

World Rose News

The Newsletter of the
WORLD FEDERATION OF ROSE SOCIETIES
March 2024 / Volume 34 / Number 1



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

We were all saddened by the sudden passing of our good friend and Past WFRS President Kelvin Trimper. My “brother down under” made a lasting impression in the rose world as well as his personal life. I for one will miss his loud voice, big smile, and witty humor. Our cover is a photo of Kelvin taken by his wife Melanie. Our thoughts go out to Melanie and the family.

We continue to gear up for the next WFRS Convention to be held in Kalmar, Sweden with pre and post tours visiting gardens in Sweden, Norway and Finland. The pre tour is sold out and the post tour is almost sold out. In this issue we will cover the speakers for the conference. For more information, please visit the website, nordicroses2024.com.

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

My photograph for this issue is 'Gold Bunny' (aka Gold Badge), one of Kelvin's and my favorite roses.

Enjoy!

Steve Jones, Fiddletown, CA, United States



'Gold Bunny' (F, MEIgrouri, 1978)

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

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

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Visit our website at www.worldrose.org

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Do you receive our sister publication
by any other name?

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

The latest edition is available at this link:

bit.ly/BAON28

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



2022-2025

March 2024



Photo: Diane vom Berg

Diane vom Berg

Dear Rose Members

It is with much sadness we report the passing of Kelvin Trimper on the 7th January, 2024. Kelvin was heavily involved in the Rose World at all levels, World, National and State.

Kelvin was an esteemed colleague, mentor and friend. Kelvin served the WFRS as a Vice-President, President, Chairman of Promotions Committee and his most recent role as Chairman of the Convention Committee. In 2018 Kelvin was awarded the World Federation of Rose Societies Gold Medal in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Federation. Kelvin and Melanie have attended many WFRS Conventions, Kelvin often included as a lecturer. His presence will be sadly missed by rosarians around the world. Kelvin and I recently visited Japan to assist the enthusiastic committee with their preparations for the upcoming World Rose Convention in Fukuyama in 2025. Kelvin was dedicated to the Rose and gave his time freely. We will all miss his knowledge, enthusiasm and encouragement.

Our commitment to the Rose has recently established, through the generosity of the Friends of the Federation, a Scholarship Scheme and is offered, with Member Countries invited to nominate a candidate to receive a Scholarship to attend a WFRS Convention. We are delighted to report this scheme has achieved the granting of a scholarship to an applicant from China to attend the Sweden Convention. Our Executive Director will email Member Countries with the criteria for applying for this scholarship

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

I look forward to our next Regional Convention in Sweden in July, 2024 and I encourage members to attend a Convention. Thank you to the hard-working Nordic Roses team for the organisation of this upcoming Convention. A note for your diary, the next World Rose Convention will be in Fukuyama, Japan 18th to 24th May, 2025. All of the details can be found through the links on the WFRS website.

The Rose Trials throughout Europe will begin in May through the summer. I look forward to meeting and seeing members participate in some of these events .

Kind regards

Diane vom Berg

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Derek Lawrence

March 2024

The sudden passing of Past President, Mr. Kelvin Trimper AM, is not only a huge loss to the management of the World Federation of Societies, but also an enormous personal loss for many of us who form part of the clock-work mechanism of the running of the organisation.

One of my cherished memories of visiting Australia in 2022, was being invited to supper at the splendid home of Kelvin and Melanie. The warm welcome and hospitality shown was exceptional. And the very generous offerings from the wine cellar proved rather intoxicating! It gave me a splendid opportunity to explore the remarkable rose garden that was created in the 1990's by the couple. I had personally known Kelvin for a number of years, and was excited by the prospect of visiting the site. It inspired me to write an article about my experience.

Located in the quiet suburb of Greenwith on the outskirts of the City of Adelaide, the one-acre garden is filled with more than 2,000 roses; contains over 40 fruit trees, extensive companion plantings, and the overall design is complimented by fine manicured lush green lawns. The couple had immense affinity for varieties created by the wizardry of David Austin, with such beauties as 'Gertrude Jekyll', 'Leander', 'The Pilgrim', 'Lady of Shalott' and 'Munstead Wood' on display. Other noteworthy cultivars to be enjoyed are: 'Brilliant Pink Iceberg', 'Butterfly Kisses', 'Marilyn Monroe' and 'Tequila Sunrise'.

"I've always loved all kinds of plants, both native and exotics", explained Kelvin "but particularly roses". He admires the many qualities of the *genus rosa*; the diversified colours, blends and deep fragrances. "Roses symbolise friendship, love and peace and are integral to our culture". Melanie's passion for roses began in the 1970's, as a teenager. Reflecting on her busy lifestyle she said, "For us, growing roses is a family affair. I have many fond memories of our children playing and working in the garden. Certainly, there has been significant work involved in maintaining a large collection of roses, but it's our absolute passion."

Kelvin will be remembered as a dedicated rosarian, who spread his genuine love for the rose in global proportions. He was a truly remarkable gentleman, whose strong business acumen and sheer wisdom will continue to serve as a lasting legacy for the advancement of the World Federation of Rose Societies for many years to come.



Trimper Rose Garden 2022 (Photos Courtesy of Author)

ROSE NEWS

WFRS FRIENDS OF THE FEDERATION SCHOLARSHIP

The Federation is delighted to announce that the recipient of the first scholarship grant is Miss Ji Naizhe from Beijing, China. The nomination was made on behalf of the Chinese Rose Society.

Miss Naizhe has been previously awarded with a Master's degree in Ornamental Plants and Horticulture from Beijing Forestry University. She has also been recognised by the China Flower Association, National Innovation Alliance of Rose Industry, Beijing Municipal Administration Centre of Parks; with worthy certificates of Honours. She has also been bestowed with a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture.

We look forward to welcoming Miss Naizhe to Nordic Roses 2024, being held in Kalmar, Sweden.

On behalf of the entire organisation, I wish to warmly congratulate Miss Naizhe, who is a much-deserved recipient of such a prestigious Award.

Derek Lawrence
Executive Director



From Lluís Abad García of Barcelona, Spain (in part)

Due to the drought emergency situation in a large part of Catalonia and, not being able to guarantee the good condition of the rosebushes to be evaluated due to the irrigation restrictions, this year the calls for the different juries of the 24th Barcelona International New Roses Contest, which were scheduled for the second week of May, have been cancelled.

Due to the fact that the roses in the competition have already been evaluated four times during the previous growing season, it is planned that at the beginning of May, the Permanent Commission of the Expert Jury will carry out a final evaluation, with the aim of not losing the edition and being able to offer the final results of the new varieties of roses in the competition.

We hope that weather and climate conditions will improve and that we will be able to meet again at the next edition in May 2025.



Adelaide Australia 2023 Gold Medal Winner, 'Fur Elise' (Kordes)



Above: Hamilton, NZ Gold Medal Winner 'Skyla Rose' (Somlasky) bred by Rob Somerfield



Above: Palmy North, NZ Gold Medal Winner 'Mulberry Wine' (Somberry) bred by Rob Somerfield

KELVIN GEOFFREY TRIMPER, AM



Kelvin Trimper AM, prominent businessman and urban development manager, internationally respected rose expert, garden and horticulture writer and media personality has died suddenly at the age of 69. Mr Trimper passed away at his Greenwith, South Australia, home on Sunday, 7 January.

From an early career in Education, Kelvin became deeply involved in the integration of education and multi-school campuses into the fabric of the Golden Grove and Mawson Lakes developments for Delfin Lend Lease, leading him to become Community Development Director of those communities, together with other similar entities in Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia.

Since 2012, Kelvin's consulting business has provided advice to state and local government, not-for-profits and business on property development, collaborative arrangements and agreements between the public, private sectors and community on social, education, environmental and economic development planning. His expertise in this area has seen him present as keynote and guest speaker at OECD Education conferences in Finland, France, Spain, Singapore and New Zealand, and providing advice to government and non-government agencies throughout Australia, the United Kingdom, Singapore and Spain.

