

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

The 20th World Rose Convention is just around the corner! I hope you are planning not only to attend just the Convention but to see one of the most amazing countries in the world, especially in the Pre and Post Tours.

There is still time to register for the Convention. Some of the Tours have been extended while a few are full.

We also offer several Vice President Reports in this issue.

My photograph for this issue is 'Thalia', an 1895 Hybrid Multiflora Rambler by Schmitt. It is one of my favorite Rambler roses in the world.

Enjoy!

Steve Jones, Fiddletown, CA, United States



'Thalia' (HMulti, Schmitt, 1895)

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

DISCLAIMERS

The opinions printed in the *World Rose News* are not necessarily those of the World Federation of Rose Societies or the Editor.

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

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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:

bit.ly/BAON30

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



2022-2025

March 2025



Photo: Diane vom Berg

Diane vom Berg

A long hot dry summer was experienced in Adelaide with very little rain. We are hoping Autumn will bring a good rainfall which would be a much-needed relief for our gardens and for the many on the land experiencing drought conditions.

I am pleased to report the WFRS has recently awarded grants from the Piaget Fund to the following projects:

American Rose Society "Save the Ramblers" Project

Fineschi Collection – Italy

Mark Rosarium Development Project – Hungary

We look forward to receiving reports of how the projects have benefited from our support.

Our global sponsorship agreement with FELCO greatly assists the WFRS. The company is a worldwide leader in the production of high precision professional secateurs and pruning tools.

I travelled to Bhopal, India in early January and met with Sushil and Dipa Prakash and other members of the Madhya Pradesh Rose Society, the hosts of the 21st World Rose Convention (from the 7th to the 13th January 2028), along with the Indian Rose Federation. Attending the 44th MD Rose Show and judging of the Royal Family of Roses was a highlight. During my visit I viewed the planned Gardens, accommodation options, the Convention Centre and two UNESCO World Heritage Sites for the Convention.

As the World Rose Convention in Fukuyama nears, I am reminded there will be a number of officers retiring from positions held within the World Federation of Rose Societies, and how fortunate are we to have supportive members that have dedicated years of service to the Federation.

It is not too late to register and I encourage you to consider attending the upcoming World Rose Convention in Fukuyama, Japan, May 2025. Follow the links on the World Federation Website to view the latest updates to both programs and options for the pre and post tours. They will both be a truly global experience.

I am looking forward to attending the WRC in Fukuyama, bringing rosarians together to share the joy, peace and friendship the rose imparts.

(All photos courtesy of the author.)



Left: Judging the MD Rose Show, Middle: Royal Family of the Show, MD Rose Show, Right: At Ooty

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Derek Lawrence

March 2025

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FAREWELL MESSAGE

Over the years, I've become to fully appreciate the therapeutic benefits of growing roses. Our ever-changing world has become a constant myriad of digital information or mere invented fabrication, that bombards us on a daily basis. What better escapism than to step into a garden, where our intrinsic link to the natural world is immediately felt? We humans have an immense affinity with nature. Just by watching wildlife go about its business or appreciating the beauty of roses or companion planting, awaken the senses and lifts our spirits immeasurably. The physical act of rose gardening doesn't necessarily have to be strenuous; bending, stretching, reaching and kneeling down will help strengthen muscles, burn calories and generally keep us fit.

Mentally, being in the garden helps to reduce cortisol levels (stress hormones) and releases endorphins (happy hormones). Submerging our hands into the soil brings us into contact with mycobacterium vaccae, which has been shown to reduce stress much in the same way as anti-depressant medication. Being in the fresh air whilst doing something practical and creative, distracts us from the stresses of everyday life. My quality time spent attending my beloved roses makes me feel calm and totally refreshed.

The infinite charms and fragrance of the *Queen of Flowers* will heighten our endorphins to immeasurable delight. We humans are bewitched by perfume. Although we know that fragrance is not just provided for our personal benefit, we somehow feel some way gifted by its sheer presence; and thank nature of it. This is something that I will savour throughout my retirement years.

My tenure as the serving Executive Director of the World Federation of Rose Societies is due to end at the Closing Ceremony being held in Fukuyama, Japan on 24th May after 10 incredible years in Office. It has been an absolute privilege to have served you. I have collected many cherished memories of flying around the globe; visited sumptuous rose gardens, which contained some delectable varieties and have enjoyed a multitude of inspirational lectures. Above all, it's Members and Friends who perpetually create the inspiration and vision, that makes our wonderful organisation such an endearing institution to belong.



**Derek's Retirement Sculpture, Commissioned by
Neil Lossock, Herefordshire, England**

ROSE NEWS

From the Executive Director:

The WFRS is pleased to announce that the 17th International Heritage Rose Conference will be held in the China provinces of Nanyang and Shanghai respectively, between 25th and 29th April, 2026.

Dr. Shiwei Zhao will deliver a full presentation of what this inspirational Conference will bring to worldwide rosarians, at the 20th World Rose Convention being held in Fukuyama in May.

Big News:

For those who have not gotten their airfare, Japan and All Nippon Airlines are offering free domestic airfare when you are flying internationally to Tokyo, Japan. But you must book all air travel at the same time to qualify.

We are traveling to the Pre-tour in Osaka and our flight from Tokyo to Osaka was free.

Tours Still Open

Five of the six pre and post tours still have room for a limited number of attendees. Only post tour #3 is full. The deadline is April 10.

EDITOR OF 'WORLD ROSE NEWS'

The position of Editor of 'World Rose News' will become available at the end May 2025.

The Federation wishes to seek an enthusiastic candidate for this worthwhile role. Candidates must have a good command of the English language. Have accomplished typing and layout skills. Previous experience with creating and publishing similar horticultural type journals, would be advantageous.

The applicant should have exceptional communication skills, and demonstrate a positive and well organised work ethic.

A genuine passion for roses and an understanding of the aims and objectives of the World Federation of Rose Societies would be preferable.

The successful candidate should be willing to travel to various countries, where the Publications Committee conduct their official meetings, during World Rose Conventions.

Candidates are invited to send a CV giving experience and any other supporting material by 30th April, 2025.

Please email: Angelika Throll-Keller, Chair of WFRS Publications Committee:

Email: a.throll@beste-natur.de

With a copy to: Derek Lawrence, Executive Director of WFRS:

Email: dereklawrence@talktalk.net

Here are some of the Grand Prize winners for the 2024 Rose Trials:



Adelaide Rose Trials Gold Medal Winner & Marion de Boehme Award for the Best Rose of the Trial, KORirrlaus, by Kordes



Golden Rose of City Hradec Králové, 'Anggun' (MElbokir) by House of Meilland



Barcelona, Spain Top Scoring Rose, 'Ruby Kiss' by Kordes



New Zealand, Palmerston North, Gold Star of the South Pacific, 'Phoenix' (Korrosobi) by Kordes

GROWING YOUR NATIONAL SOCIETY

Growing Your National Rose Society

by Robert Ardini, WFRS VP for North America

For decades, organizations have utilized the concept of a 'trial membership.' It has become a proven staple to attract new members.

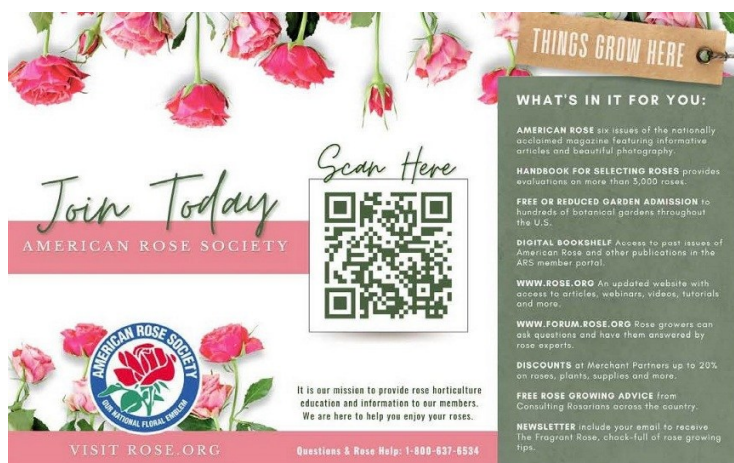
What has changed over the years, which now makes the trial membership an even better tool to increase membership, is the widespread acceptance of DIGITAL publications. This means national rose societies wishing to offer trial memberships no longer have to pay postage and printing costs to 'service' trial memberships. In other words, with few exceptions if any, trial memberships can be offered at no cost to the organization.

The notion of a trial membership is NOT one-size-fits-all. Your national rose society will have a few decisions to make to customize a trial membership that works best for them - namely the duration and the cost.

The Duration. Will your trial membership be for 6 months, one year, or some other length of time. I recommend a year because that allows the trial member to experience a full 12-month cycle in your organization.

When deciding the duration you will need to take your current (paid) dues calendar into account. For example, if your dues are on a January through December year, and you obtain a trial member on October 1, will their trial be for three months, 15 months, or some other frame of time; or, if your dues are on some other schedule, say June 1st to May 31st, you will need to take that into consideration.

The Cost. To make the trial membership as enticing as possible, in my opinion, no cost, as in free, usually works best and is what I recommend. However, a school of thought exists called the 'price-quality' relationship which dictates that in order for something to be perceived as valuable, some cost must be attached to it.

