard  
[rosesorard@gmail.com](mailto:rosesorard@gmail.com)  
[www.roses-orard.com](http://www.roses-orard.com)

### ROSE INNOVATIONS

United States  
Contact: Will Radler  
[radlerwj@gmail.com](mailto:radlerwj@gmail.com)

### ROSES FOREVER ApS

Denmark  
Contact: Rosa Eskelund  
[re@roses-forever.com](mailto:re@roses-forever.com)  
[www.roses-forever.com](http://www.roses-forever.com)

### ROSEAIIE REUTER

France  
Contact: Franck or Regis Reuter  
[franck@reuter.fr](mailto:franck@reuter.fr)  
[www.reuter.fr](http://www.reuter.fr)

### MY ROSES ROJEWSKI

Poland  
Contact: Lukasz Rojewski  
[Rojewski.biblio@gmail.com](mailto:Rojewski.biblio@gmail.com)

### ROZA SOBRESZEK

Poland  
Contact: Mateusz Sobreszek  
[sobieszekm@vp.pl](mailto:sobieszekm@vp.pl)  
[www.roza-sobieszek.pl](http://www.roza-sobieszek.pl)

### ALAIN TSCHANZ S.A.

Switzerland  
Contact: Alain Tschanz  
[info@rosiers.ch](mailto:info@rosiers.ch)  
[www.rosiers.ch](http://www.rosiers.ch)

### VIVA INTERNATIONAL

Belgium  
Contact: Martin Vissers  
[viva.int@skynet.be](mailto:viva.int@skynet.be)

### DAVID ZLESAK

United States  
Contact: David Zlesak  
[zlesak@rocketmail.com](mailto:zlesak@rocketmail.com)

## WFRS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 2 - 6 July 2024 WFRS Regional Convention & 16th Heritage Rose Conference - Kalmar, Sweden, Email: [srs@svenskarosensallskapet.se](mailto:srs@svenskarosensallskapet.se), website: [nordicroses2024.com](http://nordicroses2024.com)
- 18 - 24 May 2025 WFRS 20<sup>th</sup> World Rose Convention - Fukuyama City, Japan, Email: [info@wrc2025fukuyama.jp](mailto:info@wrc2025fukuyama.jp), website: [en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp](http://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp)

## WFRS MEMBER COUNTRY EVENTS

- 9 - 13 Sept 2024 2024 American Rose Society National Convention. Warwick, Rhode Island, USA, Website: [www.seaofroses.org](http://www.seaofroses.org)

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Since its introduction in 2010, over 100 individuals from around the globe have donated funds toward the work of the World Federation of Rose Societies. These donors have received invitations to exclusive "Friends Only" functions at WFRS events.

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