Having grown up in Renmark in the midst of his family rose garden and the nearby garden of world-famous rosarian and family friend, the late David Ruston OAM, roses in particular became a passion for Kelvin at an early age. This later saw him develop, along with this wife Melanie, a prize winning garden of approximately 2000 roses at Greenwith.

Kelvin was active at a state, national and international level as a judge, consultant and rose garden advisor, and was widely recognised for his expertise and community work.

He was the recipient of the Member of the Order of Australia award (AM), the Gold Medal of the World Federation of Rose Societies, the Australian Rose Award (ARA) and the T.A. Stewart Memorial Award (SMA) and was a Fellow of the Urban Development Institute of Australia (SA div), and of the University of South Australia.

Gavin Woods, President of the Rose Society of South Australia and Vice-President of the World Federation of Rose Societies today said "Kelvin was a giant amongst Rosarians. No single individual can possibly fill Kelvin's shoes. He has possibly contributed more to the rose growing world than any other individual now or in the past."

A selection of Kelvin's current and recent involvements include:

- Chairman, National Rose Trial Garden of Australia
- Chairman, World Federation of Rose Societies Convention Committee
- Chairman, World Rose Convention (Adelaide) 2022
- President, World Federation of Rose Societies – 2015 -2018
- Chairman, Northern Futures Inc.
- Chairman, Northern Adelaide Industry Leaders Group
- Deputy Chair, SA Power Networks Community Advisory Committee

Kelvin is survived by his wife Melanie, daughter Kirsty, son Adam and daughter-in-law Ruby.



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

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

Pre Tour

June 25 – July 1

Welcome to Finland



The land of 1000 lakes and many unique rose gardens.

Program

Tuesday, June 25

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

Wednesday, June 26

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

Thursday, June 27

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

Friday, June 28

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

Saturday, June 29

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

Sunday, June 30

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

Monday, July 1

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



General information

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

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



Main Tour

July 2 – July 6

Welcome to Sweden



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



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

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



Program

Tuesday, July 2

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

Wednesday, July 3

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

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

Afternoon Tea and opportunity to experience a bright summer evening.

Thursday, July 4

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

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

Friday, July 5

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

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

Saturday, July 6

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

Registration opens on August 25, 2023 – More info at Nordicroses2024.com

Post Tour

Welcome to Norway



July 7 – July 14

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

Program

Sunday, July 7

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

Monday, July 8

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

Tuesday, July 9

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

Wednesday, July 10

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

Thursday, July 11

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

Friday, July 12

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

Saturday, July 13

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

Sunday, July 14

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



Registration opens on August 25, 2023

More info at Nordicroses2024.com



the *Green* guide

Photos by:

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

Speakers at Nordic Roses 2024 in Sweden

With less than four months to go we would like to introduce some of the speakers at the WFRS Regional Convention & Heritage Roses Conference in Kalmar in Sweden. The conference starts on the 2nd of July with a Meet & Greet. On the 3rd of July seminars begins at the beautiful, situated Congress Hall in Kalmar. The organizers in Sweden have invited a secret guest for the opening ceremony followed by the main speaker at the conference Lars-Åke Gustavsson.



Lars-Åke Gustavsson is a botanist and for many years curator at Fredriksdal Open-Air Museum in Helsingborg. He was also responsible for the construction of the Rosarium at Fredriksdal as well as the founder of the Swedish Rose Society. Lars-Åke coordinated the nationwide study of older cultivated roses, within The Program for Diversity of Cultivated Plants and published *The Rose Heritage in the National Gene Bank* with colleague Henrik Morin. He has published 13 books on roses, one of them together with Christina Högardh-Ihr, and is the Head Meeting Planner of this Conference. Lars-Åke will present his work with The Rose Heritage and the Gene Bank, which the delegates also will have the great opportunity to visit on the 4th of July.



The organizers in Sweden are also very proud to present Michale Marriot from UK. Michael has been a very keen gardener and plants person from a very early age. Joining David Austin Roses in 1985 gave him the opportunity to specialize in roses and during the 35 years he worked there became one of the world's leading and most respected rosarians/rose experts. He retired from David Austin Roses in 2019 but has since continued to be very closely involved in the rose world lecturing, writing, consulting, designing rose gardens and leading rose tours. He is author of *RHS Roses* and received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Garden Media Guild in 2022. He is chairman of the Historic Roses Group and vice president of Plant Heritage. Michael will speak about why he considers roses to be the worthiest of all plants.



The conference speaker from India presents himself in his own words. *"Cutting steel is my hard side and growing Roses is my soft side."*

Sushil Prakash is a Mechanical Engineer by profession and started growing roses as a hobby during his early college days. He started exhibiting his roses since 1986 in the local shows and winning soon became his habit. From hobby to exhibitor, exhibitor to rosarian, from rosarian to judge & trainer and then to a consultant, Mr. Prakash's dedication to flowers and gardening made him take up office in the MP Rose Society., where he held the President position for 3 terms and also hosted the All India Rose Federation Convention. He also regularly talks on roses and the environment on radio, TV shows and in various conventions. He is consultant to various prestigious gardens in Bhopal.

The title of Sushil Prakash's lecture will be *Roses in Aspirational India*.



The Conference in Sweden will also have the honor to host Robert Ardini, WFRS Vice President of North America. Robert Ardini is a former advertising executive, has traveled to all seven continents, and is a Juilliard-trained pianist. Roses are his passion. He is a Life Member of the American Rose Society, served on the Board of Directors, and Chaired the 1992 Centennial Committee. Robert joined his local rose society – the Long Island Rose Society – at the age of 17. His first World Rose Convention was in 1994 in New Zealand. He resides in New York and is serving his first term as World Federation of Rose Societies Vice President of North America. Robert is particularly fond of the older hybrid teas and floribundas introduced in the mid-20th century. Robert's lecture, *Great North American Rose Gardens You've Never Heard Of*, will touch upon some of

North America's lesser-known outstanding rose gardens.



The Danish Landscape Architect Helle Nebelong runs her own private practice specializing in Health Design and focuses on how to improve the city for everyday life. She is internationally recognized as a key pioneer of the natural playground movement. Some of her best-known projects in Copenhagen are The Garden of Senses in Faelledparken and the Nature Playground in Valbyparken. The latter is Copenhagen's most popular playground and is referred to as "one of the best-designed playgrounds for children in the world". Helle Nebelong's work is of special interest to Kalmar City since the Municipality and Park unit of Kalmar has recently established a new playground in the city center, in combination with a rose garden. Helle Nebelong's title for her lecture is *Urban design with sensory experiences in mind and what makes us feel comfortable in the city*.



Yuki Mikanagi is curator of the herbarium and head of the department of botany of the Natural History Museum & Institute in Chiba in 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.

Yuki Mikanagi will speak of *A Story of the Wild Rose in Japan Starting with Rosa multiflora*. Among the 16 wild roses native to Japan, the first to be given a scientific name was *Rosa multiflora* Thunb., named by a Swedish botanist Carl Peter Thunberg in 1784. Her lecture will be preceded by the presentation of the Convention in Japan 2025.

On the last day of the conference there will be an interesting panel discussion with breeders, landscape architects, gardeners etc. about the premises for roses in public parks. There will also be a discussion on sustainability within the field of roses as a very important topic for the younger generation.

You will find more information about the speakers in Sweden at <https://www.nordicroses2024.com/speakers>

And the full Agenda for the main tour at https://assets-global.website-files.com/64dc76c8b3dfcf5fa5208b5b/65cad9abc0344e98442f1b68_Agenda-Nordic-Roses-2024.pdf

Tickets for the lectures and without participation in the convention can be purchased at: <https://www.nordicroses2024.com/seminar-day-tickets>

Please note that the Convention may have changes to the program.



WFRS 20th
WORLD ROSE
CONVENTION
2025
in FUKUYAMA

Roses for the Future

A New Future Begins in Fukuyama

Create, Excite, and Shine Together!