The graphic is a promotional advertisement for the American Rose Society. It features a collage of pink roses at the top and bottom. On the left, there's a 'Join Today' button with the American Rose Society logo below it. In the center, a 'Scan Here' QR code is displayed. To the right of the QR code, a list titled 'WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU:' details benefits: six issues of American Rose magazine, a handbook for selecting roses, free or reduced garden admission, access to a digital bookshelf, a website with articles and videos, a forum for questions, discounts at merchant partners, free growing advice, and a newsletter. At the bottom left, it says 'VISIT ROSE.ORG' and at the bottom right, 'Questions & Rose Help: 1-800-637-6594'.

Join Today
AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY

Scan Here

THINGS GROW HERE

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU:

- AMERICAN ROSE six issues of the nationally acclaimed magazine featuring informative articles and beautiful photography.
- HANDBOOK FOR SELECTING ROSES provides evaluations on more than 5,000 roses.
- FREE OR REDUCED GARDEN ADMISSION to hundreds of botanical gardens throughout the U.S.
- DIGITAL BOOKSHELF Access to past issues of American Rose and other publications in the ARS member portal.
- WWW.ROSE.ORG An updated website with access to articles, webinars, videos, tutorials and more.
- WWW.FORUM.ROSE.ORG Rose growers can ask questions and have them answered by rose experts.
- DISCOUNTS at Merchant Partners up to 20% on roses, plants, supplies and more.
- FREE ROSE GROWING ADVICE from Consulting Rosarians across the country.
- NEWSLETTER Include your email to receive The Fragrant Rose, chock-full of rose growing tips.

It is our mission to provide rose horticulture education and information to our members. We are here to help you enjoy your roses.

VISIT ROSE.ORG

Questions & Rose Help: 1-800-637-6594

American Rose Society Trial Membership Advertisement

Many of our larger member countries have local rose societies affiliated with their national counterparts. Offering these local societies the ability to 'give away' free trial memberships in the national, creates great synergy - in the form of an incentive. The local societies benefit by having something to attract new members of their own; and, in the process, are serving as an 'army of workers' to obtain new trial members for the national.

Lastly, be sure to establish a mechanism in your national rose society for your trial members to be contacted upon expiration of their trial. An e-mail alerting them to the date of the expiration of their trial, a reminder of all the benefits of membership, a method to pay their dues, and a sincere appeal for them to remain part of the 'fold,' should suffice. If

they initially don't respond, please consider continuing to reach out - as multiple attempts may be necessary.

A trial membership program is a proven way to help grow your national rose society, and is worthy of consideration as part of an overall marketing and promotion plan.

If you find this type of article useful, please drop me a note (robertardini@yahoo.com) as, in future issues, I'd be happy to address such topics as where to look for prospective members, how to engage new members, fundraising, etc. Thank you.

WFRS VICE PRESIDENT REPORTS

By Mireille Steil, Vice President, Central Europe



I'm glad when the rose season starts in winter.

I found the evaluation of the Grand Prix de la Rose in Paris, France very interesting, as I was invited to do the evaluation by the Société Nationale d'Horticulture de France (SNHF) Rose Section. The big awards ceremony took place on May 30th in Paris in the presence of Jean-Pierre Gueneau, president of the SNHF, Janic Gourlet, president of the Rose Section, and, of course, the shining winners. Among the honours, the Grand Prix across all categories was awarded to 'Abbaye de Beaulieu.' (Evealexedit), a bush rose with large flowers, presented by Roses André Ève and Jérôme Rateau.

In May, I was also invited to participate in the rose novelties at the biennial international rose trials held in the stunning Princess Grace Rose Garden in Monaco. For the first time, the roses competing in the seventh international rose competition were grown near the Principality "to avoid transportation." This task was entrusted to the gardeners of the Urban Development Directorate (DAU) at the Saint-Laurent-d'Eze nursery and was executed "using a 100% organic process." Additionally, the celebrations

for the 40th anniversary of the Princess Grace Rose Garden commenced this morning, attended by the Prince and his sister, the Princess of Hanover.



Left: SNHF, from left, Jérôme Râteau, Mireille Steil, Pascale Pinel, far right Janic Gourlet Right: Rose trials in Monaco

Below: From left, Georges Restellini, Prince Albert de Monaco, Caroline de Hanover

Barcelona, Spain, unfortunately saw the cancellation of the 2024 rose competition due to a lack of water and uncertainty regarding future availability. The Municipal Institute of Parks and Gardens suspended several activities planned for the 2024 International New Rose Competition. However, the permanent jury was still tasked with awarding prizes for the best rose specimens of the year. Despite the absence of the competition, I still had the opportunity to observe the roses. Marga Verwer, the chairwoman of the trials, also visited Lluís Abbad, the garden supervisor. I hope that the trials will resume normally in 2025



One week later, on May 15th, I traveled to Madrid, Spain, for the 68th edition of the "Concurso Rosas Nuevas Internacional," where international judges were invited. We were able to examine the roses in beautiful weather; they looked magnificent. Every time I am in Madrid, I can see for myself that the rose garden, which received an award in 2006, is wonderfully well looked after and still deserves this honor.

Madrid is home to several other rose gardens as well. The Rosaleda de El Retiro is quite small and located in Retiro Park and is at its most splendid in May and June when the roses are in bloom. The rose garden at Parque del Oeste in Madrid is a unique spot that many visitors to the city do not want to miss. The Rosaleda Garden boasts more than 500 varieties of roses from around the world and serves as an ideal place to stroll. Designed by Cecilio Rodríguez, the



Left: From left, Juan Cardona, Mireille Steil, Lluís Abad, Right: International Jury, Faenza, Italy

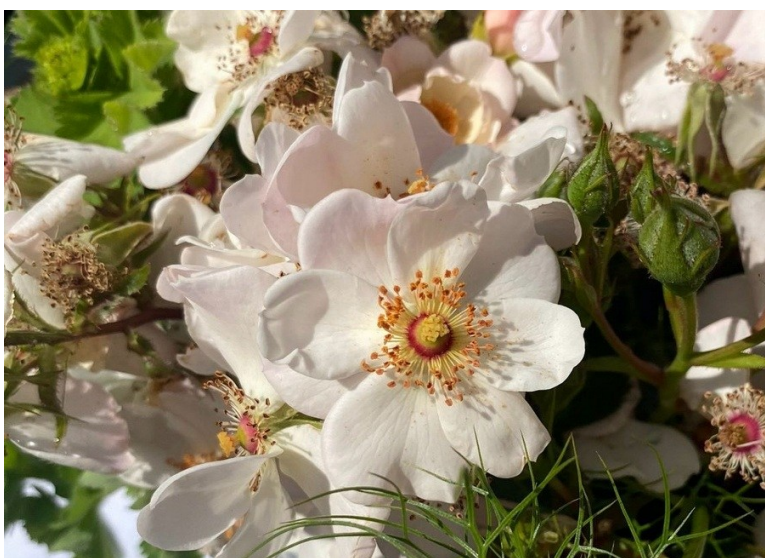
city's chief gardener, in 1915, the initiative to create the Rosaleda was spearheaded by the mayor of Madrid at the time, Carlos Prats, who aimed to add elegance to this part of the park. It is said that prior to the Rosaleda—initially called "Rosería"—there stood a statue of the Marqués of Salamanca in this location, which today adorns the square of the same name. There was reportedly even a pond, which would freeze in winter and be used by the people of Madrid for ice skating. Unfortunately, the Rosaleda is little known, which is a shame because it is truly enchanting (info: Turismo Madrid)

On the 25th of May, the new rose competition took place in Faenza, Bologna, Italy. Under a beautiful Italian Sun we all were impressed by the beauty of the roses and the rose garden. Since last year's festival was cancelled due to heavy rain, we were delighted by the roses that had grown so lushly again. Maria Eva guided and supervised us perfectly in this rose competition.

On the way to Faenza, I took the time to make a detour to the rose garden "Roseto Niso Fumagalli" in Monza. This rose garden has also received a garden award (2003), and I was able to see for myself how well it is cared for. I really liked it, just as I did a few years ago. Thank you to everyone who looks after this garden.

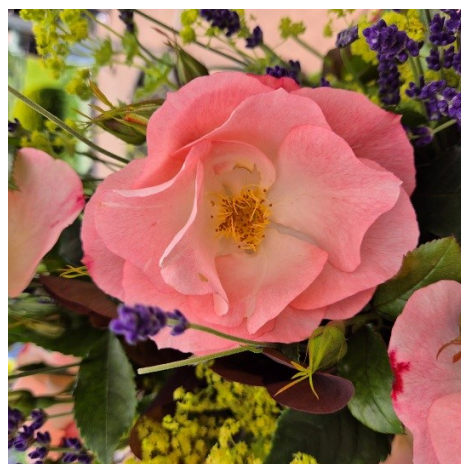


Left: From left, L. to R.
Maryse Weirig-
Hensel, President LRF
– Prince Guillaume de
Luxembourg – Matil-
de Ferrer, breeder,
Princesse Stéphanie
de Luxembourg –
little prince François.
Right: 'Prince François
de Luxembourg'



On the 3rd of June, I had the great pleasure of celebrating with the Luxembourg Rose Association, "Lëtzebuerger Rousefrënn," and the Spanish breeder Matilde Ferrer at the baptism of a rose named 'Prince François de Luxembourg'. The rose baptism took place in the rose garden at Château de Munsbach, Luxembourg, in the presence of the Hereditary Grand Ducal couple, Prince Guillaume and Princess Stéphanie, and their son, Prince François of Luxembourg. The Rose Society regularly names roses for special occasions for the Grand Ducal family. These are then planted in the entire collection of Luxembourg roses in the Rose Garden, which won an award in Australia in 2022.

