



# The Rose Window

PC: Chu Jung



## *The American Rose Society 2024 National Convention & Rose Show 'Sailing on a Sea of Roses'*

**BY CHER FRECHETTE**

*Master Rosarian Emeritus*

Last month, I attended the ARS 2024 National Convention and Rose Show in Warwick, Rhode Island. I had judged several of these national rose shows in the past and this one was taking place in the very spot where my husband Paul had two sisters and their families. So, the trip was planned for a dual purpose - I wanted to judge this rose show and we wanted to plan a family reunion in Rhode Island. I registered for the Convention, placing an X in the box saying I was available to judge Horticulture. Then I set out to make the hotel and airplane reservations. This was months ago, but we were starting the process of getting there! Very exciting!

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WINTERIZING ROSES IN THE NORTH  
CENTRAL DISTRICT



*My Judging Team*

ARS National Rose Shows are so grand! You get to see gorgeous roses the likes of which you may have never seen before as there are many top notch exhibitors. Plus, there are several National Challenge Classes that only occur in at a National Show. A National convention is great fun with many interesting programs, a marketplace full of rosy merchandise, and lunches, happy hours, and banquets. It is similar to a District Rose Show and Convention, but bigger. Just a couple weeks before the convention, I got the email saying I was selected to judge. Loved that!

There were 9 teams of 3 judges each just for Horticulture, plus other teams for judging Arrangements and Photographs. A person well known to us, Baldo Villegas, was rose show co-chair along with Jacqui Nye, who is from Rhode Island. They did a great job! Baldo was there for weeks before the show and for another week or so afterwards. Here is my judging team plus a couple photos of Baldo and Jacqui at the show.

So, the first half of our 8 days in Rhode Island was spent at the convention hotel in Warwick and the last half visiting with family, mostly at their beach houses/cabanas/beach clubs. But, about the show... I was teamed with two women judges (see above), one from New Jersey (where I grew up!) and one from Connecticut. After the judges breakfast, we walked into the show and wow, so many roses!

*Jacqui Nye & Baldo Villegas, Show Co-Chairs  
PC Baldo Villegas*





Some show highlights for me were as follows. The big National Challenge, the Nickolson Perpetual Challenge Bowl, an entry of 9 Hybrid Teas and/or Grandifloras, one bloom per stem, each at exhibition stage, each of a different variety, exhibited in separate containers, is always a sight to behold! Each one is capable of being Queen! I show one entry below.



## *The Nickolson Perpetual Challenge Bowl*

PC: Baldo Villegas

My other favorite National Challenge is the Benjamin Williams Miniflora Rose Challenge, comprised of 10 Miniflora roses, one bloom per stem, each at exhibition stage, either one each of different varieties, or 2 each of 5 varieties. I loved the one with two blooms of 5 varieties. It is also shown below.

## *Benjamin Williams Miniflora Rose Challenge*

PC: Baldo Villegas





*Sunny Sundays, Queen of the Show*  
PC: Baldo Villegas

The Queen of Show was the Hybrid Tea 'Sunny Sundays' which was shown by the hybridizer himself, John Smith! Now that is something that you don't see... The King was 'Marilyn Monroe'. I think the Princess was one called 'My Lady Barbara', a pink and white, but not sure about this. I took many photos but not all had their tags or certificates showing in my photos and this was one of them.



*Marilyn Monroe, King of the Show*  
PC: Baldo Villegas

The Best Novice entry was a beautiful spray of 'Celestial Nights' which also won King of Floribundas (Silver Certificate). What a day for that Novice! One of my Judging team won Best Judges entry with a beautiful bloom of 'Moonstone'.



*Celestial Night, King of Floribundas & Best Novice*  
PC: Baldo Villegas

Here are some general photos of the show floor, just so you can get a feel for it.



PC: Chu Jung



As you can see, there are lots of roses, but I couldn't really show all of them or this article would be super long. There were also lots of judges in the room, all looking very studiously at the roses, but totally enjoying themselves. Baldo, Jacqui, and Bruce Monroe (Horticulture Judges Chair) worked the room, helping us judges when we had questions, and solving any issues. Also, there were some classes where we were instructed to solicit another team to pick the best of class based on team availability. There was a great sense of team spirit, camaraderie, and cooperation in the room!



Re the Arrangement Section of the show, there were lots of arrangements, but I took only one photo of one I liked very much. There is a photo of it to the left. Re the Photography Section, Lou Evans from our NCNH District won the Silver Photography Certificate with a photo of a bowl of rose hips (so creative)! Something also impressive is that while the show was being judged, there was one lady, Elissa Della-Piana writing all the certificates as the winners were presented to her! What dedication and stamina! Phew!

*There was a great sense of team spirit, camaraderie, and cooperation in the room!*



After the show, I went shopping at the marketplace and bought my favorite brand of new pruners and gloves. I could have bought so much more, but everything had to fit in my suitcase, and there wasn't that kind of room! That night, my husband Paul accompanied me to the Awards Banquet and we managed to sit with a whole table of convention attendees from our NCNH district! The next morning, I attended a wonderful hybridizer's forum including Jim Sproul as moderator and John Smith as one of the hybridizers on the panel. I have 3 excellent roses from John Smith, including 'Sunday Sundays', 'Randy Scott', and 'Snuffy', so I was thrilled to see him!



On Sunday, after the Hybridizers Program, Paul and I left for the beaches of RI, our Airbnb rental overlooking the ocean, and the family visits. The clambake at Charlestown Beach and the day at Bonnet Shores Beach club were the best. Rhode Island is so pretty in the summer and we had perfect beach weather. It was a great trip!

# Blooming With Pride

CONGRATULATIONS TO YANKEE DISTRICT AWARD WINNERS



MARIA CONNELL - ARS RISING STAR AWARD



ED CUNNINGHAM - SILVER HONOR MEDAL RECIPIENT



JEANNETTE DANEHY - OUTSTANDING CONSULTING ROSARIAN

PC: Chu Jung

# *Sailing Into A Sea Of Roses*

## A FIRST-TIMER'S EXPERIENCE AT A NATIONAL ROSE CONVENTION

**BY REGAN DUFFEE**

*Vice President, NERS  
Editor, Yankee District Newsletter*

When I joined the New England Rose Society in 2022, planning for the 2024 American Rose Society National Convention and Rose Show was already underway. As the date drew closer, I would overhear chatter and could sense the excitement of hosting a national convention in our district – a rare event! My sister, Lauren Gisel and I attended the 2023 March Convention, which I fondly refer to as “Rose Camp.” We had so much fun. “Rose Camp” ended up being the catalyst that encouraged us to get more involved in the NERS. We anticipated that Nationals could only be bigger and better. So, when registration opened, we immediately signed up and booked our hotel room.



*Lauren Gisel & Regan Duffee  
PC: Chu Jung*



The convention started on Monday September 9th with ARS board meetings. Unfortunately, neither Lauren nor I could take that day off. Instead, we met at my house after work and had a mini-prep party. While people began posting photos of the Welcoming Reception on Facebook, Lauren and I were in my dining room: Lauren making her arrangements while I matted my entries for the photography contest. My husband, Dan, was also excited for the convention to begin, in anticipation of the return of the refrigerator, as I had removed shelves and food to make room for the long stems of my show roses. To show his support, he had agreed to eat mostly from the cabinets, to limit the number of times the fridge was opened.





