

World Rose News

June 2025/ Volume 36/ Number 2



**Immediate Past President Diane vom Berg &
Incoming President Sushil Prakash**

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

After editing *World Rose News* for seven years, it has come time to turn over the reins to a new Editor. Marga Verwer of The Netherlands has gracefully agreed to be the new Editor and will take over for the September issue. It has been a lot of fun, but change is always a good thing.

This issue will concentrate on the World Rose Convention (WRC) in Japan with articles on all six of the Pre and Post Tours. A good time was had by all who attended.

As with all World Rose Conventions, there is a changing of the guard as we congratulate the new President and Officers and to thank those who are leaving.

In honour of the Fukuyama Convention, my rose photograph for this issue is 'Blushing Yuki', an 1984 Hybrid Tea by the late MS Viraraghavan of India. It was named after our dear friend Dr Yuki Mikanagi, one of the organizers.

Enjoy!

Steve Jones, Fiddletown, CA, United States



'Blushing Yuki' (HT, Viraraghavan, 1984)

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

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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/e58d1c1f-4bfa-4e82-b7e6-146e911cfb67>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



2025-2028

June 2025



Photo: Sushil Prakash

Sushil Prakash

It has been an incredible month of May 2025 for Rose lovers. The 20th World Rose Convention at Fukuyama, Japan, was a resounding success. The city rejoiced the event like a week-long festival. The programme was meticulously planned and executed with clockwork precision. The subsequent days with Lectures, Presentations and visits to various Rose Gardens and Historical sites were well received. I congratulate the Japanese Rose Society for their success. This convention has set a high standard for all future conventions to match.

Roses bring joy, peace and something to look forward to in the darkest days of human sufferings. This is seen in the commitment of the citizens of Fukuyama to transform the destroyed city into a City of A Million Roses bringing beauty, color and fragrance. The message of peace was also strong among people and has passed down through the generations. Today, the Rose Gardens of Fukuyama and surrounding areas mesmerized all of us and the participation of citizens, and especially the children, was amazing.

The various meetings of the Executive and Council were productive with candid discussions and ideas, which will be taken forward.

The date of 23rd May 2025 was very important for me when I was elected by the Council as the President and on the next day in the Farewell Dinner, I was handed over the WFRS Presidential Chain of Office, which signifies three basic principles: tradition, Integrity and commitment. The new Treasurer and Vice Presidents were also elected.

I had time to honor Mrs Diane vom Berg with the Gold Medal for her long tenure of selfless service and dedication to the WFRS, as both Treasurer and President. We also had to bid goodbye to Executive Director, Mr Derek Lawrence who has contributed immensely in running the organization and welcomed the new Executive Director, Mr Richard Grabowski, who takes over this important role.

I will, in my capacity as President, work towards a stronger WFRS, with transparency and inclusiveness. The other tasks would be to bring young people into WFRS and bring in more funds by the way of donations to support projects of international importance. I seek your support in helping me in this work.

I would like to thank our sponsor FELCO, the manufacturers of professional secateurs, for their grants which help us in organizing such conventions. We are also thankful to the MORI Foundation for their donations.

At the end of the farewell dinner, we had the official handing over the WFRS flag from Japan to India, who will host the 21st World Rose Convention in the city of Bhopal, from the 7th to 13th of January 2028. The flag was received by a large contingent of delegates from the host, MP Rose Society, including the Principal Secretary of Tourism, Mr Sheo Shekhar Shukla and Mr Ramkumar, Consulate General of India in Japan. I take this opportunity to invite all my Rose friends to start planning your trip to this new Aspirational India.

I am also looking forward to meeting you again at the next Regional and Heritage Convention in April 2026 in Shanghai and Nanyang, China, which promises to be another exciting event.



Executive Committee Members 2025-2028

Sitting from Left to Right

Mrs Diane vom Berg (Past President), Mrs Angela Bokor (VP-Europe), Mrs Ines Diaz de Licandro (VP-South America), Mrs Maria Hjort (VP-Europe), Mrs Diane Sommers (VP-North America), Mrs Vivienne Black (VP-Africa)

Standing from Left to Right

Mr Narendra Kumar Dadlani (VP-Central Asia), Mr Gavin Woods (VP-Australasia), Ms Brenda Viney (VP-North America), Mr Richard Grabowski (Executive Director), Mr Sushil Prakash (President), Mr Hayden Foulds (VP-Australasia), Mr Kim Wook-Kyun (VP-Far East), Ms Mirelle Steil (VP-Europe)



Left: New President Sushil Prakash addressing the delegates at the Farewell Dinner, Right: Delegates from India receiving the WFRS Flag

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Richard Grabowski

June 2025

Dear Federation:

Welcome. I look forward to helping the Federation as Executive Director. I hope we can come together to make the World Federation of Rose Societies stand up and dance for the next three years. Young people love to dress up, dance and party – the WFRS already throws huge rose parties hopefully to attract the young people we need for the future, and we need to remember how to dress up and dance.

As an avid gardener and rosarian, I am proud to represent you and the Rose World.

As we return from a very successful World Convention in Fukuyama Japan, it is clear the WFRS is meeting its primary goal and charter as a world charity of “the advancement of education for the benefit of the public in Horticulture and in particular in the conservation, cultivation, classification and use of the Rose (and its cultivars)” as stated in the Articles of Association.

Fukuyama was the perfect representative of commitment to that goal as it rose from the ashes of disaster and inspired its community to rebuild through the application of rose horticulture. A beautiful city rebuilt using roses as its theme and using the commitment and perseverance of its community to service. It was startling and beautiful. It demonstrates what communities can accomplish when they work together.

The city of Fukuyama demonstrates how to preserve tradition and culture while embracing change.

As the WFRS moves forward, this is a lesson that will have to be applied as the waves of change from the environment, technology, business and world events wash over our Society.

I have spent most of my career learning how to engage in change, how to embrace the advantages of change rather than resist the waves of change. I hope to bring that career of learning to the WFRS.

Change is always difficult, but the difficulties can be managed if the participants understand that change is primarily about “how” things are done versus “what” things are done. Adherence to our traditions of promoting rose horticulture through education are critical. I cannot imagine anyone wanting to change that basic principle. What change ultimately causes is how you achieve your goals – not the goals themselves.

In the 1970s I saw managers trying to stop the initial changes brought about by improvements in technology. First by trying to stop accountants from even having calculators, then to prevent them from using Lotus 123 and Excel, then to prohibit the introduction of PCs. Those managers eventually either changed or left. The waves of change do not wait until companies and organizations are ready. You either ride the waves or they crash down. Figuring out how to use change to your advantage is how any organization succeeds.

One change the WFRS has already enacted to its advantage is the development of grants to young scholars who support our primary goal. I was delighted to meet the recipient of our most recent Friends Scholarship Grant, Ms. Seonghwa Bak (right) of the Republic of Korea. She and the grant embody the essence of our goal to support rose horticulture through education.



