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World Rose News





Table of Contents

Editor's Message	3
President's Message	4
Executive Director's Message	6
Heritage Conference Nanyang-Shanghai	7
Rose Trials Europe	12
Invitation World Rose Convention 2028	20
WFRS Calendar of Events	21
Friends of the Federation	21
Fatal Attraction	22
In tribute : Ian Spriggs	28
WFRS Leadership & Membership	30
Featured FELCO Products	36

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Special offer for members !

To mark our 80th anniversary and the collaboration with the WFRS, 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.

Discover more at www.felco.com

Editor's Message



Marga Verwer

In the June number of this year it was already announced that I would follow Steve Jones as Editor. I am very grateful that I have been accepted by the Executive Committee and by the Member Countries to take over this challenging job.

After the exciting and enjoyable weeks in Japan, already described by Steve in the June number, coming home pushed me straight back to the daily routine. For me, it meant a lot of travelling to attend the rose trials, and updating the website after the convention in Japan.

I'm very happy that the tradition continues, with the President's Message and the Executive Director's Message. Also can be found a Vice President's Message by

Brenda Vinney, and articles from Derek Lawrence, Sandra Turner, and Sheenagh Harris, plus (exceptionally) an article by myself.

With Japan behind us, now we can look forward to next year. Already in April 2026 China will organise the 17th International Heritage Rose Conference. Please do check the pages 7-11, and start making your planning for next year. The list with trial dates 2026 can be found in our next edition.

Enjoy your reading.

Note: All photos and articles are by the Editor or by the writers of the articles received, unless otherwise noted.

President's Message



Sushil Prakash

It was a challenging start to my Presidency and I found June and July to be specifically difficult and tumultuous to get things started in the new committees.

In the meantime, our Executive Director, Mr. Richard Grabowski resigned and we requested Mr. Derek Lawrence to continue and he agreed. We are really thankful to Mr. Derek Lawrence for accepting our request.

The silver lining was that I travelled to Baden-Baden, Saverne, Bagatelle (Paris), and Kortrijk (Belgium) for the Rose Trials.

I got the chance to meet a large group of Rose Friends and Rose Breeders in each of the trial grounds. This was not my first visit but during every visit I learn new things about Rose Trials, and I am amazed how well the roses are taken care for a period of 2 to 3 years by the gardeners to be ready to be showcased in the trials. It also gives me the opportunity to witness firsthand the direction in which the breeding programs of established and new breeders are heading. It is very heartening to note that now a lot of stress is on disease-resistant varieties and profuse flowering.

Group picture 2025 - image by Paris trials



Executive Director's Message



Derek Lawrence

The rose enlightens and illuminates our lives in many ways, which is evident from the creative minds of artists and authors who, through their talented works, celebrate the majesty of this endearing flower.

During my recent short break from working for the Federation, I found myself delving into my extensive CD collection that contains many tracks from favourite musicals. Rummaging through the discs; it suddenly struck me that many of my cherished recordings incorporate roses into their titles or lyrics, often symbolizing love, beauty or even heartache. One such classic, is 'Ramblin Rose' by Nat King Cole. This romantic song uses the imagery of a wandering rose to convey affection. Another is, 'I Never

Promised You A Rose Garden' by Lynn Anderson. This timeless country song is about finding happiness difficulties that uses a rose garden as a metaphor for a perfect life that was never promised. "The Roses of Picardy" is a popular British song from World War I. When it was published in 1916, it became an international hit and remains one of the most famous songs of the war. It's known for its romantic lyrics, which tell the story of a soldier longing for his sweetheart, while fighting in the Picardy region of France. On a brighter note, 'The Yellow Rose of Texas' is a jolly song, which refers to the Texas Revolution of the 1830's. Then there's 'The Rose' by Bette Midler. This heartfelt ballad, written for the movie of the same name, uses the rose as a powerful symbol of love's enduring appeal, despite its potential for pain. But as an absolute lover of musical theatre, my ultimate favourite is 'Everything's Coming Up Roses' which comes from the 1959 production of 'Gypsy: A Musical Fable' written by Julie Styne with lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. In essence, the song embraces sheer positivity. This would be the perfect song to open an WFRS Convention, but whether we'd find a willing volunteer to perform it, is quite simply, another story.



17th International Heritage Rose Conference

April 24-28, 2026

Nanyang & Shanghai, China

China Roses: Past, Present & Future

Welcome to The 17th International Heritage Rose Conference, Nanyang & Shanghai, China

Dear Rosarians,

Nanyang is the city of rose in Central China while Shanghai is the oriental pearl in Eastern China. The 17th International Heritage Rose Conference will be held jointly in Nanyang and Shanghai from April 24th to 28th, 2026. The convention will begin in Nanyang and end in Shanghai. The pre-convention tour will be “A Journey of Panda and Roses” starting from April 19th until 24th in Chengdu, Sichuan. The post-convention tour will be a 4-day visit around Shanghai. 12 speakers from around the world will talk about species roses and heritage roses. We look forward to seeing you in China in 2026.