*Prepping the roses in The Grand Foyer*

Tuesday started early and by the time we arrived at the Crowne Plaza Warwick at 5am, exhibitors were already prepping their roses for the show. Jacqui Nye and Baldo Villegas were the show's co-chairs and had arrived at 3am to open the prep room. Walking past the tables, it was hard not to be intimidated by the number of incredible roses everyone brought. One of the exhibitors, who was working on the table next to me and Lauren, noted they had about 1,000 rose bushes at home - that's almost as many as the Kelleher Rose Garden!



*My Celestial Night after Baldo's feedback*

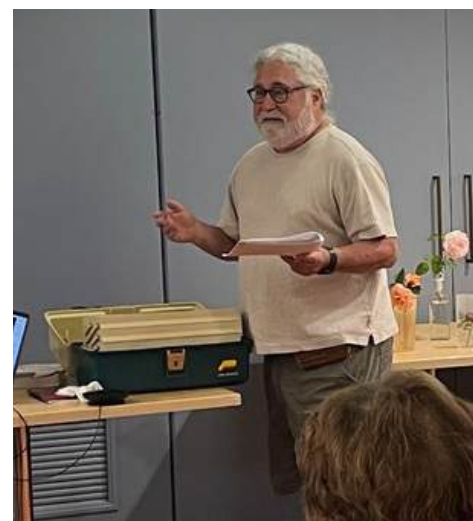
Feeling insecure about the roses I brought, I asked Baldo for help. In between trips to fill water buckets, he would stop at our table and give me feedback.

*"The rose is too low - the proportion is off."*

*"Make sure you don't take off too many leaves. You need at least two sets of leaves below the bottom stem."*

*"Use one set of leaves to rest on the lip of the glass to give the rose support, then lock it in with the saran wrap."*

I felt so lucky to have this opportunity to learn tips and tricks from such a skilled exhibitor, and very thankful to Baldo for taking the time out of his busy morning. As I entered my roses into the novice categories, I thought back on my other mentors who I met in the past year. I recalled Dave Cannistraro, an ARS Master Consulting Rosarian, stopping by my house in late May, showing me how to pinch the center bud so it develops into an even spray. I remembered Irwin and Cindy Ehrenreich telling me about the book, *Showing Good Roses* by Robert Martin, and sharing the tools they kept in their grooming box. After their seminar, I immediately ordered the book from eBay, read it cover to cover, and filled out my box with the same supplies. It is because of them that I had what I needed for the morning. Our district is rich with experienced rosarians who want to share their knowledge, and I am incredibly grateful to all of them.



*Irwin Ehrenreich with his grooming box*



*Regan Duffee, Maria Connell, & Lauren Gisel  
In the Clerks' room, wearing our NERS swag shirts*

After our exhibits were placed, Lauren headed off to help with IT in the presentation room, and I went to the Clerks' room. When Lauren and I joined NERS, Jeannette Danehy encouraged us to clerk at our local rose show as an opportunity to learn and gain more understanding. It was so fun; we knew we wanted to do it at nationals. In the Clerks' room, we got to meet people from around the country. While sipping on coffee, rosarians shared what they deal with in their area. I will admit I was a bit jealous listening to one of the clerks from Utah, who shared that blackspot was not prevalent in his area due to the low humidity. Growing roses without blackspot, can you even imagine it?

When it was time, Bill Kozemchak, Head of Clerks, led us into the plaza ballroom. It really was a sea of roses. The room was flooded with color. The exhibit tables circled the room, spiraling around the challenge table in the center. Having never seen a national show, it was awe-inspiring to me.





The clerks were assigned stations around the room. Unlike our local show, where a clerk is assigned to a group of judges, here clerks were allotted to three classes. Although more efficient, the clerks only hear the judges' discussions for their designated section and miss out on the chatter about other classes. But, as luck would have it, my station was next to the challenge table. Ed Cunningham was responsible for overseeing the judging for this area.

During quiet times, Ed would point out the differences between the various hybrid teas that had won their section and had been selected to proceed to the next phase, where the court would ultimately be chosen. It took everything I could to maintain composure, watching as the judges decided to move my novice-entry, a Marilyn Monroe, to compete against the best of the best. When the judging was complete, Ed was the first to congratulate me on my rose, crowned King of Show.



*Around The Bend by Lauren Gisel  
PC: Baldo Villegas*

Once judging was completed, I took the opportunity to walk around to see the rest of the show. With the name cards flipped open, it was so exciting to see so many blue ribbons awarded to members

of our district. I was also so proud of Lauren's arrangement, Around the Bend, which ended up Princess and Gold! My favorite class was Masterpieces of the Garden, where roses are showcased in a picture frame. Such an unusual way to display a rose!



*The Poet's Wife  
PC: Baldo Villegas*

Heading out of the ballroom and into the Grand Foyer, I swung by the registration area to grab my goodie bag and name tag. Beverly Hills Rose Society had generously donated a copy of the Rose Atlas, written by Dr Tommy Cairns and the late Luis Desamero. Everyone who paid for the full registration also received a rose hybridized by Andy Venable, who was looking down on the event from above. I believe he would have been proud. With my bag slung over my shoulder, I stared at the walls covered by the photography entries. Honestly, they were all winners to me, but Baldo's close-up of midge on a rose bud stood out to me. Dave Cannistraro consistently mentions the importance of midge management in our monthly meetings, and it was interesting to finally see what these tiny pests look like that feast on our roses' buds.



Baldo Villegas's Macro Entry  
PC: Diane Brailsford

Lunch was served under a white tent behind the hotel. It was buzzing with excitement as people congratulated rose show exhibitors and chatted about the seminars that were held in the morning. Unfortunately, judges and clerks missed Irwin Ehrenreich's "Rose Gardens of Cape Cod" and Mike and Angelina Chute's "The Brownells: American Rose Pioneers" seminars due to the conflicting time with their morning responsibilities. Thankfully, NERS members had a second chance to hear Irwin's presentation at Founders Day, and RI members will hear the Chute's at Rhode Island's November meeting.

After lunch, people migrated through the Vendor room, where many of the Yankee District's talented members were selling their crafts. The convention was also incredibly successful procuring items to raffle. Pottery, out-of-commerce roses, books, garden gear, gift baskets and more filled the raffle tables. I was guilty of making multiple trips to the treasurer's table to buy additional strips of tickets.

Easy Elegance was the convention's premier sponsor, and Debbie Lonnee's presentation on "The History and Future of Easy Elegance Roses" was the first of the afternoon seminars. During her presentation, I recognized "All the Rage" as a winner of multiple classes in our June show earlier in the year, and made a note to find a space for it in my garden.



Cindy Ehrenreich, Jean DiVincenzo, Jeannette Danehy

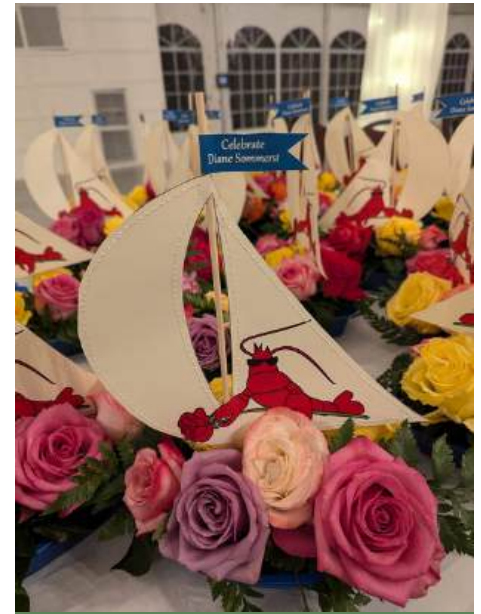




Matthias Meilland

Tuesday's seminars concluded with keynote speaker, Matthias Meilland. He had traveled from France to give his presentation "Selection in a Diversity of Pedoclimatic Conditions." Matthias was a dynamic speaker, who had the audience chuckling at his rose-jokes and wowed by his photos of roses from around the world. One point that really stood out to me was his comment that rose sales follow the housing market. I could not help but self-reflect that my interest in roses really ramped up when I purchased my home in 2021. I went from 4 roses on my back patio at my Medford apartment to 47 roses in my driveway in Stoneham. I even notice this with our new members - many of them are recent homebuyers. It was an interesting takeaway.