ROSE NEWS

RETIREMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Derek Lawrence

One of the most significant memories of the WFRS 20th World Rose Convention was nervously waiting at the side wings of the stage of Fukuyama Hall Theatre for the director to beckon me onto the lectern to conduct my Opening Speech. The auditorium contained a vast audience, which included Her Imperial Highness, Princess Tomohito of Mikasa. As I walked onto the stage, I felt mixed emotions. Pride, joy and contentment but a certain amount of sadness. In my speech, I celebrated the history of the WFRS and then added:

“Interestingly, our organisation has links to the past, just like family ancestors. In 1968, the late and great, Lily de Gerlache de Gomery was appointed as the first serving President. Today her daughter, Henrienne de Briey still carries on the family tradition of ensuring her late mother’s determined spirit lives on amongst us all. Other founder Members were the late Jack and Mary Wise from South Africa. Their daughter is no other than Past President, Sheenagh Harris. As I’ve said, we’re not just any organisation. It’s more than that. We are family.”

During my two weeks stay in Japan, I was approached by many friends and delegates who expressed kind words of immense appreciation and warm best wishes for the future. Since then, I have received similar messages via email. I feel deeply touched to have received such attention and thank you for the unstinting support that I’ve experienced during my ten years in Office. It has been an absolute privilege and honour to have served you. We are, indeed, an international family of devoted rosarians.

Before I head off into the garden to tend to my beloved roses, I would like the opportunity to wish my successor, Mr. Richard Grabowski much fulfilment and joy as he begins his tenure of Office for the benefit and advancement of the World Federation of Rose Societies.



Derek receiving the Silver Medal from President Diane vom Berg

Special FELCO Discount!

Please see the FELCO advertisement at the end of this newsletter for a special 15% discount on fine FELCO products to celebrate their 80th anniversary, and a handsome FELCO 2 special edition pruner.



Barcelona Award winner, MR-326-CSO, a ground cover rose
bred by Michèle Richardier (House of Meilland)



Gold Medal at Madrid, Spain, BAR8865 from Rose Barni, Italy

WRC PRE-TOUR #1

By Brenda Viney, WFRS VP North America (Canada)

I love travelling to world rose conventions and have been since 2003 in Glasgow. Why do I love it so much? Because I get to travel with my hobby and with like-minded people from all over the world. When the Fukuyama convention offered us pre, post and post-post tours, I jumped at the chance to do them all, plus the week-long convention. With three options for pre tours, we decided on tour #1.

Our tour began in Hiroshima where you can travel the renowned Seto Inland Sea to see the World Heritage Site, Miyajima Island. There you can visit its famous shrine and O-torii Gate, best viewed at high tide; see the many temples and shrines and hope to find the 500 crochet-hatted, miniature Buddhas, all while avoiding the many free-roaming deer who eat clothes and anything found in your hands. Also on the Seto Inland Sea is the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force shipyard, never referred to as the army, air force or navy.



Left: O-Torii Gate, Above & Right: Buddhas

Japan is comprised of 14000 islands (400 inhabited) with many small towns having abandoned homes. Older owners pass on and their families prefer to live in the big cities; the homes sit uncared for until they rot away. However, the islands make for popular cycling due to the many long bridges built to connect the islands. Japan is also 75% mountainous so travelling through the mountains and valleys full of rice paddies was a very pleasant experience. Any spare land in a field, side of the road or backyard was cultivated, ringed with about 6 to 8-inches (7.5-10cm) of stacked dirt, flooded and planted with rice. The price of rice has more than doubled in the past year, so as a staple in their diet, growing your own is a necessity.

The roses in Japan are amazing and everything was in full bloom. Boy, can they grow spectacular climbers! They were everywhere and in every town. They seem to prefer growing them as a monoculture versus with other plants, with a few exceptions along the way. Our first garden near Imabari City, was Yoshiumi Rose Park, which had 3500 roses, mainly modern varieties with stark white arbors holding floriferous climbers. Tottori Prefectural Flower Park with Mt. Daisen as a borrowed landscape in the background, had a multitude of annuals, orchids, perennials and roses included in their 2 million flower count; definitely a lovely mixed planting garden.



Left: Yoshiumi Rose Park, Right: Tottori Prefectural Flower Park



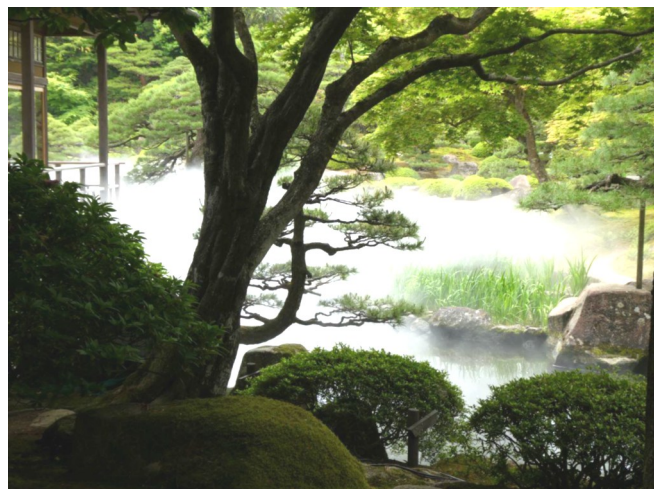
Left: Tottori Prefectural Flower Park climbers, Right: Adachi Museum of Art Japanese Garden



One of the highlights of our tour for me was visiting the Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter, some gorgeous Japanese gardens and several art museums. The Bikan Historical Quarter preserves buildings from the Edo to Meiji periods along the beautiful Kurashiki River. In the area is the Ohara Museum of Art that houses numerous world-famous masterpieces from El Greco, Monet, Picasso, Renoir, Gauguin and others. The biggest surprise was the Adachi Museum of Art where their Japanese garden has been continuously ranked as Japan's best since 2003. The surprise is that the entire 16-hectare garden can only be viewed from the full-length glass windows inside the museum building. The gardens are stunning and there are occasional platforms where you can stand outside to view the perfection. Inside is also an art museum.



Yushi Japanese Garden & Tree Peonies (below left)



Our final garden visit was Yuushien Garden, known for its tree peony production and 4-hectare Yushi Japanese Garden. This was a lovely smaller Japanese garden, an area of which they flooded with moody smoke every 10 minutes or so. It made the perfect venue to have lunch and sit and watch over the misty lake. Sadly, the peonies were mostly finished at our visit but the local press was on hand to interview a few of us in the container rose area where sections were devoted to various international rose breeders.

Our lovely tour ended in Fukuyama with a guided visit to the majestic Fukuyama Castle (below) that was prominent outside most of our hotel windows.

(Photos courtesy of the Author.)