Professor Zuoshuang, Zhang
President of Chinese Rose Society



Programme at a Glance

Day 1 — Fri, Apr 24

Registration | Garden & Nursery Tour |
Meet & Greet (Nanyang)

13:00 – 18:00 Registration (Rose Hotel Nanyang)

14:00 – 17:30 Garden & rose nursery tour

18:00 – 21:00 Meet & Greet (Holiday Inn)

Day 2 — Sat, Apr 25

Opening Ceremony · Lectures (Nanyang)

08:30 Buses depart (Rose Hotel)

09:00 Opening at Grand Expo Rose Park

- Welcome by Mayor of Nanyang
- Address by WFRS President
- Welcome by Prof. Zhang Zuoshuang, President, Chinese Rose Society
- Address by Secretary-General, China Flower Association
- Local performance

09:45–11:50 Garden visits

(Expo Park, germplasm park, additional rose garden), then lunch at hotel

Afternoon Lectures:

1. Newly Found Wild Roses in China — Dr. Le Luo
2. Wild Roses in Japan — Yuki
3. Variation of *Rosa chinensis spontanea* in China
4. To be decided

Presentation: 2028 World Rose Convention

19:00–20:30 WFRS EC Meeting

20:40–22:00 Heritage & Conservation Committee Meeting





Day 3 — Sun, April 26

Lectures, garden tour, gala dinner

Morning Lectures:

4 lectures in the morning
(speakers from Europe, USA, Europe and South Africa)

Presentation of 2027 regional convention

Afternoon:

Garden tour

Evening:

Gala Dinner

WFRS flag handover to next convention organizer.

Day 5 — Tue, April 28

Whole day in Shanghai Chenshan Botanic Garden

09:00-12:00 4 lectures in the morning

12:00 – 12:30 Closing speech

Lunch at the botanic garden

Garden tour in the botanic garden

The conference is over and the post-convention tour will start.

Day 4 — Mon, April 27

Garden tour, fly to Shanghai

08:00 Breakfast & Check-out the Hotel
Garden tour in the morning

11:30 Lunch

12:30 Buses go to the airport and go to Shanghai (Flight time: 14:00-16:20)

Check into the hotel and have a free evening.
The hotel is in Songjiang District, about 1 hour's drive from the downtown area. The subway is very convenient in Shanghai.

18:30 Friends Dinner (near the hotel)



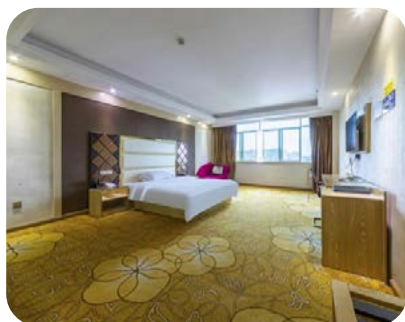
Hotel & Convention Centre

Rose Hotel Nanyang

Guests will be staying at the brand-new Rose Hotel Nanyang, where spacious and comfortable rooms ensure a relaxing night's rest. Just a five-minute walk away, a lively street with shops and restaurants invites you to explore and enjoy local flavors.

Convention Centre

The convention centre is located very close to the hotel, making it convenient to reach all event sessions within minutes.



Pre-Convention Tour:

A Journey of Wild Roses and Panda in Western China (Sichuan Province)

Departure Location: Chengdu, Sichuan Province. Nearest airport: Chengdu Tianfu Airport or Shuangliu Airport. Please send us your flight details and we will pick you up at the airport. Please check into the designated accommodation hotel by dinner time, as we will have dinner prepared for you.

Day 1, April 19th

Arrive in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, Check into the hotel.

Day 2: April 20th

Visit Emei Mountain and wild roses. *Rosa omeiensis* was named after the Emei Mountain.

Day 3: April 21st

City tour in Chengdu, visit ancient streets, visit botanic garden

Day 4, April 22nd

Visit World Heritage site Dujiangyan and the rose park

Day 5, April 23rd

Visit Panda Conservation Centre and the rose garden, take a high-speed train to Chongqing.

Day 6, April 24th

Visit the botanic garden in Chongqing, depart for Nanyang by high-speed train and arrive at about 17:00.

Post-Convention Tour:

A Journey to Roses in Classical Gardens

The trip will start from Shanghai and end in Shanghai.



Day 1: April 29th

Visit Suzhou's classical Chinese Gardens

Day 2, April 30th

visit gardens in lakes in Wuxi

Day 3, May 1st

visit Changshu and Lang's Rose nursery, and the rose garden at Taicang.

Day 4, May 2nd

visit Shanghai's landmarks and downtown area



Registration fee

		Rate
Early bird	December 31st, 2025	600 US \$
Normal	March 5th, 2026	700 US \$
Late	April 15th, 2026	800 US \$
On site		900 US \$

The full registration fee includes the lectures, social events, meals, gala dinner and the transportation from Nanyang to Shanghai.

At present, the website is not yet available. If you have questions, please send email to chinarose2026@163.com

A vibrant garden scene framed by dense, pink roses in the foreground. The roses are in full bloom, with many petals visible. In the background, a well-manicured lawn leads to a variety of other plants, including a tall, slender tree and a large, light-colored house with a balcony. The sky is overcast with soft, grey clouds.

Rose Trials

Marga Verwer

Every trial is special, with its own character. They all organise in their own way, upon their own possibilities. That is something we appreciate and love. I hope the trials will remain for many years to go. They have proven over the years to stimulate the breeders to develop good and beautiful roses. They also give the customer the for them important indication of quality. And they brighten up all these gardens, we cannot ask for more.

Having been active since 2008 as an international rose judge at a regular basis, and having served as a WFRS Chairman International Rose Trials for the past seven years, I have learnt quite a lot about trials since then. This article is written upon demand.

There are Rose Trials and Rose Shows. Although both are about our beloved flower, the rose, there is a large difference between the two events.

At Rose Shows the single flowers or flowering stems are shown in vases, or in arrangements. The rose show is kept at one day for the judging, extra days are for the public to enjoy. Private persons bring in their most beautiful flowers. They are free to decide to exhibit at any particular rose show and choose their blooms accordingly. They are encouraged to artistically display their blooms to their best effect in the event hall or tent, in accordance to the rules. There they are then subsequently judged, and participants may be fortunate enough to win prizes. The WFRS doesn't have a list with approved Rose Shows, but there is a list with WFRS International Rose judges for shows. The list can be obtained from the Chair of the International Judges Committee. Good to hear more about this interesting subject in a special article in a future edition.