The evening finished back under the white tent for Diane Sommers' Celebration Dinner, sponsored by Heirloom Roses. Throughout the evening, Diane recognized the many people, during her time as president, who went above and beyond for the ARS. A highlight of the award ceremony was Maria Connell, NERS and now Yankee District's treasurer, receiving the ARS Rising Star Award. Congratulations Maria - well deserved! What I was not prepared for was the wild auction, led by auctioneer Mike Chute. Kathy Wykoff donated a beautiful quilt, and Dr James Sproul donated naming rights of one of his hybridized minifloras. After a rowdy back and forth, the raffle raised \$6,000. Although not confirmed, it is rumored that the winner of the naming contest might go with name Scorcher, as an homage to the intense heat of 2024.



Patsy Cunningham's Centerpieces  
PC: Baldo Villegas



Sandy Long & Beck Martorelli  
Receiving a President's Citation Award  
PC: Chu Jung

Even though Lauren and I had been awake since 3am, we ignored our exhaustion and made our way to the hotel bar. It was fun toasting the day's highlights with other district members. Eventually the rose chat ended but only because the bar closed at midnight.



Craig Dorschel & Christian Bedard  
PC: Chu Jung

Wednesday morning started with an ARS members' meeting. Diane Sommers recounted the highlights of her administration, most notably, expanding ARS's online presence, as well as the Save The Ramblers initiative. When I first joined NERS, I did not join ARS. A year later, I decided to join ARS for the sole purpose of getting the beautiful American Rose magazine. It was not until this meeting that I became aware of how important it is to support the American Rose Society. Hearing about the work that members like Claude Graves are doing to prevent the extinction of 300+ varieties of ramblers was incredibly moving, and reason enough for my yearly dues. The ARS also funds research on rose rosette disease and black spot. Please consider joining the American Rose Society so they can continue the work they do for the flower we love.



Afterward, the Plaza Ballroom began filling up in anticipation for the Backyard Hybridizer Panel, which was moderated by Dr James Sproul. Julie Overom recounted the challenges she has in her northern garden; after many failures, her efforts resulted in the success of Cherry Frost. Ray Guillebeau shared the struggles he has in his southern, high-heat, high-humidity garden, in the quest to grow the ultimate red rose. John Smith, whose multiple entries made it to the head table, including Queen of the Show, Sunny Sundays, shared his process. He noted that he repeatedly uses Gemini and Veteran's Honor as parents for his seedlings. Needless to say, I drove to Roseland Nursery immediately after nationals and picked up a Veteran's Honor.



Ray Guillebeau, Julie Overom, John Smith & Dr James Sproul  
Backyard Hybridizer Panel  
PC: Chu Jung

The second seminar of the day was a presentation by Dr. Diana C. Lopez Arias called "Current Research Results on Blackspot Disease Resistance." Dr Arias discussed the steps researchers are taking to find the genes that make some roses naturally resistant to blackspot. All of this research is done in the hope that someday we will be free of this formidable foe to rosarians.



The last seminar of the convention was Christian Bedard's "The Making of a Rose." After having just listened to the hybridizers panel and the challenges that must be overcome to produce one rose, it was incredible to see the string of successful roses Christian has produced. After showing us the timeline of his purple roses, his presentation ended on the final rose, Celestial Night - swoon.



*Toni Simonetti,  
North-East Regional Director  
PC: Chu Jung*



*Craig Dorschel & Carrie Berg  
ARS's New President & Vice President  
PC: Chu Jung*

After a quick nap, Lauren and I headed to the Grand Ballroom for Craig Dorschel's Installation Banquet.

The tables were beautifully decorated with handmade sailboats, which had sails stitched by Patsy Cunningham and were filled with roses by volunteers. The crowd cheered for the various highlights of the night. Dave Long and Becky Martorelli, co-chairs, received a loud round of applause for the work they put into this convention. Our new officers were then sworn in, including Jacqui Nye as our District Director and Toni Simonetti as our North-East Regional Director. Craig Dorschel, fellow NERS member, was later sworn in as the President of the American Rose Society.

Later in the evening, the Silver Honor Medal, an award for an ARS member who has provided meritorious service to the rose and its culture and expended effort in support of the American Rose Society and its objectives within the District, was awarded to Ed Cunningham of Rhode Island. Afterward, Craig awarded Jeannette Danehy from Massachusetts, the Outstanding Consulting Rosarian award for her many years of service. It should also be noted that the New York District awarded Jason Capote an Outstanding Consulting Rosarian award, as well. Congratulations to all the new officers and award winners!



*PC:Chu Jung*

It was hard to believe the national convention, the event we had waited years for, was quickly wrapping up. Once again, Lauren and I met up with other members after dinner at the hotel bar to cheer the end of our first nationals. Our expectations of the convention had been exceeded:



Jacqui Nye, Matthias Meiland, & Baldo Villegas  
PC: Baldo Villegas

The next day, we said goodbye to everyone we had met. Many people were heading to Newport on the bus trip, Lauren was back at work, and I was heading home. And as I drove home, all I could think about was something that had come up during our morning's district's meeting ...



Jason Capote  
Recipient of the Outstanding Consulting Rosairan  
From the New York District

getting a blue ribbon - making the head table - meeting famous hybridizers - running into rose-influencers - cheering for my friends who won distinguished awards - chatting about roses into the night. It was incredible.



Jacqui Nye, Maria Connell, & Paul Raymond  
Leading the Yankee District Meeting Thursday morning  
PC: Baldo Villegas



# Escape the Goldrums

..... when we can do it all again!