18 (Sun) – **24** (Sat) **May 2025**

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

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

Departure Location: Hiroshima City

Nearest airport:

Hiroshima Airport

Nearest bullet train station:

JR Hiroshima Station

Start Time:

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

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

***Rosa sambucina* native to Miyajima**

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

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



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

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

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

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

Yoshiumi Rose Park

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

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

DAY4 **THURSDAY 15 MAY 2025** GARDEN TOUR IN TOTTORI

Tottori Prefectural Flower Park (Tottori Flower Gallery)

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

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

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

Adachi Museum of Art

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

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/uvyqioSffgjQy9UN6>



Yuushien Garden

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

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



DAY6 **SATURDAY 17 MAY 2025** FUKUYAMA CASTLE

Fukuyama Castle

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

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

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

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

Departure Location: Fukuoka City

Nearest airport: Fukuoka Airport

Nearest bullet train station: JR Hakata Station

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

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

Uminonakamichi Seaside Park

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

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



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

Rosa multiflora var. *adenochaeta* along Kuma river

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Huis Ten Bosch

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

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



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

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

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

DAY1 MONDAY 12 MAY 2025 STARTS FROM OSAKA

Departure Location: Osaka City

Nearest Airport: Kansai International Airport

Nearest bullet train station: JR Shin-Osaka Station

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

DAY2 TUESDAY 13 MAY 2025 EXPO TOUR

Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai

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

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

DAY3 WEDNESDAY 14 MAY 2025 GARDEN TOUR IN OSAKA

Hamadera Park Rose Garden

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

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

David Austin English Rose Garden

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

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



DAY4 THURSDAY 15 MAY 2025 GARDEN TOUR IN KOBE

Kobe Municipal Arboretum

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

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

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

Ritsurin Garden

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

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



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

Yoshiumi Rose Park

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

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

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

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

Travel from Fukuyama to Kyoto by bullet train

Japanese Gardens (Nanzenji, Kinkakuji, Ryoanji etc.)

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

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

Kyoto Botanical Gardens

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

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

Arashiyama, Sagano

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

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/hpkMMHYcs2G3Qiy9>



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

Rosa & Berry Tawada

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

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



Gifu World Rose Garden (Formerly Flower Festa Commemorative Park)

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

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



Urakuen (National Treasure)

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

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

Disbanding Location: Disband at JR Nagoya Station around noon.

Nearest airport: Chubu Centrair International Airport.

Nearest bullet train station: JR Nagoya Station.

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

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

Travel from Fukuyama to Niigata by bullet train and airplane.

Northern Culture Museum

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

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

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

National Echigo Hillside Park, Nagaoka Fragrant Rose Garden

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

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



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

Nakanojo Gardens

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

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



Shikishima Park Kadokura Techno Rose Garden

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

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

Ibaraki Flower Park

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

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

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

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

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

The City of Sakura Rose Garden

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

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



DAY6 **FRIDAY 30 MAY 2025**

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

Nearest airports: Narita International Airport or Haneda International Airport

Nearest bullet train station: JR Tokyo Station.

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

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

Travel from Fukuyama to Shizuoka by bullet train.

Acao Forest

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

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



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

Hakone Botanical Garden of Wetlands

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

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

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

Yokohama English Garden

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

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



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

Jindai Botanical Garden

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

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



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

Keisei Rose Garden

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

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



The City of Sakura Rose Garden

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

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



DAY6 **FRIDAY 30 MAY 2025**

Disbanding Location: Accommodation hotel in Tokyo. Includes breakfast.

Nearest airports: Narita International Airport or Haneda International Airport

Nearest bullet train station: JR Tokyo Station.

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

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

Saturday, 17th May

	Delegates Arrive	
09:00 - 18:00	58th Fukuyama Rose Festival in 2025 (Day 1)	Whole City
09:00 - 18:00	Rose Expo FUKUYAMA 2025 (Day 1)	Midorimachi Park
10:00 - 11:00	Grand Opening_58th Fukuyama Rose Festival in 2025 (Day 1)	Whole City
11:00 - 12:00	Grand Opening_Rose Expo FUKUYAMA 2025 (Day 1)	Midorimachi Park
- 16:00	Participants of Pre-Tour Arrive	Midorimachi Park
12:00 - 18:00	Registration Open	Hotel
16:00 - 17:00	WFRS Promotions Committee	Hotel
17:00 - 18:00	Tea Break / Light Meal	Hotel
18:00 - 20:00	WFRS Honours Committee	Hotel

Sunday, 18th May (Day 1)

	Delegates Arrive	
09:00 - 18:00	58th Fukuyama Rose Festival in 2025 (Day 2)	Whole City
09:00 - 18:00	Rose Expo FUKUYAMA 2025 (Day 2)	Midorimachi Park
08:30 - 18:00	Registration Open	Hotel
08:30 - 11:30	WFRS Executive Meeting No.1	Hotel
13:00 - 15:00	WFRS Publications Committee	Hotel
15:00 - 15:30	Tea Break	Hotel
15:30 - 17:30	WFRS Classification & Registration Committee	Hotel
18:30 - 21:00	Welcome Reception (includes Meal)	Fukuyama Castle

December 2023

Dear Rose Friends:

We are pleased to inform you that in October, the Japan Rose Society and the World Rose Convention Fukuyama Organizing Committee had the honor of hosting Ms. Diane vom Berg, President, and Mr. Kelvin Trimper, Chair, in Fukuyama. This visit was a

critical step in ensuring our preparations for the 2025 WRC are on track. The discussions focused on finalizing the plans and

Monday, 19th May (Day 2)

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

Tuesday, 20th May (Day 3)

Roses in Asia

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

Wednesday, 21st May (Day 4)**Roses for the Future (1) Conservation**

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

Thursday, 22nd May (Day 5)

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

Friday, 23rd May (Day 6)**Roses for the Future (2) Disease Resistance**

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

Saturday, 24th May (Day 7)

Roses for the Future (3) Other new techniques

08:00 - 08:45	Lecture 13	Hotel
08:45 - 09:30	Lecture 14	Hotel
09:30 - 10:00	Tea Break	Hotel
10:00 - 10:45	Lecture 15	Hotel
10:45 - 12:15	BREEDERS PANEL (5 breeders/) The Chair: Kelvin Trimper	Hotel
12:15 - 12:30	Presentation of the Heritage Roses Conference	Hotel
12:30 - 13:00	Presentation of the 21st WFRS World Rose Convention	Hotel
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch	Hotel
14:00 - 16:00	Visit a local school and meet with the children	
14:00 - 16:00	WFRS Executive Meeting No.2	Hotel
18:00 - 22:00	WFRS Gala Convention Dinner and Awards Presentation	Hotel



WFRS 20th
WORLD ROSE CONVENTION
ROSE EXPO FUKUYAMA 2025

March 2024

Dear Rose Friends,

We are excited to inform you that the 20th WFRS World Rose Convention is now just one year and two months away. Our preparations for the convention are advancing steadily. In light of this progress, we are pleased to announce that we will begin accepting registrations in July 2024. As the magnificent convention in Sweden draws to a close, we invite you to turn your attention to East Asia.

We have an exciting lineup of lectures planned for the 2025 WRC, covering a wide range of themes from "Roses in Asia," "Conservation," and "Disease Resistance" to "New Techniques."

In this issue, we would like to give you a preview of some of the lectures that will feature in the "Roses in Asia" section.



Our first highlight is a lecture by Dr. Yoshihiro Ueda, the Project Manager for WRC in FUKUYAMA. To commemorate the start of WRC in Japan, Dr. Ueda will present a lecture on the first day titled "Roses raised by Japanese Breeders."

