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World Rose News





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Editor's Message



Shireen Deoraj

Hello, Rose Lovers.

It gives me great pleasure to edit the World Rose News for the next term of office. I would like to thank the outgoing Editor, Marga Verwer, for her guidance and I hope you enjoy this issue.

Allow me to introduce myself as I am very new to the WFRS.

I am from Durban, South Africa, a coastal city with high humidity, hot summers and mild winters, and my roses go on flowering well into autumn. I am a member of the Midlands Rose Society and the Heritage Rose Society of South Africa, and I am currently the Assistant Editor of ROSA, the newsletter of the Federation of Rose Societies of South Africa.

I have been growing roses for over thirty years, and my small suburban garden has a mix of modern and old garden roses. I am particularly fond of the David Austin roses and some of the hardy heritage roses such as Grootendorst and Madame Isaac Pereire, but I

find that the best performing roses in my garden are the Spire and Grandirosa roses. Tough, healthy and disease resistant, their glossy leaves and beautiful blooms fill the garden with fragrance, height and colour.

April is when the heat of summer cedes to the cooler autumn weather in the Southern hemisphere, as the North prepares for a Spring rejuvenation. I look forward to the posts on social media so that I can vicariously enjoy the roses whilst ours wind down slowly.

South Africa has a long and proud history of rose cultivation, and our very own Rose Society of South Africa (ROSA), later renamed The Federation of Rose Societies of South Africa, was formed in 1961 by an enthusiastic community of rose lovers. In 1968 South Africa became a founder member of the World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS) at their inaugural meeting in London. Many South African rosarians went on to distinguish themselves by serving on the WFRS councils over the years and sharing their vast knowledge with the rose world. Notable past Presidents include Fred Ziady and Sheenagh Harris, who was also appointed as the Editor of World Rose News in 2012. At the first World Rose Convention held in Pretoria in 1979, Ludwig Taschner was appointed as Treasurer

of WFRS and Mary Wise, the mother of Sheenagh Harris, was elected the President.

16 February 2026 marked the centenary of the renowned rose breeder and founder of David Austin Roses, Mr David C H Austin, a man whose legacy continues to grow in gardens worldwide. We hope to have a feature on this visionary in a future issue of World Rose News.

This year, we can look forward to the 17th International Heritage Rose Conference to be held in Nanyang and Shanghai in China from 24-28 April. The pre- and post-conference tours look very inviting and I'm sure many of us will attend and support the heritage rose fraternity. I'm delighted that Dr David Comyn, the Chairman of the South African Heritage Rose Trust, is a speaker at the conference and will highlight the work being done to conserve old roses at the SA Rosarium in Bedford.

The WFRS International Rose Trials begin in April in Monaco, and end in December in Palmerstone, New Zealand. A detailed programme can be found on page 45.

By the time this issue goes out it will be spring in the Northern Hemisphere and gardens will be bursting with new roses. Enjoy!

President's Message



Sushil Prakash



The year began with Roses in India. The Indian Rose Federation hosted its Annual Convention in Kolkata from 3rd to 5th of January, 2026, over which I presided as Chief Guest. It was a well-organized show and the Kolkata Pot culture was on full display. There were hundreds of Roses in 12-inch pots. It also gave me a chance to interact with members of the Indian Rose Federation, rose enthusiasts and amateur hybridisers.

Next came the 45th All India Rose Show in Bhopal on 10th and 11th of January. This is the country's largest rose show and was planned as a trial for the upcoming 21st World Rose Convention in January 2028 in Bhopal. There were more than 3500 cut roses on display along with pots. The judging is based on different categories and colours. Finally, the royal family is selected amongst the winners in each category. About 50,000 people from the city visited the much-

awaited show during these three days. On the culmination day, running trophies were distributed to the prize winners. To my pleasant surprise, my name was called to receive the "Rose Icon" Gold Medal for my contribution of over four decades to the promotion and advancement of Rose Culture in India and globally. This indeed was a moment of pride, and the honour was conferred by the Horticulture Minister of State to me.

On 30th of January, 2026, again a flower show was organised in which the display of roses was the main theme. The Chief Minister of the state presided over the function and I was on the stage. He was apprised about the upcoming World Rose Convention in Bhopal and he promised support from the State Government to conduct this International Event. This show had many seasonal flowers and was a riot of colours, fragrance and forms.

Changing gears, we are now preparing for the Heritage Rose Convention in China in April 2026 and the next Regional Convention in San Diego, USA from 30th April to 4th May 2027. We had several video calls with them to finalise the details.

Our new Executive Director, Ms. Marga Verwer and Treasurer, Ms. Claudia Hacker are already in their new roles and we can see the positive

Rose Icon Gold Medal



Bhopal Rose Show



changes. The World Rose News, our quarterly magazine, which is in front of you, is presented by Ms. Shireen Deoraj, our new Editor. So, the new team is truly in place.

Another very different experience came from attending the Meeting of the Breeders' Club in Paris on 16th and 17th February 2026. Various topics were discussed and you will find the report in this edition of the Rose News. Earlier on 23rd Dec, 2025, a Teams meeting co-chaired by Mr. Daniel Myhill of David Austin Roses regarding an impending ban on rose material into the USA was held. This topic is of utmost importance to the Rose Breeders of Europe. We hope that with the involvement of various stakeholders, it will result in a positive outcome.

Now it is the time to meet our Rose friends again. I am excited and eagerly looking forward to the WFRS Heritage



receiving the Gold Medal

Convention in Nanyang and Shanghai, for which there has been a lot of efforts by our Chinese friends especially by Dr. Zhao Shiwei. For those who have not seen the roses in China, I can assure you that it will be a memorable experience. Please do register for this convention. There is a contingent of 16 members from India who will attend.

See you in Nanyang!

Pot roses in kolkata convention



At kolkata IRF Convention



Executive Director's Message

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Marga Verwer

A few weeks ago, we were surprised by snowfall and frost. As I live in the Netherlands in the south-west, the milder region of the country, the white world had disappeared already the next morning.

When I write this message the weather conditions changed considerably. Yesterday, we had temperatures of 18 degrees, not normal at the end of winter, and sunny conditions. I noticed life in the Forsythia, flowers preparing in the cherry laurel and the snowdrops are in bloom. I am not really a depressive person during winter, but I must say this feeling that spring is coming has absolutely an influence on my activities, a positive one.

Only a few weeks to go before pruning can start. But of

course, even in April we can have frost here in our country. I must think of the advice of a breeder, that pruning can be done the moment the forsythia is in flower. It is the start of the green season to come. Green for the trees that are in leaf, which makes such an enormous difference.

Even before that, I will be at the Heritage Conference in Nanyang and Shanghai, where I can enjoy the roses, gardens and the beautiful trees they have along the road, in a great variety. But even more I am looking forward to meet our rose friends again. I hope there will be many present. For those who aren't able to come, we will make pictures, which you can enjoy in our next edition. But perhaps the introduction



'Bad Bellinghen' © Marga Verwer

of the lecturers in this edition will inspire you to register for the conference and enjoy this Chinese event in person. It is still possible to register.

The exact dates for the regional convention in San Diego in the USA have been announced in this edition (the 30 th of April until the 4 th of May 2027). Preparation for this regional convention is going in full tempo. I am looking forward to hear and see their presentation in Nanyang.

In January 2026, I started my new job as Executive Director. Starting this new adventure kept me busy. Luckily, in case of questions, I can consult Derek Lawrence, who is now the official Executive Advisor. And he is not the only one who I can ask information if needed, as over the years I gained many rose friends with a lot of knowledge.

The work of Executive Director is versatile and interesting, administrative, but also a lot of contacts all over the world, with connections to the rose at all levels. It is not very different from what I have done during my working life, administration, known to be precise with figures, international contacts, and being active at more levels, to enlarge my knowledge. This was probably caused by the fact that I have a broad interest.

And today I do not limit myself to only administration, I keep my activities for the rose also outside an office, meet my rose contacts in person during events. This keeps me up to date, and friendship should be



'Eline'
© Marga Verwer

maintained. At the same time, I can enjoy the roses. That aspect we do not want to lose of course, that is why I became a member of the rose society. I love travelling, visiting rose gardens, running from one rose to the other, checking the perfume and trying to make the most beautiful pictures. Not only pictures of roses, also of rose friends, to make them happy afterwards.

My first event abroad, this year, was in February when I attended the Breeders' Club Meeting in Paris. I was pleased that a new member was present. Perhaps you will notice a few new members for the Breeders' Club in the overview. And there are more new members announced, thanks to the excellent work of the new Chair-

man Markus Brunsing. It is a good tendency that more and more breeders notice the importance of being a member of the Breeders' Club where they can meet and discuss.

The next event is the Heritage Conference in Nanyang and Shanghai China. There will be a new team present, as several positions have been changed in Fukuyama like our new president Sushil Prakash, and the new chairman of the Conservation & Heritage Committee Ines Diaz de Licandro, who had to prepare immediately for a Heritage Conference. It will also be my first official working presentation as the Executive Director, so I am very curious what I will experience. Perhaps I can tell a few exciting details in my next Message.

17th International Heritage Rose Conference

April 24-28, 2026

Nanyang & Shanghai, China

Lectures:

13 speakers from 8 countries will talk about the species roses and heritage roses.