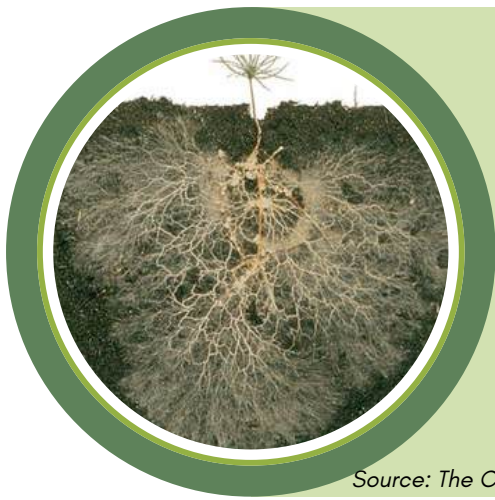
SAVE  
THE  
DATE



FOR

Escape the  
Goldrums

March 29th - White's of Westport, MA  
More Information To Follow



# The Power of Partnership

## HOW MYCORRHIZAL FUNGI SUPPORT HEALTHY GARDENS

Source: *The Conscious Farmer* 2014

**BY LAUREN GISEL**

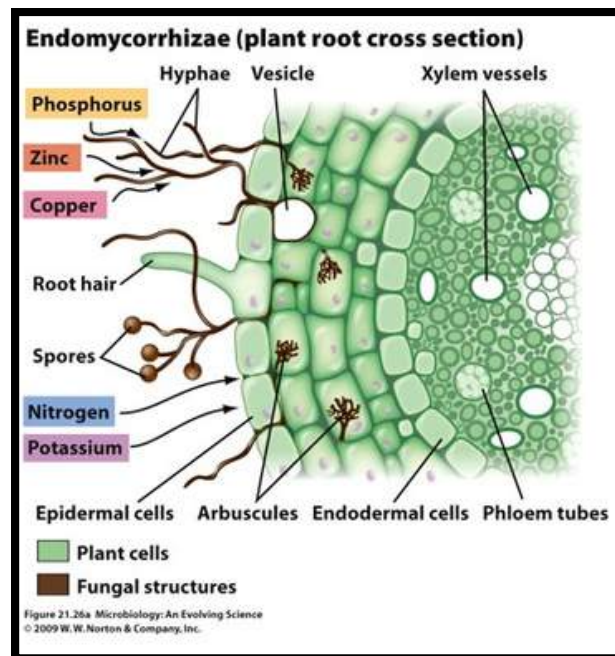
President, NERS  
Membership Chair, Yankee District

The word “mycorrhizae” has become a part of the gardener’s vernacular in recent years, though few people understand what they are or how they benefit the plant. This article will help elucidate the mystery of the mycorrhizae and teach you how to promote their growth in the soil.

Mycorrhizae are fungi that live in close relation to the roots of plants. They are reliant on the plant for their survival. In biological terms, mycorrhizae and plants have a “symbiotic relationship”, meaning that they mutually benefit from their association and are dependent on each other to survive and thrive.

Mycorrhizae are unable to photosynthesize and cannot utilize environmental carbon alone. Instead, mycorrhizae feed on carbohydrates from the plant roots, and in exchange, the mycorrhizae absorb nutrients from the soil and pass those nutrients to the plant.

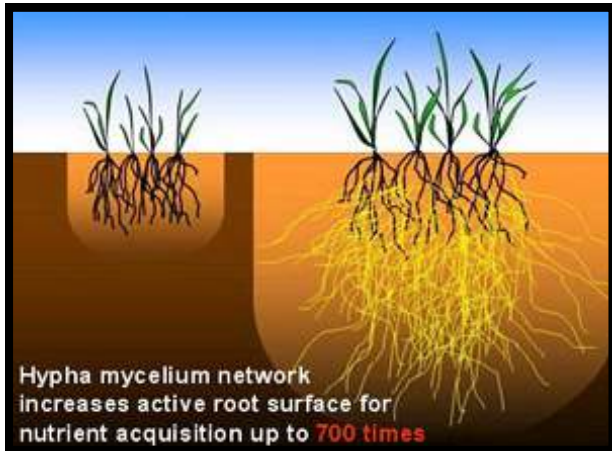
The structure of the mycorrhizae consists of a large mesh-like network of microscopic tendrils, called hyphae. These hyphae penetrate the soil and create a “secondary root structure” for the roses. Due to their small diameter and extensive length, they have an enormously greater contact area with the soil than the plant roots alone. Therefore, the





mycorrhizae hyphae are exposed to a larger amount of nutrients and increase the “mining” ability of the roses.

There are two types of mycorrhizae – mycorrhizae that form inside the roots and those that sheath the exterior of the roots. Roses form relationships with the interior type of mycorrhizae, or the “endomycorrhizae”. These enter the cells of the roots and form structures within the plant to directly help with nutrient exchange.



Source: Probiotics & Plant Health, 2017

Through their extensive network, mycorrhizae are able to absorb the nutrients that don't migrate through the soil freely and remain hidden from the plant roots – most notably phosphorous. In the same vein, plants are unable to absorb phosphorous in the insoluble form (which is why “super phosphate”, a soluble form, is a favorite amendment among gardeners). However, the vast network of hyphae can both penetrate through the soil to reach the stagnant phosphorous, and can readily able to

absorb insoluble phosphorous. Therefore, the association of the mycorrhizae hyphae with the roots of plant improve the availability and uptake of phosphorous, an important nutrient for plant growth and flower formation. Nitrogen is another nutrient that many plants are unable to absorb easily in their roots. The mycorrhizae can pull the nitrogen from the soil and convert it to a form that the plants are able to utilize. Additionally, some subspecies of mycorrhizae can assist with the absorption of zinc, copper, and iron.

Beyond nutrient absorption, mycorrhizae can also help protect the plant from disease. They can help mitigate the effects of drought, by increasing water uptake from the soil, protect the roots from damaging high soil temperatures, and buffer against the harmful effects of soil salts and toxins in the soil.

*“Through their extensive network, mycorrhizae are able to absorb the nutrients that don't migrate through the soil freely and remain hidden from the plant roots”*

Given the many benefits of mycorrhizae for our roses, we should take care to promote their health in our gardens. Removal and tilling of topsoil can damage the hyphae network and the addition of fertilizers, especially phosphorous-rich compounds like bonemeal, can inhibit their activity. The use of fungicides, though helpful in managing black spot and mildew, will unfortunately also kill the beneficial mycorrhizae.

*“Experiments show that the addition of commercial mycorrhizae do not increase the mycorrhizal populations in the soil”*

There are commercially-available mycorrhizal “inoculants” that gardeners can use to add mycorrhizae to their soil. They come in granular, powder, gel and liquid forms. They are advertised to gardeners as the best way to support the establishment of new plants in the garden and are sold as a “starter supplement”. Unfortunately, the research doesn’t support these claims. Experiments show that the addition of commercial mycorrhizae do not increase the mycorrhizal populations in the soil. It appears that many products that advertise their mycorrhizae content

contain greater amounts of fertilizers in the product (particularly nitrogen) to boost plant growth and fool consumers into believing the benefits of the mycorrhizal inoculant. Therefore, yes, the use of mycorrhizae-containing soil amendments do benefit the growth of new plants, but these effects are not the result of mycorrhizal activity in the product.

The best we can do to support the growth of mycorrhizae in our gardens is to be liberal with the use of organic matter and compost. The addition of composted manure and allowing leaf litter to decompose naturally will help boost the activity of mycorrhizae in the soil. Similarly, we should be cautious with high phosphorous containing additives, as we know this will directly inhibit their activity.



PC: Gardeners Supply



# *Farewell to a Treasured Member of Our Rose Community*



William Hayden "Oz" Osborn, 81, of Harwich, MA, passed away peacefully on October 9 in the arms of his loving wife, Audrey. The cause of death was aspirational pneumonia due to complications of OPMD (Oculopharyngeal Muscular Dystrophy).

Born on August 20, 1943, in Newark, NJ and raised in Kearny, NJ, Oz led a life filled with passion, family, and friendships. After dedicating 30 years to teaching high school in Nutley, NJ, he retired to Harwich in 1995 to embrace the beauty of Cape Cod and continue nurturing his many interests.

Oz was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend. He is survived by his loving wife, Audrey and a large family of six children - Bob Osborn and his wife, Judy, Jim Osborn and his partner Ana Lopez, Catherine O'Neill and her husband Kevin, Patrick Looney, Kristin Dash and her husband John, Larry Osborn and his wife Amber - along with 15 grandchildren, including Erin, Kevin, Claire, Donna, Callie, Sarah, Robert, Chris, Matt, Debbie, Lu, Jordan, Trevor, Maisie and Aiden - including 7 great-grandchildren with more on the way, and his fur baby Pip. He is also survived by cousins Johnny and CarolAnne. He was predeceased by his parents Elizabeth and William and his sister Betty Mae.