WRC PRE-TOUR #2

By Steve Steps, United States

The World Rose Convention Pre-Tour 2 was a fabulous visit to the sites of Kyushu, the southernmost of Japan's 4 largest islands. Our tour was a small, very friendly, group from Germany, Canada, Australia and the United States. The tour was well supported with a bus driver, a guide, a translator and a horticulturist.



Left: Kyushu Azaleas, Right: Author and wife Diana at Moyai Rose Garden



We visited private gardens, school gardens (proudly displayed by the local children), mountain passes covered with Kyushu Azaleas, churches and historical sites. But, of course, the highlights were the magnificent rose gardens. We had nearly perfect rose viewing conditions throughout our tour. The weather was very mild (mid 70s F, low 20s C) and we had no significant rain.

We were a little too early for peak bloom of the native wild Tsukushibara roses at our stop at the Kuma River Basin. These were nearly extinct, but have been saved through local conservation efforts. However, it was still a wonderful stop as we were greeted by the young children from a local school. They sang songs for us (one in English) and then presented us with gifts of Origami roses, hats made from folded newspaper and Koinobori (carp-shaped windsocks) – each decorated with the flag of our respective countries. We were also greeted by the heads of the local city and prefecture.



Eco Park



One of our favorite sites was the Eco Park in Minamata. The overall park is 41.4 hectares (102 acres), which includes a rose garden with 5,000 roses of 850 varieties. Minamata has recovered from their terrible Minamata Disease (Mercury poisoning) by focusing on the rose as a symbol of peace and community spirit. Using roses as a symbol of peace and community spirit was a common theme for many cities we visited, including the convention host city of Fukuyama – a city mostly destroyed by firebombing during World War II.

The Eco Park also had what we believe to be the ultimate “Rose in a Bowl” entry. Hundreds of “spare” blooms from around the garden were floated in a pond. A wonderful way to enjoy our favorite flower.

Even the theme park in the area (Huis Ten Bosch) had roses everywhere. Roses lined the boating canal, the walkways and, of course, in their Rose Garden. Per their website, “the park is named after the Huis Ten Bosch palace in The Hague, Netherlands, and aims to replicate the charm of Dutch architecture and culture.” It is 153 hectares (380 acres), making it the largest theme park in Japan. Per *Wired Magazine*, in 2015 it had the world’s first hotel fully staffed by robots. There were attractions of all types ranging from a Teddy Bear Kingdom, porcelain & glass art museums, House of Count Chocolate, many virtual reality rides, a three-story high carousel, a Ferris wheel, theater shows and much more.

The crown jewel for us was the rose garden. Per the Matcha website, “The Rose Festival at Huis Ten Bosch will be featuring over one million roses of 2,000 varieties!” The rose garden was in peak bloom and we could have spent many more hours just wondering through the garden.

Overall, Pre-tour #2 was a great introduction to the World Rose Convention in Fukuyama – a city which proudly boasts having one million roses. I don’t think we were ever out of sight of roses during our week-long convention stay.

(Photos courtesy of the Author.)



Huis Ten Bosch
Rose Garden



WRC PRE-TOUR #3

We started our pre-tour by flying into Osaka. There we met with the other members of our group. There were 19 of us, the perfect number of people for a tour. Most of us were from the US, Canada and Australia. Our guides were Hiro & Mitzi.

We selected the Osaka to Fukuyama tour #3. The tour covered gardens in the Setouchi Triennale and Kansai & Shikoku regions. The first stop was the 2025 Osaka Expo. It was very crowded with 50,000-100,000 people attending each day. We thought it was a floral expo, but it wasn't. Think of Epcot Center in Florida; 180 countries with cultural displays and food.

Our garden guide was Makoto Hiraoka who helped design the next two gardens and worked for Austin Roses for 20 years, as well as at the famed Gifu Rose Garden. We visited the Hamadera Rose Garden with about 2000 roses. Most were in full bloom. There is a formal garden and a natural one, the latter featuring species roses. There were roses of all types here with beds, arbors, trellis, pillars, fountain, etc. The next garden was near the airport, which was the David Austin Rose Garden with about 3000 roses. Most were in full bloom. Each of the rose beds contained several different varieties of Austin Roses and signage was mostly missing or in Japanese. We had a map with what roses are planted in each bed but you needed to know the rose to identify them. The garden is situated on the side of a hill. It was impressive and very popular with the locals. The beds were informal or formal. We then visited Nakanoshima Park located in the downtown Osaka section. It features 3700 roses of 310 varieties. The garden is set out in rose beds of the same variety, and a few sections are time frames, including many of the oldest hybrid teas. The signage was excellent. We visited the observation floor of the Kobe Okura Hotel for views of the city. That evening was a harbor cruise of Osaka Bay.



Hamadera Gardens—Left to right, Makoto Hirako leading the tour, heart made of roses, pillar roses

The next day we visited the Kobe Arboretum. It was a large park covering about 300 acres. They have over 50000 plants, but few roses other than a few species here and there. The azaleas and rhododendrons were just finishing up bloom. Next was a ferry ride to Inujima Island and a visit to their modern art museum. We walked around the island, had lunch and did see some roses, especially the species *Rosa multiflora*. Driving from island to island on this day offered some great views, especially from on top of Mount Washuzan.



David Austin Rose Garden

The next day we visited a bonsai master in Takamatsu. The current owner is the fourth generation of bonsai masters. It was interesting to see how they make bonsais and how expensive they are; over \$100K in the USA. We also visited the Ritsurin Japanese Garden which is typical of the wealthy owners of the time. There were no roses here, but a great Japanese garden with plenty of ponds and neatly trimmed pine trees. We rested and watched a gentleman carefully prune off the pollen tips of the pines called candles. This helps keep the size of the tree in check. Many of the pine trees here were over 300 years old.

The last day we visited the Yoshiumi Rose Garden with 3500 roses and 400 varieties. On this day was a Rose Festival with music, performers and vendors. There were a lot of people there. The roses were in full bloom. The garden featured roses of all types and treatments. Many of the beds had rows of the same rose, like a striped flag. That afternoon we arrived at the hotel for the WRC.



Left & Middle: Nakanoshima Park, Right: Kobe Arboretum

Below: Ritsurin Japanese Garden



Above: Takamatsu Bonsai, Below: Yoshiumi Rose Garden



FUKUYAMA WORLD ROSE CONVENTION

The WRC had over 420 delegates attending from 29 countries. The host hotel, the New Castle, filled up quickly and three other nearby hotels were used. We missed out and stayed at the hotel next door, but it is never as good as being in the host hotel.

Fukuyama has an interesting history. Fire bombed during WWII, most of the city was destroyed. Local citizens cleaned up the city and obtained 1000 rose plants to be planted in Rose Park. Today they claim to have over a million roses in the city, which are everywhere, hence why they fittingly call themselves the City of Roses.



Sign & displays near the hotels

There were two events going on in the Rose Park; the Fukuyama Rose Festival and the Rose Expo. Both were about a 20-minute bus ride so we took shuttles. On the second day, several of us International Judges judged several classes in their rose show. I had a WFRS Publications Committee Meeting to attend so we had to leave early so we missed the Rose Parade.