At the invitation of Heiko Hübscher, the director and head gardener of the Zweibrücken Rose Garden in Germany, I participated in a festive rose christening celebrating the garden's 110th anniversary. For this special occasion, a new rose variety was christened to



Left: Zweibrücken Rose Friends, from left, Markus Brunsing, Thomas Proll, Hanne Stauch, Heiko Hübscher, Right: "Zauberhaft"

appropriately honor the anniversary. Since Ms. Hanne Stauch was stepping down as the chair of the Zweibrücken Rose Friends and to honor her for her services, she was the perfect godmother for the new Kordes rose. Together with Markus Brunsing, the chairman of the classification and registration of the WFRS, they christened the rose "Zauberhaft". This event combined appreciation for the garden's tradition with the introduction of a new, enchanting rose variety, and I was grateful to be part of this special celebration.

In the same week, the "Rose Trial" in **Lyon, France**, took place on the 7th of June. The roses were in great shape, and the competition was perfectly represented by Daniel Boulens, President of the French Rose Society, in beautiful weather once again.

On June 3rd, an extraordinary celebration took place near **Neuchâtel, Switzerland**. At our sponsor, the world-famous rose shears company **FELCO**, a rose was christened with the name 'FELCO'. This rose comes from Belgian rose breeder Martin Vissers, who created it in the Swiss colors of red and white for this special occasion. It is an open-flowered rose with a natural habit that is very insect-friendly.



The 'FELCO' rose is the result of a fruitful partnership between the Neuchâtel-based company and the World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS). Since 2022, FELCO has been the main sponsor and technical partner of the WFRS, making the christening of this unique rose a rewarding milestone

for the standard-bearer of garden accessories. The WFRS promotes knowledge and passion for roses in more than 40 countries, making this collaboration particularly meaningful.



Above: Christening the 'FELCO' rose (left), from left: Alain Ribaux, State Councillor of the Canton of Neuchâtel; Martin Vissers, Breeder; Diane vom Berg, President WFRS; Nabil Francis, CEO FELCO

The official ceremony included WFRS President Diane vom Berg, Treasurer Sushil Prakash, Past-President Henriette de Briey, Breeders Club Chairman Jean-Luc Pascquier, myself as Vice President for Europe, and State Councilor Alain Ribaux of Neuchâtel. Christelle Francis-Flisch, the granddaughter of FELCO founder Félix Flisch, was honored with the title of godmother of the new rose.

FELCO: WORLD LEADER IN PRUNING TOOLS

FELCO's history traces back to Geneveys-sur-Coffrane, in the canton of Neuchâtel. The company was established in 1945 by a visionary young engineer, Félix Flisch. Driven by his ambitious vision, he aimed to manufacture extraordinary pruning shears. Within a few years, the company gained a significant presence in the global horticultural market. Today, FELCO employs 200 people and remains family managed. Each year, it produces over a million hand tools and 200,000 industrial tools, with 90% of its production exported to around 100 countries worldwide. FELCO is also committed to sustainability, prioritizing production powered by



Left: Judging at Baden-Baden Rose Trials, Right: Markus Brunsing, Robert Ardini, WFRS VP North America & President of the Day, Steffen Noack, the winner of the Golden Rosen, Dietmar Späth, Lord Mayor City of Baden-Baden

*renewable energy and utilizing recycled materials. * Small explanation from the website FELCO.*

The next day, we gathered in Nyon, Switzerland, for the novelty rose competition, presented by Jean-Luc Pascquier and Hester MacDonald. The roses distinguished in Nyon can be labeled as "Nyon zero treatment" in catalogues and are recognized for their resistance to diseases and pests.

On May 18th, in Baden-Baden, Germany, the 72nd rose competition took place, highly anticipated by rose enthusiasts. This event was led, as always, by the cheerful and thoughtful Markus Brunsing. The evening before the competition, everyone enjoyed a relaxed atmosphere at a champagne reception. The following day, we judged the roses under warm yet wonderful weather, presented in perfect condition thanks to the exceptional work of the rose gardeners. I was also delighted to reconnect with my VP colleague from North America, Robert Ardini, who had the honor of being the President of the competition. This year, the "Golden Rose" was awarded to German breeder Reinhard Noack for the rose "Darling."

The following day, as usual, the traditional trial took place in Saverne, France. President Ralf Schmit and his team worked hard to provide us with an exceptional event. Like the other trials, this competition has a familiar atmosphere, and we all enjoy being in Saverne. Once again, Robert Ardini served as the President of the Day.

On June 20th, we gathered at Paris Bagatelle, France, under wonderful weather conditions to evaluate the roses. This annual rose competition is presented by the charming Jean-Pierre Lelièvre. The Rose Garden was in top condition, and it was delightful to reconnect with my French rose friends. I was particularly excited to see Madame Thérèse Loubert again. This remarkable lady



Left: Bagatelle Rose Trials, from left, Régis Crisnaire, President Permanent Jury, Martin Vissers, Breeder, Diane vom Berg, President WFRS and President of the Day, Jean-Pierre Lelièvre, Coordinator Bagatelle, Right: Exchange of the WFRS flag from Sweden to the United States



Steinfurth: from left, Béatrice Halter, Markus Brunsing, Mireille Steil

world of roses during Nordic Roses 2024. This event invited rose lovers from around the globe to participate in an unforgettable tour featuring a varied program and unique experiences.

I was also delighted to meet the young Ji Naizhe, the first recipient of the WFRS Friends of the Federation scholarship. Our exchange of experiences was enriching for everyone involved.

The congress concluded with a concert by Swedish singer Sophie Zelmani, who named a beautiful climbing rose from the Kordes company "Zelmani's Dream."

Finally, the Swedish Rose Society handed over the WFRS flag to Robert Ardini, VP for North America, signaling that the next Regional Rose Convention will take place in California in 2027.

From July 19th to 21st, 2024, the 48th Rose Festival took place in Steinfurth, Germany, near Bad Nauheim. One of the highlights of this biennial event was the awarding of the Rose Ring for outstanding contributions to the rose community. In 2024, Markus Brunsing, head of the Garden Department of the City of Baden-Baden, received the prestigious "Rose Diplomat" award. Laudator Folko Kullmann highlighted Brunsing's role as a national and international networker within the rose community, where he has been inspiring breeders, producers, representatives of national and international rose societies, park managers, municipal administrators, and hobby gardeners for over 20 years, all with great enthusiasm and diplomatic skill. During the award ceremony, a diverse group of guests attended, including Henriette de Briey, Past President, myself as the current Vice President of the World Rose Society, and representatives from German, Dutch, Belgian, Luxembourg, and Swiss rose societies, as well as numerous European rose Breeders.

Warsaw, Poland, last August, the charming Polish city of Warsaw hosted the fifth edition of a competition at the Botanical Garden of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Coordinated by Kamila Rakowska-Szlazkiewicz and her dedicated team, the event was well-organized and received positive feedback from participants and spectators alike. It was a successful occasion that highlighted talent and teamwork in a beautiful natural setting!

Le Roeulx, Belgium, in September, the rose competition for the second bloom was highly anticipated by many. This warm and charming rose trial not only celebrates the roses but also features popular local beers. Each year, the variety of rose types and the fascinating color nuances generate excitement among visitors.

One week later, we gathered for the last rose competition of the year in Orléans, France. The atmosphere was buzzing with excitement as rose enthusiasts came together to admire the stunning displays. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the beauty of roses and connect with fellow gardeners from the region.

As part of my recent activities, I had the opportunity to deliver two significant lectures: one in Kassel, Germany, and the other in Pordenone, Italy.

The lecture in Kassel, Germany was organized by Andreas Meier-Dinkel and his rose enthusiasts in Kassel. I was very pleased to see two distinguished ladies, Hella and Eilike, present at the event. Both possess an enormous knowledge of roses and have authored several books on the subject. I was also glad to reconnect with Markus Brunsing, who always brings a cheerful spirit to these gatherings. During my presentation, I showcased the Luxembourg roses and shared the stories of their breeders. I explained the role of the Rose Conservatory in Luxembourg, which is an important institution for the preservation of Luxembourg rose varieties. Additionally, I had the chance to visit the impressive Wilhelmshöhe rose collection, which was awarded a Garden Award in 2015.

possesses extensive knowledge of roses, and I am truly pleased that she continues to attend every year, even at the age of 90. It was a perfect day.

A week later, I participated in the Rose Trial in Courtrai, Belgium. Despite the cloudy and wet sky, the trial was well organized and hosted by a friendly team. Our President, Diane vom Berg, served as the president of the day.

The Den Haag, Neederland, Rose Competition coincided exactly with the Regional Rose Congress.

I had the pleasure of attending the Nordic Roses 2024 Convention & Heritage Roses Conference in Kalmar, Sweden, an event that has already garnered widespread recognition. I would like to extend my gratitude to everyone who contributed to making this experience truly remarkable for all participants.

Additionally, I would like to highlight that from July 2 to 6, 2024, the charming city of Kalmar was the focus of the fascinating



Kassel: from left, Markus Brunsing, Stefan Kalok, Hella Brumme, Eilike Wemmer, Mireille Steil, Stefan Meyer-Dinkel

The lecture in Pordenone, Italy, which I delivered at the invitation of Breda Copy, followed a similar format but focused more on international collaboration within the WFRS. The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, indicating that the passion for roses transcends borders. In both events, the World Rose Federation (WFRS) took center stage, enriched by my insights into the extraordinary Luxembourg roses and the local rose conservatory.

Overall, it was a pleasure for me to participate in these events and share the fascination for roses with others. These experiences reinforce my commitment to continue working towards the preservation and promotion of rose culture.