Known for his green thumb and dedication to roses, Oz founded the Lower Cape Rose Society and served as the District Director for the Yankee District of the American Rose Society for many years. His love for roses blossomed into lifelong friendships with enthusiasts from New England to the West Coast. His efforts were recognized with the Silver Honor Medal and the Outstanding Judging award from the American Rose Society. In addition to his love of roses, he enjoyed playing chess, spending time at the beach and attending any event his grandchildren were involved in; he especially loved ringing his giant bell at the Lower Cape Bluefins games.

Oz will be remembered for his warmth, generosity, sense of humor and the beautiful legacy he left behind, both in his family and the gardens he cultivated. His memory, like a rose in bloom, will forever bring color and fragrance to the hearts of those who cherished him.

Oz's memory will continue to boom in the hearts of all who knew him. A celebration of his life will be held in the spring. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation (T4T) or to the Muscular Dystrophy Association in his memory.

**WELL OZ, IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE. WE'VE COVERED A LOT OF GROUND, SHARED A FEW LAUGHS.  
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, WE WILL LOVE YOU FOREVER - VERY VERY MUCH**

*Written By: Audrey Osborn*

The New England Rose Society's annual Founder's Day celebration was held on October 19, 2024, at the Chateau Norwood, bringing together members and guests for a day of fellowship, learning, and friendly competition.

Attendees enjoyed an Italian lunch, perfect for fueling an afternoon full of activities and excitement. Adding to the day's charm were various raffle items, with a highlight being a beautifully crafted quilt made by Kathy Tringale. The quilt found a happy home with Jeannette Danehy, the lucky raffle winner. The door prize was a metal arbor, topped with an elegant hummingbird motif, donated by James Takaki of Brattleboro, VT - won by Regan Duffee.

One of the event's highlights was a presentation by Irwin Ehrenreich, titled "Gardens of Cape Cod." Irwin's talk, which showcased the stunning gardens of the Cape and their diverse rose varieties, captivated the audience. Irwin also shared a slide deck that displayed the twenty impressive rose varieties set to be auctioned off later in the afternoon, building anticipation among the rose enthusiasts in the room.

The live auction, conducted by John Savastinuk, created quite a buzz as members bid enthusiastically on various roses. It was a fantastic opportunity for attendees to take home varieties like Moonstone, Marilyn Monroe and David Austin roses, while supporting the society's initiatives.

A special nod goes to Cindy Ehrenreich, who demonstrated exceptional skill in the photography contest by sweeping all the classes and winning the three \$40 David Austin gift certificates!

This year's Founder's Day was a testament to the hard work and dedication of the volunteers who arrived early to set up and ensure a successful event. Their contributions made the day run smoothly, and we extend a heartfelt thank you to each one of them. THANK YOU!

New England Rose Society's 84th Annual

# FOUNDER'S DAY



*Cindy Ehrenreich's winning entries: Single, Spray, Garden*





# ROSELAND NURSERY

Located In:  
ACUSHNET, MA



# Thank You!

We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to Mahoney's Garden Center and Roseland Nursery for their incredibly generous donation of over 500 roses to the New England Rose Society and the Yankee District. This contribution has made a significant impact on our efforts, and we are deeply appreciative of their support.

For anyone planning their next garden purchase, we encourage you to consider Mahoney's and Roseland Nursery. Your support of these businesses is a way to say "thank you" for their commitment to our community and to the American Rose Society's Yankee District. Let them know you appreciate their generosity as much as we do!



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# NEW ENGLAND ROSE SOCIETY



## “The Beginnings”

By Marlene Norton & Edited by Audrey Osborn

*Reprinted from The New England Rosarian, August 1972*

The early history of the New England Rose Society started on June 17, 1939, at the New York World's Fair. A small group of American Rose Society members, George Sweetser, Edwin Steffek, Mrs. Harriet Foote, Alexander Cummins, and others, had an impromptu meeting on the Jackson & Perkins Garden Terrace. A discussion arose that regional and local groups could augment the national scope of the ARS. The groups' purpose could be to share their love of roses, help one another with the culture of roses, and develop camaraderie in this group setting.

Potentially, each state could develop its own rose society, or perhaps even more local groups could exist in the same state, reducing the need to travel long distances to meeting sites. On July 12, 1939, a group organized by E. A. Pieter met at the New Haven Agricultural Experimental Station. It was thought that the Connecticut Rose Society (CRS) would be the first to form a group. However, further meetings had too few people, interest lagged, and the CRS did not form.



George Sweetser  
PC: Wikipedia

George Sweetser of Massachusetts organized a meeting in January or February 1940, followed by a second meeting at the Massachusetts Horticultural Society (MHS) Spring Show on March 15, 1940. With twenty-four people attending, the NERS was officially organized, and those present were charter members. The first elected officers were: George Sweetser, President; Rupert Neilly from Maine, Vice President; Everett A. Piester from Connecticut, Secretary-Treasurer. Five directors were from all the New England States except Massachusetts.

A NERS Bulletin of two to three pages was started. The practice of visiting rose gardens was initiated by three members extending invitations. It was decided to have three meetings yearly: March, June, and October. The first rose exhibition was at the MHS Boston Massachusetts Flower Show on June 17-18, 1942. The MHS gave the NERS its first bronze medal.



One of the World War II activities of the NERS membership was to bring cut roses from their gardens to soldiers in local hospitals.

Over the years, the NERS grew to 133 members in 1944. Of note, Robert Pyle of Conrad Pyle Company was a guest at the annual meeting on March 10, 1945. For almost a decade, the NERS joined with other societies to have their rose shows (such as the American Delphinium Society at MHS). The NERS Bulletin was

now commercially published, which prompted yearly dues to go from one dollar to two dollars!

In September 1949, the NERS first exhibited roses at the Topsfield Fair in Topsfield, Massachusetts. It is not noted each year where other rose shows were held. The first show mentioned is the June 20-21, 1955, NERS Rose Show. There were 212 entries by forty-five members. It is not known where this took place.

The March meeting became the Founders' Day Luncheon and meeting. It was held in March every year. Between 1958 and 1972, Founders' Day was changed to October. The other regular meetings fluctuated from place to place and state to state. Hotel Gardner in Boston was also a preferred place for meetings. Karl Jones' gardens in Barrington, Rhode Island, were a favorite meeting place well into the 1970s. A favorite place for the NERS rose shows was Horticultural Hall in Boston.



The Bulletin changed in the 1950s from sheets stapled together to booklet form. In August 1979, a committee chose to change the name of The Bulletin to the New England Rosarian.

This is just a glimpse into the early history of the NERS. No information could be found on any special events celebrating the NERS's 50th Anniversary year. Yet, it must have been a rich year, as membership was climbing and the sharing of rose culture information took on more expertise for all of its members.



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# *Winterizing Roses In The North Central District*

**BY LOIS ANN HELGESON**

*Consulting Rosarian, Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN*

*Reprinted from the American Rose Society Publication Archives, 2018*

The American Rose Society's North Central District includes the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin and North and South Dakotas, situated in USDA plant hardiness zones 3, 4, and 5. Rose lovers here face a unique set of extreme conditions in which to grow their favorite flower. Temperatures in the winter can drop to  $-40^{\circ}$  F and rise to over  $100^{\circ}$  F during the summer. The growing season is shorter than that of much of the rest of the country. While there are variations within the different states included in the district and even within the individual states themselves, the first Hybrid Tea roses generally can come into bloom late in May and the growing season is really considered over by the end of October.