Rose Expo, Left: bonzai miniature roses, Right: vendors

That evening was the Welcome Reception on the grounds of Fukuyama Castle; an imposing building in the center of town, but a short walking distance from the hotels. We were treated to different Japanese dances, a welcome by the Mayor, a tea ceremony, plus lots of local sake to try. Sake is a rice-based wine and runs about 13% alcohol, so it is not strong. There was an evening tour of the castle as well as music groups performing throughout the evening.

The next morning was the Opening Ceremony at the Fukuyama Hall of Art & Culture. It was about 20 minutes away so we were bussed there. The auditorium was packed! And what an opening! It easily rivaled the opening ceremonies in the past by the Chinese. It started with a performance by the Kodo Taiko Ensemble using some local students. The drumming was amazing, one of my favorite parts of the whole convention. The Bingo Zao Taiko performed songs using ancient Japanese instruments. We were also graced by the presence of Her Imperial Highness Princess Tomohito of Mikasa, who is an honorary President of the Japan Rose Society, and who also welcomed us. Speeches were given by Yukiko Shimura, Chair of the Organizing Committee and Hidehiko Yuzaki, Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture. WFRS President Diane vom Berg officially opened the convention. The ceremony ended with a performance by local singer Aoi Teshima with her "Happy Rose" song.



Welcome Reception: Left: Niagari-Odori dancers, Middle: Fukuyama Castle, Right: Banging drums to open the convention by organizers and dignitaries

During the ceremony, the WFRS Rose Hall of Fame winners were announced. 'Blush Noisette' was the old garden rose winner and 'Gertrude Jekyll' was the modern rose winner.

Lunch was held at Midorimachi Park, which features the "Rose Hill", a large pyramid with up to three levels of roses planted all around it. The "Hill" contains 330 varieties and 5100 roses. Each level is divided into several themes, such as roses named after famous people, Fukuyama, the royal family, Hiroshima, music, rose breeders, romantic names, food, and the WFRS Hall of Fame winners. The winners of the 2025 rose competition were announced on top of the hill. Afterwards we strolled around the Rose Expo. The Expo featured several vendors, entertainment, floral displays and my favorite, the bonsai mini roses.



Opening Ceremony: Left: Taiko Performing Arts Ensemble "Kodo", Right: Her Imperial Highness Princess Tomohito of Mikasa

Below Left & Middle: Announcing 'Gertrude Jekyll' into WFRS Hall of Fame, accepting Daniel Myhill, David Austin Roses (r), Right: Singer Aoi Teshima





Rose Show Entries

Lectures

The first lectures concentrated on Roses in Asia. Speakers included “Roses Raised by Japanese Breeders” by Dr. Yoshihiro Ueda, “The Roses Depicted in Historical Japanese Paintings” by Dr. Nobuo Shirasuna, “Stories of Roses which Started with a Wild Rose in Japan: *Rosa multiflora* Thunb. 2. Rambler Roses” by Dr. Yuki Mikanagi, and “Wild Roses and Old Roses in China” by Zhengzhi Jiang.

The next lecture series concentrated on Conservation, including “Rose Conservation for the Future” by Brigid & Charles Quest-Ritson, “The UK National Collection of *Rosa persica* hybrids” by Daniel Myhill, “A History of Roses in California” by Gregg Lowery, and “The Collection and Conservation of Found Roses in Sweden” by Svein Osen.



Rose Hill: Middle:
'Shinonome' (2015)



The next lecture series concentrated on Disease Resistance, with “Rose Trial in Bologna and Roses in Italy” by Dr. Maria Eva Giorgioni, “Improving Disease Tolerance in Roses - A Combination of Breeding and Culture, by Hayden Foulds, “Breeding for Disease Resistance: Scientific and Applied Aspects” by Dr. Thomas Debener, and “Rose Rosette Disease in the Landscape and its Management” by Dr. David H. Byrne.

The last day the lectures concentrated on New Techniques including “The Genealogy of Fragrance and New Scent Components in Roses” by Dr. Naomi Okubo and “The Origin of Mutations Introducing Recurrent Flowering and Double Flower Characteristics into Cultivated Roses” by Dr. Koji Kawamura. This was followed by a Breeders Panel with Matthias Meilland, Ping Lim, Doug Grant, Takunori Kimura, and Martin Vissers.

There were presentations for future conventions including China and India. No one was there to present the convention scheduled for San Diego in 2027 but I was assured it was still on.

Day Tours

The convention featured five different day tours; four half day tours after the lectures and one all day. One was to Sera Kogen and their garden of Austin Roses. Unfortunately, it was too early for bloom due to its high elevation. We were treated to a local beef hamburger and local wines which made up for it. Another was to the Holocaust Education Center and Tomitani Garden. Another was to Kanae Elementary School where the students proudly showed us their rose gardens that they maintain, then to the Fukuyama Rose Trials to vote for the best rose, and we finished the day at a truck stop with a good-sized rose garden. The last half day tour was to the seaside village of Tomonora and the Shinshoji Temple. There were no gardens here, but it is a nice old town that was spared during WWII bombing. School children met us at different points to explain the local history.

The all-day tour was to Hiroshima to visit the Memorial Park and Museum built near the epicenter of the atomic bomb, followed by



Left: Makoto Hiraoka leading the tour at Sera Kogen, Middle: Rose Garden at Kanae Elementary School, Right: A student explaining her rose

a trip to the Hiroshima City Rose Garden with several thousand roses and 570 varieties covering 1600m². The garden was in full bloom with themed rose beds with old garden roses, modern, early modern roses, species, France and Hiroshima named roses. They have an impressive collection of older hybrid teas. The Rose Garden is but a small part of the larger Hiroshima Botanical Garden which covers 18.3 ha. Inside the Museum was crowded. And outside in the park, it was hard to imagine that day looking up and seeing the bomb dropping. Rather sobering. A church was the only building still standing after the bomb went off and it is there to remind people of the power of war. It survived mostly being located directly under the bomb's explosion. The museum featured photos of before and after the explosion.



Left: Rose Judging at Fukuyama International Townscape Rose Trials, Middle & Right: Sanyo Expressway Fukuyama Rest Area

Rest of the Convention

The weather was good most of the time we were in Japan with the heavy rain coming in the evenings, except for the Street Dining Party, where it rained off and on. Many still dressed up in yukatas, a cotton and lighter version of kimonos and walked the streets. Some of the vendors moved indoors.

Susie and I attended the Friends Dinner at a fabulous restaurant at a Tomonora seaside hotel with about 50 Friends of the Federation. We were entertained by a group of musicians using very old Japanese musical instruments. Here we met Seonghwa Bak, from South Korea, winner of this year's Friends Scholarship.