Rose trials are for cultivated rose plants which are grown directly into the ground, where they are judged over a period of time. It is not only about the flower, but about the whole plant. Judging is not limited to one day, but takes place at several moments during 2 years, for climbing roses even 3 years.

Roses are sent in by breeders, by professionals and sometimes by amateur breeders. Most of the times Rose trials are organised by city councils, but sometimes by gardens, a university, a rose society or even a (independent) company. They receive the plants from the breeders in

the winter. During a period of two (or three for climbing roses) at several occasions(3-5), the roses are judged by a permanent judging group, and in year two (or three for the climbing roses) this is finished by a pre-arranged international judging day. That is how it is done in Europe, but not always worldwide. Some countries are isolated, which gives difficulties to organise an international judging day.

The city councils or other organisers plant the roses in a park or a garden. They benefit of the fact that they have all these plants at their disposal, but they have to take care of them, using good, up-to date cultivation methods, and organise all the judging days. The organiser decides if a breeder can send in, and how many varieties are allowed. Every trials is different. Already the dimensions of the beds, the number of plants per bed a breeder needs to send in. Besides that, not all trials do judge new varieties, some of them judge roses which are already a few year at the market, or both of them.

Over the years the WFRS has tried to make them a little bit more uniform. Markus Brunsing, who was my predecessor, made the Guidelines for organising International Rose Trials. They were agreed in Copenhagen in 2018. In it is mentioned a judging system, the so called 30-30-30-10 system.

Every rose is judged with a maximum of 30 points for the general impression of the plant, 30 points for the flower, 30 points for disease resistance and a maximum of 10 points for perfume.

Trials who do use this system make it easier for the breeders to compare, to have an impression in which climate zones their roses perform well. The results gained at rose trials are important for a breeder. They give an indication

if they are at the right track. A trial organiser must inform the breeder of the total points gained for a rose, for all roses. Gaining a prize is highly sought of, and an immense recognition for the sheer dedication and hard work undertaken by a breeder. The international trial day counts for a certain percentage, so the points of the permanent judging group are the most important. The international judges, invited by the organiser, can affect the eventual grading of

a medal, but so can the unpredictable weather affect the outcome. A lot of rain, or enormous heat can be of influence.

Most of the WFRS trials take place in Europe. I had the pleasure to also judge in Palmerston North – New Zealand and Adelaide – Australia, but I will give you an overview of the trials in Europe, with a few of their characteristics.

Where the Roses Compete: A Tour of Europe's Rose Trials

1

Monaco Principality of Monaco

Organised every two years—the plants are put in their pot in the soil for the final judging day in the Princess Grace Rose Garden, very popular by the citizens of Monaco.

2

Barcelona Spain

The trial garden is part of the large park Cervantes. We find a show garden with roses, perennials around them, palm trees, and magnificent old olive trees. After judging we are always treated with a visit to a garden or a special building.

3

Madrid Spain

The rose garden is situated in the city, and has this south European feel. After judging we can enjoy an exciting musical program.

4

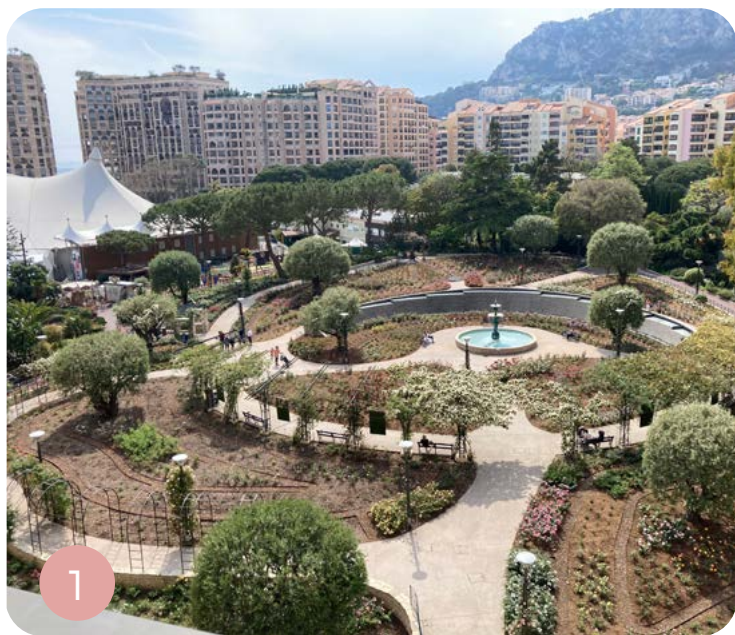
Rome Italy

A very special garden at a former cemetery, the upper part of the garden is in the form of a candelabra, with beautiful views over the city, and in the lower part we find the trial garden.

5

Bologna Italy

The garden is situated in Faenza, part of the university of Bologna, and maintained by the students. This trial started only a few years ago, and developed excellent in these few years. This trial is interesting for the breeders to see how their roses cope in a warm climate.



6

Lyon France

The trial garden is situated in the enormous park Tête d'Or, a very important park for the citizens of Lyon, situated in the north of the city. Next to the trial garden is a zoo with giraffes. Besides the trial garden we find a large rose garden in the park as well. The citizens of Lyon use the park intensely for walking and jogging.

7

Hradec Králové Czech Republic

This trial garden is not a public garden, but only open for the public a few weeks around the trial date. It is a lovely garden, full of roses, well maintained. The gathering of the judges is in a secluded part of the garden, and is opened by the performance of a choir. They organise a visit to an exposition or garden after judging.

8

Baden-Baden Germany

Not only the judging takes place in the trial garden the Beutig, but also lunch, served by the gardeners, with views over the Black Forest Hills. The afternoon is for a visit in the city. At the end of the afternoon the prize giving is in another rose garden: the Gönneranlage in the Lichtentaler Allee, a green space along a river in the centre.