1. Dr. Professor Luo, Le - Beijing Forestry University (details below)

New discoveries of Genus Rosa in China

2. Pat Toolan - Australia (details below)

Why Australians love heritage roses?

3. Dr. David Comyn - South Africa

The South African Heritage Rose Trust's contribution to the conservation of Old Roses

4. Mike Shoup - USA

Preserving the legacy: safeguarding heirloom roses from an Texas Rose rustler.

5. Dr. Yu, Chao - Beijing Forestry University, China

Phenotypic and genomic signatures across wild Rosa species open new horizons for modern rose breeding

6. Dr. Yuki Mikanagi - Japan (details below)

Wild Roses from Japan

7. William McNamara - USA (details below)

The Profound Influence of Wild Chinese Roses on the Development of Modern Roses

8. Professor Jian - Hongying

Phylogeography and conservation genetics of *R. chinensis* var. *spontanea* and *R. lucidissima* complex

9. Hella Brumme - Germany (details below)

Europa-Rosarium Sangerhausen - The World's Largest Rose Collection

10. Clement Cherreyron - France

Roses from a different rose, the contribution of rose species in breeding, from yesterday to tomorrow

11. Dr. Zhao Shiwei - China

The History of Roses in China based on Ancient Paintings

12. Martin Stott - UK

Heading West - The Journey of Chinese Roses to Europe and Their Impact

13. Chen Danyan - China (details below)

A Chinese Writer's Global Quest for China's Ancient Roses



Dr. Luo Le, Beijing Forestry University

The Genus Rosa in China

Professor Luo, Le is dedicated to the investigation of ornamental plant germplasm resources and landscape evaluation. He has led the completion of 4 forestry and Beijing municipal standards, published over 20 academic papers, and authored or co-authored 6 books. He holds 6 invention patents, 16 plant new variety authorizations, and 9 international plant variety registrations.

Key Achievements

2021: Co-authored “A Study on the Historical Meaning of ‘Rose’ in Ancient China” with his team, systematically tracing the cultural evolution of the rose from jade to plant. This work received support from the Ministry of Education Humanities and Social Sciences Fund.

2022: Accumulated 9 international plant variety registrations.

2024: Genus Rosa in China

2025: Presented “Classification and Utilization of Chinese Rosa Germplasm Resources” at a Tibetan academic conference, showcasing the application of his research.



Dr. Yuki Mikanagi, Japan

Wild Roses from Japan

Dr. Yuki Mikanagi (PhD, Agriculture) is a curator of the herbarium and head of the department of botany of the Natural History Museum & Institute, Chiba (Japan), past-chairperson of the WFRS Conservation and Heritage Committee, a judge at the International Fragrant Rose Trials in Echigo Hillside Park (Japan), a board member of the NPO Rose Culture Institute and the Japan Horticultural Society.

Born in Chiba, Japan, she studied biology at Japan Women’s University and horticulture at Chiba University. When she was a postgraduate student at Chiba University, Mr. Seizo Suzuki (1913-2000), a prominent rose breeder, supported her research in many ways, and was influential in developing her interest in roses, especially wild roses and old garden roses.



Pat Toolan, Australia

'Why Australians love Heritage Roses'

Patricia Toolan's biography

My love of old roses began in the early 1980s when I joined Heritage Roses in Australia and our local group would visit old roses in gardens, cemeteries and on roadsides. I was enchanted with their history, perfume and their different growth habits to the usual Hybrid Teas which were in most gardens. In the years since, I have received the HRIA Deane Ross Memorial Award in recognition of outstanding promotion of heritage roses in Australia in 1999 and again in 2014 as well as a HRIA Life Membership.

A Churchill Fellowship was awarded in 2002 to investigate the preservation and conservation techniques and strategies of old roses and plant varieties in cemeteries, travelling to the USA, Ireland, Italy, France, Germany and England. I have given talks in Australia and overseas in the USA, New Zealand and China. I have held numerous positions within the HRIA National Executive as well as being the coordinator of the Barossa & Beyond region since 2002. I am the current Australian representative on the WFRS Conservation & Heritage Committee. To keep informed I am a member of numerous rose societies and have an extensive personal library and friendship base around the world.

Barossa & Beyond maintain the Barossa Old Rose Repository in the Barossa Valley. This is a unique collection of roses grown as cuttings from local gardens, roadside and cemeteries. My garden is large and my interest in plants is extensive but focuses on Heritage and species roses, irises and bulbs.



Hella Brumme, Germany

Europa-Rosarium Sangerhausen

The World's Largest Rose Collection

Hella Brumme was born as the daughter of farmer Karl Ecke, in the small town Harzgerode in 1946. After her graduation she trained as a gardener from 1962 to 1965 and simultaneously obtained her Abitur (general university entrance qualification). She then completed training as an agricultural technical assistant at the Institute for Plant Breeding in Quedlinburg and continued working there until 1970.

From May 1972, she worked as a gardener at the Sangerhausen Rosarium, where she took over the rose assortment in 1976. Hella Brumme achieved a degree in horticultural engineering through Open University courses and served as managing director of the Europa-Rosarium Sangerhausen from 1999 to 2006. After her retirement, she was in charge of the Sangerhausen Rose School and gave various lectures on roses both in Germany and abroad.



Chen Danyan, China

A Chinese Writer's Global Quest for China's Ancient Roses

Chen Danyan is an award-winning writer, documentary director, and member of the Shanghai Research Institute of Culture and History. She was awarded the Gold Medal of the President of Serbia (GMPS) in 2023.

Her Shanghai-focused non-fiction works won the First Prize of the Shanghai Book Award (FSBA) and have been bestsellers for over 20 years.

Her young adult literature has earned the Austrian National Literary Award Gold Medal (ANLAGM), UNESCO Literary Gold Medal (ULGM), and Annual Literary Awards of Taiwan's China Times & United Daily News (ALTCTUDN). As essential reading for Chinese teenagers, these works have remained bestsellers for 30 years.

Her travel literature won the Serbian National Tourism Organization Special Contribution Award (SNTOSCA) and One-Way Literary Awards Travel Literature Award (OWLA TLA, selected by 100 Chinese bookstores).

Her feature documentary *The Direction the Sava Flows* premiered worldwide at the San Sebastián International Film Festival (SSIFF) in 2022. It claimed the China Mandarin Documentary Conference Special Recommendation Award for Director of the Year (CMDC SRADY) in 2023 and the Shanghai Film Critics Association Annual Documentary Award (SFCA ADA) in 2024.

She is currently working on a series of short documentaries titled "Roses Born of Great Rivers" — a story of roses connecting the twin metropolises of Shanghai and London.





William McNamara, USA

The Profound Influence of Wild Chinese Roses on the Development of Modern Roses

Bill McNamara is one of a small and distinguished group of Americans who have been honored with the top three prestigious awards in the field of Horticulture — the Veitch Memorial Medal from England's Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), the Liberty Hyde Bailey Award from the American Horticultural Society (AHS), and the Arthur Hoyt Scott Medal from the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College. He is the recipient of the Garden Club of America's (GCA) esteemed Eloise Payne Luquer Medal and, this year, was named an honorary member of the GCA, a coveted distinction that was acknowledged this August by the Sonoma County Supervisors with their Gold Resolution honour for Bill. Other awards include the California Horticulture Society annual award and the Award of Excellence from the National Garden Clubs.

Bill was hired in 1987 at Quarryhill as a landscaper, working closely with founder Jane Davenport Jansen to fulfill her vision. In the company of horticulturists from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Windsor Great Park, The Howick Arboretum, and others, McNamara has botanised extensively in the wilds of Asia. For three decades, each fall he has ventured into the mountains of China, Japan, India, Nepal, Vietnam, or Myanmar in search of plants. Working closely with local botanists, Bill and his colleagues pursued their mutual goals of research and conservation throughout East Asia. Today, the 25-acre Quarryhill Botanical Garden has over 25,000 plants, wild-sourced and planted from seeds collected throughout his celebrated career.



17th International
Heritage Rose Conference

April 24-28, 2026

Nanyang & Shanghai

世界古老月季大会

南阳 + 上海



VP Report Central, Southeast & South Asia

Dr. Dadlani

The 42nd Indian Rose Convention and All India Rose Show in Kolkata brought together rose experts and enthusiasts from across India.

The event featured rose competitions, expert lectures, and the release of new rose varieties. It celebrated achievements in rose cultivation and promoted collaboration within the rose community.

I begin my contribution with a small disclaimer. This is not a report on rose activities in Central Asia, for which I was elected at Fukuyama Convention as a Vice President. On joining the World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS) Executive, I realized that I represent a region I don't live in. As per my knowledge, India, is a country of South Asia and not Central Asia. I requested the Executive Committee (EC) for a change of nomenclature and, at its very first meeting, the EC obliged. But they didn't change my designation as Vice President, South Asia and instead enhanced my role as Vice President, Central, South East and South Asia. This provided me with more responsibilities, but greater opportunity. My research revealed that

The winter months from December to February are an excellent period for roses in India.

in the region I represent, India was the only country which had a very matured rose culture and was a WFRS member country. I have since started working on knowing more about the rose culture in other countries of my new region and encouraging rose culture and formation of rose societies in the region.