Above: Hiroshima City Botanical Garden



Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park; Left: Peace Cairn & Rose Garden, Middle, Atomic Bomb Dome, Right: Cenotaph for A-Bomb victims

The Farewell Dinner & Awards Presentation was the end of the convention. Outgoing WFRS Executive Director Derek Lawrence emceed the evening. The 200+ volunteers were thanked. They were awesome. We were treated to Noh dancing by two local theater groups. Derek presented the Award of Garden Excellence and Literary Awards. The nine Garden Award winners were:

- Rose Garden Rivierenhof, Belgium
- Burlington Rose Garden, Canada
- Olomouc Rose Garden, Czech Republic
- Mainau Island Rose Garden, Germany
- Nagaoka Rose Garden, Japan
- Tawada Rose Garden, Japan
- Jeonju Rose Garden, Korea
- Aflopark Rose Garden, Poland
- Gothenburg Rose Garden, Sweden

The three Literary Awards were:

- 'The Saint Clair Rose Garden' by Maurice Jay
- 'Roses in the Fire of Spring' by Viru & Girija Viraraghavan
- 'Rosas patrimoniales de Uruguay - Legado de generaciones' by Inés Díaz de Licandro



Left: Fukuzenji Temple Taichoro, Tomonoura, Middle: School children explaining Tomonoura history, Right: Shinshoji Temple

Diane vom Berg, the outgoing President, was awarded the Gold Medal, outgoing Executive Director Dereke Lawrence the Silver Medal, along with Shi-wei Zhao for serving three terms as Vice President for Asia, and World Rose Awards were presented to Ray Martin of England, Hayden Foulds of New Zealand, Gail Birss of South Africa, and Jim Cane of Tasmania. The City of Fukuyama and the Japan Rose Society were awarded the Silver Commentative Medal.

Sushil Prakash of India was introduced as the incoming President for 2025-2028 as was the new Executive Director, Richard Grabowski from the US. Diane vom Berg ceremonially placed the Chain of Office on Sushil Prakash.



Closing Ceremony: Left: Noh dancer, Middle: Thanking the volunteers, Right: Ray Martin of England with the World Rose Award

The closing remarks were made by Naoki Edahiro, Mayor of Fukuyama. The final event was passing the WFRS Flag from Fukuyama to Bhopal, India for the next World Rose Conference in 2028, and the Regional Flag from Sweden to China.

Overall, it was a very well-run convention with a lot of support by the volunteers. Good job!



Above: Left: Passing of the Chain of Office, Middle: Fukuyama Mayor Naoki Edahiro, Right: Passing of the WRC Flag from Japan to India



Above Left: Incoming Executive Director Richard Grabowski (l) and Retiring ED Derek Lawrence (r), Right: Kim Wook Kyun (c), presenting a plaque to Melanie (l) and Kirsty Trimper (r) of the late WFRS Past President Kelvin Trimper

POST TOUR #1

By Dale Akerstrom, Vancouver (Canada) Rose Society

Let me begin by saying that Post Tour #1 was a wonderful combination of Japanese historical sights and beautiful (rose and Japanese) gardens, all executed with great professionalism and competence by our always-cheerful Tour Director, Kaori ("K") Banno (centre in the picture below). Kaori was assisted by Atsushi Iseki (standing right), a Licensed Tour Guide/Interpreter/"failed comedian" in his own words/flag waver, who was the man to follow at our stops. Dr Nobuo Shirasuna, who has designed rose gardens in Japan and Europe, and Dr Yoshihiro Ueda, Director of Gifu World Rose Garden (seated left and right), provided additional colour commentary along the way. Next to "K" is Sachiko Nishigaki of the Japan Rose Society.



I was very happy to find that this tour included Japanese historical sites in Kyoto (which my spouse was keen to see), and an entire day (almost) at Gifu Rose Garden, which I was hoping to see again, as I saw it first in 2006 when Osaka had a World Rose Convention, but Gifu was not yet in bloom. Our expectations were very satisfied on all accounts, and Gifu was amazing!

The tour began with 22 of us on a 7:41 a.m. ride on a Shinkansen Nozomi 80 bullet train from Fukuyama to Kyoto, where we spent three nights at the very nice Nikko Princess Kyoto Hotel. Before arriving at the hotel, we visited two Zen Buddhism temples, had an artfully-presented Japanese lunch at a lovely restaurant, walked around the beautiful Kyoto Botanical Gardens (above right, where the Rose Garden was in full bloom), and strolled the ancient Hanamikoji Street in Kyoto, with its historical tea houses, geisha and maiko (apprentice geisha) ladies in colourful kimonos (below). Dinner was a fancy multicourse affair at the hotel.

Day 2 of the Post Tour, which began like all our tour days at the sensible time of 9:00 am, was sightseeing historical sites in Kyoto: Nijo-jo Castle, a Zen Buddhist temple founded in 1291, which has had multiple reincarnations hosting Emperors and Imperial dignitaries and Kinkakuji Zen Buddhist Temple (below right), a World Heritage Site, with its serene gardens, and the picturesque Golden Pavilion Ryoan-Ji Zen Buddhist temple, known for its stone garden, ponds, and calm greenery.



Day 3 of the Post Tour was additional sightseeing in Kyoto, beginning with the Kyoto Imperial Palace, the residence of the Imperial family prior to 1869 (when the capital was moved to Tokyo), with its moat, many outbuildings, and beautiful gardens. The Tour Guide at the Palace provided an excellent overview of the history, layout, and use of the various buildings. Next was Daikoku-ji

Buddhist Temple, where we were escorted by one of the monks around a 1200-year-old man-made lake surrounded by Zen gardens and pagodas. The final Temple was Tenryu-ji, another World Heritage Site, again with lovely calm gardens. We ended the day with a walk through the famous Bamboo Forest at Arashiyama, and some free time for souvenir shopping.



On **Day 4** of the Post Tour we went to Shiga, a 1.5-hour drive from Kyoto, to the “Rosa and Berry Tawada Garden.” It is an amazing creation by “Erika” (centre in the photo above left), a woman who began making a garden in an old quarry site in 2003. It now has a wonderful 93,000 m2 rose and perennial garden, a 150-metre rose tunnel (that a miniature ride-on steam train goes through!), a peony and iris garden, a sheep farm, a grape greenhouse, and other attractions for families with kids. We had a wonderful lunch on the patio of the restaurant on site, complete with wine and sparkling wine from their own Osawa Wines in New Zealand.

Back on the coach, we drove another hour and a half to Gifu, where we stayed at our second hotel, the Gifu Nagaragawa Hotel. That evening after a buffet dinner we went down to the river (in taxis, organized efficiently at the last minute by “K”), to witness the ancient fishing technique of cormorant fishing (above right). Fishermen go out at night on shallow boats with a fire burning in a hanging contraption on the front of the boat, and with as many as a dozen trained cormorants on ropes. The cormorants dive down to get a particular fish that looks like a large sardine, that was favoured by the Emperors. The ropes keep the birds from swallowing the fish and they deposit them in the fisherman’s boat. Although the viewing boats we were on could have been more comfortable, this was an incredible sight to see.