In spite of the difficulties placed on us by Mother Nature, people in the upper Midwest successfully grow and enjoy rose varieties from the full range of the available rose classes. Growers wanting to experience the enjoyment of the most tender varieties have learned to protect them from the effects of winter extremes. Often they use a method called the Minnesota Tip which was developed specifically for zone 4.

It is known that the tender varieties of roses are severely or even fatally damaged at temperatures below approximately 20° F. It was considered imperative to find a method where these lower temperatures could be avoided. In addition there was concern for the late winter/early spring temperature freeze/thaw fluctuations that can also bring damage.

Midwest growers can thank Albert Nelson, an avid local gardener, for the development of the Minnesota Tip method of winter protection for tender roses. Having grown roses since the 1920's, Nelson was determined to find a better method to winter-over tender roses than what was then being used. In the early 1950's he heard about local raspberry growers who were tipping their plants and covering them with soil to protect them over winter. About the same time he learned about a lady in Massachusetts who was having some success protecting roses by bending, pegging and covering with evergreen boughs and soil.

*“[...] he learned about a lady in Massachusetts who was having some success protecting roses by bending, pegging and covering with evergreen boughs and soil.”*



Jerry Olson  
PC: Obituary Page

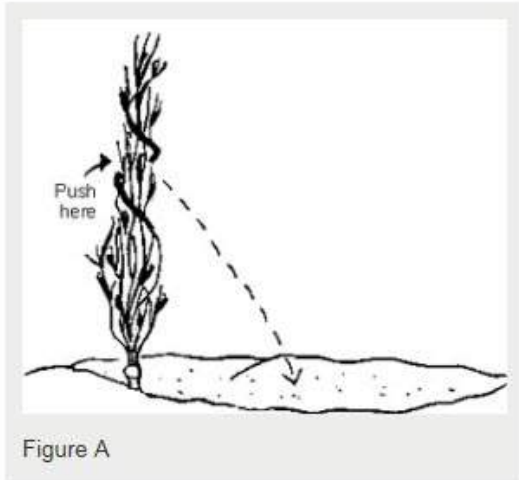
In 1952 Nelson first tried bending and then half covering roses with soil here in Minnesota. However, it was in 1954, when he bent the roses and totally covered them with soil, that he realized that he had found the right combination. It was to be a significant contribution toward successfully growing tender roses in cold climates.

The process was refined in the next few years to the method used today. In 1966, Jerry Olson and Carl Holst demonstrated the Minnesota Tip at the ARS convention held in Omaha, Nebraska. For that presentation, Jerry Olson and Dorothy Campbell wrote what was the first of the Minnesota Rose Society's guide sheets on rose care. Charles Campbell named the process the Minnesota Tip.



## PROCEDURE

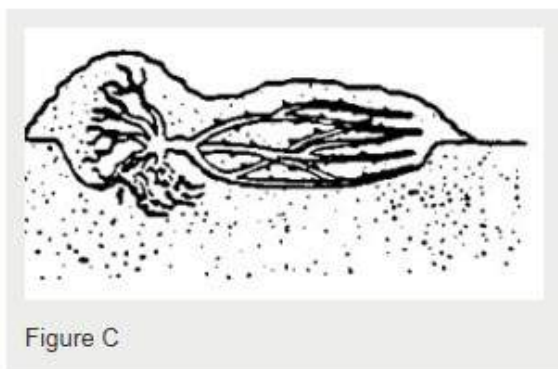
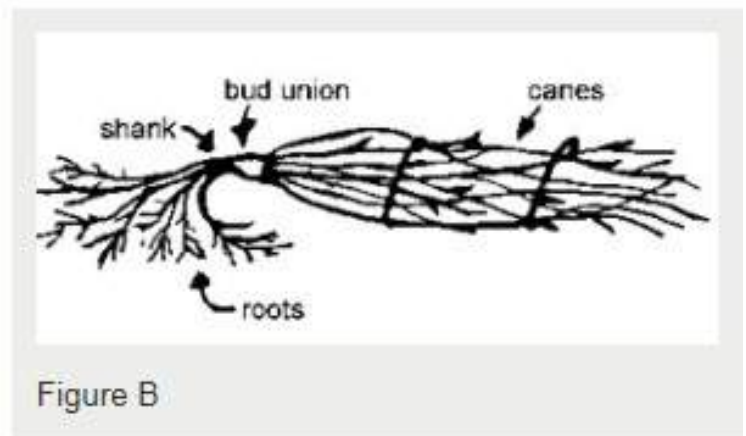
Roses are dormant sprayed in mid to late October at the time when you are doing general fall cleanup. It is recommended that old mulch be removed to control a prime source of disease infection for the following season.



Tie the rose canes together using a synthetic twine that will not decay over winter. This process can be described as lacing up the plant - generally starting from the bottom and working up. It is important to have an extra length of twine either left at the top of the plant or added around the mid section of the tied plant. This will be allowed to extend above the ground to help the gardener locate and lift the plant in the spring.

A trench is dug on one side of the plant and then the soil is loosened all around the plant, using a garden fork to minimize root damage.

The plant is tipped into the trench, using the garden fork, and taking advantage of the plant's flexibility just under the graft union.



With planning, the roses have been planted so that they will bend toward the side where the graft is attached, reducing the chances of breakage.

The plants are covered with the soil that was removed, being careful to leave the end of the extra length of twine exposed.

It is a good idea to water the bed well at this point to help settle the soil and to simply keep the canes and roots in good shape over the winter. Growers understand the importance of summer watering their roses and having rose beds with good drainage, however, the plants can also be stressed if they enter the cold weather season too dry.

As the temperatures drop in early November, a blanket of leaves 12" - 18" deep is added. Watering will help keep the leaves from blowing around. An alternative is to simply place bagged leaves on top of the bed. Containers containing rodent bait are tipped on their sides and placed in the leaves or between the bags of leaves.



Early in April the leaves are removed. By the middle of April, the rest of the process is reversed.

## CONTAINERS

Container grown roses, including trees, can be successfully protected by laying them on their sides and burying them, without removing the plants from their containers. Roses may also be dug and bundled bareroot, and then the bundle buried, much as in the Minnesota Tip.



Healthy roses, protected by burying over winter, generally survive with very minimal cane damage. Growers, especially those in the portion of the NCD that lies within zone 5, have found that there are other methods that provide sufficient, successful winter protection.

*Bareroot rose bundles*  
PC: Succulent Alley

Zone 3 and 4 growers may not find that these methods provide an acceptable level of protection from winter dieback and damage. Some of these methods are described here.

# *Additional Methods of Winter Protection*

## **MOUNDING**

The base of tender rose bushes can be mounded or hilled with 10" to 12" of soil. This is particularly important if the rose is grafted. The bud union is the source of all new cane growth for these plants, and if it is damaged over winter, the plant may be lost. A wire cylinder can be used to help contain the soil. Tall plants can be pruned and tied to prevent whipping in the wind. As with the Minnesota Tip, the roses should be dormant sprayed. The mounded roses are also covered with leaves and containers of rodent bait should be added.



*Roses mounded with compost  
PC: Regan Duffee*

## **ROSE CONES**

A rose bed may be protected by constructing an oversized cold frame or rose house over it. Plants are sprayed and pruned to about 2' or to fit the rose house. A simple wooden frame is constructed that will hold sheets of building styrofoam that make up the sides. Additional sheets of styrofoam are used as covers for these boxes. In the spring the covers can be slid open during warm days to provide ventilation and closed again at night. The box must be constructed in a manner to insure against the weight of the snow and rain as well as strong winds. In the spring these rose houses are dismantled and stored until the next fall.