In Japan, rose breeding was not practiced until around the mid-19th century. It was in the late 19th century, with the hobbyist cross-breeding of rose species introduced from outside Japan, that the improvement of Japanese rose varieties began to flourish. Transitioning into the mid-20th century, this effort was spearheaded by Seizo Suzuki of Keisei Rose Nurseries, who aimed to elevate Japanese rose breeding to a global level. Since then, young rose breeders, both professional and amateur, have been actively pushing forward with their breeding efforts. Among them, Takunori Kimura has determined breeding directions based on recent rose cultivation trends, actively introducing world-class varieties with a focus on disease resistance. Kimura Takunori will be speaking on the final day at the Breeders' Panel.



Next, we are excited to introduce Dr. Yuki Mikanagi, a distinguished researcher and author celebrated for her work, "The Handbook of Wild Roses in Japan," which earned the World Federation of Rose Societies Literary Award in 2022. Dr. Mikanagi is set to speak at both the Sweden and Fukuyama conventions, offering her invaluable insights into the world of roses.

Her captivating lectures, titled "Stories of Roses which Started with a Wild Rose in Japan: *Rosa multiflora* Thunb.," will be a focal point of both events. In Sweden, she will shed light on the Polyantha Roses, transitioning to the Rambler Roses for the Fukuyama audience. Through her comprehensive presentations, attendees will explore the profound influence that the 16 wild roses native to Japan have exerted on the development of modern roses.

In addition to Dr. Mikanagi's compelling lectures, attendees at the Fukuyama convention will have the unique opportunity to observe a special display of Japan's wild roses at Fukuyama City Midorimachi Park, one of the event's venues.

The last speaker we're introducing is Dr. Nobuo Shirasuna, a renowned garden designer celebrated for his work on gardens that have received the WFRS Award of Garden Excellence. His innovative designs have significantly enhanced the allure of rose plantings in parks and along roads within Fukuyama City, making substantial contributions to the city's landscape.

Dr. Shirasuna's lecture, titled "Roses Depicted in Japanese Art," delves into an often-overlooked aspect of the rose's presence in Japan. Despite common perceptions, roses have been cultivated in Japan for centuries, not only as horticultural varieties but also as significant elements in Japanese literature and art.



Rosa multiflora



It is a fascinating fact that prominent Japanese artists have frequently chosen roses as subjects for their works, embedding these flowers deeply into the fabric of Japanese culture and tradition. Roses have seamlessly integrated into the everyday life, becoming a cherished part of Japan's cultural heritage.

Dr. Shirasuna has taken a particular interest in what he calls "Mystery Roses." These are roses that are thought to have been cultivated in Japan since ancient times and still exist across the country. His research into these Mystery Roses aims to uncover the historical significance and continuity of rose cultivation in Japan, shedding light on the deep-rooted connection between roses and Japanese cultural expressions.

These lectures will enrich our understanding of the rose's enduring legacy and its multifaceted role in Japanese art and society.

The foregoing stories are just some of the fascinating talks that await you at WRC Fukuyama 2025. Of course, we will also offer tours in which you can savor the beauty and fragrance of Japanese roses to your heart's content. I invite you to visit our website (<https://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp/newsletter/>) and join our mailing list to receive all the latest updates.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the 20th WFRS World Rose Convention.

Sincerely,

Yukiko Shimura

Yukiko Shimura

President, Japan Rose Society

Naoki Edahiro

Naoki Edahiro

Chair, World Rose Convention Fukuyama Organizing Committee

(Photos courtesy of the Convention)



Roses and Small Swallows
Abe Masazumi (1775-1826)

WFRS VICE PRESIDENT REPORTS

Mireille Steil, Luxembourg (Central Europe)

This year you will find my report organized by country. We will start with **Belgium** where the 15th International **Heritage Rose Conference Rosa Belgica 2023** took place. Much has already been reported about this event, so I won't go into further detail about the organization. However, I would like to express my gratitude once again to everyone involved in the "Belgian Royal National Rose Society" for the great organization and for the many hours they put in so that such a great and wonderful event could take place. A very special thank you for their tireless efforts goes to our Past President Henrienne de Briey, to the President of the Belgian Rose Society, Mr. Frans Thomas and the entire team of helpers.

Every summer, rose enthusiasts also gather in **Kortrijk, Belgium** for the International Rose Novelty Competition. The International Rose Garden, which was created in 1959 on the grounds of **Kasteelpark 't Hooghe** in Kortrijk, was completely redesigned in 2003. It includes a demonstration garden where 200 new rose creations are planted and judged every year, a testing ground for new rose varieties and not forgetting a large collection of historic roses. In total, no fewer than 4,000 rose bushes form a panorama full of colors and scents from the beginning of June. One plot is reserved for competing roses. Rose growers from all over Europe send their latest creations, which are then raised anonymously for two years, and all receive the same care. This year the prestigious "Golden Rose" was awarded to the breeder Lukasz Rojewski for his rose 'Ivona'.

The Rose Novelty Competition takes place in **Le Roeulx, Belgium** on the first Friday in September. This competition, which celebrated its 60th edition this year, is especially for the second rose bloom in September. It is particularly selective and a real test for the roses and their breeders. After a very hot and dry summer, the Elite Rose prize went to the breeder David Zlesak for the rose ZE-813-BR represented by Meilland Int.

Germany, it was a great honor for me to unveil the **Award of Garden Excellence** plaque on behalf of the **WFRS** in the **East German Rosengarten Forst, Lausitz**. The ceremony took place in the presence of Ms. Korittke, administrative board member for urban development and construction in the town hall, Stefan Palm, park manager and works manager of the city's own culture, tourism and marketing business. The Rosarium in Forst was originally built for a rose and garden exhibition in 1913. The Association of German Rose Friends placed the site under its honorary protection in 1914 and named it the East German Rose Garden. Visitors in Forst can admire almost 30,000 roses, which bloomed beautifully despite the challenging weather conditions. Currently there are around 1,000 varieties in Forst, with 15 to 20 new varieties being added each year.



Left: Unveiling the WFRS Award of Garden Excellence, From left: Hans-Rainer Engwicht, Romy Ruff, Diana Sonntag from the support association; Stefan Palm; Mireille Steil VP WFRS, Heike Korittke Administrative Board; Ingo Paeschke Chairman City Council, Jean -Paul Jost.



Right: Zweibrücken WFRS Award of Garden Excellence , From left: Martina Becker; Markus Brunsing; Dr. Renate Neumann-Schäfer Chairman German Rose Society; Heiko Hübscher Master Gardener; Mireille Steil VP WFRS; Hanne Stauch Chairman Rosefriends Zweibrücken.

Zweibrücken, the oldest rose garden in Germany with 110 years of history, also received its **Garden Award** plaque. This award was previously presented in Australia in 2022, and the official presentation took place at the end of the rose season in November. The event was attended by the Mayor Marold Wosnitza, the President of the German Rose Society Dr. Neumann-Schaefer, managing director Elke Gottschall, chairman of Classification & Registration, Markus Brunsing, master gardener Heiko Hübscher, and members of the German Rose Society. The **Zweibrücken Rose Garden**, situated in the Palatinate city of the same name (Rhineland-Palatinate) is the third largest rosarium in Germany. It consists of a park of more than 5 hectares in which over 50000 roses of more than 2000 different varieties are arranged.

Baden-Baden, the secret rose capital of Europe. On 7,000 square meters, the rose garden on the **Beutig** offers the latest varieties from rose breeders every year. The **Baden-Baden Rose Novelty Competition** is one of the most important of its kind in Europe and beyond. A floribunda rose was awarded the internationally important honorary award "Golden Rose of Baden-Baden" on June 20, 2023, in Baden-Baden. It bears the name 'Spotlight' and comes from the Kordes breeder in Sparrieshoop. The rose is therefore the best rose of the year in the only international novelty rose competition in Germany. The new variety impressed the jury with its exuberant abundance of bright yellow flowers. It has very good leaf health and a light fragrance. 'Spotlight' also received a gold medal in the floribunda rose category. For the 71st rose novelty competition in Baden-Baden, 100 rose experts and rose breeders from 21 different countries met in the rose novelty garden on the Beutig to evaluate 142 rose novelties from 36 different breeders. The most important guest of honor on competition day was Diane vom Berg from Australia, President of the World Federation of Rose Societies, who also chaired the international jury. In addition to her, rose experts from all over Europe as well as from South Korea, Canada, Uruguay, India, China, Australia and the USA traveled to the competition.