9

Saverne France

Situated at the edge of the city in a lovely rose garden. The organisation is by the rose society, all volunteers. And this working by the volunteers is not only at the international judging day, they are active all year long. They also have a shop with rosy gifts.

10

Paris France

The trial garden is not visible as such, the roses are planted in the classical formed park Bagatelle as if they belong to the composition. A beautiful rose garden with several buildings like the orangery for the gathering. This is the oldest trial world wide, this year was the 118th edition. Here no giraffes but peacocks walking around.

11

Kortrijk Belgium

Situated next to the castle 't Hooghe we find a trial garden and a beautiful show garden. Special about this trial is the fact that in front of each rose one finds a tube at a stick at waist height, to make it more easy to check the perfume.





6



7



8



9



10



11



12

The Hague Netherlands

This trial judges new varieties in a secluded part of the garden, and roses already at the market for the top prizes, like the Golden Rose of The Hague. This trial is known for its large beds in the Westbroekpark, a beautiful large park with borders, trees and several statues.

13

Belfast Northern Ireland

The trial takes place in the Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon park, at the edge of the city. This park is really enormous, very hilly, with several rose gardens spread all over. The international judging day is part of Rose Fair, open days with lots of activities for the citizens of Belfast, young and old. Generation after generation get to love roses through these activities, with the rose society very much involved.

14

Warsaw Poland

A new trial with like The Hague a judging of new varieties in a secluded part, and varieties already at the market. The trial gardens are part of the large botanical garden PAN, with a large variety of gardens, like a Japanese garden, and a tropical garden in a glasshouse. With Bologna a new trial which also developed well.

15

Le Roeulx Belgium

now we are already end of the season, which is interesting for the many judges always present. Roses performing well in this period of the season are really good. We find a trial garden and a show garden in this city known for its roses and its beer. And as beer is given at lunch at the final judging day, this beer is in the meantime known by judges worldwide.

16

Letty Green, Hertfordshire Great Britain

(Rochfords) A new trials which I attended only once. A well prepared space, with water supply ready for the dryer climate. At most of the trials you find 3 seasons, after which the oldest one is removed. Here they remain to form a collection, as they have ample space for about 20 years.

17

Orleans France

Always the last trial of the season. Jardin des Plantes is situated close to the centre, south of the river Loire. The way of planting is special, as the beds with the roses are alternated with perennial beds, which is really appealing. They always organise a visit in the city to a museum or a lecture.



INVITATION

World Rose Convention 2028, Bhopal, India

It is our pleasure and privilege to invite you all to the 21st World Rose Convention to be held in Bhopal from 7th to 13th January, 2028. The event will be organized by M.P.Rose Society under the aegis of Indian Rose Federation.

We are planning a wonderful convention for all of you in our beautiful city of Bhopal. The city known for its lakes and gardens has two UNESCO World Heritage sites in its periphery. The city itself is a combination of new and old-world charm and is

enshrined in the antiquities of time with legends of the queens and its rulers. It keeps pace with modernity while nestling in the lap of natural hills, verdant gardens and beautiful lakes, a unique city in the heart of the Indian sub -continent.

The convention will showcase the city and its sites but will not go away from the main objective of having renowned speakers bringing the flavor of Roses from different parts of the world. We already have a detailed programme prepared and the 7 days promise to be exciting. So,

make up your minds to explore the mysteries, tales, cultures, traditions, heritage, food, flora and fauna of India through the Pre-Tours and Post Tour. We are sure that all the delegates will enjoy the Convention and the experiences will be etched in their memories for many many years to come.

Dipa Prakash

President -
Organising Committee
World Rose Convention 2028,
Bhopal, India



WORLD FEDERATION OF ROSE SOCIETIES



21ST WORLD ROSE CONVENTION

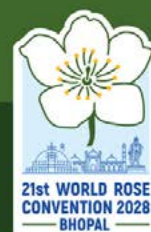
January 7-13, 2028
Bhopal, INDIA



Hosted by
**MADHYA PRADESH ROSE
SOCIETY BHOPAL, INDIA**



Under the aegis of
**THE INDIAN ROSE
FEDERATION**



WFRS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

25-29 April 2026

WFRS 17th Heritage Rose Conference,
Nanyang & Shanghai, China

April/May 2027

WFRS Regional Convention, San Diego, CA, USA

7-14 January 2028

WFRS 21st World Rose Convention, Bhopal, India

*Alaska,
Kordes Rosen 2005*



FRIENDS OF THE FEDERATION

Since its introduction in 2010, over 100 individuals from around the globe have donated funds towards 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

A close-up photograph of a bouquet of flowers resting on a green lawn. The bouquet features several large, vibrant yellow roses and two larger, double-headed roses in a peach or light orange hue. These are interspersed with numerous small, delicate white flowers, likely baby's breath, and green foliage. The flowers are arranged in a dense, circular pattern. A dark green rectangular box is overlaid on the top left of the image, containing white text.

Derek Lawrence,
Our Executive Director, Reveals His

FATAL ATTRACTION

I've recently discovered something about myself, which I guess has always been in my subconscious. The concept of discovery indicates the process of finding something that exists, but that is not known or recognised yet. Whilst visiting the supermarket or florist, I've become mesmerised by the sight of bright yellow roses. I cannot resist buying a bunch and bringing them home to add a touch of vibrancy; especially on a dark winter's day. Maybe the intenseness of the colour is a timely reminder of the warm rays of the summer sunshine? Yellow is a very positive colour, and that's why I attracted to them? I recall reading an article many years ago, which revealed that Hollywood legend Judy Garland adored yellow roses.