In conclusion, I am particularly looking forward to the upcoming World Rose Congress in Fukuyama, Japan, which will take place in May 2025. This event will provide an excellent opportunity to gain further insights into the global rose movement and deepen exchanges with rose enthusiasts from around the world.

I look forward to seeing you all in Japan!

(All photos courtesy of author.)



Left: Judging Bologna Rose Trials in Faenza, Italy, Right: Getting judging instructions at Parc Tete d'Or in Lyon, France

WFRS VICE PRESIDENT REPORTS

By Vijay Kant, VP Far East

The blooming season of roses in India begins in April-May, gracing the hills with vibrant flowers. The Government Rose Garden in Ooty, recognized as a *Garden of Excellence* by the World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS), was at its peak in May 2024, hosting the 19th Annual Rose Show. A key highlight of this event was the intricate mini structures of animals crafted using roses.

Following this, Monsoon Rose Shows were organized by the Pune Rose Society in Pune and the MP Rose Society in Bhopal. These displays were succeeded by Winter Rose Shows held by various Rose Societies across the country, showcasing the enduring charm of roses through different seasons.



Jamshedpur Rose Society Rose Show: Left, from left: Dr Narendra Dadlani, Sunita Nupur, Sanjay Mukherjee, Sanyogita Dhanwatey, Chanakya Chaudhary, Ruchi Narendra, and Anuradha. Right: Roses in pots

The Horticulture Society of Jamshedpur took a leading role by organizing the grand All India Rose Show and Convention at Jamshedpur from December 29 to 31, 2024. The event showcased 3,000 cut roses on the competition bench, leaving the judges thoroughly impressed, along with 400 pots of roses for display and 84 pots in competition. The show was inaugurated by Mr. Chanakya Chaudhary, Head of Tata, with key dignitaries including Sunita Nupur (President, HSJ), Ruchi Narendra (Chairperson), and Sanyogita Dhanwatey (President, IRF). A significant highlight was the unveiling of a white rose variety bred by Sanjay Mukherjee in honour of the late Ratan Tata, former head of Tata Group of Companies.



Left: 'Ratan Tata' - the rose, Right: Judging the show, from left: Tanuja Benke, Rucha Kulkarni, Dr. Pranati Tilak, Neelesh Apte, Ganesh Shirke

Simultaneously, the Rose Society of Bengal held its Grand Show in Kolkata in collaboration with Lions International, Kolkata. This event captivated the general public with its stunning displays, leaving attendees mesmerized by the beauty of the roses and the grandeur of the show.

The winter rose show organized by the Rose Society of Pune on January 18th and 19th, 2025, marked their 110th Rose Show and was a resounding success. The event was inaugurated on January 18th by Mr. Ashish Naik, Owner of Naik Krushi Udyog & Co.,



Bengal Rose Society Rose Show—Roses in Pots

Pune, in the esteemed presence of Dr. Deepak Tilak, Chancellor of Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth and Editor of *Kesari*. The exhibition drew widespread admiration for its quality and grandeur, with 1,500 flowers representing nearly 75 varieties on display. The competition included 76 classes with around 30 participants, 22 of whom earned prizes—many of them new faces among the winners.



Left: Ashish Moore with his trophies, Right: Roses at Pune

A key highlight was the honour bestowed upon Mrs. Rucha Kulkarni, Hon. Joint Secretary, who received the “Laxmibai Anant Naik Silver Medal” from Dr. Tilak for her exemplary contributions to the society. The event also witnessed the release of new hybrid rose varieties, including *Dr. Madhav Pendse* by Mr. Neelesh Apte and *Late Shri. Vinayak Nimhan* and *Shri. Anil Kumar* by Mr. Pundalik Nimhan. Furthermore, the magazine *Gulabmitra* was published during this occasion.

The prize distribution ceremony on January 19th was presided over by Dr. Rohit Tilak and Dr. Pranati Tilak. Notable accolades included the maximum prizes won by Mr. Neelesh Apte, with his Vijayashree Gulab earning him the Mahabank Trophy. Titles of King, Queen, and Prince of the Show were awarded to Mr. Ashish More, while the Princess of the Show was bagged by Jayantrao Tilak Gulab Udyan. This remarkable show solidified its place as a standout event in Pune's floral calendar.

The annual Rose Show was held on January 11th and 12th, 2025, at Iqbal Bhawan, showcasing a variety of competitions such as cut flowers, pot roses, flower arrangements, and Rangoli. The event commenced on January 11th with an inauguration by Shri Ashok Kapoor, Managing Director of Narmada Gelatine Ltd., during which the *Rose Souvenir 2025* was launched in the presence of esteemed senior Rosarians and the chief editor. The show opened to the public later in the day, attracting over 500 entries across all categories.

The prize distribution ceremony on January 12th featured Dr. J.K. Wadhwa, a senior Rosarian and Chairman of Frontier Group, as

the chief guest. He was warmly welcomed and congratulated by Shri Hitesh Shah, Chief Rose Show Organizer, and Shri Savind Singh Rajput, Vice President. The event also included the ceremonial lighting of a lamp by Dr. Pratibha Bhatnagar (President) alongside other notable dignitaries such as Shri R.S. Agarwal, Shri Anil Abraham, Shri D.C. Jain, and Shri Sudhir Sahani, Secretary, making it a truly grand affair.

- The Life Time Achievement award by Gyan Ganga Group of Institutions was awarded to Smt. Kamini Abraham for her societal contributions.
- The Mutheye Udyog Award was given to Shri Sanjay Tripathi, a former President.

The Pishori Lal Sahni award was awarded to Co, 2 TT R Indian Army.



Inauguration of Rose Show at Jabalpur

Additionally, the 37th Annual Rose Show 2025, organized by the Vidarbha Rose Society in memory of Rana Hanuman Singh, was held on Sunday, 19th January 2025, at Maharana Pratap Hall in Smruti Mandir, Shankar Nagar, Nagpur. The event saw the presence of Shri Prashant Kukde, Dr. Vilas Atkare, and Shri Ramesh Thakur.

The Grand Rose Show organized by the Mumbai Rose Society and Dombivli Rose Lovers seems to have brought together enthusiasts from Mumbai, Pune, and Nagpur, truly showcasing the widespread love for these beautiful flowers. The inauguration by Mr. Ravindra Chavan, MLA and representative of the Government of Maharashtra, added an esteemed touch to the event. Kudos to Dr. Vikas Mhaskar for

playing such a pivotal role in ensuring its success—it sounds like his efforts really blossomed into something memorable.

Being chosen to host the prestigious World Rose Convention in 2028 by the World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS) is indeed a testament to the vibrant and active contributions of MPRS in the rose community.



Rose Show at Nagpur by Vidarbha Rose Society

With past successes of WFRS Regional Conventions in Jaipur, Hyderabad, and Kolkata, hosting the global event in the City of Lakes—Bhopal, for the first time in India, is a massive achievement. Welcoming over 500 rose enthusiasts and experts from around the world is sure to create a fragrant and colourful celebration.

The event will not only display India's passion for roses but also emphasize the theme of a Resurgent and Aspirational India, highlighting the nation's growing prominence on the global stage. It's inspiring to see how this will not just celebrate roses but also showcase India's spirit and beauty.

With Mr. Sushil Prakash at the helm as the President of the Organizing Committee, and such a dedicated team working under his guidance, it's clear that meticulous planning is underway. The involvement of key stakeholders like the Principal Secretary (Tourism), Horticulture Director, Commissioner of Nagar Nigam, Director of the Airport Authority of India, and others shows the depth of collaboration required to prepare Bhopal for this prestigious occasion.

It's inspiring to see the city and its gardens gearing up with such energy and commitment. Hosting this convention will not only celebrate roses but also showcase Bhopal's charm and India's organizational prowess to the world. With so many remarkable efforts already underway, the event is bound to be a grand success!

The Memorandum of Understanding with three gardens shows the MP Rose Society's commitment to excellence. Transforming them into world-class rose gardens by replacing all the rose plants and providing carefully selected varieties, alongside meticulous layout planning and consultation over four years, speaks volumes about their vision. The involvement of a team of dedicated Rosarians further ensures this initiative's success.

It's equally exciting to hear about the ongoing discussions with the Airport Authority, Bhopal, and other gardens for potential



From left: Sunayna Pateria, Hitesh Shah, Pratibha Bhatnagar, felicitating Dr. J.K. Wadhwa

partnerships to develop additional rose gardens. This kind of forward-thinking planning will undoubtedly create stunning spaces that leave a lasting impression on visitors for years to come.



Left: King 'Ocean', an Indian bred rose, right, Queen 'Moonstone', Middle: 'Khushi', bred by Ganesh Shirke at Dombivli Show, Right: Dombivli Rose Show

Ms. Henrianne De Briey's visit was both significant and inspiring for everyone involved! Her inspection of Bhopal's infrastructure and readiness for the World Rose Convention in 2028 must have provided valuable insights. It's encouraging to hear that she was impressed by the Convention Centre, the hotels, and the inclusion of the city's two World Heritage Sites in the program. These truly unique features will no doubt add a special charm to the event.

The seated dinner in her honour sounds like a wonderful gesture of hospitality, bringing together representatives from Horticulture, Tourism, Airport Authority, and other key stakeholders. Hosting such a distinguished guest, along with her tour of the proposed sites for the Pre-Post convention tours, shows the dedication of the MP Rose Society and the city of Bhopal to creating a world-class event.

The visit of Ms. Dianne vom Berg, President of the WFRS, during the Annual Show from 10th to 12th January 2025, must have been a significant moment for the MP Rose Society and the city of Bhopal. Sharing the stage with the Honourable Governor of the state highlights the importance of this event for both the rose community and the region.