Gütersloh - the breeder Noack's rose '**Heidetraum**' entered the **Hall of Fame** after its success in Australia in 2022. In August, I had the pleasure of visiting Mr. Reiner Noack's rose breeding business together with Markus Brunsing. Mr. Noack gave us a tour of his facility, allowing us to wander through his rose fields and greenhouses, and providing us with valuable insights into his work and operations. We witnessed the different stages of rose development and admired the beauty of the blooming roses. It was particularly heartwarming to see the watercolor he received in Adelaide displayed in the reception room of his company along with all of his awards.

Described by Mr. Noack as a universal rose that impresses in all aspects and requires minimal care, 'Heidetraum' blooms for months and can be used in various settings, from large-scale plantings to small gardens and even pots on balconies and terraces. It adapts well to different site conditions and is willing to bloom in partially shaded areas. 'Heidetraum' has received numerous national and international awards, including the ADR rating for the second time in 2021, an exceptional recognition that it first received in 1990. This rose's excellent qualities have remained consistent for over 30 years. Known as '**Flower Carpet Pink**' in Germany, 'Heidetraum' has gained international recognition through innovative marketing efforts and its unique properties. Under the Flower Carpet brand, it has captivated rose enthusiasts around the world, adorning streets and gardens not only in Gütersloh but also across Germany and in various countries, including Disneyland in Paris, Lake Zurich, Chicago, Los Angeles, Australia, and New Zealand. Truly, 'Heidetraum' has brought joy to millions of people. (noack-rosen.de). (Photo: left)

France, at the beginning of the year, in March, I was invited by Janic Gourlet, the President of the **Rose Section of the SNHF** ("Société Nationale d'Horticulture de France"), to attend the **15th edition of the "Grand-Prix de la Rose"** in **Paris**. This competition honors the rose bushes that best adapt to the different regions of France. The roses are judged based on their quality, regardless of the climate or soil they are grown in. The competing rose bushes are tested in different climatic zones across France at seven partner locations. Only varieties that have been on the market for less than five years are eligible to participate. They are observed by 70 specialists and knowledgeable enthusiasts for two years, at different stages of their flowering cycle. The best rose at this year's competition was a large-flowered shrub rose with a vibrant yellow color and hints of orange in the center. It has glossy foliage and is highly resistant to diseases. This rose, named '**REUZEST**', was bred by Reuter, a French breeder. The official award ceremony took place on May 11, 2023, in Marseille. It is worth noting that the "Grand-Prix de la Rose" is not part of the official rose competitions organized by the World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS) under the leadership of its chairman, Marga Verwer.

Paris Bagatelle - Bagatelle Park is a must-see in Paris. Imbued with magic and steeped in history, this botanical garden on the Bois de Boulogne side extends over 25 hectares and reveals breathtaking landscapes that attract Parisians in search of poetry for a day or a lifetime. Around the Château de Bagatelle, the park reveals alternately fascinating landscapes, including a splendid English-style garden, a water mirror in which we can discover the reflection of a pagoda, the vegetable garden next to the gardener's house, a Mediterranean garden or... Various bodies of water, the mysterious Caves or beautiful waterfalls. An enchanting setting that often gives us the impression of walking in a painting. In addition, the **Roseraie de Bagatelle** is a well-known place among lovers as it is one of the oldest and most important in France.

The **116th International New Rose Competition** took place on June 15, 2023, in the Bagatelle rose garden. 28 breeders from 11 countries were in the race, 101 varieties competed in 6 categories. The winners were finally announced in the orangery. 1st prize in all categories went to No. 56 Spotlight (created by Roses Kordes), a beautiful rose bush with yellow, blooming flowers, 2nd prize to No. 86 Yukiko (Viva international) with very dense clusters of miniature flowers, a subtle one pinkish white.

Lyon - A city that has established itself as the world capital of roses for two centuries. The **International New Roses Competition of Lyon**, organized by the Société Française des Roses in collaboration with the Parks Department of the City of Lyon, takes place every year at the beginning of June in the competition rose garden of the Parc de la Tête d'Or. The most beautiful rose specimens grow here. This year, 89 varieties from 29 breeders from 12 countries competed in the 93rd Rose Novelty Competition. 'PALSY WALSY'® was chosen as the best-rated rose by the breeder Martin Vissers from Belgium. She is the one who achieved the highest score across all classes.

Orléans - has had a passionate and exciting rose history for decades. Following the Nuances de Roses event, the city of Orléans organized the **65th International Rose Competition** in the Jardin des Plantes, where rose bushes can be judged after their 2nd bloom at the end of the season. We will remember this September 8, 2023, for a long time, a scorching hot day with no less than 35 ° C. All members of the jury walked along the paths of the plant garden with sun hats, parasols and fans.

Forty-five varieties from France and abroad were recognized and several rose bushes were recognized by the permanent commission made up of professionals and rose lovers, joined by some members of the ARO. At the end of the afternoon, after the jury's deliberation, the winners were named in the presence of Mayor Serge Grouard and Jean Paul Imbault, deputy responsible for biodiversity, events and horticulture. This year marks the 36th time a Rose d'Or has been awarded since the competition was founded. This prize recognizes the rose bush from the Jardin des Plantes d'Orléans, which receives a rating of more than 14/20 for its general qualities. The rose bush SEE YOU® in pink from the breeder Kordes of Germany was honored.

France - in the **Champagne** region a rose named 'L'Intemporelle Mailly Grand Cru®' was baptized in partnership with the champagne company Mailly Grand Cru in June. The rose has round buds that bloom like bubbles in a glass of champagne. The shrub has a balanced and dense growth with supple branches and matte foliage. The roses start with a sparkling lemon color that gradually turns into a soft gold. This enchanting rose adapts well to all types of gardens.

Italy - Bologna, unfortunately this year's rose competition really fell through. On May 27th and 28th, 2023, the **third edition of the UNIBO International New Rose Trial** (International Competition for New Varieties of Garden and Landscape Roses) was to have taken place in the educational-experimental rose garden "Raffaele Bazzocchi" in Faenza, organized by DiSTAL, in collaboration with the Foundation for Agricultural Practice "Furio Camillo Caldesi", the Professional Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development "Persolino-Strocchi" and the Municipality of Faenza, under the patronage of the World Federation of Rose Societies and the Italian Horticultural Society.

Due to severe flooding, the event was canceled, but the competition was still held thanks to the decision of the extended permanent jury, which included two landscape architects, two gardeners, two researchers from the University of Bologna, two garden enthusiasts and others. The winning rose with the most points was the rose RT 16633 from Rosen Tantau/D 94/100 points.

Rome, the **81st edition of the international competition for new rose varieties "Premio Roma 2023"** took place on Saturday, May 27, 2023, in the **Municipal Rose Garden of Rome**. Launched in 1933, the Premio Roma has now become an event of international appeal for breeders and enthusiasts and presents new "unpublished" rose varieties every year. Every year on the third Saturday in May it takes place in Rome in the "Roseto di Roma Capitale". This is linked to the aesthetic evaluation by the international jury on the day of the competition. At the 81st edition of the Premio Roma, I had the honor of being President of the competition. One hundred and twelve new rose varieties were presented by 30 breeders from 14 countries: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, France, Germany, Japan, Italy, New Zealand, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, South Africa, USA.

The top prizes were awarded to Germany in three categories, while France won the climbing rose category. Denmark received two special prizes, and France won the Fragrance Prize and the Children's Rose category. Italy's participation in these competitions showcases the country's passion for roses and horticulture. I am pleased and encouraged that Italy is participating again with two novelty rose competitions. Italy is known for its passion for roses and horticulture. The two novelty rose competitions provide a great platform to exhibit and present new and innovative varieties.