The winter time, particularly the period of December to February, is an excellent period for roses in India and many rose societies of India hold their rose competitions during this period. This is a report on the national event of the Indian Rose Federation, a WFRS member. Bengal Rose Society (BRS), an old and active rose society in India, was invited by the Indian Rose Federation (IRF) to host its 42nd Indian Rose Convention and All India Rose Show recently in Kolkata (eastern India, in the state of West Bengal). BRS was given this honour of hosting the flagship event of IRF for a record fifth time. BRS truly lived up to the expectations and hosted a grand show, where rose researchers, amateur rose growers, rose breeders, rose nurserymen, etc. from all across the nation participated and showcased their roses.





The event brought together rose researchers, breeders, growers and enthusiasts from all across the nation.

As the Show was organized in Kolkata, an important city in the eastern Indian state of West Bengal, BRS tried to follow the Bengal culture and traditions in organizing the event. The delegates and visitors were welcomed to the Show grounds by a traditional Bengal paddy granary ('Banglar Dhaner Gola'), a traditional grain storage structure from rural Bengal. A symbol of prosperity and self-reliance in rural Bengal, the tradition is slowly getting extinct.

For the first time, the IRF Show had a logo, which was depicted at the event in the form of a 'Selfie point' and attracted large crowds. At the event, the logo, on one side, exhibited white hairy flowered plant of 'Kans' grass (*Saccharum spontaneum*), that blooms along the banks and streams in autumn heralding the arrival of the season in Bengal region and the whiteness is widely believed to remove the darkness of the mind and bring the message of peace.

At the Inauguration, a cultural programme was organized based on a theme inspired by the legendary poet Rabindranath Tagore. The concept revolved around Tagore's deep connection with seasons, rural Bengal, rivers, trees and the harmony between human life and the natural world. The program included Rabindra Sangeet focused on seasons, expressive dance interpretations of rain, spring and harvest and visual projections of landscapes. The programme

celebrated Tagore's philosophy of unity between humanity and nature, while creating a serene, soulful and aesthetically refined environment that resonated well with the audience.

The organisers presented the Convention kits to the delegates in bags made of jute, a product from rural Bengal and contained among other things, the famed Darjeeling tea, a product identified with Bengal. The Convention kit also contained publications from IRF (the Rose Annual) containing articles on rose culture, historical account of the IRF activities etc., and reports from the member societies of IRF. Two important publications, brought out by BRS, included a Special number of the Bengal Rose Annual, containing articles on rose culture etc. written by eminent rose experts from China, Japan, South Africa, USA, Uruguay, New Zealand, Malaysia, Nepal, besides from all major Indian agricultural research institutes and universities. Several of the authors have been for long associated with WFRS and their contributions were well received for the content, based on expertise and rich experience. Another major publication brought out by BRS was a Rose Booklet containing write ups on the famed Bengal Pot Rose Culture and preparations for participation in a rose show, both important subjects related to the event.

An important feature of the Inaugural Programme was the release of two rose varieties. One variety, IRC Rose of Joy 2026 (bred by Sourav Mitra), was released by the Chief Guest



Dhanawatey) and President, BRS (Dr. Narendra Dadlani). The major draw of the Inaugural Ceremony was the presentation of Gold Medals – Mr. Vijay Pokarna Gold Medal of the IRF to Dr. M.M. Jana (Pune) and the M.S. Viru Viraraghavan Gold Medal of BRS to Mr. Sanjay Mukherjee (Kolkata). In addition, several other awards and hours were accorded to noted rosarians.

Mr. Sushil Prakash, President WFRS, while the second rose honouring a life Patron of BRS – Sushma (bred by Sanjay Mukherjee) was released by Mrs. Sanyogita Dhanwatey, IRF President.

The event this year presented the organisers with a ‘problem of plenty’. The number of specimens brought for competition far exceeded the planning in terms of space and other logistics. The major draw was of course the Bengal specialty pots with more than 100 flowers. It was a pleasure watching the visitors counting the number of roses on the prize-winning exhibits. The organizers were, at the last moment, made to arrange the competing pots in a manner that facilitated judging. The number of cut roses received also far exceeded the expectations and created challenges for the judges too in selecting the best ones. While the number of exhibitors in the pot rose section was fewer than four dozen, it didn’t clearly indicate enthusiasm as while someone brought only a couple of pots for exhibition, others brought many, even more than a hundred at times. What was impressive was that most growers revealed that they maintain their pots on their rooftops (often 3rd-4th floor) and the pots had to be brought carefully in trucks to the venue. Many cut rose exhibitors brought their flowers in buckets and were found selecting their best ones for the day.

The event was inaugurated by Mr. Sushil Prakash, President of the WFRS, in the presence of, among others, the President of the Indian Rose Federation (Mrs. Sanyogita

The publications (of both IRF & BRS) were also formally released at the Inauguration.

While an octogenarian rose enthusiast, Mr. R.S. Kejriwal, won the overall pot section challenge trophy, Mr. Joydip Mukherjee exhibited the best pot with an HT rose (Monalisa’) and Mr Sankar Ghosh won the best prize in the floribunda rose in pot with his exhibit of ‘Summer Snow’.

In the cut rose category, Dr. Siddhartha Sharma won the ‘King of the Show’ with his exquisite bloom of the variety ‘Crown Jewel’, Mr. Swapan Halder bagged the ‘Queen of the Show’ prize with his bloom of ‘Gospel’. The Prince of the Show was bagged by Mr. R.S. Kejriwal (‘Ballerina’) and the



Blooming Team won the Princess of the Show with their exhibit of 'K 19'. Mr. Amitava Ghatak was the winner for the best rose in Indian rose category with his bloom of 'Sir Ratan Tata'. Mr. Prabir Mukherjee arranged the best group of pots and Mr. Swapan Halder won the prize for the best pot with Indian floribunda with his exhibit of 'Aritra'. Another Indian rose variety catching many eyeballs was 'Bahurupi', which with its excellent colour won for Mr. Pulak Jordar (who travelled all the way from North Bengal). It was admirable that 'Crown Jewel' was adjudged the best bloom at the show for the second-year running. It was also heartening to note that the Indian varieties winning the main prizes at the Show ('Crown Jewel', 'Bahurupi', 'Sir Ratan Tata' & 'Aritra') were all bred by rosarians from Bengal. It was sad that a few rosarians, who generally won prizes at most all India shows, were delayed in reaching the venue and did exhibit their beautiful blooms in the non-competitive category for the benefit of the visitors. A Panel of Judges, drawn from across the country, all eminent rose experts, helped judge the Show – an extremely challenging task.

The Convention part of the event has a few lectures delivered by eminent experts on subjects of topical interest. This year, in the Session Dr. D.V.S. Raju, Head, Directorate of Floricultural Research Regional Station, Vemagiri (A.P.)

The event combined rose culture with the rich traditions and heritage of Bengal.

spoke on 'Recent rose research'; Mr. Baibhab Roy, Director, Pallishree Ltd., (a leading agri business group of Bengal), Kolkata spoke on 'Basics of setting up a new nursery in India (21st Century)'; Mr. Sourav Mitra, a renowned amateur rose breeder from Kolkata shared his views on 'Rose breeding: A new approach in breeding disease resistant roses' and Mrs Dipa Prakash (Convention Chairperson, 21st World Rose Convention, Bhopal 2028) presented about the 'Preparations and Vision for World Rose Convention 2028'. The Session was Chaired by Prof. Ashok Patra, Honourable Vice Chancellor, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya, Mohanpur (WB) and moderated by Dr. Narendra Dadlani, President, Bengal Rose Society & Vice President, World Federation of Rose Societies. More than 200 delegates including scientists, researchers, amateur rose growers, rose breeders, nurserymen, etc. from all over India participated in the Convention.





The Prize distribution ceremony, presided over by Mr. Debashish Kumar, Mayor -in-Council, Kolkata Municipal Council and a local Member of the State Assembly, saw the various prizes won by the exhibitors being given away by guests at the ceremony, including the Chinese Deputy Counsel General, President WFRS and President Emeritus, IRF, among others.

A special attraction of the event was the visit to Barrackpore, near Kolkata to 'Florenzia' – a rose show with a difference. Organised by a popular school in the area, this show is special, as on display are hundreds of pots owned by an individual (a BRS Patron, in fact). The specially designed show was truly a magnificent rose extravaganza, where the more than 200 visiting delegates could enjoy, besides beautiful roses (some rare and new varieties), a vibrant cultural programme and an art exhibition

by school students, followed by a sumptuous lunch. The Show was inaugurated by IRF President Emeritus, Mr. Ahmed Alam Khan in the presence of Guests of Honour, Mr. Arshad Bhiwandiwalla (newly elected President, IRF), eminent rosarian Mrs. Girija Viraraghavan and Dr. Narendra Dadlani, Vice President, WFRS & President, BRS.



Vijay Pokarna Gold Medal



VP Report

Europe

Mireille Steil

The highlight of 2025 was the World Rose Convention in Fukuyama, Japan, bringing together rose enthusiasts from 29 countries. The year also featured European rose trials, new rose baptisms, and the WFRS Award of Garden Excellence for the Italian Rose Garden on Mainau Island.