It was the discovery of single bloomed Rosa Foetida, which introduced the colour yellow into the gene pool of the rose. Its origin remains a mystery, but research suggests that it may be ancient hybrid between the glandular Rosa kokanica from Central Asia and the wild Turkish Rosa hemispharica. Small bright wild yellow roses were located in dry parts of Asia, Turkey, northern China and Mongolia.



The Pilgrim
© David Austin Roses

The Persian Yellow rose from Iran was introduced to the United Kingdom in 1838, by Sir Henry Willock, which was a double form of Rosa Foetida. It proved to be a commercial success story, because its brilliant colour satisfied the palette of Victorian gardeners. In the Gardeners' Chronicle dated 1843, adverts displayed the cultivar at 15 shillings each, which was then an expensive acquisition. The turning point came during the year 1900, when the renowned French rose breeder Joseph Pernet-Ducher introduced the variety, 'Soleil de'Or'. It was a cross between foetida persiana



Arthur Bell (Sam McGredy IV)



*Friendship Forever,
Roses Forever*

the varieties, 'Mme Mélanie Soupert' x 'Soleil de' Or'. The cultivar had red flushes on the outer petals, which, even today, is a common trait with yellow roses. Interestingly, this variety was eventually bestowed with a gold medal from Britain's National Rose Society.

and the red Hybrid Perpetual 'Antoine Ducher'. Its launch heralded the beginning of the colour yellow into the perpetuals, where new varieties came into commerce. In 1910, he introduced, 'Rayon de'Or' which famously became known as the first golden yellow Hybrid Tea. Despite the public attention it caused, it easily succumbed to blackspot infections and swiftly lost its popularity. In essence, Pernet-Ducher had inadvertently crossed-bred the *Rosa Foetida* tendency to play host to fungus infections into the Hybrid Teas. The foliage is unable to resist fungus when humidity is present in an average British garden. Many gardeners' also observed that the cultivar severely died back during the winter months. This is not surprising, when you realise that the Persian Yellow originates from the dry, hot climate of Iran, which allows the wood to ripen. However, we must be remain thankful that Pernet-Ducher's cross-breeding prowess introduced the colour yellow into the modern rose. 'Rayon de'Or' was bred from

To acknowledge the public's admiration for these distinctive types, they became affectionally known as the Pernetianas. However, as time marched on, gardeners' eventually realised that these cultivars were very susceptible to black spot infections; an affliction inherited from the yellow side of their ancestry. The Pernetianas soon lost their popularity. In the 1917 edition of *The Rose Annual* of Britain's National Rose Society, it is recorded that these types were beginning to be referenced with the established Hybrid Austrian Briars.

Many yellow roses were introduced. Noteworthy varieties include: 'Lawrence Johnston', 'Hidcote Yellow' an early flowering vigorous climber. Pernet-Ducher (1923).

'Star of Persia', another healthy climber raised by the father of the Hybrid Musks, Rev. Joseph Pemberton (1919). It would be remiss of me not to mention a cultivar, which became well-known through a jolly song, 'The Yellow Rose of Texas'. It was created by New York lawyer, George Folliott Harison during the 19th Century, which arrived on British shores a few years later. Despite their vulnerability to blackspot infections, the breeders have over the years, worked tirelessly hard to create yellow varieties which are disease resistant.

It was whilst I was a gardening apprentice (many moons ago), that I was attracted to the floribunda 'Arthur Bell'. It's bright yellow and very fragrant blooms were created by the wizardry of Sam McGredy IV and was introduced to Britain in 1964. I have grown it in both bush and climber forms. The latter has rather stiff stems, and therefore difficult to train as a climber. From my experience, it's better to enjoy this variety



*Sunny Sky
© Kordes Rosen*



as a bush. Another old classic, is the Hybrid Tea ‘Grandpa Dickson’. It was released by Dickson Nurseries in Country Down, Northern Ireland in 1966 and won several awards from 1965 – 1970. It has fine yellow blooms and neat bushy growth. In recent years there has been: ‘The Pilgrim’ (1991) bred by David Austin Roses. This charming short climber was named after the pilgrims in Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales. ‘Worcestershire’ (1999) also bred by David Austin – a free-flowering single bloom cultivar with glossy foliage, ideal for good ground cover.

‘Sunny Sky’ (2009) bred by Kordes, is a soft honey-yellow Hybrid Tea, ideal for growing in pots and with good disease resistance. Another David Austin shrub rose is the variety, ‘Charles Darwin’ (2003).

It has a delicious soft floral Tea fragrance.

But, whatever your thoughts, yellow roses are a great acquisition in any garden or patio area. Their bright blooms act as beacons, bringing much needed light and positivity into our lives.

Please note that some of the images used in this article are by courtesy of David Austin Roses (UK) www.davidaustin-roses.co.uk



Charles Darwin
© David Austin Roses

Introducing Canada to the WFRS Family



Brenda Viney

*Vice President
North America*

Hello everyone. I am pleased to have been elected as a VP to represent North America (Canada) for the WFRS. As a long-time attendee of World Rose conventions, it is a pleasure to take on this new responsibility.

Not a lot has been written about the country of Canada and our rose societies but many of the colder countries in the world are quite familiar with our rose breeding capabilities.

For now, we will start with a short history of the country of Canada with future articles on our rose societies and our rose breeders.

Our country comprises 10 provinces and three territories that are far-reaching from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean and north

to the Arctic Ocean. It is the second largest country by total area with less than one percent of the world's population; has the longest coastline of any country but is one of the world's most sparsely populated countries. We have one-seventh of the world's supply of accessible fresh water, much stored in lakes and wetlands including The Great Lakes; the world's largest surface of fresh water that we share as part of the international border with the United States of America. The Dominion of Canada was created on July 1, 1867, now a national holiday for Canada Day; we are a very young country!