But I keep thinking about the Monza competition, which was a very important event for rose lovers and it is a shame that such a popular and successful competition no longer takes place.

Luxembourg – Of course I am particularly pleased that the **WFRS** did the post tour through Luxembourg on June 10th after the convention in Brussels. After a short visit to Ansemburg Castle, the participants were invited to a reception and a light lunch by the Luxembourg Rose Friends.

On the occasion, WFRS President Diane Vom Berg officially unveiled the **WFRS Award of Garden Excellence** plaque at the **Roseraie Château de Munsbach**. This took place in the presence of Tourism Minister Lex Delles, Agriculture Minister Claude Hagen and President of the Luxembourg Rose Society Maryse Weirig. Among the numerous guests, she was pleased to welcome the President of the Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies and former Minister of Agriculture Fernand Etgen, who was also present at the inauguration of the rose garden in 2017. She also warmly thanked Claude Haagen, Minister of Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development and Lex Delles, Minister of Small Business and Tourism, for their continued support of Roseraie Château de Munsbach. The ministers welcomed the tireless commitment of the Lëtzebuenger Rousefrënn and pointed out the great former importance of Luxembourg roses as an economic sector in the country. They were pleased that Luxembourg is recognized internationally as a significant rose destination. Jean-Paul Jost, mayor of the municipality of Schüttrigen, also emphasized how proud he is of the long-standing commitment of the Lëtzebuenger Rousefrënn and the beautiful rose garden at the gates of the city of Luxembourg, which preserves valuable nature. Honorary President Hely Heldenstein of the Lëtzebuenger Rousefrënn gave the guests an interesting insight into the impressive history of Luxembourg roses.



Left: Munsbach WFRS Award of Garden Excellence presentation, From Left: Maryse Weirig ; Diane President WFRS; Mireille Steil VP WFRS
Right: Sylvie Thein board member; Mireille and Diane; Maryse Weirig – President Luxembourg Rosefriends and the Mayor of Schuttrange Jean-Paul Jost

I also had the opportunity to be present at three rose baptisms in Luxembourg. The Luxembourg Rose Friends regularly hold roses baptisms in Luxembourg. A rose was named 'Gaard an Heem' after the largest Luxembourg garden association, which is a member associate of the WFRS. Another rose was named 'Andethanna' and represents the municipality of Niederanven through which the Roman road passed between Reims (F) and Trier (D). In honor of her beloved husband, 'Dr Xavier Muller' his wife named a rose after him. It is a beautiful magenta colored rugosa. All three roses were bred by Martin Vissers.

Monaco – the rose competition only takes place here every two years and 2023 was a break year for the event. My path still took me to the sunny south because on December 6th I had the honor of being present at the planting of the rose 'Soroptimist Women's Voice' on the occasion of the 45th birthday of the Club Soroptimist-Monaco. This rose from the Belgian breeder Martin Vissers and was christened in Luxembourg in 2019. Proceeds from the sale of the rose benefit women's rights projects. It was particularly a pleasure for me to meet the President of the Amis de la Roseraie Princesse Grace, Mr. Yves Piaget.

Netherlands – The Hague, the **rose novelty competition** unfortunately took place in bad weather. It was not pleasant to evaluate the roses in the pouring rain. But here too the weather couldn't slow down the jury and, like every year, the best rose, the Golden Roses of The Hague, was chosen. The prize went to the breeder Interplant (NL) for the rose 'Bravo Babylon Eyes'.

Switzerland – Nyon, At the **4th International Competition for New Roses in Nyon**, in the rose garden of the environmental department of the city of Nyon, a total of 89 rose bushes from 24 breeders from 11 countries competed. These new varieties have not undergone any chemical or biological treatment. In Nyon the use of fungicides and pesticides is taboo. Competing varieties

must demonstrate natural resistance to diseases and pests.

On Saturday, June 17th, in addition to the permanent jury, an international jury of around sixty members met for a final evaluation, led by the Australian President of the World Federation of Rose Societies, Diane vom Berg.

The Golden Rose of Nyon, which recognizes the variety that received the most points in all categories, went to No. 34 MR-137-BR (unnamed) from breeder Michèle Richardier, presented by Meilland International (France), a multi-flowered rose bush with shiny foliage, dense growth and a profusion of delicate pink flowers.

Breeders' Club - The Breeders' Club held two meetings in Nyon, in February and June, under the chairmanship of Jean-Luc Pascquier. Numerous breeders attended and there was a presentation by Dr. Cristina Marazzi on the topic of "The Japanese beetle, a new pest of roses".

Spain – Barcelona the **23rd International Rose Competition** took place on the weekend of May 12, 2023, in the **Rose Garden of Cervantes Park**. The competition coincides with the first flowering of roses and, according to the criteria of a renowned international jury, awards prizes to the best new specimens created by breeders of new rose varieties from around the world. In addition to the international jury of experts, the new roses will be evaluated by the Castell de Sant Foix school, the Mare de Déu de Montserrat school, representatives of the Seniors Council of Barcelona and the jury of master perfumers. The Barcelona special prize went to Matilde Ferrer with the rose FE-16010.

Madrid - The jury met on May 19, 2023, at the **Rosaleda in Madrid** for the **67th Nuevas de la Villa de Madrid International Rose Competition**. The center of the city boasts the magnificent rose gardens. This year's gold medal went to Michel Adam from France for his HT dés. Varietal: ADAmarito with 78.09 points.

Poland – Warsaw, in mid-August I was also invited to the rose competition. When the weather was nice, the rose specialists met in the "Polish Academy of Sciences Botanical Garden" for the 4th edition of the Warsaw Rose Competition. The lucky winner of the "Amber Rose" from Warsaw was Kordes Rosen with the rose 'Für Elise'.

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.



Monaco: Left Center WFRS Patron Yves Piaget. On the right-side Mireille Steil VP WFRS; Martin Visser Breeder; Alice Even Chairman Soroptimist Luxembourg

WFRS VICE PRESIDENT REPORTS

Robert Ardini, Vice President - North America

The state of the rose in North America is strong! This article covers the period since my last Annual Report in March 2023 to the present.

2023 WFRS Regional Conference in Belgium: Without question, this was my 'rose highlight' of the year - outstanding lectures, garden tours, a beautiful 'Meet & Greet' and elegant Closing Ceremonies, all enjoyed with like-minded people. The venues were superb, and so were the meals - one of which was held in an attractive outdoor setting at dusk under various tents. I witnessed my very first baptism of a rose at this Conference. Congratulations are due to Countess Ghislaine de Briey de Gerlache and her committee for a very memorable week-long event!

2023 American Rose Society New York District Convention: I was the keynote speaker at the Awards Banquet and my topic was "An Introduction to the World Federation of Rose Societies." I ended with a brief game "Name that World's Favorite Rose." I gave some clues about various cultivars elected to the WFRS Hall of Fame, and the person with the most correct answers won a copy of the book *WFRS 50 Golden Years*.



Author lecturing at New York District Convention (photo by Jacquie Nye)

2023 Manhattan Rose Society Holiday Party: I utilized this opportunity to make a short speech about the upcoming WFRS Regional Convention in Sweden and to encourage readership of *World Rose News*. This event was hosted by American Rose Society Past President Patricia A. Shanley.

2024 International Rose Trials in Baden-Baden, Germany: I have accepted an invitation from the Department Head of the FG Park & Garden, Markus Brunsing, to be President of the International Jury.

2024 International Rose Trials in Saverne, France: I have accepted an invitation from the President of the Friends of the Roses of Saverne, Jean-Ralph Schitt, to be the Chairman of the event. This year's competition is especially significant because it is their 100th, as the first Saverne New Rose Competition dates from 1924!



New York District Miniflora Queen 'Strawberry Kisses' shown by Glen Smith (photo by Jacquie Nye)

2024 WFRS Regional Convention in Kalmar, Sweden: I will be one of the speakers on the first full day of the convention. My topic will be "Great North American Rose Gardens You've Never Heard Of." Sit back, relax, and allow me to take you on a coast-to-coast tour of beautiful rose gardens; along the way, I'll point out interesting trivia about each garden - trivia that makes each garden uniquely special. In addition, both the American Rose Society and the Canadian Rose Society have been promoting this convention very aggressively, so expect to see many North Americans in attendance.