The Highlight of 2025 was undoubtedly the **World Rose Convention in Japan**, which was an unforgettable experience for me.

Held in the charming city of **Fukuyama**, known as the “City of Roses,” this convention brought together over 420 delegates from 29 nations, all united by a shared passion for these exquisite flowers.

Fukuyama revitalized itself post-World War II by planting 1,000 rose bushes and now aims to cultivate over a million roses..., transforming the city into a vibrant display of color and fragrance.

*Over 420 delegates
from 29 nations were
united by a shared
passion for roses.*

The convention was packed with remarkable events, including the celebrated Fukuyama Rose Festival and the captivating Rose Expo. Cultural performances enriched the experience, with the opening ceremony being particularly



memorable as it featured a stunning Taiko drum performance that resonated with energy and tradition.

WFRS President Diane vom Berg officially opened the congress, creating an atmosphere of excitement and anticipation as she announced the winners of the prestigious Rose Hall of Fame.

During the ceremony, the WFRS Rose **Hall of Fame** winners were revealed: ‘**Blush Noisette**’





earned the title of old garden rose winner, while ‘**Gertrude Jekyll**’ was celebrated as the modern rose winner. This recognition highlights the enduring beauty and significance of these exceptional roses in the world of horticulture.

Throughout the event, participants engaged in a variety of enriching lectures covering essential topics such as rose cultivation techniques, conservation efforts, and strategies for disease resistance. The learning extended beyond the walls of the convention center; excursions offered attendees the chance to visit historical sites, including Hiroshima, as well as explore

local gardens that showcased the beauty and diversity of roses.

The convention concluded with a heartfelt farewell dinner, where volunteers were recognized for their contributions and awards were presented.

The evening also marked a significant transition, as **Sushil Prakash** was introduced as the **new President for the 2025-2028** term, and the WFRS flag was ceremoniously passed to Bhopal, India, in preparation for the next convention in 2028.







Grand-Prix de la Rose

This extraordinary month not only celebrated the beauty of roses but also forged connections and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Back in Europe, I participated in the traditional rose competitions, which you may already know from my annual reports.

These events showcased a variety of rose cultivars and highlighted new breeding advancements. It was a great opportunity to reconnect with fellow rose enthusiasts and discuss the latest trends in rose cultivation. The Rose Trials took place in several locations, including Germany BADEN-BADEN; France SAVERNE; PARIS-



Dornburger Schlossrose®

Roses are more than flowers — they connect people, cultures, and generations.





Combined meeting of the Rose Trials Committee and the Breeders' Club with the participants in Le Roeulx on 4 September 2025

BAGATELLE; The Netherlands THE HAGUE; Poland WARSAW; Belgium LE ROEULX and the last one for the season in Europe, France ORLEANS

As every year, I had the pleasure of being invited in Paris (France) by the Société Nationale de l'Horticulture de France, specifically its Roses section, presided over by the esteemed Janic Gourlet, for the much-anticipated unveiling of the results.

This year, the coveted title of the winning rose across all categories for 2025 was awarded to the stunning DORNBURGER SCHLOSSROSE® from the renowned Tantau nursery.

I also had the opportunity to attend the Breeders Club meetings this year. The first one took place in February in Nyon under the leadership of President Jean-Luc Pascquier. The second meeting was held in September in Le Roeulx, this time under new management, as Markus Brunsing was elected as the new chairman at the Rose Convention in Japan. I would like to take this

opportunity to thank Jean-Luc for his dedication and hard work during his time in office, and I wish Markus much enthusiasm and innovative ideas for the next three years.

Additionally, I had the opportunity to be present at some rose baptisms, in Poland and, of course, in Luxembourg.

Breedersclub Nyon

From right to left : Alain Meilland ; Michal Kocikowski ; Thomas Proll ; Pierre Orard ; Jean-Luc Pascquier ; Mireille Steil ; Beatrix Barni ; Markus Brunsing ; Martin Vissers ; François Félix ; Svein Odvar-Osen.



'O'LIMP'

From left to right: The rosebreeder Thomas Proll from Kordes Rosen, the godmother Elena Furjes, the godfather Daniel Neyen, and Maryse Hensel-Weirig, president of Lëtzebuurger Rousefrënn

© PHOTO: Lëtzebuurger Rousefrënn



'O'Limp' (Kordes)

On 4 July 2025, the Lampertsbierger Syndicat, Lëtzebuurger Rousefrënn, and Kordes Rosen unveiled the 'O'Limp' rose in Luxembourg-Limpertsberg. This orange-apricot floribunda represents Luxembourg's rich rose breeding history, which began 170 years ago.

The "Rose godmother" stated, it symbolizes the connection between nature, neighbors, and history.

'Europa Donna' (Kordes)

On June 28, 2025, the rose named "Europa Donna" was unveiled in the gardens of the Château de Munsbach, in the presence of H.R.H. the Grand Duchess Maria Teresa;

Ministers of Agriculture, Martine Hansen and of Health Martine Deprez, as well as Claude Marson, the Mayor of the municipality of Schuttrange. The result of a collaboration between the Lëtzebuurger Rousefrënn, Kordes Rosen, and Europa Donna Luxembourg, this rose represents much more than a horticultural achievement; it carries a message of solidarity, courage, and hope.

'Herzogin Dorothea' (Kordes)

To celebrate the 15th anniversary of the European Park Network Lausitz (Germany + Poland?), a special floral symbol, the noble bed rose "Herzogin Dorothea," was ceremoniously named on August 21 at the Żagań Castle



EUROPA DONNA – Kordes Roses

The Grand Duchesse Maria Teresa is cristenig the Rose 'EUROPA DONNA'.

From left to right : Mariette Fischbach, President Europa Donna Luxembourg; Thomas Proll and Alexander Kordes from Kordes Roses; Maryse Weirig-Hensel, President Luxembourg Rose Society.

© PHOTO: Lëtzebuurger Rousefrënn

From left to right: Thomas Proll – Rose Breeder from Kordes Rose ; Mireille Steil - Vice President of the World Federation of Rose Society ; Simone Taubenek - Mayor of Forst (Lausitz), Stefan Palm - Park Manager of the East German Rose Garden in Forst (Lausitz), Sławomir Kowal - Mayor of Zagań, Gert Streidt - Coordinator of the European Park Network Lausitz, Krzysztof Kaliszuk - Deputy Mayor of Zielona Góra, Czesław Fiedorowicz - President of the Euroregion “Spree-Neiße-Bober,” Agnieszka Kochańska - Landscape Architect for the City of Zagań, Harald Altekrüger - District Administrator of Spree-Neiße, Eike Belle - City Commissioner of Cottbus, Photographer: Diana Priel, Image rights: City of Forst (Lausitz)/Diana Priel.

(Poland). This rose pays tribute to its historical namesake and symbolizes the cross-border connection of European garden culture.

The European Park Network Lausitz was established in 2010, initially including parks in Branitz, Bad Muskau/Łęknica, Brody, and the East German Rose Garden in Forst. In 2018, five more notable parks were added, including the historic landscape parks in Zagań and Zatonie, closely linked to Duchess Dorothea of Sagan.

The “Herzogin Dorothea” rose features lilac-colored, intensely fragrant blooms arranged in small clusters. With a size of 5–6 cm, an upright bushy growth habit, and very healthy foliage, it belongs to the “Parfuma” series.

Unveiling of the ‘Award of Garden Excellence’ on Mainau Island.

The 4th of October I was present at the unveiling ceremony of the plaque honoring the



Italian Rose Garden on Mainau Island, which received the “Award of Garden Excellence” from the World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS). The award celebrates the garden’s exceptional botanical beauty and dedication to horticulture.

The event was attended by our President Sushil Prakash, who praised the garden as a peaceful retreat and a visit to this outstanding garden is an absolute must for rose lovers. The Italian Rose Garden features around 8,000 rose plants and 397 varieties, some named after the island itself.