## **INDOORS**

An alternative method of protecting miniatures – and other container grown roses – is available to those with either an unheated garage or room where there is a reasonable degree of control of the winter temperatures. Keep in mind that most tender roses must be maintained at temperatures above 20 degrees, preferably in the 40s during the winter months. An alternative source of heat may be necessary during extreme cold periods. The potted plants are sprayed, tied and watered. To keep roses from drying out, the pots are placed into plastic garbage bags, two to a bag with the miniatures. The tops of the bags are tied. The bags are placed on pallets or platforms to separate them a few inches from the floor. This method is used by growers in all three growing zones in the North Central District. Some report, as a negative, that plants may respond to warm spring temps and began to grow before it is warm enough to move the pots back outdoors.



## FACTORS IN COLD HARDINESS

Cold hardiness has three factors – plant acclimation to cold in the fall months, actual mid-winter hardiness and de-acclimation in the spring.

- Acclimation in plants takes place in response to shortening day lengths and declining temperatures. Biochemical and physiological changes gradually occur that make plants more cold tolerant. Plants, including the different classes of roses, and the varieties within each of these classes, differ in their ability to make these changes. In fact, this ability can change somewhat from year to year for any particular plant due to changes in plant health and by annual variations in temperature patterns.
- Mid-winter hardiness refers to the actual lowest temps that a plant will tolerate, without damage, once it has acclimated during the fall months.
- De-acclimation occurs in the late winter and early spring. This basically is a decrease in hardiness in response to warming temperatures. It is a process that is opposite to that of fall acclimation.



## GOOD HEALTH IS IMPORTANT

Plants, including roses, that acclimate too slowly, can be damaged by early cold temps. In an unusual year an early cold snap that occurs before acclimation or hardening off can injure plants that normally are considered winter hardy. A plant weakened by poor health may never reach its normal maximum mid-winter hardiness level and thus may suffer tissue damage at considerably warmer temps than expected. Additionally, plants that deacclimate too rapidly during late winter thaws may suffer damage due to late spring frosts.

To at least some extent, the rose varieties that people choose to grow and the methods that they use to protect them will be influenced by these hardiness factors. The choices will also depend upon how much dieback – and subsequent reduced bloom that follows and in some cases increased risk of plant loss – that a particular grower is willing to accept. This is weighed against the amount of additional work that they might be willing to do in the spring and fall for seasonal protection.



There has been a term coined, dieback hardy, for those roses that generally can be grown with minimal winter protection, that are likely to sustain considerable winter damage, yet are known to be able to regrow the following spring and bloom quite well by June. It should be acknowledged, however, that while this, with certain varieties, is acceptable to most growers, that these same varieties will perform substantially better in the years when there are milder winters and reduced damage. Additionally, growers must understand that healthy plants – of any class and variety – will be better able to survive winter weather using any of the available protection methods. As an example, plants, defoliated by black spot or stunted by heat and water stress, face winter with a significantly reduced chance of survival.

## LOCATION FACTORS

Some marginally hardy varieties can be helped by careful choice of planting location – such as the east side of buildings or in areas where snow accumulates. Some areas are subjected to drying winter winds, and if without reliable natural snow cover, this can inflict additional damage on rose canes. Protection by shrubbery or buildings may create areas where the desiccating effect of the winds is substantially reduced. In my yard, the city snowplows push snow around the fence bordering a long perennial bed near the street providing the necessary additional protection for a number of Hybrid Perpetuals. Most years these, otherwise zone 4 marginal plants, have experienced little dieback and reward me with outstanding bloom.

*“Some areas are subjected to drying winter winds, and if without reliable natural snow cover, this can inflict additional damage on rose canes.”*

## WATERING



Hardiness can also be improved by fall watering. Additionally, stopping nitrogen fertilizers and discontinuing deadheading after August will encourage the hardening off, or maturing, of the canes. Mounding the base of the plant with extra soil and mulching in the fall can provide extra protection. If a plant is grafted, the bud union should be placed 2” – 4” below the soil surface when planting (not necessary when using the Minnesota Tip). This will provide additional protection for the bud union and may also result in the plant growing roots from the area above the graft – turning the plant own rooted – which is generally desirable for roses in colder climates.



## NATURAL HARDINESS



*Juno, a Centifolia rose - USDA zone 4b-9b*  
PC: Helpmefind Website

Popularity and availability of the hardier roses has grown in recent years. Successfully choosing varieties for colder climates requires some understanding of how cold hardiness relates to the various classes of roses. It is important to note that within even the most hardy classes of roses, there are some particular varieties that are more cold hardy and others that are more tender. The tenderness is often attributed to the amount of china or tea in their genetic makeup.

In the North Central District, hardy roses come from two general classes - Old Garden Roses and Shrub Roses. Generally OGR classes of Alba, Centifolia, Damask, Hybrid Perpetual (best in sheltered locations), Gallica and some of the Moss, Species and Species Hybrid roses are considered Minnesota zone 4 hardy. Most Alba and Centifolia roses are zone 3 hardy. Shrub classes of Kordesii and Hybrid Rugosa are generally zone 3 hardy. The Shrub subclass contains roses of varying degrees of hardiness. Polyanthas are often considered dieback hardy. Growers in the warmer portions of the North Central District, zone 5, find that they can grow the English roses, the Hybrid Musks, and even some of the Bourbons, with a minimum of winter protection. However, for most of the district, growing zones 3 and 4, we find that these perform better with significant winter cover - including the Minnesota Tip method.



*Baron Girod de l'Ain, a Hybrid Perpetual - USDA zone 5+*  
PC: High Country Roses

## HARDY OLD GARDEN ROSES FOR OUR DISTRICT

**SPECIES AND SPECIES HYBRIDS:** Species roses are those that occur naturally in the wild. Some of these spring/early summer bloomers are outstanding.

**GALLICA:** These roses can be traced back to the Greeks and Romans, who brought them to England and France. They are some of the oldest roses in existence. Gallicas bloom once heavily in the spring, on shorter, bushy plants, with flowers that are red, deep pink, mauve, striped or splashed with spots. The fragrance is intense and spicy.

**ALBA:** Albas were introduced by Roman traders before 77 A.D. These are tall, hardy, spring-blooming roses. The flowers have light, sophisticated fragrances, and are generally semi-double to double, pink or white. Foliage is grey-green, disease resistant, and shade tolerant.

**DAMASK:** These roses date back to biblical times, referred to by Pliny in ancient Rome and Virgil in 50 B.C. The arching canes are smaller in diameter than those on the Gallicas, but make taller plants. Flowers, often in clusters, are semi-double to double, white to deep pink, borne on short peduncles with intense, unusual fragrance. Autumn Damasks are known for repeat bloom in the fall, though it rarely occurs in the colder climates.

**CENTIFOLIA:** Known as cabbage or Provence roses, often depicted in old Dutch paintings, these intensely fragrant roses bloom once, generally later than other spring blooming types. They are a hardy Alba-Damask hybrid with thorny arching canes and white to deep pink flowers.

**MOSS:** A fragrant sport of the Centifolias, these roses have moss-like growth on the sepals which exudes a sticky substance having a balsam scent. Some will repeat bloom.