Inauguration of Jamshedpur Show

Her visit to the gardens planned for the convention, along with her valuable suggestions, will surely ensure that the final presentation exceeds expectations. It's also great to know she explored some of the sites intended for the delegates—this early feedback will be instrumental in fine-tuning the experience.

The anticipation of further visits from WFRS top officials in 2026 and 2027 underscores the level of global attention this event is receiving. These collaborations will surely make the convention a landmark event, not just for the rose community,

but for the city and the country as well.

The allocation of the Kushubhai Thakre Convention Centre and the theatre for the musical festival sets the stage for a truly remarkable event. Partnering with the Jehan Numa Group of Hotels as the hospitality partner is another thoughtful step to ensure the delegates experience world-class comfort and care.

The blessings and guidance of Governor Shri Mangubhai Patel, as the Chief Patron, provide strong support and encouragement to this grand endeavour. It's heartening to see how thoroughly the groundwork is being laid, with registrations anticipated to start as early as January 2027—a commendable proactive approach.

The participation of a large contingent from Bhopal in the World Rose Convention in Fukuyama, Japan, in May 2025, is another fantastic initiative. Their presence at the WFRS Regional Conference with a booth showcasing India's tourism potential, cultural heritage, and details of the Bhopal convention is bound to generate excitement. By presenting India's unique blend of art, history, and hospitality, this effort will undoubtedly create a buzz and draw attention to what the 2028 convention has in store.



Viewing the Jamshedpur Show

WFRS VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

By Robert Ardini, Vice President - North America

Welcome to New WFRS Associate Members

In 2024, we gained four new North American Associate Members:

- * *The Heritage Rose Foundation*. This well-known organization needs no introduction.
- * *The Columbus Park of Roses* (in the state of Ohio)
- * *The Friends of Vintage Roses* - a plant preservation nonprofit headed by well-known rosarian Gregg Lowery. The organization's efforts are focused on building a strong community of passionate rose lovers who share and search for the next generation to steward their collection of historic roses into the future.
- * *The Rose Collection at the Huntington Botanical Gardens* (in the state of California)

Please consider taking some time to become familiar with each of these prestigious entities. A basic internet search will take you to their websites. Welcome to all four! May they enjoy being part of the WFRS as much as we appreciate having them.



One of the many beautiful vistas at the Huntington Botanical gardens, one of our newest Associate Members (Photo: Tom Carruth)

One of the new Associate Members - The Heritage Rose Foundation - is hosting a conference in New York City, June 6-8, 2025. Walk world-famous rose gardens, other notable gardens, and visit the Harlem Rose District. Lecturers will include Stephen Hoy on Miniature Chinas, and Leon Ginenthal on Ramblers.

The Keynote Speaker will be, heritage rose preservationist and WFRS VP for South America, Inés Díaz de Licandro of Uruguay; she will present two programs - one about her new book *Heritage Roses in Uruguay: A Legacy of Generations*, and one titled "The Decay and Recovery of Montevideo's Historic Rose Garden. Inés is a very passionate speaker with a mastery of her subject; expect to be electrified.

Go to <https://www.heritagerosfoundation.org/event-list> for everything you need to know about the Conference.

Inés' book has been translated into English but is not yet sold in the USA. The Heritage Rose Foundation is planning a consolidated order to reduce shipping costs. If you would like a copy for \$90 plus shipping, please contact Anita Clevenger at anitac5159@gmail.com.

International Events

Baden-Baden International Rose Trials

I had the honor of being invited to serve as President of the International Jury. I was asked to deliver a short speech. For the benefit of those not in attendance, I have reprinted it immediately below in entirety.

"Good morning everyone, and thank you for inviting me to be the 2024 President of the International Jury. I appreciate the honor. This is my first time at the Baden-Baden International Rose Trials; so, I'll start by telling you a little bit about my background in roses. I'm from New York, and came to roses very early in life. In the mid 1970's, the mail-order rose nurseries, published catalogs that were full of exceptionally-beautiful, close-up photos. The very first roses I ordered were two hybrid teas - 'First Prize' and 'Snowfire'. I think many of you already know of the outstanding pink exhibition rose, 'First Prize'; it was hybridized by Eugene Boerner, of Jackson & Perkins. As for 'Snowfire', what caught my attention was its dramatic coloring - a red rose, with a white reverse! 'Snowfire' came out of the House of Kordes, and was sold in the USA by Jackson & Perkins.

A few years later, my sister and I went to one of the large flower shows. We passed the Rose Society display and saw a small sign that said: "Next meeting, guests most welcome." We went to that meeting and joined on the spot. Long story short, by the time I was 35, I had become President of two local rose societies, and a seasoned exhibitor. A term on the Board of Directors of the American Rose Society followed. My first World Rose Convention was in Christchurch, New Zealand, in 1994.

Enough about me. Now I'd like to talk about YOUR day. Today we have war, in parts of the world. In other locations, people are starving. In some countries, the government is not stable. However, TODAY, all of you and I - we are very fortunate to be among such beauty; and, we have the privilege of performing a task, which will help further perfect the rose. Then, we will celebrate the new varieties which will bring pleasure to future generations of gardeners! Just think how truly favored we are today.

The World Federation of Rose Societies International Rose Trials is a force of positivity, in today's complicated world. Many similar charitable organizations focus on the sad side of things. For me, the International Rose Trials is a 100%, feel-good program - something we can all use more of. Everyone here today is knowledgeable, and enthusiastic; and that is because we are involved in, either creating, or appreciating, beauty. I hope I have inspired you, to recognize the significance of your efforts today; and, as a result, have the best International Rose Trials experience ever. Enjoy!"



Left: Author giving his President of the Jury speech at Baden-Baden Rose Trials (Photo: Nathalie Dautel-Gartenamt)

Right: Saverne Rose Trials (Photo: Dane Germeyns)

Saverne International Rose Trials

I also had the honor of being invited to serve as President of the International Jury at the Saverne Trials - the 100th Anniversary of their Trials! Again, as with Baden-Baden, I was asked to deliver a short speech. For the benefit of those not in attendance, I have reprinted it immediately below in entirety.

"Good afternoon everyone. I would like to thank the Friends of the Roses of Saverne, for inviting me to serve as the 2024 President of the International Jury. I appreciate the honor, and wish to commend everyone for your service to our favorite flower, the rose.

Today is an exceptionally momentous day - the 100th Anniversary of the International Rose Trials in Saverne. But why is the rose so special - to sustain this competition for 100 years? Why not the marigold, the chrysanthemum, the orchid, or even the lily? Many have hypothesized this question for centuries. Today it is my turn. Perhaps the rose is the flower closest to perfection. Please, let me explain.

The rose begins life by creating a strong base, showing strength. The thick roots grab the earth, for balance and security. The stem grows tall above the ground, never to be trodden upon. They protect themselves with a shield of thorns - not poisonous, but imposing enough, to demonstrate that they are NOT vulnerable. Canes, then eventually give birth to buds, which continue to grow, with great conviction, and assurance. Blooms come to maturity, with their face raised upward - looking at us, with complete magnificence. Their fragrance then fills the air, informing all that the rose has come to terms with its existence, and fulfills its role in the grand scheme of life. Finally, it will slowly drop its petals; and, one by one, the breeze will carry them - as messengers - for all to know that the rose is the flower, closest to perfection.

My other theory, why the rose is so popular, for so many years, is much simpler. Dogs, cats, and horses have lived with people for so long, a strong rapport exists between them. The same is true of the rose. The relationship between humankind, and the rose, is, as the Italians say "simpatica."

Congratulations on the 100th Anniversary of your International Rose Trials, and best wishes for the next 100 years ahead!"

WFRS Regional Convention in Kalmar Sweden

The organizers of this convention were kind enough to invite me to present a lecture on a subject that was 'light and entertaining' to balance out some of the more historical and scientific programs. The program I delivered was titled "Great North American Rose Gardens You've Never Heard Of." I was pleased to see such a large number of people in attendance.

Also, at this convention, the WFRS Executive Committee voted to accept San Diego, California's bid to host the WFRS Regional Convention in 2027. As a result, the convention banner was presented to me at the Closing Ceremonies.

Lastly, at this convention, famed American Hybridizer, Tom Carruth, was welcomed into the WFRS Breeders' Club. The hybrid teas 'Marilyn Monroe' and 'Barbra Streisand', and the floribunda 'Ebb Tide', are just a few of the widely grown cultivars bred by Tom.



New Breeders' Club member, Tom Carruth with 'Julia Child' (Photo: Tom Carruth)

Domestic Events

I was pleased to attend the American Rose Society National Convention in the state of Rhode Island in September. Rose enthusiasts from all over the country gathered for programs, garden tours, sightseeing, a rose show, and two banquets. This was also the time for President Diane Sommers, whose term had expired, to turn over the reigns to newly-elected President Dr. Craig Dorschel.

This gathering was a prime opportunity to promote the 2025 World Rose Convention (WRC) in Japan. I arranged for each registrant of the convention to receive a brochure about the Japan Convention in their gift bag. In addition, I was given the opportunity to speak briefly at the Awards Banquet to talk about the WFRS, and present a formal, in-person, invitation to the WRC. Apparently, these methods worked well because, as of early March, sixty (60!) Americans are registered to attend.



ARS Convention, from Left: Jim Hering, President Emeritus, Craig Dorschel—incoming President, Pat Shanley, Past President

Publications

American Rose Magazine. Much thanks to the American Rose Society for providing me with a column in every issue of the magazine to report on all-things-WFRS. This vehicle has allowed me to promote many WFRS projects such as *World Rose News*, *BAON*, conventions, 'Friends of the Federation,' our Scholarship Program, our new Instagram account, our International Judging Program and our FELCO sponsorship.