Day 5 of the Post Tour was my “heaven” day, where we had six hours to wander about the Rose Garden at Gifu (above left), a WFRS Award of Garden Excellence winning garden. Unlike in 2006, this time it was fully in glorious, splendid bloom! With 6000 varieties and 20,000 roses spread over 81 hectares, it is overwhelming and beautifully humbling at the same time (I took SO MANY pictures!). Having lost my sense of smell years ago after a bad sinus infection, I couldn’t appreciate the allegedly intoxicating perfume of the garden, but visually I was completely happy! There were also some incredible hydrangeas and bonsai azaleas in one of the display halls (above right).

Some of our participants had asked if we could stop somewhere at a Garden Centre so they could purchase Japanese gardening tools, made of famous Japanese steel, so “K” and our guides found time for us to visit one on our way back from Gifu Garden to our hotel. Many garden tools were purchased (and two somehow found their way into my suitcase)! We ended this absolutely marvelous day with a lovely multi-course sit-down dinner at our beautiful hotel, the Indigo Inuyamama Urakuen Garden Hotel.

Day 6 of the Post Tour was our last (partial) day together. We visited Urakuen (a quiet calm garden centred around a historically-significant tea house), and Inuyama Castle (below left) situated at the top of a hill in Inuyama. The climb up to the top of the castle (which some of us managed to do) consists of an incredibly steep stairwell, which you climb in your socks, pulling yourself up by the well-worn bannisters, and the last flight is one-way traffic. The reward, however, was an incredible view of the entire surrounding landscape (below).



After Inuyama Castle we were bused to the Nagoya JR Station, where we dispersed to our own destinations. Our ever-capable “K” was on hand to provide us with individual help to get to our various trains and other modes of transport for our ongoing journey. I can’t give her enough accolades for her personal assistance and superlative attention to detail.

The tour, overall, was an exceptional experience, of which we will have many treasured memories. The photo below is our whole group in back of a mass planting of red 'Knockout' roses at the entrance to Gifu Rose Garden, taken by “K”. Kudos to the organizers of the tour, our excellent Tour Director, and our local guides!

(Photos courtesy of the Author.)



POST TOUR #2

On Post Tour #2, we visited rose gardens in the Echigo & Northern Kanto regions. Dr Yuki Mikanagi was our garden guide with Mitzi and Yuko as our tour guides.

Early in the morning, we boarded a bullet train to the airport on our way up north to Niigata where we boarded our bus which was home for the next week. On the way to our hotel, we stopped at the Northern Cultural Museum in Nagaoka. The interesting story about this former feudal “castle” was it was spared during WWII when all such buildings were torn down. An Army Lieutenant saved the complex as a “cultural gem”. Later, the owner and his son spent years trying to find the Lieutenant in the US before succeeding to thank him. Here is a large wisteria which just finished blooming that is proclaimed the best in Japan. It is over 150 years old.



Northern Cultural Museum: Left: 150 year old wisteria, Middle: One of many artworks, Right: Pond and irises

The next day we visited the National Echigo Hillside Park which includes the Nagaoka Rose Garden, which just won the WFRS Award of Garden Excellence. The garden has 2400 roses and 800 varieties and covers about five acres. Some of the gardens were in the English style with roses and companion plants. Each area had a theme may it be old garden roses, fragrance, English roses, etc.



Echigo Hillside Park—Nagaoka Rose Garden





Left: Alpine pond, Yuzawa Park, Middle and Right: Nakanojo Garden

There is also a test garden for roses and fragrance. Not a lot of roses were in bloom but several species, such as early blooming *Rosa banksiae*, and the old garden roses were in full bloom. I would have loved to see this garden in about two to three weeks' time. What I really liked here was the treatment of the climbing roses. Some were on a large wooden trellis covering a tree and others were fanned out on a metal structure like a peacock's tail feathers. The rose garden is but a small part of the huge park covering 300 acres. Here we were treated to rose soft served ice cream.

Afterward we took a cable car to Yuzawa Kogen Panorama Park up at 3000 feet elevation. It was too early for roses but we had several mountain flowers to see. Most of the roses here were species roses. This is a ski resort that is used year-round. It is an area with natural hot springs, where people can soak their feet near the entrance. The hotel we stayed at also has a large Japanese bath spa.

The next day we visited the Nakanojo Garden. Here we met the designer and rose breeder, Kumiko Ishihara. The garden was designed in the style of Hidcote; a very English Garden. The garden covers over 20 acres and contains 400 varieties of roses. It was too early for most of the roses to be in bloom, but other plants were blooming including dogwoods. The azaleas had just finished blooming.

The next garden made up for it. Shikishima Park has a large sunken garden with over 7000 roses of 600 varieties. It was in full bloom. It is also known as the Kadokura Techno Rose Garden. Roses were grown on trellises, arbors, pillars, rose trees, and individually. They had a great collection of old garden roses and ramblers. Six large pillars featuring 'Paul's Himalayan Musk Rambler' frame the centre plaza on each side, and they were in full bloom.



Above: Kadokura Techno Rose Garden, Middle: 'Paul's Himalayan Musk Rambler'

We had three stops the next day. The first was to the Omiya Bonsai Art Museum. Here, the history and style of bonsai was explained. Some of the bonsais were 100-800 years old. The next stop was at Bara-no-le, home of Rosa Orientis the nursery of Tokunori Kimura, a leading Japanese rose breeder. His program is creating blue roses. Suntory in Japan genetically engineered adding the blue pigment delphinine which roses do not have. There is a second blue pigment, anthocyanin which is responsible for red and blue shades in roses, but the red masks the blue. He tests the petals to see how much of the red he can remove. So far, the roses are still a lavender color.

Near Tokyo is a private rose garden called the Natural Gardens of Sakano. The large garden contains about 500 varieties of roses and 1000 in total. The house sits on a hill and the garden has mass plantings with companion plants. Several roses here were bred by the owner.



Left: Bonsai Museum, Right: Tokunori Kimura (center) explaining his new seedlings, Middle: Examples of his “blue” roses

The family also has a 500-year-old Japanese Manor that is in great condition.

On our way back to the bus there was a small garden on the main road. A welcome sign was up front and the owner was standing there. He had a nice garden and we enjoyed it. He asked for a small donation. It was worth it.

Our last day we visited the Ibaraki Flower Park. I wasn’t sure what to expect but when we got there it was amazing. There were around 6000 roses of 800 varieties throughout numerous gardens based on color, fragrance, type and variety. One section had a collection of 600 varieties alone, three per bed, covering different time periods and breeders. All were in full bloom. I must have taken 1000 photos here. Thank goodness for digital cameras.