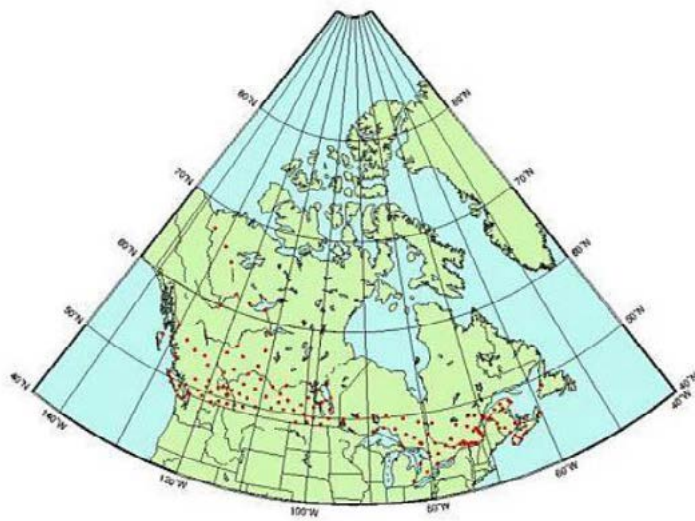
We have upwards of 42 million people. Our Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) have lived here for thousands of years, from coast to coast. Then as people moved to the new world, settlers came overseas from Britain, followed by many other European peoples. Today we are a very multicultural society with immigrants from all countries in the world. Our Head of Government is our Prime Minister, Mark Carney; King Charles III is our Head of State and he

is represented in Canada by our Governor-General, Mary Simon. We are also proud to have been part of the British Commonwealth since 1931.

Because of the extent of our land, Canada has a diverse number of climates that play an important part of what we gardeners can grow. In the west in coastal British Columbia (I live on the south coast in Vancouver), we see heavy rainfall, some snow and moderate summer and winter temperatures; gardening is quite easy for us in the Vancouver area. The rest of the country (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec) mostly sees a dramatically different climate to BC with colder and hotter temperatures and much more snowfall. Gardening can be a challenge depending on the location within those provinces. The far northern areas of the country (Yukon,



Map courtesy of Natural Resources Canada



Map of longitude and latitude provided by Natural Resources Canada – for reference, Vancouver is on the 49th parallel which also represents a lot of our border with the USA. The majority of the western province population (red dots) sits between the 49th and 55th °N parallels. The eastern province populations are below 50°N; however, their colder climate is heavily dictated by the Great Lakes.

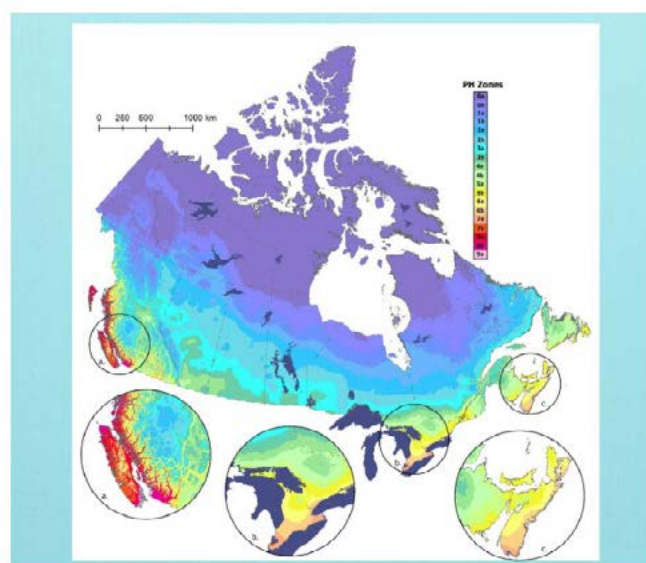
Northwest Territories and Nunavut) have even more extreme temperature and snow conditions. The far eastern part of the country (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador) can be more moderate due to their proximity to the Atlantic Ocean.

Natural Resources Canada has just updated its 2014 Canada Plant Hardiness Zones map saying that about 80 per cent of land in Canada has shown an increase in zones by about a half to a full zone. The zones are from 0 to 9 and each zone is divided into 'a' and 'b'. The main reason for the change is climate change but also one of the reasons given is the amount of population growth in certain cities that is creating more concrete and buildings that are contributing to more heat. However, an unseasonal bad winter could erase those changes! The Vancouver area has apparently been raised to 9A which is the highest hardiness zone in the country. Where I live, I don't take any

chances with tender plants as I know a bad winter might see -12 or -15 C in my higher location. If I don't have any protective snow cover, which is very possible, I can definitely lose plants.

I hope you enjoyed this brief snapshot of my country. We are a proud nation of citizens who reflect a cultural, ethnic and linguistic mix that, according to Statistics Canada, is unique in the world. We believe we are all

equal, that diversity makes us stronger as a country and we have strong constitutional protections for individual rights and freedoms. Canada officially adopted multiculturalism as a policy in 1971, the first country to do so! We have respect for others, kindness and compassion, a publicly funded healthcare, strict gun control and legal same-sex marriage – and we love hockey! Elbows up!!!



Map provided by the Government of Canada and Natural Resources Canada – figure a. shows Vancouver Island and Vancouver along with the rest of the west coast of BC – the “hot” zones in Canada. Figure c. shows the Maritime Provinces on the east coast with their slightly warmer climate.

In tribute

Mr. Ian Spriggs

ARA, SMA, NSA, WRA.

Mr. Ian Spriggs sadly passed away on Thursday, 24th July 2025. Ian was a member of The Rose Society of Victoria Inc. for 55 years, having joined in February 1970.

He was one of our most esteemed members, whose tireless dedication and hard work were invaluable to our society. He made significant contributions to The Rose Society of Victoria Inc. as a noted rose breeder, exhibitor, consultant, and rose judge.