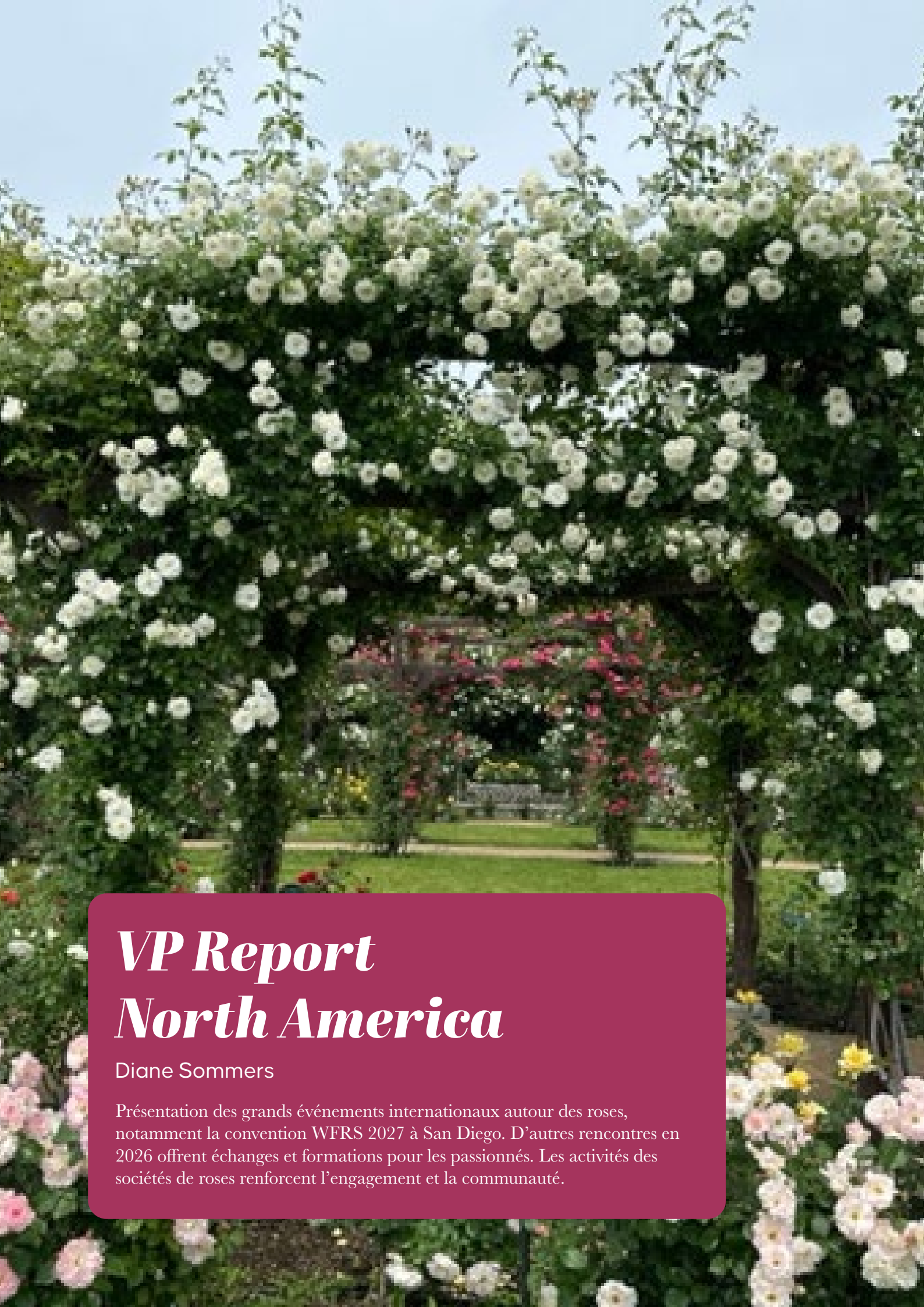
The garden received this award in 2025 in Japan

Finally, I would like to thank all rose friends who welcomed me so warmly everywhere and who, through their tireless efforts, help pass on the passion for roses.

Unveiling of the ‘Award of Garden Excellence’ on Mainau Island.

From left to right: Beatrice Halter, Rosengesellschaft Schweiz; Renate Neumann-Schäfer, President Gesellschaft deutscher Rosenfreunde; Markus Zeiler, Garden Director Insel Mainau; Björn Graf Bernadotte, CEO Insel Mainau; Sushil Prakash, President WFRS; Mireille Steil, WFRS Vice President Europe; Claudia Hacker, Rosefriends Deggendorf





VP Report

North America

Diane Sommers

Présentation des grands événements internationaux autour des roses, notamment la convention WFRS 2027 à San Diego. D'autres rencontres en 2026 offrent échanges et formations pour les passionnés. Les activités des sociétés de roses renforcent l'engagement et la communauté.

As one of two North America Vice Presidents, I welcome the opportunity to share events and activities that you may find of interest. There are several events in the planning stages in the United States that may be of interest to rose enthusiasts across the world. Let's start with the 2027 WFRS Regional Convention:



2027 WFRS Regional Convention

The WFRS 2027 Regional Convention will take place in San Diego, California April 30th – May 4th, 2027. The San Diego Rose Society is excited to host a unique and memorable experience to commemorate its 100th anniversary. The San Diego World Rose Symposium event incorporates the WFRS Convention in concert with an American Rose Society Convention at San Diego's classic Bahia Resort Hotel, located on the sandy shore of the 14-acre Mission Bay peninsula. The convention will feature many programs for delegates to choose from, including presentations from North American breeders and growers, and information on all aspects of growing excellent roses, including deep dives on pest management and considerations for managing rose gardens in our changing world. The event will also include the 2027 ARS National Rose Show onsite, along with presentations that will help delegates elevate their own exhibiting.



A tour of San Diego's Balboa Park, including its 2003 WFRS Award of Excellence Rose Garden, is another highlight included in the convention registration.

Three one-day Pre-Tours and one eight-day Post-Tour are in development. The Pre-Tours will focus on San Diego area highlights such as the internationally known botanical collection at the San Diego Zoo as well as home gardens of several San Diego rosarians. The Post-Tour, led by Paul Zimmerman, will feature gardens, rose nurseries and cultural attractions in other areas of Southern California.

Please plan to join us to renew and refresh your love of roses and rose knowledge among passionate rosarians from all over the world as we celebrate in the U.S. for the first time in thirty years! Convention information is available on the San Diego Rose Society website with updates to come as arrangements are finalized: <https://www.sandiegorosesociety.com/2027>



Modern Arrangement Photo 1st Place

2026 events that are currently taking registrations include a Heritage Rose Conference and an ARS National Rose Convention and Rose Show:

May 1 – 3rd, 2026

The Heritage Rose Foundation is hosting a three-day conference in Tyler, Texas. The event features speakers, tours and a visit to the American Rose Society Garden in Shreveport on Sunday, May 3rd where attendees will participate in selecting the People's Choice Award at the Shreveport International Rose Trial. In addition to the WFRS Trial Garden, the ARS Shreveport garden has the largest collection of Rambler roses in the United States held within their nursery, with many also located throughout the gardens. The Ramblers should be putting on a show as the event takes place during peak blooming season.

October 2nd – 5th, 2026

The Nashville Rose Society is hosting the ARS National Rose Show and Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. The convention has a stellar line up of program speakers including Thomas Proll, Chief breeder at Kordes, Brad Jalbert, Owner and Breeder of Select Roses in Canada, Robin Jennings of Heirloom Roses, Jim Keeter, Owner of Antique Rose Emporium and Dr Mark Windham, retired professor of Plant Pathology. Convention details and registration is available at www.medleyofroses.org.

In addition to these upcoming events, there are activities and updates on the American Rose

Society and the Bermuda Rose Society that may be of interest to you.

American Rose Society Photography Contest

Since 2012, the American Rose Society (ARS) has featured an annual digital Rose Photography contest as an opportunity for members to share their roses with others. As cellphone camera quality has improved, many of the entries are now taken with mobile devices. The contest is separated into the Novice, Experienced, Masters, Juniors, and Judge categories. Like a rose show, there are classes within each category for different types of roses, arrangements, and gardens. Certified horticulture judges evaluate the photos in teams, using Zoom for sharing the photos and discussion. The judging teams are assigned to classes, and the photos are shared via Zoom. There were 1,243 photos in the 2025 contest, entered by 90 ARS members. Awards are given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each class. Honorable mentions are also given, and the number depends on the number of entries in the class. Photos are judged based upon rose show guidelines as well as photography guidelines. There were 146 total awards given in the 2025 competition.

The award-winning photos are presented each January in an ARS webinar. The webinar has been posted to the ARS website ([rose.org<member resources<contests](http://rose.org/member/resources/contests)) in case you want to watch it. On March 7th, the ARS has a webinar scheduled

*Winning photos from ARS Photography Contest:
Best in Show - Miniflora "To Mummy"*





Garden Photo - Second Place - Osaka Botanical Garden

titled “Fun with Photography”. Sounds like fun! You can register on Rose.org member events. There is no charge and non-ARS members are welcome.

American Rose Society Status Update

The American Rose Society has experienced some financial challenges and as such as transitioned their award winning magazine to digital only at this time. They have also decided to sell the gardens in Shreveport. The Maintenance Endowment Trust of the ARS, whose focus is on preserving the garden, is providing funding to place the gardens under the ownership of a newly formed non-profit, led by Shreveport community leaders. The sale is anticipated to take place soon, resulting in an improved financial position for ARS and community ownership of the beautiful gardens – a win for all.

In 2026, all ARS webinars are free of charge to members and non-members. Pre-registration is required. The list of webinars and the registration portal can be found at rose.org/events/webinars. Recordings are available on YouTube.

BERMUDA

The Bermuda Rose Society (BRS) has regrouped this year, and we are making a concerted effort to engage our members both on social media and in different activities and events. We have turned our annual Bench exhibit-prize-giving into a social membership event, welcoming new members at the same time as awarding achievement trophies thus establishing an enduring positive culture within the society and we find that this is proving more popular each year.

During the “Fall” we held our much-anticipated autumn rose sale which is our biggest income earner each year and supports our efforts in maintaining our rose heritage at the Waterville Rose Repository garden. This garden has been mapped out this year by a grandchild of a member and all the rose bushes are now recorded and named on a plan for visitors to use for identification.

At Christmas, BRS tried a “basket raffle” fundraiser - gathering donations and wrapping them in ribbons and bows. The most popular was recycled rose reference books! It was a lot of fun and we raised \$1,000 for the society in the process!