American Rose Annual. I had the honor of serving as Guest Editor of the 2024 American Rose Annual. In keeping with my function as WFRS VP for North America, I chose "The Global Perspective" as the theme of the book. Here is a complimentary digital link to the publication for your reading pleasure: <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/191044901/>

Some Final Bits & Pieces

Piaget Grant

The American Rose Society recently received a grant of \$5,000.00 USD from the World Federation of Rose Societies courtesy of the Piaget Foundation. The funds will be used to benefit the Rambler Conservation Project at the American Rose Center. Much thanks and appreciation goes to Countess Ghislain de Briey de Gerlache, Chair of the WFRS Promotions Committee, for her efforts in making this funding a reality.

Possible World Rose Convention in Washington D.C.

I initiated discussion with the members of the Potomac Rose Society (Washington, D.C.) in regard to hosting a World Rose Convention. Many of their members participated in a Zoom call with Countess Ghislain de Briey de Gerlache, Chair of the WFRS Convention Liaison Committee, WFRS President, Diane vom Berg, Derek Lawrence, WFRS Executive Director, and myself. Subsequent to that meeting, although the Potomac Rose Society voted against submitting a bid for 2031, they stated their willingness to consider the possibility of a bid to host in 2034.

Possible New International Rose Trials Site

I am under discussions with a well-known public garden on Long Island, New York, to establish a new International Rose Trials site on their grounds. This east coast site would be in addition to our existing International Rose Trials location at the home of the American Rose Center in Shreveport, Louisiana - which is closer to the middle of the country.

WFRS Corporate Sponsor FELCO

In honor of Earth Day on April 22nd, the Canadian Rose Society will be hosting Ryan Amberg, North American Representative for FELCO, who will present a virtual program titled "Tools for the Garden."

I look forward to the pleasure of seeing many of the readers of this report at the upcoming World Rose Convention in Japan. If we haven't yet met, please make a point of seeking me out to introduce yourself. Thank you.



Rambler Project, ARS, Shreveport, LA, USA

2025 WFRS INTERNATIONAL TRIALS

	Trial	Country	Date
1	<i>Shreveport</i>	USA	*
2	<i>Monaco</i>	Princ. of Monaco	No trials 2025
3	<i>Barcelona</i>	Spain	9-5-2025
4	<i>Rome</i>	Italy	17-5-2025
5	<i>Madrid</i>	Spain	23-5-2025
6	<i>Tokyo</i>	Japan	May/October
7	<i>Lyon</i>	France	6-6-2025
8	<i>Bologna</i>	Italy	7-6-2025
9	<i>Hradec Kralove</i>	Czech Republic	14-6-2025
10	<i>Nyon</i>	Switzerland	**
11	<i>Baden-Baden</i>	Germany	17-6-2025
12	<i>Saverne</i>	France	18-6-2025
13	<i>Paris</i>	France	19-6-2025
14	<i>Kortrijk</i>	Belgium	20-6-2025
15	<i>Nagaoka City</i>	Japan	May/October
16	<i>Den Haag</i>	Netherlands	3-7-2025
17	<i>Belfast</i>	Northern Ireland	4-7-2025
18	<i>Warsaw</i>	Poland	23-8-2025
19	<i>Le Roeulx</i>	Belgium	5-9-2025
20	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	Great Britain	9-9-2025
21	<i>Rose Hills</i>	USA	No trials 2025
22	<i>Adelaide</i>	Australia	22-10-2025
23	<i>Gifu</i>	Japan	May/October
24	<i>Hamilton</i>	New Zealand	16-11-2025
25	<i>Palmerston North</i>	New Zealand	22-11-2025

* = no international judging day in 2025

**= no international judging day, and last year Nyon trials

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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) - Deutsche Rosengesellschaft e.V.
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) - Asociatia Amicii Rozelor din Romania
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](#)

WFRS ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Associació Amics de les Roses de Sant Feliu de Llobregat i de Catalunya, Spain

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, United States

Heritage Roses Australia, Inc.

Heritage Roses New Zealand, Inc.

Historic Roses Group of Great Britain

Huntington Library Botanical Gardens, United States

LARN, Switzerland

Les Amis de la Roseraie du Val de Marne à L'Haÿ-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

Société Nationale d'Horticulture de France

The Botanic Garden, Meise, Belgium

The Columbus Park of the Rose, United States

The Friends of Vintage Roses, United States

The Rose Culture Institute, Japan

Vrijbroek Park, Belgium

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

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WFRS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

18 - 24 May 2025	WFRS 20 th World Rose Convention - Fukuyama City, Japan Email: info@wrc2025fukuyama.jp , website: en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp
6-8 June 2025	Jersey City, NJ - Heritage Rose Foundation New York City Conference, https://www.heritageRoseFoundation.org/event-list
25—29 April 2026	17th Heritage Rose Conference, Nanyang & Shanghai, China
April/May 2027	WFRS Regional Convention—San Diego, CA, USA, Email: ruthsgarden@msn.com
7 - 14 January 2028	WFRS 21st World Rose Convention—Bhopal, India

FRIENDS OF THE FEDERATION

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.

***Become a Friend of the
World Federation of Rose Societies
and join a group of generous financial donors
supporting the work of the Federation.***

Benefits include:

***Exclusive invitations to "Friends Only" activities;
Individual electronic copy of World Rose News;
Friends Dinners at each convention will give you the opportunity to participate with
other Friends to exchange rose growing knowledge, information on rose gardens,
accommodation and other points of interest relative to their region.
Donations, with the exception of Friends for Life, cover the period
until the conclusion of the 2025 World Rose Convention in Japan.***

Friends donor forms can be downloaded from the WFRS website - www.worldrose.org

AND FINALLY...



Here in the Americas, daffodils and the return of Hummingbirds to the feeders is a sure sign Spring is near

Please Patronize Our Platinum Sponsor!





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WORLD ROSE CONVENTION 2025 in FUKUYAMA

世界
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18th - 24th May 2025,
A New Future Begins in
Fukuyama



WFRS 20th
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March 2025

Dear Rose Friends,

The 20th World Rose Convention is now just two months away!

In February, we held a special event to mark the 100-day countdown. Renowned flower artist Nicolai Bergmann, known for his stunning flower box creations, decorated Fukuyama Station in celebration. We hope you will have the chance to visit and see it for yourself. The entire city of Fukuyama is adorned with decorations welcoming the World Rose Convention, reflecting the excitement and anticipation of its citizens.

The number of participating countries has now grown to 27, with registrations from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, India, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of South Africa, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the U.K., the U.S.A., and Uruguay.

We have also received many registrations for the Pre- and Post-Tours.

Japan is an outstanding travel destination, and May is an especially pleasant time to visit, with temperatures averaging around 20°C. Even if you are unable to stay for the full week, visiting Fukuyama, reconnecting with rose friends, and exploring Japan will undoubtedly make for a wonderful experience.

In this Convention, even with a One-Day Registration, you can select the tour you wish to join that afternoon. If there is a particular lecture that interests you in the morning, you can register for that day and then choose a tour that aligns with your interest. This flexibility allows you to create your ideal day. Of course, for those who wish to fully immerse themselves in all that Fukuyama has to offer, full registration remains the best option.

Until now, we have been sharing information on Fukuyama and the convention via our mailing list, but moving forward, we will focus on updates specifically for registered participants.

The final registration period will be open from April 1 at 11:00 AM to April 30 at 5:00 PM (JST). Don't miss this last opportunity—be sure to register before the deadline!

The people of Fukuyama are eagerly looking forward to welcoming you to our beautiful rose-filled city.

Final Call!

Pre-Tour & Post-Tour Registration Closes on **April 10.**
Limited availability - secure your place before it's too late.

(Post-Tour 3 is fully booked.)

Register now: <https://www.knt.co.jp/ec/2025/wrcfukuyama/en/>



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Registration

Plan Your Perfect Visit: Pass Options

The World Rose Convention in Fukuyama offers two participation options: the **Full-Day Pass** and **One-Day Pass**, allowing attendees to customize their experience.

◆ Full-Day Pass

The **Full-Day Pass** includes:

- **Social Events** such as Welcome Reception and Opening Ceremony (pink).
- **Morning lectures** (four per day, red).
- **Afternoon Day Tours:**
 - **May 20/21/23:** Choose from 4 courses (A-D).
 - **May 22:** Fixed itinerary (Course E, blue).
- **Farewell Dinner (May 24 / extra fee ¥).**

◆ One-Day Pass

For flexible participation, the **One-Day Pass** allows:

- Attending **selected lectures** or events.
- **One Afternoon Day Tour** on your selected date
- Social events such as **Welcome Reception, Lunch Party, and Farewell Dinner** (extra fee ¥).

For lecture details, visit: [Program Overview](#).

How to Register

◆ Full-Day Pass

1. Register Online ([Link](#))

- Enter **participant and emergency contact details**.

Note: During registration, you will be asked to provide your arrival date and transportation method to Fukuyama. If this information is undecided at the time of registration, you may update it later. (Please ensure that the information is accurate, as incorrect details may affect our ability to arrange a proper welcome.)

2. Select Day Tours & Hotels via MyPage

- Choose **Day Tours**, book **hotels**, and edit details.

3. Payment

- Complete payment via **MyPage**.