Ian held important positions both nationally and internationally for The Rose, as well as making a major contribution to The Rose Society of Victoria Inc.

His extensive involvement included numerous roles, and he received many prestigious awards in recognition of his contributions over many years.

Victoria

Treasurer - The Rose Society of Victoria Inc. 1975 - 1986, 1989 Committee Member 1975, 1987 - 1989

Vice President - The Rose Society of Victoria Inc. 1991 - 1994

President - The Rose Society of Victoria Inc. 2006 - 2012

Rose Judge - Victorian Judge early 1980's - Present, National Judge 2010 - Present.

National

Foundation President of The Australian Rose Breeders' Association 1992

Editor - Australian Rose Annual 1995 - 2006

Australian Registrar of New Names 2002 - 2004

President - National Rose Society of Australia 2007, 2012

International

World Federation of Rose Societies Awards Committee Chair 2006 - 2012

Awards

Honorary Life Member of The Rose Society of Victoria Inc. in 1986

T. A. Stewart Memorial Award 2002 (SMA)

National Rose Society of Australia Rose Award 2002 (ARA)

National Rose Society of Australia Service Award 2007 (NSA)

World Rose Award Bronze Medal 2015 (WRA)

Ian has been a successful rose breeder in his own right and has bred two outstanding roses 'Annie's Song' released in 1991, an orange/pink floribunda rose and 'Australian Sunrise' released in 2000, a cherry/red shrub rose. Ian was also a strong advocate for Australian Bred Roses and had personally known many of the Australian and International rose breeders over time.

Ian was a noted and very experienced rose judge, well known for his great knowledge and skill in identifying roses at shows, a respected rose consultant and a most valued mentor; he shared his knowledge.

He was a well-known international rosarian and had attended a large number of international rose conventions where he made long-lasting connections and friendships in the rose world. He delivered a lecture on the establishment

of Australia's National Trial Gardens to those present at the World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS) convention in Osaka in 2003. In 2005 he was present in Japan at the signing of The Pacific Accords of Rose Friendship between the Rose Trial Garden of Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the United States.

Ian was instrumental in the establishment and submissions to The World Federation of Rose Societies for the awards

of Gardens of Excellence to The Victoria State Rose Garden(2003), The Morwell Centenary Rose Garden (2009) and The Mornington Botanical Rose Gardens (2015).

He was a wonderful rosarian and a very kind and gentle man who will be greatly missed.

Sandra Turner

President - The Rose Society of Victoria Inc. Australia



photo taken by Bev Maguire

In tribute

Mr. John Dunlop

John Dunlop was on the WFRS Fund Raising Committee from 1983 to 1988. At the WRC in Canada in 1985, John Dunlop (Rhodesia), apart from continuing as Fund Raiser was also made VP for India, Africa and the near East and remained in office until 1991. John moved to England in about 2000 and died at the end of November, 2024.

Sheenagh Harris

South Africa

WORLD FEDERATION OF ROSE SOCIETES

Patron	Yves Piaget
President Emeritus	Helga Brichet

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (2025—2028)

OFFICERS

President	Sushil Prakash	India
Executive Director	Derek Lawrence	United Kingdom
Treasurer	Martine LaBelle	United States of America
Immediate Past President	Diane vom Berg	Australia

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

AFRICA	Vivienne Black	South Africa
AUSTRALASIA	Gavin Woods	Australia
AUSTRALASIA	Hayden Foulds	New Zealand
CENTRAL ASIA	Dr. Narendra Kumar Dadlani	India
EUROPE	Mireille Steil	Luxembourg
EUROPE	Angela Bokor	Romania
EUROPE	Maria Hjort	Sweden
FAR EAST	Wook-Kyun Kim	South Korea
NORTH AMERICA	Brenda Viney	Canada
NORTH AMERICA	Diane Sommers	USA
SOUTH AMERICA	Inés Díaz de Licandro	Uruguay

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN (2025-2028)

Council	Sushil Prakash	<i>India</i>
Honours	Sushil Prakash	<i>India</i>
Executive Committee	Sushil Prakash	<i>India</i>
Convention Liaison	Henrienne de Briey	<i>Belgium</i>
Promotions	Diane vom Berg	<i>Australia</i>
International Rose Trials	Jean-Pierre Lelièvre	<i>France</i>
Publications	Angelika Throll-Keller	<i>Germany</i>
Breeders Club	Markus Brunsing	<i>Germany</i>
Awards	Daniel Boulens	<i>France</i>
International Judges	Pauline Martin	<i>United Kingdom</i>
Conservation & Heritage Roses	Inés Díaz de Licandro	<i>Uruguay</i>
Editor & Webmaster	Marga Verwer	<i>Netherlands</i>





MEMBER COUNTRIES

The World Federation of Rose Societies - WFRS (founded 1968) is comprised at this moment of 39 national rose societies from all around the world, in following order of country. The list below also annotates their year of joining the WFRS.

Argentina	1977	<i>Asociación Argentina de Rosicultura</i>
Australia	1968	<i>National Rose Society of Australia Inc</i>
Austria	2001	<i>Österreichische Rosenfreunde in der Österreichischen Gartenbau-Gesellschaft</i>
Belgium	1968	<i>Société Royale Nationale Les Amis de la Rose' - Koninklijke Nationale Maatschappij 'De Vrienden van de Roos'</i>
Bermuda	1981	<i>Bermuda Rose Society</i>
Canada	1968	<i>Canadian Rose Society</i>
Chile	2000	<i>Asociación Chilena de la Rosa</i>
China	1997	<i>Chinese Rose Society</i>
Czech Republic	1994	<i>Czech Rosa Club</i>
Finland	1997	<i>Suomen Ruususeura r.y. - Finska Rosensällskapet r.f.</i>
France	1979	<i>Société Française des Roses</i>
Germany	1968	<i>Deutschen Rosengesellschaft e.V.</i>