The last garden I have been to twice before, the Sakura Rose Garden. This garden features 2500 roses and over 1000 varieties. Many are old garden roses. WFRS President Emeritus Helga Brichet donated most of the chinas and tea roses. There is a garden dedicated to the roses of Seiko Suzuki, a leading hybridizer from the 60s and 70s. We had to visit the Indian rose beds from the late Viru Viraraghavan. The gardens were on the backside of bloom but there was plenty to see. We met up with another post tour group and had dinner together that night.

The next day we were off to the airport for the flight home.



Left: Rambler growing in the Natural Garden of Sakano, Middle: Neighbor’s garden, Right: Rose Tunnel at Ibararki Park



Above: Left: Ibaraki Park, Middle: Sakura Mayor & musicians welcoming guests, Right: Sakura Rose Garden and volunteers

ON THE ROAD TO TOKYO – POST TOUR THREE

By Derek Lawrence

I've always had a profound fascination for Japan. Travel books and media platforms enlighten our knowledge that the culture is very deep-rooted in the passages of time, yet has its mighty status firmly into the future. During the week of the 20th World Rose Convention, I realised that setting ancient traditions alongside modern innovations, is something this remarkable country does so well. For one of the most technologically advanced countries in the world, where robots can undertake housework chores, many other tasks are conducted as they've been for many centuries.

The rose has become an active part of Japanese culture and daily life. Globally, the flower has culturally developed into a meaningful symbol for many countries, and for Japan there's no exception. A white rose indicates spiritual love, red for passion, yellow is recognition and admiration. A blue rose is an achievement of the impossible. I was certain that Post tour Three would reveal many intriguing wonders along the way, as we gradually headed towards the City of Tokyo.



Left: Sensoji Temple, Right: Entrance to Yokohama Rose Garden

Boarding a bullet train proved a fascinating experience. The system is so efficient and everything is done with military precision. We hurtled past vast landscapes and mountainous areas at around 200 miles per hour. Whenever the train stopped at a station, passengers had only 30 seconds to disembark, before the doors swiftly closed and the train regained its brisk momentum. However, a calmer mode of transport was experienced when we enjoyed the panoramic wonders of the Jukkoku Pass, via cable car. The views of Hakone's natural beauty were absolutely breath-taking. You could see volcanic smoke from the source of the hot springs, with magnificent views of Mount Fuji in the background.



Left: Yokohama Rose Garden, Right: Yukiko Shimura, President of the Japan Rose Society at Jundai Rose Garden and WFRS Award of Garden Excellence plaque

For me, one of the many highlights was visiting the Yokohama English Garden which was bestowed the WFRS Award of Garden Excellent in 2018. This finely designed oasis encompassed 2,200 varieties of roses, complemented by grasses and trees suited to Yokohama's climate. Many of the rose cultivars were exceptionally fragrant and we almost felt intoxicated by their deep perfumes!

We experienced some fine examples of historical architecture during the tour. The Sensoji Temple is Tokyo's oldest. The main hall



Above Left: Jundai Rose garden, Right and Below: Keisei Rose Garden

is reached through the Kaminarimon Gate, which is adorned with charming red ornate lanterns. Surrounding the main hall are structures such as the five-story pagoda, which gave further historical appeal and intrigue.

The Jundai Botanical Garden, located in western Musashino is the city's only botanical garden with approximately 100,000 plants of about 4,800 different species comprising of 105 acres. In the heart of this impressive area, is the rose garden which is divided into three areas, which played host to 5,200 bushes of 400 difference varieties. We discovered that the planting scheme employs mass plantings of at least 50 bushes of the variety, as well as a stunning collection of climbing roses that flank along the vast surrounding walls. I was interested to discover an area which celebrates the world's favourite roses. In my mind's eye, I walked down the WFRS Hall of Fame and became reacquainted with such endearing varieties as 'Peace', 'Double Delight', 'Papa Meilland', 'Ingrid Bergman', 'Sally Holmes' and 'Graham Thomas'. I think that more gardens around the world should follow their example and pay tribute to past WFRS Hall of Fame winners. It's such an easy, yet ingenious idea. No wonder that it justly received the WFRS Award of Garden Excellence in 2009.



Being WFRS Executive Director for the past decade has made me acutely aware of the gardens who have been granted this most prestigious international Awards. Over the years, I've simply yearned to visit them all and experience the magic which these gardens conjure up in spectacular fashion. The Keisei Rose Garden is no exception. It opened in 1971 and was renovated in 1999. It displays 10,000 plants of 1,500 different cultivars and also 100 wild roses, which include a fine collection of Japanese Species in an area of 7.4 acres. A special feature is the Seizo Suzuki Memorial Garden, a reconstruction of a private garden designed in 1949 by the late Suzuki, who was one of Keisei Nurseries foremost and highly accomplished breeders. In this area, the most popular roses over the past decades can be seen and enjoyed.

The City of Sakura Rose Garden won the accolade in 2015. The garden is solely run by keen volunteers, whom cultivate 2,500 plants of 1,050 species and heritage rose varieties. The garden is surrounded by tall evergreen trees, which act as a fitting backdrop to showcase the splendid varieties to positively swoon over! Although, many rose lovers were enjoying the delights on offer, somehow, peace and tranquilly prevailed throughout our visit.

On reflection, these tours are also an opportunity to socialise with equally minded rosarians from various regions of the world, who generously share stories and experiences. I simply loved meeting up with these friends, who enhanced the experience to a total new level. The camaraderie was exceptional and new bonds were instantly formed.

One of the stunning and culminating experiences of the tour was staying at the stylish Shinagawa Prince Hotel. On the 39th floor is an exquisite bar which has a 360-degree panoramic view of the city below. Glancing out of the window you can observe nightfall below, cloaked in darkness, yet punctuated with bright glittering multicoloured lights from hotels, restaurants, bars, shops and traffic. The view is absolutely spectacular, and something which I've never experienced before. Immediate Past President, Diane vom Berg joined me at the bar for a much-deserved celebration drink. Diane and I have spent the last ten years working together and over a glass of wine, we reflected on the good times and past challenges. We both raised our glasses to toast the continued success and future prosperity of the World Federation of Rose Societies.

(Photos courtesy of the Author.)

WRC POST POST TOUR

By Martin Stott, UK

Anyone who organises a tour for WFRS rosarians around gardens where the roses are not yet in flower and the buds just swelling is brave. But that's what we got on the post-post tour of Hokkaido at the end of a fantastic conference and tours.

That no one appeared remotely unhappy is testimony to how much we enjoyed what we got instead.

To be fair, the organisers (The Sakura Rose Society) promised us "the greenery of Hokkaido Gardens". Not the pinks, reds and whites of roses! Nowhere epitomised this more than the Tokachi Millennium Forest Garden, considered one of the most beautiful in the world.



Tokachi Millennium Forest Garden



This green park, across a plateau and the wooded foothills of Hokkaido's central Hidaka mountain range, is intended as a 1,000-year project to offset the carbon footprint of entrepreneur Mitsushige Hayashi's national newspaper business.