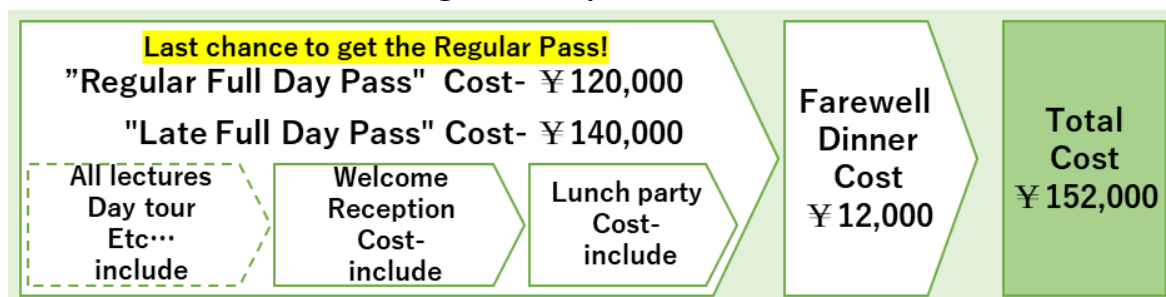
		Program
18 Sun.	AM	
	PM	Welcome Reception ¥
19 Mon.	AM	Opening Ceremony
	PM	Lunch Party ¥ Guided walk Rose Expo inspection
20 Tue.	AM	Lectures 「Roses in Asia」
	PM	Day Tour A or B or C or D
21 Wed.	AM	Lectures 「Conservation」
	PM	Day Tour A or B or C or D Fukuyama Street Dining
22 Thu.	AM	Day Tour E
	PM	Friends' Dinner
23 Fri.	AM	Lectures 「Disease Resistance」
	PM	Day Tour A or B or C or D
24 Sat.	AM	Breeders Panel Lectures 「New Techniques」
	PM	Farewell Dinner and Awards Presentation ¥



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> Optional events (extra fee):

- **Welcome Reception:** included
- **Opening Ceremony:** Free
- **Lunch Party:** included
- **Farewell Dinner & Closing Ceremony:** JPY 12,000



◆ One-Day Pass

1. **Register Online** ([Link](#))

- Enter **participant and emergency contact details**.

2. **Select Day Tours & Hotels via MyPage**

- Tour options vary by date (see [Day Tour Schedule](#)).

3. **Payment**

- Complete payment via **MyPage**.

> Optional events (extra fee):

- **Welcome Reception:** JPY 5,000
- **Opening Ceremony:** Free
- **Lunch Party:** JPY 3,000
- **Farewell Dinner & Closing Ceremony:** JPY 12,000



For assistance, contact **WRC2025 Registration Desk** at wrc2025-regist@or.knt.co.jp. Responses within **three days**.

Note: Due to a high volume of inquiries, responses may take up to three days. Please note that general convention-related inquiries sent to info@wrc2025fukuyama.jp may experience additional delays due to limited English-speaking staff.

This will be the final opportunity to register for WRC 2025 in Fukuyama.

Be sure to secure your spot!



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Highlights of the Opening Ceremony

Experience the Spirit of Fukuyama at the Opening Ceremony! Opening Act

A special collaboration between Kodo, Japan's renowned taiko drum ensemble, known for their mesmerizing and powerful performances worldwide, and local high school students from Fukuyama. Kodo has captured global attention for their dynamic rhythms and emotional expression, making this performance a vibrant display of traditional Japanese culture. The high school students will perform an original composition, created specifically for this event two years ago, in collaboration with local musical groups, alongside Kodo. This unique performance reflects the spirit of Fukuyama and its dedication to the World Rose Convention.



Ending Act

Aoi Teshima, renowned for her enchanting vocals in Studio Ghibli films, will perform Happy Rose, the official celebration song of the World Rose Convention Fukuyama 2025. This song has already captured the hearts of the people of Fukuyama, building anticipation for the event. Teshima's voice, cherished both in Japan and internationally, will add a profound emotional depth to this special occasion. Her bond with roses began when her demo of Bette Midler's *The Rose* caught the attention of Studio Ghibli producer Toshio Suzuki and *Tales from Earthsea* director Goro Miyazaki, marking the beginning of her remarkable career.



This grand event promises to be a spectacular celebration!
The Opening Ceremony is a must-see program that beautifully showcases Japanese hospitality.
We highly encourage **One-Day Pass** holders to attend as well!

The Opening Ceremony will also feature the participation of 1,000 local citizens who have kindly assisted in the preparation of the event. (Rest assured, the entire program will be conducted in English.)



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Day Tours

As part of the WRC2025 in Fukuyama, we offer a selection of exciting Day Tours from the 3rd to the 6th day of the event. Day Tours are included in the registration fee. While the Full-Day tour to Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and the Botanical Garden on May 22, titled "Hiroshima: A City of Peace and Culture," is fixed, on May 20, 21, and 23, you can choose your preferred destination from four different tour options.

May 2025	20 Tue. Afternoon	21 Wed. Afternoon	22 Thu. All day	23 Fri. Afternoon
	<p>A. Sera Kogen: a Fascinating Highland Surrounded by Flowers Closed 20A</p> <p>B. Encounter with Anne, and Lakeside Affectionate Handcrafted Rose Garden Tour 20B</p> <p>C. <Recommended> Join Rose Trials Voting! Explore Tranquil Rose Gardens & Meet Locals 20C</p> <p>D. Tomonoura, the Japan Heritage port town, and Shinshoji temple in the season of fresh green 20D</p>	<p>A. Sera Kogen: a Fascinating Highland Surrounded by Flowers 21E</p> <p>B. Encounter with Anne, and Lakeside Affectionate Handcrafted Rose Garden Tour 21F</p> <p>C. <Recommended> Join Rose Trials Voting! Explore Tranquil Rose Gardens & Meet Locals Closed 21G</p> <p>D. Tomonoura, the Japan Heritage port town, and Shinshoji temple in the season of fresh green 21H</p>	<p>E. Full of Peace and Culture, "The city of Water" Hiroshima 22I</p>	<p>A. Sera Kogen: a Fascinating Highland Surrounded by Flowers 23J</p> <p>B. Encounter with Anne, and Lakeside Affectionate Handcrafted Rose Garden Tour 23K</p> <p>C. <Recommended> Join Rose Trials Voting! Explore Tranquil Rose Gardens & Meet Locals 23L</p> <p>D. Tomonoura, the Japan Heritage port town, and Shinshoji temple in the season of fresh green Closed 23M</p>

In this issue, we describe the "E. Full of Peace and Culture, 'The City of Water' Hiroshima" all day tour.

This concludes the introduction of all day tours. For details on courses A to D, please visit the following link.

<https://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp/2025/02/1092/>

Don't Miss Out! Secure Your Day Tour Spot!

Convention Delegates: Day tours are **included** in your registration fee.

- **One-Day Registrants:** Tour available on your registered day.
- **Full-Day Registrants:** Choose any tour across all four days.

Action Required: Delegates must select your preferred day tours via Mypage **by March 31st** :

<https://gakkai-web.net/p/knt/rose/mod2.php>



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E.Full of Peace and Culture,“The city of Water” Hiroshima

The day tour on May 22nd is a group tour. It's designed to help you learn about the "peace" city of Hiroshima and understand the connection between peace and roses.

Leaving Fukuyama, we will visit the "**Peace Memorial Park**" and the "**Peace Memorial Museum**," places of solace for the atomic bomb victims and prayers for eternal world peace. A local expert guide will provide explanations about the Peace Park and its surroundings. From the "Orizuru Tower" near the Atomic Bomb Dome, you can enjoy a panoramic view of Hiroshima. Afterward, please take in the scenery of the Seto Inland Sea and the cityscape of Hiroshima while reflecting on peace.

We will also visit the **Hiroshima City Botanical Garden**, located on a hill overlooking the Seto Inland Sea. The spacious 18.3-hectare grounds feature various greenhouses and gardens in every area, with the fragrance of flowers permeating throughout.

The rose garden focuses particularly on the preservation of varieties from an academic perspective. You can admire Japanese native *Rosa sambucina*, many varieties created with peace as a theme, valuable old varieties and old roses tracing the history of variety improvement, all displayed by theme.



What are Community Rose Gardens?

In Fukuyama, numerous Community Rose Gardens are maintained by local groups, including neighborhood associations, senior citizens' clubs, and Parent-Teacher Associations. As a result of post-war community development efforts centered around roses, more than 400 of these gardens are said to exist today.

Since 1969, Fukuyama City has hosted an annual *Community Rose Garden Contest* to promote community development through roses, bringing citizens together to showcase their achievements in rose cultivation.

While touring the destinations of tours **B** and **C**, you will likely spot many community rose gardens from the bus. Take a moment to appreciate how deeply rose cultivation is woven into the fabric of the community.

For more details on day tours, please visit the on-line registration page.

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



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Lectures

Dates: May 20, 21, 23, 24

We will host 15 lectures at the Fukuyama New Castle Hotel, located near Fukuyama Station. These lectures will provide an opportunity to explore the latest exciting research on roses, with a particular focus on Japanese and Asian roses, presented by leading scholars and experts from around the world.

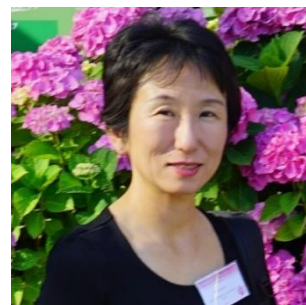


The theme for the final day, May 24, will be "**New Techniques.**"

1st Period

Dr. Naomi Okubo: The Genealogy of Fragrance and New Scent Components in Roses

She explains the genealogy of rose fragrances based on scent characteristics and the composition of scent components, ranging from wild roses to the old roses and the modern roses. She also introduces research findings on new distinctive scent components that were discovered through previous analyses of fragrance components.