Already this year we held a very successful slipping and propagation workshop guided by Past President and WFRS VP Diana Antonition, and we were able to take all our plantings home to nurture so we can compare successes at future general meetings.

The shadow box floral arrangement workshop was a lot of fun and all attendees were both surprised and delighted with how their final efforts looked in the display boxes - it was very inspiring!

At our Society's last meeting we explored the idea of establishing the DNA of roses in terms of clarifying name-mysteries and linking to

similar roses around the world.

Our next project is a rose garden tour of private gardens around the island which has been slightly hampered by the weather and is now scheduled for April when we also organise the rose displays and exhibits for the annual Agricultural Show at Bermuda Botanical Gardens.

During the rest of our season, we will see presentations on grafting roses, on crafting realistic Bermuda Mystery paper roses and a workshop demonstrating pruning techniques and planting to the public.





Join us to witness the largest rose show in 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.

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. Apart from the interesting sites in the city and the sites nearby, enjoy the largest Rose show in India organized by M.P.Rose Society.

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 excited and look forward to hosting you during the convention and making your stay comfortable and memorable.

Dipa Prakash

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



WORLD FEDERATION OF ROSE SOCIETIES



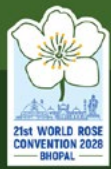
**21ST WORLD ROSE
CONVENTION**

January 7-13, 2028
Bhopal, INDIA

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



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



Markus Brunsing, Chairman

Meeting of the Breeders' Club in Paris

16th and 17th February 2026

In February, the first meeting of the Breeders' Club 2026 took place at the office of the National Horticulture Society of France in Paris. Seventeen participants from ten countries attended the meeting, which was organized and hosted by Chairman Markus Brunsing. The World Federation was represented by its President Sushil Prakash, Vice President Mireille Steil, Executive Director Marga Verwer and Chairman of the Rose Trials Committee Jean-Pierre Lelièvre, who also played a key role in preparing the meeting in Paris.

Since the start of the new session in May 2025, eight new members have joined the club: Rosen Tantau (Germany), Kern Select (The Netherlands), Mooren Roses (The Netherlands), Jannik Dräger (Germany), Roseraie Sirphe Guillot (France), Leen Leus from ILVO (Belgium), amateur breeder David Kenny from Ireland and Warners Roses from England. Currently, 33 breeding houses, professional rose breeders and amateur breeders from 15 countries are members of the Breeders' Club. At the meeting,

it was agreed to recruit further members for the Breeders' Club so that it can form a strong representation of rose breeders within the World Federation of Rose Societies.

The agenda and discussion at the breeders' meeting were extensive. They ranged from the plant breeders' rights in China, where progress is gradually being made, to the situation regarding the protection of breeders' rights in India, and an update on the Breeders' Clubs presence on the WFRS website. Other topics of discussion included the ban on rose material entering the USA due to

Ralstonia solanacearum, which could pose a major problem for rose breeders worldwide in the coming years if new varieties are to be introduced into the USA.

An important objective for the Breeders' Club, in cooperation with the Rose Trials Committee, is to develop a classification system for garden roses to be submitted to international rose trials. Initial ideas and proposals were discussed in Paris. The aim is to be able to present a proposal by the time the World Rose Convention takes place in India.





From left to right: Jean-Luc Pasquier, Jean-Pierre Lelièvre, Beatrice Barni, Marga Verwer, Mireille Steil, Emiel Keiren, Markus Brunsing, Alain Meilland, Sushil Prakash, Daniel Myhill, Martin Vissers, Thomas Proll, Pierre Orard, Francois Felix, Geert Mooren, Jannik Dräger, Svein-Oddvar Osen

After a joint business lunch, two presentations were on the agenda. First Audrey Lumière from the library of the French Horticultural Society presented the collections and treasures of the important book and catalogue collection about roses. The main lecture in the afternoon was given

by Thomas Proll, breeding manager at Kordes Rosen. His talk on 'Breeding modern roses through the changing times of the 20th and 21st Century' was met with great interest by the breeders in attendance.

The meeting was preceded by a dinner the evening before

in a traditional Parisian restaurant, which was intended to strengthen the collaboration and friendship among the club members.

The next meetings planned are a combined meeting with the International Rose Trials Committee in September 2026 in Le Roeulx, an online meeting in February 2027, and a face-to-face meeting to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Breeders' Club in April 2027 at the Orard rose nursery near Lyon.



A close-up photograph of a rose bush. The image is filled with numerous roses in various stages of bloom. The primary colors are shades of pink and light red, with some flowers showing white or cream-colored edges on their petals. The roses have a classic, multi-petaled, ruffled appearance. Interspersed among the flowers are dark green, serrated leaves. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the garden and some brown mulch or soil at the bottom.

Barry Slabbert

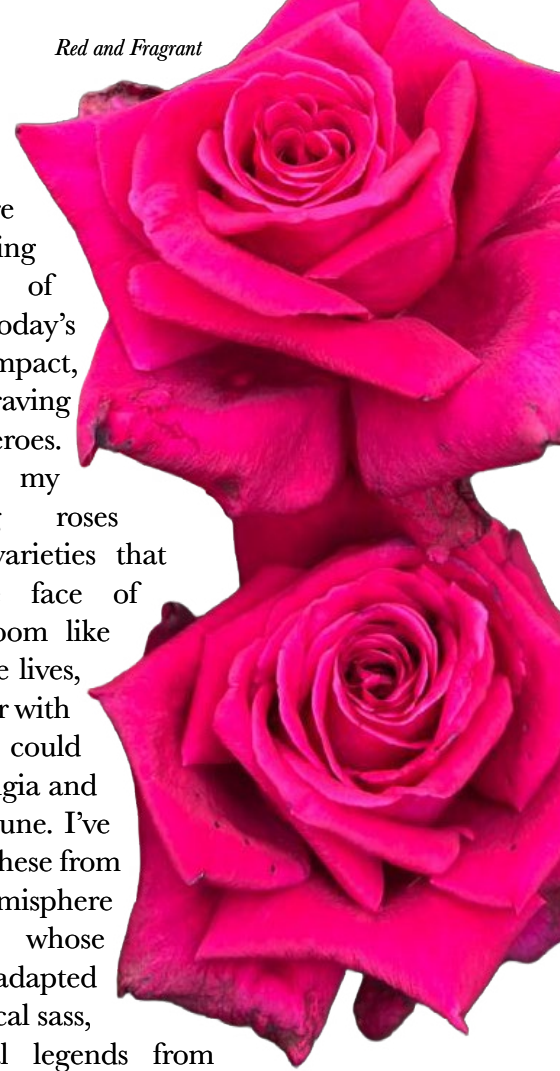
The Fragrant Revolution

Roses Thriving in KwaZulu-Natal's Steamy Hug

Ah, roses — the divas of the garden world. They've got prickles sharper than a critic's tongue, fragrances that could seduce a honeybee from a mile away, and a reputation for being high maintenance that rivals a Hollywood starlet. But here in the humid embrace of KwaZulu-Natal, where the air hangs heavy like a lover's sigh and the soil whispers secrets of ancient Zulu kings, roses aren't just surviving; they're throwing a full-blown party. As a multidisciplinary artist, landscape garden designer, avid gardener, and proud breeder of those flamboyant Canna Lilies, I've spent a decade coaxing these floral beauties into South African splendour. From the misty hills of Ladysmith to the diverse climates across our rainbow nation, roses have been my muse, my backbone, and occasionally my thorn in the side. Buckle up for a journey that's part botanical adventure, part comedic confessional, and entirely enchanting.

Picture this: I'm knee-deep in mud, designing a client's garden that's equal parts Monet painting and Mad Max survival zone. Water is scarce, labour is a luxury (who has time for endless weeding when there's art to create?), and time? Ha! That's evaporated faster than dew in the

midday sun. Long gone are the sprawling rose estates of yesteryear; today's gardens are compact, clever, and craving low-fuss heroes. That's where my game-changing roses come in — varieties that laugh in the face of humidity, rebloom like they've got nine lives, and scent the air with fragrances that could bottle up nostalgia and sell it for a fortune. I've cherry-picked these from northern hemisphere breeders whose creations have adapted to our subtropical sass, alongside local legends from Ludwig Taschner's stable. These aren't just plants; they're personalities — some sassy, some sultry, all spectacular.



Let's start with the stars of the show, my top fragrant picks that have revolutionised my landscapes and my own private oasis. These roses don't just grow; they perform, with disease resistance that shrugs off black spot like a bad date and reblooming habits that keep the show going all season.

- 'Buxom Beauty' (KORbilant) from Kordes Roses — known as 'Garden Queen' here in SA, with her sporty sibling 'Garden Princess'. She's voluptuous, vigorous, and smells like a forbidden fruit salad. In my gardens, she's the queen bee, drawing admirers without demanding a throne room.
- 'Sophie Rochas' (DELroch) by Delbard. This French fashionista brings Parisian elegance to our humid haze, with petals that unfurl like a couture gown and a perfume that's pure seduction. She's tough as nails under our sun, proving that style and substance can coexist. She does need a bit of afternoon shade to be at her best.
- 'Moonlight in Paris' (DELANac), another Delbard darling, dubbed "Garden & Home" locally. Imagine a moonlit stroll through

Garden Queen and Garden Princess



Versailles, but in your backyard. Her soft hues and intoxicating scent make her a staple for those romantic nooks — perfect for whispering sweet nothings to your plants.