**HYBRID PERPETUAL:** These roses were first recognized in Queen Victoria's time. They have good June bloom with lighter repeat bloom later. Blooms are reds, pinks, whites and mixes, and are often quite fragrant. Some winter dieback is common, mulching or careful site selection is advised for best success. Lightly prune after spring bloom to encourage later summer bloom.

## HARDY SHRUB ROSES FOR OUR DISTRICT

**RUGOSA ROSES:** These are the most shade, drought and poor condition tolerant roses. They have bright green heavily textured foliage that is disease resistant and that dislikes chemical sprays. These shrubs, with repeat bloom, come in reds, mauves, pinks and white. The plants have attractive hips in the fall.

**EXPLORER SERIES/OTTAWA AGRICULTURE RESEARCH STATION, CANADA:** Many of these roses have Rugosa roses in their genetic development which gives them extra hardiness and additional disease resistance. Included in these roses is the first truly hardy climber, William Baffin.

**PARKLAND SERIES/MORDEN RESEARCH STATION, MORDEN, MANITOBA, CANADA:** These are hardy roses with exceptional summer repeat bloom, especially if given attention similar to that which we give our tender repeat bloomers. Some have flowers that are similar to those of the tender Hybrid Teas and Floribundas.

**DR. GRIFFITH BUCK/IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY, AMES, IOWA:** Buck roses are complex hybrids of Species roses, Shrub roses, early English roses, Hybrid Teas and Grandifloras. The hardiness varies considerably. These roses were developed to be hardy in zone 5. Many of them can be considered dieback hardy in zone 4. More of these are becoming commercially available today. Eighty-seven of the Buck varieties have been registered with the ARS as of 1997.



*Distant Drums, hybridized by Dr. Griffith Buck  
PC: Regan Duffee*

**OTHER TYPES:** There are a number of other roses that have been introduced, such as the Meidiland roses and David Austin's English roses. Most of these will perform best with winter protection, including the Minnesota Tip, in zones 3 and 4. Growers in zone 5 will grow these and also the Hybrid Musks and some of the Bourbons with less protection. Some others, like the shrubs Nevada and Lillian Gibson, are hardy in all of the North Central District zones.



# Upcoming District Events

<b>November 2nd</b>	CRS	"The Treasures of Old North, Hartford" Lead by Bill Hosley The Congressional Church of Plainville: 130 W Main St, Plainville CT
<b>November 9th</b>	RIRS	"The Brownells: American Rose Pioneers" Lead by Mike and Angelina Chute Weaver Library: 41 Grove Avenue, East Providence RI
<b>November 16th</b>	NERS	"Installation Ceremony & Winterizing Your Roses" Lead by Lillias Bonechi, Susan Mascott, & Jeannette Danehy Westwood Library: 660 High Street, Westwood MA
<b>December 14th</b>	RIRS	RIRS Crafters' Showcase Lead by Various RIRS Members Weaver Library: 41 Grove Avenue, East Providence RI
<b>March 29th</b>	Yankee District	Escape the Doldrums White's of Westport 66 State Road, Westport MA

# *Yankee District Rose Society*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District Director

Jacqui Nye

funjac@hotmail.com

Secretary

Audrey Osborn

caperose@gmail.com

Treasurer

Maria Connell

mrconnell79@comcast.net

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craigdorschele@charter.net

District Member of the National  
Nominating Committee

Ed Cunningham

edcps116@cox.net

Roses in Review

Paul Raymond

raypaulden@aol.com

Membership

Lauren Gisel

lrduff10@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Regan Duffee

regan.duffee@gmail.com

Old Garden Roses

Mirjana Toyn

mirjana.toyn@gmail.com

Photography

Jacqui Nye

funjac@hotmail.com

District Webmaster

Patsy Cunningham

patsygc@gmail.com

North-East Regional Director

Toni Simonetti

Prtonie@yahoo.com

# *Yankee District Rose Society*

## CONSULTING ROSARIANS

Margaret Bercovitz	CRS	mbercovitz@gmail.com
Charles Brailsford	RIRS	chuckbrail3@gmail.com
Anthony Brunetti	NERS	antmanjones24@gmail.com
Dave Candler*	CRS	davcandler@aol.com
Dave Cannistraro*	NERS	fastboat01@yahoo.com
Angelina Chute*	RIRS	apc1090@aol.com
Mike Chute*	RIRS	mikechute@aol.com
Ed Cunningham*	RIRS	edcps116@cox.net
Patsy Cunningham*	RIRS	patsygc@gmail.com
Patti Curtin	CRS	patti_curtin@yahoo.com
Jeannette Danehy	NERS	jeannettedanehy@gmail.com
Bruce Davis	CRS	davisbh2000@yahoo.com
Rachelle Desrochers	RIRS	rachelle47@verizon.net
Elissa Della-Piana	RIRS	elissadellapiana@gmail.com



# *Yankee District Rose Society*

## CONSULTING ROSARIANS

Pauline DeRosa	RIRS	pjderosadd246@gmail.com
----------------	------	-------------------------

Craig Dorschel*	NERS	craigdorschele@charter.net
-----------------	------	----------------------------

Cindy Ehrenreich*	NERS	dollsandroses@hotmail.com
-------------------	------	---------------------------

Irwin Ehrenreich*	NERS	therosemancapecode@gmail.com
-------------------	------	------------------------------

Rick Finneran	NERS	rfinneran@rjdlmuseum.org
---------------	------	--------------------------

Cindy P. Fraser	NERS	saabsister91@yahoo.com
-----------------	------	------------------------

Mike Fuss*	CRS	mfuss@snet.net
------------	-----	----------------

Nancy Gaiewski	RIRS	nang9@msn.com
----------------	------	---------------

Lynne Harrington	RIRS	lynneharrie@hotmail.com
------------------	------	-------------------------

Jay Hartling	CRS	jayhartline@gmail.com
--------------	-----	-----------------------

Chu W Jung*	NERS	rosedoc@ymail.com
-------------	------	-------------------

Frank Karikas	RIRS	fkarikas@gmail.com
---------------	------	--------------------

Zack Lau	CRS	wlvt@arrl.org
----------	-----	---------------

Dave Long*	CRS	longcottage@comcast.net
------------	-----	-------------------------

# *Yankee District Rose Society*

## CONSULTING ROSARIANS

Mary MacDonald	NERS	mary@marymacmissions.com
----------------	------	--------------------------

Lee Macneil	NERS	gooddayflower@yahoo.com
-------------	------	-------------------------

Marcella Martin*	CRS	windsorroselady@gmail.com
------------------	-----	---------------------------

Rebecca Martorelli*	CRS	beckym06451@yahoo.com
---------------------	-----	-----------------------

Lynne McHugh	NERS	lynnemmc@gmail.com
--------------	------	--------------------

Teresa Mosher*	NERS	purplerosesinbloom@yahoo.com
----------------	------	------------------------------

Clive Nickerson*	RIRS	cliven@cox.net
------------------	------	----------------

Dacia Nickerson*	RIRS	daciaandclive@cox.net
------------------	------	-----------------------

Audrey Osborn*	NERS	caperose@gmail.com
----------------	------	--------------------

Judy Paniccia	CRS	japan01@aol.com
---------------	-----	-----------------

Paul Raymond	RIRS	raypaulden@aol.com
--------------	------	--------------------

Montine Ross	RIRS	montineross@yahoo.com
--------------	------	-----------------------

Toni Simonetti	CRS	prtonieyahoo.com
----------------	-----	------------------

Mirjana Toyn	CRS	mirjana.toyn@gmail.com
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