It is designed by British landscape architect Dan Pearson – a modern Capability Brown. One of the most impressive elements is The Earth Garden on a large area of land between the family restaurant and distant mountains. It was simply flat grassland once.

Pearson has built into the landscape undulating landforms, dynamic bunkers and mounds of swaying grasses that tempt the diner to venture into the area, teasing them to explore the hills and woods beyond.

The Meadow Garden is equally impressive with rivers of perennials sweeping through it, like iris, hosta, fern, astilbe and euphorbia in waves of contrasting colour.



Private Garden: Ms Kiho Tsuchiya

And then there was the forest itself – one of three woodland park areas we visited that were illuminated with spring flowers and ringing with the songs of birds and cicadas. After the heat and humidity of Tokyo it felt like travelling back in time six weeks to journey to this island, 1200km north of the capital. The season had shifted from early summer to spring.



Private Garden: Ms Kiho Tsuchiya

Instead of roses we got lilac. Lots of lilac. And what variety! It was nice to take the rose blinkers off and appreciate other plants for a while. And to spend some time gazing at the wooded hills and snow-capped mountains as we drove around the island.

It was also a chance to see a couple of small private gardens. It's funny, but the gardens that look set to influence my own garden most from this whole trip to Japan are not those like the Jindai Botanical Garden with its thousands of massed roses. Or the Tokachi Millennium Forest (one of Pearson's mounds would fill my garden). It was these small very personal spaces.

In both – belonging to Ms Kiho Tsuchiya and Ms Katsue Takahashi—there were lovely winding brick paths, roses up pergolas and trellises, corners to hide in with a cup of tea and a book (as if you could ever read in the garden with all those jobs staring at you!) and small multi-stem trees adding height but not shade. Quite charming.

This whole Convention was outstanding. Hokkaido felt like icing on the cake.

(Photos courtesy of the Author.)



Private Garden: Ms Katsue Takahashi

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	5-6-2025
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](https://www.wfrs.org/)

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WFRS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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 2028 World Rose Convention in India.***

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



**Above: Incoming WFRS Vice President Kim Wook Kyun of South Korea (l), with Friends
Scholarship winner Seonghwa Bak (r) at the Friends Dinner**

AND FINALLY...



Incoming WRN Editor Marga Verwer (l) & Retiring Editor Steve Jones (r)

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Celebrating 80 Years of Cutting Excellence with FELCO

Innovative tools designed for rose enthusiasts and professionals alike



2025 marks a major milestone for FELCO: 80 years of Swiss-made excellence in pruning innovation. Founded in 1945 by visionary engineer Félix Flisch, FELCO has revolutionized the way we care for plants, from vineyards to rose gardens, with tools that combine precision, durability, and sustainability.

To celebrate this anniversary, FELCO proudly unveils a special edition of its most iconic tool – the **FELCO 2 – 80th Anniversary Edition**. This legendary pruning shear, known globally for its ergonomic design and clean, precise cut, is now available in a unique version featuring a commemorative engraving, gold-cobalt F-GOLD blade coating, and a numbered series—honouring both heritage and excellence.

For rose growers and gardening enthusiasts, FELCO offers a wide array of tools tailored to the delicate art of rose care:

FELCO Ergonomic Pruning Shears

Whether you're a hobby gardener or a professional rosarian, FELCO's range of pruning shears meets every need. From compact models for fine cuts to the industry's widest ergonomic selection, each tool is designed to deliver precision, comfort, and long-lasting performance.

Not sure which model suits you best? FELCO offers a quick and easy [online test](#) to help you find your perfect fit, based on your hand size, cutting habits, and preferred ergonomics.



FELCO 602 Pull-stroke Saw

Ideal for thicker canes and deadwood, the FELCO 602 combines power with finesse. Its sharp teeth and non-slip handle make it perfect for maintaining healthy rose structures.

FELCO 705 Gloves

Protect your hands from thorns without sacrificing comfort or dexterity. The FELCO 705 gloves are made from high-quality, breathable leather — your best ally when handling roses



FELCO 490 Apron

Crafted with durable, water-resistant materials, the FELCO 490 apron brings functionality and elegance together. Multiple pockets and reinforced zones make it the ideal companion for demanding gardening sessions.



FELCO 482 & FELCO 483 Gardening Bags

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Each FELCO tool is engineered with sustainability in mind:

All parts are replaceable, and the tools are built to last for decades, making them an investment in both your craft and the planet.

As a proud partner of the World Federation of Rose Societies, FELCO continues to support rose lovers worldwide with the finest tools for nurturing beauty, one cut at a time.

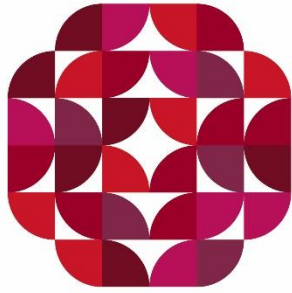
Discover more at www.felco.com

Exclusive Offer for WFRS Members

To mark our 80th anniversary, FELCO is pleased to offer World Federation of Rose Societies members an exclusive 15% discount on a curated selection of tools on our official e-shops.

This offer is valid on orders from €80 / CHF 80 / \$80, for a limited time only.

Simply enter the code **WFRS2025** at checkout and celebrate precision, performance, and passion—FELCO style.



WFRS 20th
WORLD ROSE
CONVENTION
2025
in FUKUYAMA
第20回 世界バラ会議福山大会



At the Farewell Dinner, receiving a commemorative medal from President Diane vom Berg.

June 2025

Dear Rose Friends,

It was a great honor and joy to welcome guests from around the world to Fukuyama, our beloved hometown known as the City of Roses. Sharing time together to appreciate roses with all of you was truly a memorable experience for us.

Throughout the Convention, we were joined not only by the Japan Rose Society and our own organizing team, but also by many citizens, volunteers, and children, all of whom were glad to welcome you with heartfelt hospitality. We hope you were able to feel the strong sense of community spirit that Fukuyama has nurtured through its love for roses.

Since the moment Fukuyama was chosen to host the World Rose Convention, we have worked with great care and determination to create a meaningful and unforgettable event for every participant. While there were challenges along the way, the kind support and guidance from the World Federation of Rose Societies, combined with the dedication of our citizens and partners, helped bring the Convention to a successful conclusion.

To all those who made the long journey to join us, and to everyone who supported the event in various ways, we offer our deepest thanks. We hope your time in Fukuyama was fulfilling, and that you returned home not only with beautiful memories of roses and new friendships, but also with inspiration for building the future together with younger generations through roses.

As we pass the baton to the next host city, Bhopal, India, for the 2028 Convention, we remain committed to enriching our community and city with the spirit of roses. We would be delighted to welcome you again someday.

Yukiko Shimura

Yukiko Shimura
President, Japan Rose Society

Naoki Edahiro

Mayor, City of Fukuyama