Left: Manhattan Rose Society Holiday Party, Middle: Saverne, France, Right: Baden-Baden Mayor welcoming Judges (photo by Markus Brunsing)

2027 WFRS Regional Convention: I have been lobbying a number of U.S. cities to host either a World Rose Convention or a WFRS Regional Convention. Any announcement at this time is premature. However, things are looking good for a WFRS Convention or Conference in the USA in the Spring of 2027.

2028 WFRS World Rose Convention in India: I have accepted an invitation to present a program at that convention. If you would like to suggest a topic, please send me an e-mail at robertardini@yahoo.com.

WFRS Publications

After promoting *World Rose News* for about a year, I am now directing my efforts to promoting our publication *By Any Other Name*. Both are available via a link on the American Rose Society website, and the Canadian Rose Society frequently publishes links to these publications in their newsletter. I continue to work with the WFRS Publications committee to provide content for both our Instagram and Facebook accounts. I was recently bestowed the designation of a "Top Contributor" to the WFRS Facebook page. My suggestion to establish a WFRS "Member Country Calendar of Events" in *World Rose News* was implemented; my first submission was the American Rose Society's National Convention which will take place in September 2024.



Sailing On a Sea of Roses, ARS
National Convention

WFRS Associate Memberships

The application I presented on behalf of the Heritage Rose Foundation was fully approved; please join me in welcoming them to our fold. I have also submitted an application for the beautiful rose garden at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in California; that application is pending approval. The Huntington contains approximately 2500 rose bushes of about 1300 cultivars and is impeccably maintained. I anticipate being able to bring in additional Associate Members over the coming months.



Newest WFRS Associate
Member

WFRS Promotions

The late Kelvin Trimper AM, and I, devised a WFRS Scholarship Program; the first recipient has already been selected. I offered the WFRS Promotions Committee a brief proposal to establish a legacy-type program to encourage individuals to include the WFRS in their estate plan; this proposal is under consideration. I am working with WFRS President Diane vom Berg to encourage the United Nations to adopt the rose as their official flower.

WFRS Award of Garden Excellence

I am interacting with both the American Rose Society and Canadian Rose Society to facilitate the nomination of only their very best gardens, in full compliance with WFRS guidelines. In addition, I have begun updating contact information, and WFRS website descriptions, for gardens already having received the designation. Lastly, all gardens holding the honor, but not presently WFRS Associate Members, are being invited to join (or re-join.)

Canada-Specific

In recent years the Canadian Rose Society has reinvented itself and is now thriving! I asked their President, Janice Schmidt for a statement. She graciously supplied me with the following:

"Zoom has enabled us to reach out to our current members, and attract new members from across the country - more so than before. Starting last year, and continuing in 2024, we have had presentations and guest speakers from coast to coast. We will have attended two presentations with the American and Bermuda societies and, last November, we had our first international speaker from the House of Kordes in Germany. There is no stopping us now."

"In 2023 we had our Third 'Virtual Rose Show.' It was a big success, again, attracting exhibitors from across the country. Many of the exhibitors were known to us, but we were also happy to see the number of novices entering - proving our hard work is paying off. As we all know, in order to survive as a society, we need to attract new members."

"Our first Rose Judging School in a few years started in the Fall of 2022; all students have finished their theory classes, and are now working on the completion of their bench work. This could only happen with the cooperation of the various rose societies spread across Canada."



Canadian Rose Society Virtual Rose Show, Left: Arrangement by Marie Decker, Middle: *Rosa blanda* shown by Ruth Wilson, Right: Austin by Elizabeth Schleicher

Below Left: Canadian Rose by Marie Decker, Middle: Arrangement by Tracy Bosley, Right: Arrangement by Sandra Williamson



USA-Specific

The American Rose Society has a new Executive Director. Her name is Claire Bissell. One of the reasons she was offered the position is due to her outstanding performance managing *Christmas In Roseland 2023*- the success of which succeeded all prior years. Still images simply do not capture the enormity and scale of this event; so, instead, please take the time to click on this link which will take you to a 32 second YouTube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vtoEFFfofT0>

In addition to my column "WFRS News" in the *American Rose* magazine, I am the Guest Editor of the *American Rose Society 2024 Annual*; in keeping with my WFRS role, the theme will be "The Global Perspective."

The American Rose Society's program to replicate and preserve Ann Belovich's collection of over 350 varieties of rare ramblers at the American Rose Center in Shreveport, Louisiana, is going strong. Plans are underway to establish a national conservation effort to reintroduce the ramblers into commerce and America's gardens. Continued thanks to the Heritage Rose Foundation for their generous contribution toward this effort.

Webinars have become a staple benefit of membership. Three recent webinars of particular note to the international community include:

- FELCO: *Learn How to Take Care of Your Pruners* (WFRS Corporate Sponsor)
- Diane Von Berg: *A Global Rose Experience* (WFRS President)
- Martin Stott & Charles Quest-Ritson: *Out With the Old, In With the New* (Editors of the WFRS publication *BAON*)

Most of these webinars are archived to YouTube for your viewing pleasure. For example, here is the direct link to the FELCO webinar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4UJ0LUettzw>

Plans are well underway for the 2024 International Rose Trials at the American Rose Center in Shreveport, Louisiana on April 27th, 2024. Please send all expressions of interest in judging to American Rose Society President, Diane Sommers at dianesommers@rose.org.



American Rose Society International Rose Trials

2023 American Rose Society National Convention

Held at the Gardens of the American Rose Center in Shreveport, Louisiana - also the home of the American Rose Society - attendance at this event surpassed expectations. WFRS Past President, Steve Jones, gave an informative and entertaining program about the WFRS International Rose Trials; his talk was attended by hundreds of rosarians from around the USA. Much thanks goes to the Co-Chairs of the Convention Carrie Bergs and Ruth Tiffany. A detailed report on this event is beyond the scope of this article; so, for a photo-heavy recap of things, please follow this link:

<https://www.rose.org/single-post/2023-ars-national-rose-convention>

Bermuda

In as much as my counterpart - the other VP for North America, Diana Antonion - lives in Bermuda, I will allow her to report on all-things-roses in her county. Diana and I are in frequent contact to facilitate our efforts.

New National Rose Society

I have contacted a number of key individuals in Mexico to facilitate the establishment of a national rose society in their country. My outreach was well received and I anticipate the Mexican Rose Society to be launched later this year.



Mexico is poised to be our newest member
(Image courtesy of Adobe)

WFRS VICE PRESIDENT REPORTS

By Vijay Kant, VP Central Asia

Report from India – 2023-2024

The rose, being the queen of flowers, is being recognized world over for its charm and beauty and hence exclusive shows are being conducted for roses alone across the world.

The Government Rose Garden, located in Udhagamandalam (Ooty), India, was established with 1919 varieties of different varieties of roses in the year 1995 and currently has 32000 rose plants comprising of 4201 varieties spread over 11 acres which is the largest collection in Southeast Asia. The Government Rose Garden was awarded with the “Award of Garden Excellence” by the World Rose Federation of Rose Societies at Osaka, Japan in the year 2006 for the uniqueness in its collection of rose varieties.

The annual visitors flow increased from 24000 in the initial years and nearly 10 lakhs (one million) in the current year which contributes to tourism in Tamil Nadu in a big way.

In the Government Rose Garden, the rose show is conducted on a grand manner during May of every year and the 18th Annual Rose show was conducted in May 2023. Considering a good response, the show which was held for two days last year, has been extended to three days this season.

The 18th rose show was inaugurated by Honorable Tourism Minister K. Ramachandran and Honorable Hand-loom and Textile Minister R. Gandhi in the presence of District Collector S. P. Amrith I.A.S.