- 'St. Ursula' (LUDbrurique), bred right here by Ludwig's Roses. She's a South African saint with heavenly fragrance and resilience that handles our wet summers like a pro. In Ladysmith's steamy climate, she's my go-to for adding a touch of divine intervention.
- 'Princess Charlene de Monaco' (MEIdysouk) from Meilland. Royalty in rose form, with blooms that glow like sunrise over the Drakensberg and a scent that's fit for a princess (or a gardener pretending to be one). She's rebloomed so reliably in my designs, I've started calling her my "ever-after" rose.
- 'Leonore Bremer' (LUDpipoque), another Ludwig's gem. This one's got a vintage vibe with modern moxie — fragrant, floriferous, and fabulous in the face of fungi. She's the wise auntie of the rose world, full of stories and surprises.

And for those special mentions that deserve a standing ovation: David Austin's 'Gertrude Jekyll', climbing with English charm and a scent that could inspire sonnets; Delbard's 'Henri Delbard', bold and beautiful like a sunset cocktail; Joseph Orard's 'Red and Fragrant', a fiery temptress that's all passion without the drama; and 'Sugar Plum Fairy', also from Orard, who's as whimsical as her name suggests — petite, pretty, and positively addictive.

Over 20 years of consulting, landscaping, and designing gardens across South Africa's climatic kaleidoscope — from the arid Karoo to the lush Lowveld — I've learned that roses aren't just plants; they're portals to magic. No other bloom delivers that ethereal presence, that storied provenance. But magic requires a few tricks up your sleeve. Here are my rose-whispering secrets, honed from trial, error, and the occasional thorny mishap (pro tip: gloves are non-negotiable).

First off, plant in threes — yes, cram three roses into one gloriously oversized hole (about 80cm



St. Ursula

x 80cm). It's like throwing a garden gala; they mingle, support each other, and create a display that's denser than a plot twist in a thriller. Just skip this for heritage behemoths or massive shrubs — they need their personal space, darling.

Keep roots competition-free: No trees, shrubs, perennials, or invasive groundcovers crashing the party. Surround them with thick organic mulch for that cool, shady root vibe I swear by — think of it as a spa blanket for the soil.

Sun's the word: Full exposure is key, though some tolerate light shade (afternoon reprieve is golden in our heat). Feed them well-rotted manure and homemade compost 2-3 times a year, plus monthly foliar feeds during growth spurts.

Pruning? I'm no tyrant — pinch new spring growth for bushiness, trim lightly in summer to avoid stressing them out (roses hate drama queens). In humid zones like ours, winter pruning is gentler; no need for a buzz cut. Airflow is your best friend against fungal foes, so prune away blockers like overgrown shrubs.

Groundcovers matter: I've sworn by Ajuga or Erigeron — they cool the soil without stealing nutrients. Plant small *Salvia greggii* hybrids a couple of meters away; they're like natural fungus fighters, warding off outbreaks with herbal heroism.



Sugar Plum fairy



Sophie Rochas

Night lights? Ban them! They attract every nocturnal pest like moths to a flame. Instead, deploy a yellow bowl of beer and sugar — it's the ultimate insect trap, turning your garden into a boozy bug buffet.

Water wisely: Deep soaks every 3-4 days in summer, weekly in winter. Pots? They're thirstier divas, so adjust accordingly.

Now, let's gaze into my crystal ball (or should I say, crystal vase?) for trendspotting. South Africa's rose scene is blooming with innovation. I foresee a surge of amateur hybridizers tinkering with eccentric crosses — mashing favourites with wild species for surprises that could make even a Canna Lily blush.

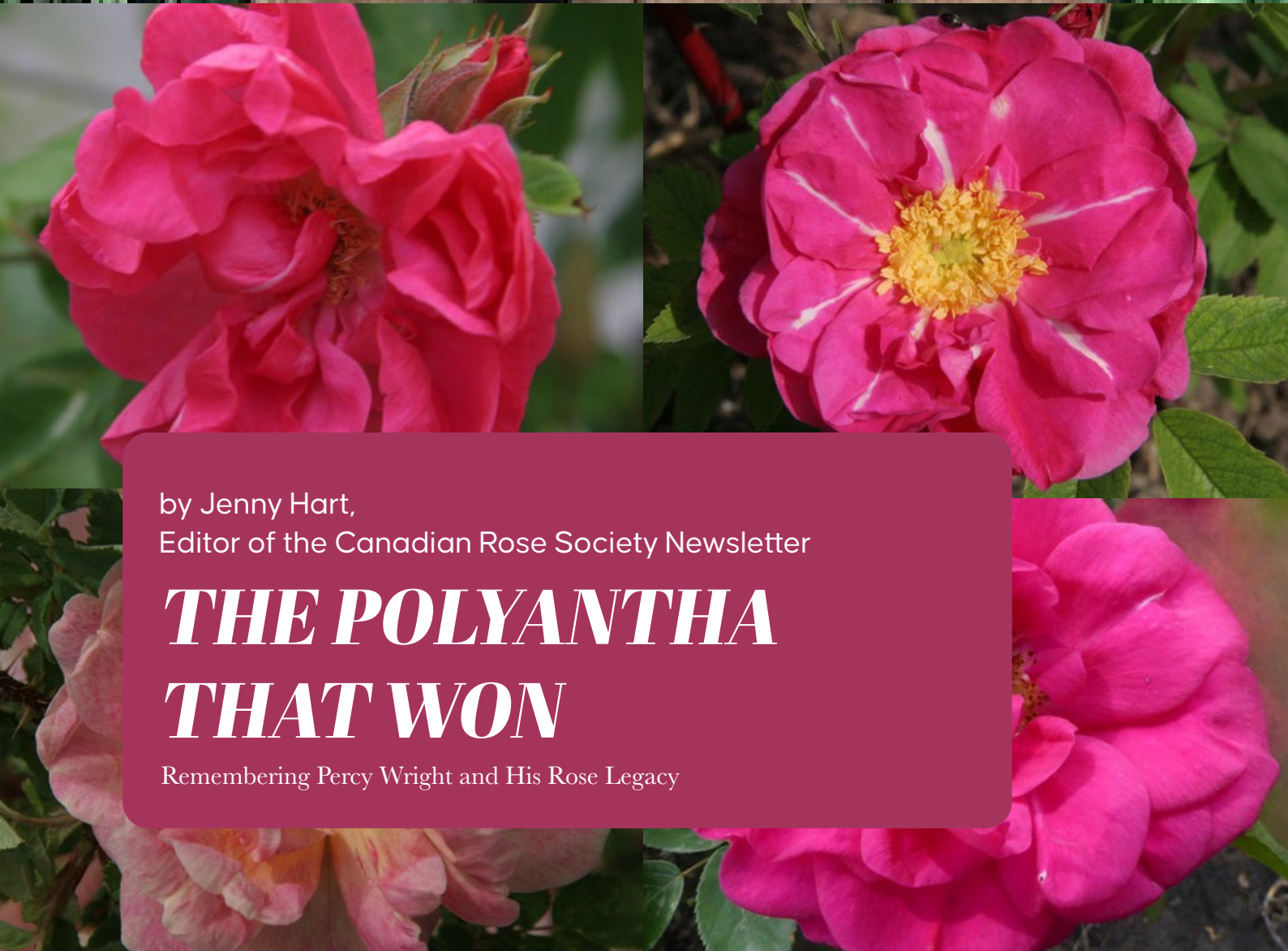
Fragrance is staging a revolution; catalogues will slim down, ditching old-timers for hardy, scented superstars that scoff at disease. As gardens shrink, expect pot-plant and groundcover roses with oversized blooms — perfect for balconies and bijou backyards.

Foliage will steal the spotlight, with novelties in textures and colours that turn leaves into art pieces. Rare gems like the 'Wingthorn Rose' (*Rosa sericea*) will become collector's items, inspiring breeders to bedazzle thorns like jewels. And the best part? The fear factor is fading — young gardeners are diving in, embracing mistakes as badges of honour. Roses aren't difficult; they're delightful adventures waiting to unfold.

In KwaZulu-Natal's humid hug, roses remind us that beauty thrives in the unexpected. Whether you're a seasoned rosarian or a newbie with a trowel, dive in. After all, in the garden of life, a little thorn never hurt the bloom. Here's to the fragrant future — may your roses always outshine the weeds.



Garden Queen



by Jenny Hart,
Editor of the Canadian Rose Society Newsletter

THE POLYANTHA THAT WON

Remembering Percy Wright and His Rose Legacy

I grow the pretty pink rose ‘Polywon’ in my garden in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The rose is not commercially available, so I obtained mine from a rooted cutting that came to me via Joan Altenhof (Past President of the Calgary Rose Society) and Margit Schowalter (member of both the Canadian Rose Society and the Calgary Rose Society.)

‘Polywon’ is described as a seashell-pink polyantha with cupped to flat blooms consisting of 17-25 petals. It was bred by Prairie rose hybridizer Percy Wright (1898 - 1989) from ‘Rosa laxa Retzius’ x ‘Gloria Mundi’. In correspondence to fellow Prairie rose breeder Walter Schowalter, Mr. Wright described the rose as the “polyantha that won” hence its name of ‘Polywon’.