2nd Period

Dr. Koji Kawamura: The Origin of Mutations Introducing Recurrent Flowering and Double Flower Characteristics into Cultivated Roses

He explains the genetic mutations that led to the development of the recurrent-flowering characteristic originated from Chinese roses and double-flower morphology having multiple origins, reports on research using wild roses native to China.



3rd Period

Dr. Pascal Heitzler: *Rosa arvensis*: a 30-year Old Experience

He discusses the usefulness of the European native *Rosa arvensis* as a model plant for genetics. He also reports on his achievements for 30 years, including his studies using collected wild mutants, as well as the establishment of their national collection aimed at applications in breeding programmes.





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Breeders Panel



Following this lecture, a panel discussion will be held on the theme of "The Roses of Tomorrow," where various experts and breeders will share their insights. The panel will be moderated by Daniel Boulens, Chairman of the WFRS Awards Committee, and President of both the French Rose Society and the French Heritage Rose Association. The panelists will include Tom Carruth, Curator of the Rose Collection at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens in California; Doug Grant, WFRS Vice-President for Australasia; Takunori Kimura, a Japanese breeder known for his *Rosa Orientis* series; Ping Lim, Director of Ornamental Plant Research at Altman Plants in the United States; Matthias Meilland, Public Relations Manager at The House of Meilland in France; and Martin Vissers, a prominent Belgian rose breeder. The discussion will explore future trends and advancements in rose breeding, offering a fascinating glimpse into the future of rose cultivation.

More details below;

https://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp/program_conference/



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FAQ

Information to help participants prepare for the convention will be sent to those who have completed their registration.

Q: How much Japanese yen should I bring to Japan? Will I be able to use my credit card?

A: During the Convention, lunch will be provided, so your main expenses will be for dinner and any personal purchases. In Fukuyama, you can enjoy a satisfying meal at many restaurants for approximately **1,000 to 2,000 JPY per person**. Of course, costs may vary depending on how much you indulge in local specialties or choose higher-end dining options. However, bringing around **20,000 JPY (approximately 130 USD or 125 EUR)** should be sufficient for general expenses.

Please note that some establishments **do not accept credit cards**, so it is advisable to check before entering. Many small independent shops and street vendors, especially those selling unique local products, accept **cash only**. Additionally, while Japan is known for its abundance of **vending machines**, most of them require **cash payment**.

Therefore, we recommend exchanging a reasonable amount of currency **before arriving in Japan**. ATMs are widely available throughout the city, often located inside **convenience stores and banks**, and they allow withdrawals using both cash and credit cards.

Q: I am coming from a country that requires a visa. Do I need to apply for a short-term business visa, or is a tourist visa sufficient?

A: Visa requirements and procedures vary depending on your country and Japan's regulations. Please check the following website to confirm if you qualify for a visa exemption.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

https://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/short/novisa.html

If you require a short-term visa application support, please contact the registration desk after completing your registration and payment. The organizers will determine whether visa support can be provided. Please note that in some cases, support may not be possible.

Q: Do I have to stay at one of the hotels listed on the official accommodation site (https://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp/registration_hotel/)? What should I do if I want to stay at a different hotel or on different dates?

A: You are free to stay at a different hotel or on different dates. However, please make sure to check the designated starting times and locations for each day of the convention and arrive on time for the scheduled programs.

Q: I have registered with a Full-Day Pass, but can I skip part of the convention to explore nearby cities?

A: Of course, you are free to do so. However, please ensure that you do not select a day tour destination for the days you will not be participating in the convention.



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Q: I would like to travel around Japan before or after the Convention. Do you have any recommended options?

A: There are various ways to explore Japan depending on your interests and schedule. If you plan to visit multiple cities, the Japan Rail Pass (<https://japanrailpass.net/en/>) is a convenient option, allowing unlimited travel on most Shinkansen (bullet trains) and JR trains for a set period. For longer distances, especially if you are heading to places like Hokkaido, Okinawa, or areas east or north of Tokyo, domestic flights are a more efficient option.

If you have any other questions, please check this page:

<https://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp/2024/12/1287/>



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Access to Fukuyama

Fukuyama is most conveniently accessed via **Hiroshima Airport**, but if you are traveling within Japan before or after the convention, you can choose between **domestic flights** or the **Shinkansen (bullet train)**.

If traveling from **Tokyo**, you can fly into **Hiroshima Airport** from:

- **Haneda Airport (Tokyo's main domestic airport)** – *Approx. 15 flights per day*
- **Narita Airport (Tokyo's main international airport)** – *Approx. 3 flights per day*

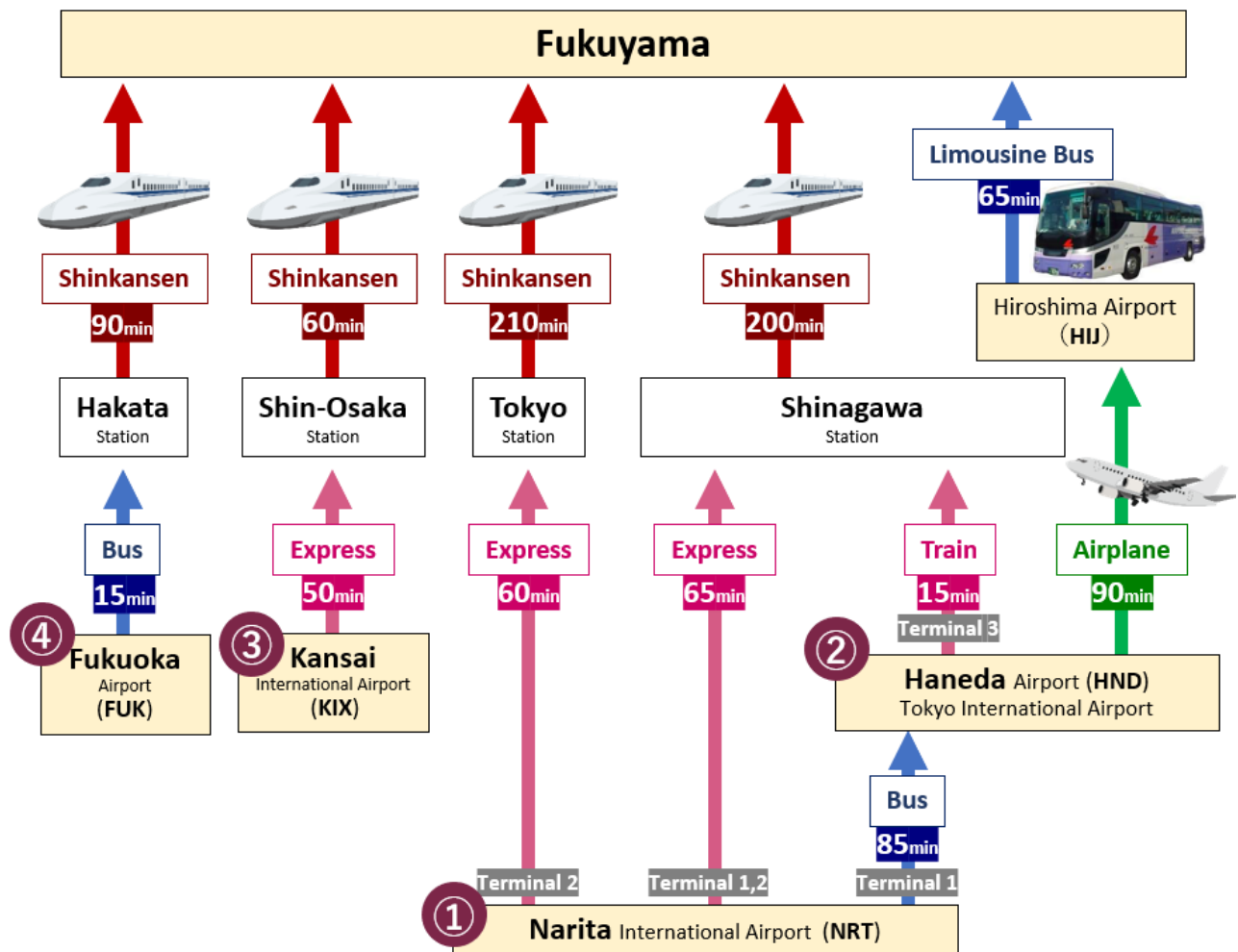
From **Hiroshima Airport**, take the **airport limousine bus** directly to Fukuyama.

For travelers arriving at **Osaka (Kansai Airport)** or **Fukuoka (Fukuoka Airport)**, the **Shinkansen** is the more convenient option.

Fukuyama Station is directly accessible from:

- **Osaka/Kyoto** (Shin-Osaka, Kyoto) – *Approx. 1 hr*
- **Fukuoka/Kyushu** (Hakata) – *Approx. 1.5 hrs*

Please choose the best route based on your itinerary and schedule.





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For more details about access, please refer to Newsletter Volume 7 and 8:

<https://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp/2025/02/1092/>

Additionally, we would like to introduce a web service where you can register information necessary for immigration procedures (immigration control, customs declaration) and tax-free purchases. Please refer to the link below:

<https://www.japan.travel/en/>

This site contains useful information for traveling in Japan, including tourist and transportation details.

We are updating the latest information about the Convention on the official website.

(<https://ja.wrc2025Fukuyama.jp/newsletter/>).

We are looking forward to seeing you in Fukuyama, the city where a million roses are flourishing.

Sincerely,

Yukiko Shimura

Yukiko Shimura

President, Japan Rose Society

Naoki Edahiro

Naoki Edahiro

Chair, World Rose Convention Fukuyama Organizing Committee