Ooty Rose Garden

The major attraction at the rose show was the 30 feet height model of the Eiffel Tower made using 35000 roses. Around 50000 of different coloured cut roses were showcased as mini structures of cricket, football, hockey, shuttle, tennis on the theme of sports.

A total attendance of around 46420 was recorded in the 18th Annual Rose Show which made the show as a grand success.

India will be hosting the WFRS World Convention in 2028 in the city of Bhopal. The rose community in this vast country are very excited and planning has already been initiated in the MP Rose Society. Bhopal will be hosting the first World Rose Convention in India under the aegis of Indian Rose Federation.

The first quarter of the year is the time for roses in the plains of India. The roses start blooming from middle of December and continue giving their best blooms till end of March. So, in this busy time for rose growers many rose shows are held in India mostly on Saturday and Sunday of every week starting from end of December.

Bhopal has a very strong rose growing culture and many private and institutional rose gardens. The rose shows are mostly a legacy of the British era and the judging also today is being done in the way followed by the Commonwealth countries.



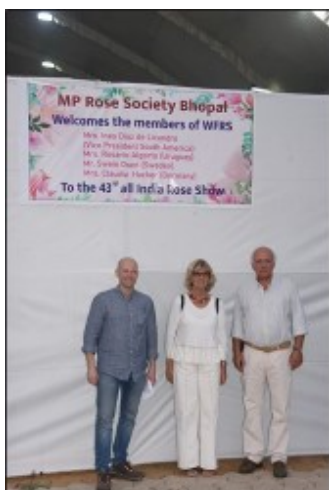
Ooty Rose Garden

This year the 43rd All India Rose Show was held on 12th, 13th & 14th of January 2024 at Government Rose Garden Bhopal. This was organised by MP Rose Society in collaboration with the Horticulture Department of Madhya Pradesh.

The Show was inaugurated by Mr. Narayan Singh Kushvaha, Minister Horticulture, Government of Madhya Pradesh in the afternoon at 4.00 PM. He also addressed the gathering and distributed Trophies to the winners.

The MP Rose Society has started gearing up for WFRS Rose Convention 2028. Ms. Rosario Algorta, Ms. Ines Licandro, Mr. Svein Osen and Ms. Claudia Hacker visited Bhopal and the Rose show along with some Rose gardens. They were also shown the proposed Convention Centre and the Convention Hotel.

We hope that this visit gave them a glimpse of this beautiful city, its gardens and hospitality. They also saw the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Sanchi and Bhimbetka which will be a part of the official tour of the delegates of World Rose Convention in 2028. We look to having a strong participation from all 39 member countries of the WFRS and will prepare a memorable convention for them.



Left: Svein Oson (Kalmar Convenor), Ines Diaz de Licandro, Gustavo Licandro, Middle: Ines with S S Gadre having a look at the exhibition, Right: Rosario Algorta discussing a rose with other judges

The 40th All India Rose Convention and Rose Show took place at Bhubaneswar, Odisha, on January 5, 6 & 7 – 2024, sponsored by Odisha Rose Society, under the aegis of Indian Rose Federation. On day one the inauguration of the Rose Show took place, with flowers coming from all parts of India, specially from Ranchi, Nagpur, Pune and Mumbai. Day two the technical sessions took place, where papers were read out. Another session was kept for farmers cultivating roses under open condition for commercial purpose, both were largely attended, a visit to the KIIT rose garden was organised in the evening followed by a cultural programme and dinner. On day 3 the delegates were taken for a ride of the city and visits to Ancient Temples. The city of Bhubaneswar is known as the City of Temples.

The Jamshedpur Horticulture Society hosted their flower show, with Tata Steel sponsoring the Show, next was the Bengal Rose Society, which was held at Kolkata, with the Lions Club sponsoring, where roses in pots stole the show, with each 10 inch pots having more that 75 to 150 blooms depending on the variety. Next was the MP Rose Society, Bhopal, hosting their Winter Rose Show, which was largely attended. The Vidharba Rose Society also organised a grand Show at Nagpur, and the Dombivli Rose Society in collaboration with Mumbai Rose Society held their show. On the same day there were five rose shows, Pune Rose Society along with Pune Municipal, Thane Municipal, Nashik Municipal and FOT, all had their shows in their respective areas, then Malwa Rose Society had their show at Indore. Jabalpur Rose Society had their rose show for two days, which was attended by the denizens in large numbers, a three day show was organised by Mumbai Rose Society.

M.S Virarghavan, veteran rosarian passed away on December 21, 2023. His demise shocked the entire rose fraternity. A great personality he was, and we lost our most precious Jewel. May his soul rest in peace.



Left: Rosario Algorta with the Best White Rose Winner



Right: A visit to a private rose garden, from left: Ms Bhatt, Ms Claudia Hacker, Mrs Prakash, Mr Sushil Prakash & Ms RosarioAlgorta

Below: Bengal Rose Society Pot Culture



2024 WFRS INTERNATIONAL TRIALS

TRIAL	Country	Date
<i>Shreveport</i>	U.S.A.	April 27,2024
<i>Monaco</i>	Princ. of Monaco	May 2, 2024
<i>Barcelona</i>	Spain	canceled
<i>Madrid</i>	Spain	May 17, 2024
<i>Rome</i>	Italy	May 18, 2024
<i>Bologna</i>	Italy	May 25, 2024
<i>Tokyo</i>	Japan	May/October
<i>Lyon</i>	France	June 7, 2024
<i>Hradec Kralove</i>	Czech Republic	June 15, 2024
<i>Nyon</i>	Switzerland	June 15, 2024
<i>Baden-Baden</i>	Germany	June 18, 2024
<i>Saverne</i>	France	June 19, 2024
<i>Paris</i>	France	June 20, 2024
<i>Kortrijk</i>	Belgium	June 21, 2024
<i>Nagaoka City</i>	Japan	May/October
<i>Den Haag</i>	Netherlands	July 4, 2024
<i>Belfast</i>	Northern Ireland	July 19, 2024
<i>Glasgow</i>	Great Britain	canceled
<i>Warsaw</i>	Poland	Aug 24, 2024
<i>Le Roeulx</i>	Belgium	Sept 6, 2024
<i>Hertfordshire</i>	Great Britain	Sept 12, 2024
<i>Orleans</i>	France	Sept 13, 2024
<i>Rose Hills</i>	USA	Not scheduled
<i>Adelaide</i>	Australia	Oct 21, 2024
<i>Gifu</i>	Japan	May/October
<i>Hamilton</i>	New Zealand	Nov 10, 2024
<i>Palmerston North</i>	New Zealand	Dec 1, 2024

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MEMBER COUNTRIES

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

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

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

WFRS ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

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

Association de la Rosa de Coyhaique, Chile

Associazione 'La Compagnia Delle Rose', Italy

Fondazione Roseto Botanico "Carla Fineschi" di Cavriglia, Italy

Geografisk Have, Denmark

Hana no Miyako Gifu Flower Festival Commemorative Park, Japan

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

Heritage Roses Australia, Inc.

Heritage Roses New Zealand, Inc.

Historic Roses Group of Great Britain

LARN, Switzerland

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

Liga Gaart An Heem ASBL, Luxembourg

Patrimoine Pour Le Roses, Luxembourg

Piccolo Roseto Giovanni Chilanti, Italy

Polish Association of Rose Breeders

Rosenlunds Rosarium, Sweden

Roses Anciennes en France

Société Nationale d'Horticulture de France

The Botanic Garden, Meise, Belgium

The Rose Culture Institute, Japan

Vrijbroek Park, Belgium

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

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WFRS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

WFRS MEMBER COUNTRY EVENTS

- 9 - 13 Sept 2024 2024 American Rose Society National Convention. Warwick, Rhode Island, USA, Website: www.seaofroses.org

FRIENDS OF THE FEDERATION

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

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until the conclusion of the 2025 World Rose Convention in Japan.***

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AND FINALLY...



Good-bye my friend, the rose world will never be the same without you (photo: SA Life Magazine)

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