Some gardening background for World Rose News readers: Calgary sits at an elevation of 1,045 metres with the Rocky Mountains approximately 150 kilometres away. The climate has been described as “interesting” with the seasons not always unfolding as they should. We average about 117 frost free days per year. In the winter warm Chinook winds can raise the temperature by 10 degrees or more in a number of hours. (A Chinook is a gusty warm, dry wind that blows down the eastern slopes of the Rockies.) These winds are a welcome break from the cold for Calgary residents but not so good for plants, trees and shrubs who can find the freeze-thaw cycle a challenge. Summers can be hot and dry and Calgary is known as the



Augusta
Photo: J. Altenhof

“hail capital” of Canada as swift moving storms with wind, heavy rain and hail can hit with little warning. The soil is clay, which must be amended with plenty of organic material.

I have found ‘Polywon’ to be very tough! With no protection its canes remain green in my garden no matter the winter temperatures. It has a vigorous growth habit and is extremely disease-resistant. In the spring, it is the first rose in my garden to show signs of new leaf growth, and it blooms repeatedly from June to September.

Percy Wright holds the distinction of being Canada’s first native-born rose hybridizer. He was a lifelong plant enthusiast whose dedication endured through droughts, floods, and financial setbacks. Mr. Wright was born in Lachine, Quebec on July 2, 1889, the son of an Anglican minister. In 1907 the family moved to Saskatchewan and homesteaded near Tramping Lake. Until he was 14 years old Mr. Wright was mostly self-taught as he suffered from a recurring debilitating illness (later diagnosed as HcL deficiency and successfully treated.)

Originally trained as a teacher, his health issues prevented him from completing his PhD. He opened a fruit nursery but extreme drought forced its closure in 1938. A second nursery was later destroyed by flooding in 1954. Unable to continue commercially in the nursery industry, he turned to journalism, working as an editor and agricultural reporter for the Star Phoenix in Saskatoon. Yet in his spare time, he quietly



Alison
Photo: J. Altenhof

pursued his true passion - plant breeding. Like many of the other Prairie hybridizers, he engaged in intensive correspondence with fellow Canadian breeders plus rose hybridizers in Europe, Scandinavia, and the United States exchanging seed, pollen and seedlings. Retirement in 1966 finally gave him the opportunity to work full time on plant breeding.

Over his lifetime, Wright developed or introduced 66 known cultivars, including roses, honeysuckles, lilies, and the 'Thunderchild' crabapple — a tree now planted across Canada.

During one of his teenage illnesses, he read an article on the laws of plant inheritance as worked out by Gregor Mendel. That sparked a lifelong interest in plant breeding and by 1918 he was conducting his first genetic experiments. While running his first fruit nursery he worked on breeding and cross breeding lilies, gooseberries, cherry plums and crabapples.

In roses, his aim was to create hardy varieties with blooms that would not fade in sunlight, a goal especially suited to the Prairie climate.



Hazeldean

Photo: B. Rottenfusser

In an article he wrote for the 1966 Canadian Rose Annual he noted that one of the most frustrating features of breeding hardy roses for the Prairies, and other northern parts of Canada, was developing a rose whose flowers will not fade in the sun. He felt that this tendency was likely inherited from wild roses. His challenge was to develop a hardy rose of any ancestry that would eliminate this fading tendency.

He observed that 'R. blanda' is a good native species and completely thornless, while 'R. macounii' is thorny but transmits more hardiness to its descendants. 'R. arkansana var. suffulta', one of the world's remarkable rose species, combines hardiness, fall blooming and dwarfness, but its blooms fade in both sun and shade. However, another Canadian wild rose, 'R. nitida' (the shiny leaved rose, native to parts of the Maritimes), showed promise for transmitting non-fading qualities.

Mr. Wright made his first rose crosses in 1931 using three native rose species. His first success was 'Rosa Macounii' x Rugosa Hybrid 'Hansa' which produced 'Mary L. Evans'. In 1938 he produced 'Ross Rambler', a rugosa which proved very useful in his later work. In 1948 a 'Rosa Altaica' x 'Persian Yellow' cross produced 'Hazeldean'.

Another of Mr. Wright's introductions, 'Quadroon' (a cross between 'Hansa' and 'R. nitida'), exhibited the quality of non-fading even in bright sun. Although its flowers were small, sparse, and borne on short, weak stems,





Ruth
Photo: J. Altenhof

Mr. Wright believed 'Quadroon' would make a good parent for future roses. He speculated that backcrossing it to 'Hansa' might yield a 'Hansa' immune to fading.

His proudest achievement was 'Hazeldean', ('Rosa Altaica' x 'Persian Yellow') a once blooming yellow rose still admired today for its toughness and beauty. 'Hazeldean' remains commercially available and is a popular rose here in Alberta. In the late 1960's Mr. Wright turned his interest to miniature roses and ground cover varieties in hopes of developing a hardy polyantha. He succeeded in 1970 with the introduction of 'Polywon'. Personally I think this rose should be considered Mr. Wright's second greatest achievement in rose breeding.

His roses, bred from 1935 to 1980, include 'Alice' (semi double pink), 'Hansette' (semi double red), 'Felicity' (pink), 'Little Betty' (double pale pink), 'Golden Altai' (single cream flushed yellow), 'Harrison's Hardy' (semi double yellow), 'Moose Range' (red with bluish cast), 'Dorothy Evans' (pale pink), 'Bertha' (single pink), 'Loch Lomond' (double golden yellow), 'Marion Gyneth' (semi double deep pink), 'Melanie' (semi double deep red), 'Royal Robe' (semi double dark crimson flushed with purple), 'Ruth' (red), 'Aylsham' (large double deep pink), 'Helen Bland' (semi double pink), 'Yellow Altai' (golden yellow cluster blooms), 'Victory Year' (semi double pink), 'Augusta' (semi double pink), 'Musician' (bicolour red and yellow double), 'Master David' (double salmon pink), and 'Scarlet Ranger' (semi double red).

Although his introductions were eagerly sought by nurserymen, Mr. Wright received little remuneration and his hybridizing was restricted by financial limitations. A small number of his roses remain in commercial production, others exist only in private gardens but many are now considered extinct.

He died in 1989 at the age of ninety years, leaving behind an extraordinary horticultural legacy. I am part of a group within the Calgary Rose Society working to grow, or encourage others to grow, roses created by the Prairie breeders that are not commercially available, but still grown in a limited number of private gardens. If Canadian gardeners do not make an effort to preserve these roses they run the risk of being lost forever - a concern shared by many countries facing the disappearance of their locally bred roses.

Sources: Calgary Rose Society Newsletter Rose Round-Up March/April 2007. Canadian Rose Annual 1967- Article by Fred Blakeney. An article by Betty Biddulph (Winnipeg) for Canadian Heritage. Information from Saskatchewan Perennial Society. www.helpmefind.com



Riches
Photo: J. Altenhof

WFRS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

24-28 April 2026

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

30 April - 4 May 2027

WFRS Regional Convention, San Diego, CA, USA

7-13 January 2028

WFRS 21st World Rose Convention, Bhopal, India



*Alaska,
Kordes Rosen 2005
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- 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



WFRS International Rose Trials

Trial	Country	2026
Monaco	Principauté de Monaco	<i>April 30</i>
Shreveport	USA	<i>May 03</i>
Barcelona	Spain	<i>May 08</i>
Rome	Italy	<i>May 16</i>
Madrid	Spain	<i>May 22</i>
Bologna	Italy	<i>May 30</i>
Gifu	Japan	<i>May/October</i>
Tokyo	Japan	<i>May/October</i>
Nagaoka	Japan	<i>May/October</i>
Lyon	France	<i>June 05</i>
Hradec Králové	Czech Republic	<i>June 13</i>
Baden-Baden	Germany	<i>June 16</i>
Saverne	France	<i>June 17</i>
Paris Bagatelle	France	<i>June 18</i>
Kortrijk	Belgium	<i>June 19</i>
The Hague	Netherlands	<i>July 02</i>
Belfast	Northern Ireland	<i>July 06</i>
Warsaw	Poland	<i>August 22</i>
Le Roeulx	Belgium	<i>September 04</i>
Hertfordshire	Great Britain	<i>September 08</i>
Orléans	France	<i>September 11</i>
Adelaide	Australia	<i>October 21</i>
Hamilton	New Zealand	<i>November 15</i>
Palmerston North	New Zealand	<i>December 06</i>

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NORTH AMERICA	Diane Sommers	USA
SOUTH AMERICA	Inés Díaz de Licandro	Uruguay

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International Rose Trials	Jean-Pierre Lelièvre	France
Publications	Angelika Throll-Keller	Germany
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International Judges	Pauline Martin	United Kingdom
Conservation & Heritage Roses	Inés Díaz de Licandro	Uruguay
Editor	Shireen Deoraj	South Africa



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.

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
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.

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Roseraies Orard	France	Pierre Orard	www.roses-orard.com
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W.KORDES' SÖHNE Rosenschulen GmbH & Co KG	Germany		www.Rosen.de
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