Great Britain	2018	<i>Rose Society UK</i>
Greece	1997	<i>The Hellenic Rose Society</i>
Hungary	2008	<i>Hungarian Rose Friends Society</i>
Iceland	2007	<i>Icelandic Rose Society</i>
India	1968, 1982	<i>Indian Rose Federation</i>
Israel	1975	<i>The Jerusalem Foundation – The Wohl Rose Park of Jerusalem</i>
Italy	1968	<i>Associazione Italiana della Rosa</i>
Japan	1968	<i>The Japan Rose Society</i>
Luxembourg	1981	<i>Luxembourg Rose Society – Lëtzebuerger Rousefrënn Association Grand-Ducale des Amis de la Rose</i>
Monaco	2012	<i>Société des Roses de Monaco</i>
Netherlands	1976	<i>Nederlandse Rozenvereniging</i>
New Zealand	1968	<i>New Zealand Rose Society</i>
Northern Ireland	1982	<i>The Rose Society of Northern Ireland</i>
Norway	1988	<i>The Norwegian Rose Society</i>
Pakistan	1992	<i>Pakistan National Rose Society</i>
Poland	1981, 2017	<i>Polskie Towarzystwo Rozane – Polish Rose Society</i>
Romania	1992	<i>Asociatia Amicii Rozelor din Romania</i>
Russia	2007	<i>Russian Association of Rosarians</i>
Slovakia	2023	<i>Rose Society Maria Henrieta Chotek</i>
Slovenia	2000	<i>Društvo Ljubiteljev Vrtnic Slovenije – Slovenian Rose Society</i>
South Africa	1968	<i>Federation of Rose Societies of South Africa</i>
South Korea	2018	<i>South Korea Rose Society</i>
Spain	1992	<i>Asociación Española de la Rosa</i>
Sweden	1994	<i>Svenska Rosensällskapet – The Swedish Rose Society</i>
Switzerland	1976	<i>Gesellschaft Schweizerischer Rosenfreunde</i>
United States	1968	<i>American Rose Society</i>
Uruguay	1985	<i>Asociación Uruguaya de la Rosa</i>

WFRS ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

In following order of country.

Heritage Roses in Australia, Inc.	Australia
Sociedad Argentina de Horticultural	Argentina
Vrijbroek Park Rose Garden	Belgium
The Butchart Gardens	Canada
Geografisk Have	Denmark
Les Amis de la Roseraie du Val de Marne à L'Haÿ-les-Roses	France
Roses Anciennes en France	France
Société Nationale d'Horticulture de France	France
Piccolo Roseto Giovanni Chilanti	Italy
Associazione 'La Compagnia delle Rose'	Italy
Fondazione Roseto Botanico "Carla Fineschi" di Caviglia	Italy
Gifu World Rose Garden	Japan
The Rose Culture Institute	Japan
Liga Gaart An Heem ASBL	Luxembourg
Patrimoine Roses pour le Luxembourg ASBL	Luxembourg
Heritage Roses New Zealand Inc.	New Zealand
Polskie Stowarzyszenie Hodowców Róż	Poland
Amics de les Roses de Sant Feliu de Llobregat	Spain
Rosenlunds Rosarium	Sweden
Société Romande des Amis des Roses et de l'Horticulture	Switzerland
Historic Roses Group of Great Britain	United Kingdom
Huntington Library, Art Museum & Botanical Gardens	United States of America
Columbus Park of Roses	United States of America

For more information regarding the Executive Committee, the Standing Committee Chairmen, the Member Countries, the WFRS Associate Members and the WFRS Breeders' Club Members please go to the WFRS website.

BREEDERS CLUB

David Austin Roses	United Kingdom	Emma Weaver	www.davidaustinroses.com
Rose Barni s.s.	Italy	Beatrice Barni	www.rosebarni.it
Roseraies Dorieux	France	Georges Dorieux	www.dorieux.fr
Alain Tschanz SA	Switzerland	Gisèle & Alain Tschanz	www.rosiers.ch
Roseraies Paul Croix	France	Dominique Croix et Jacques Ranchon	pepinieres-paul-croix.fr
Jean-Pierre Guillot	Tunisie	Jean Pierre Guillot	www.roses-guillot.com
Roze Sobieszek	Poland	Mateusz Sobieszek	www.roza-sobieszek.pl
Keisei Rose Nurseries Inc	Japan	Yasuyuki Hisada	www.keiseirose.co.jp
Lens Roses	Belgium		www.lens-roses.com
Meilland International S.A.	France	Matthias Meilland	www.meilland.com
NIRP International SA	France	Deborah Ghione	www.nirpinternational.com
Roseraies Orard	France	Pierre Orard	www.roses-orard.com
Roseraie Reuter	France	Franck Reuter Or Regis Reuter	www.reuter.fr
Roses Forever ApS	Denmark	Rosa Eskelund	www.roses-forever.com
Rose Innovations	United States of America	William J. Radler	
Viva International BVBA	Belgium	Martin Vissers	
Viveros Francisco Ferrer	Spain	Matilde Ferrer	www.rosalesferrer.com
David Zlesak	United States of America	David Zlesak	
Bolar Roses	United States of America	Dr. Suni Bolar	
My Roses Rojewski	Poland	Lukasz Rojewski	
W.KORDES' SÖHNE Rosenschulen GmbH & Co KG	Germany		www.Rosen.de
Roses André Eve	France	Rateau Jérôme	www.roses-andre-eve.com



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.



NEW: FELCO 482 & FELCO 483 Gardening Bags:

Designed for professional and stylish gardeners, these robust yet lightweight bags keep your essential tools within easy reach, whether in the field or the backyard. Available in two sizes.

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.



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 and the collaboration with the WFRS, 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.