

THE YANKEE DISTRICT of THE AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY
PRESENTS

ROSES

IN THE TIME OF
FROST AND FIRE



MARCH 6-8, 2026
STURBRIDGE, MA



HOTEL

THE PUBLIC HOUSE

The Yankee District Convention, hosted by the New England Rose Society and chaired by Audrey Osborn, will be held at the Publick House (277 Main St, Sturbridge, MA 01566) March 6 – 8.

<https://publickhouse.com>

Go directly to the Publick House's website and choose "group or weddings" then use the code 0326RO for special convention rate of \$149/night for any available room. This rate is valid until February 6 - a \$10-\$140 savings, depending on room type.



ORDER OF EVENTS

FRIDAY

12-5:30 PM

ARS JUDGING SCHOOL PAIGE HALL BANQUET ROOM

The convention weekend kicks off with an ARS Judges' School. Accredited judges will have the opportunity to renew their American Rose Society judges' license, and those interested in becoming a judge may sit for the written exam.

Anyone considering the judging program should reach out to their district's horticultural chair for guidance and next steps. Please note that lunch is not included during Judges' School.

5-6:30 PM

REGISTRATION CHECK-IN ENTRANCE TO PAIGE HALL

6:30-8:30 PM

WELCOME DINNER PAIGE HALL

8-11 PM

HOSPITALITY SUITE OPENS TILLYER BUILDING - 1ST FLOOR

After dinner, everyone is invited to gather in the Hospitality Room on the first floor of the Tillyer Building. This is one of the best ways to get to know fellow rosarians, and it is especially welcoming for first-time convention attendees. It is casual, friendly, and a great place to make connections.

Please bring a snack to share, and your favorite beverage, or a game. In past years, Scrabble, card games, Mah Jong, and other easy party games have kept the conversation flowing.

Questions or ideas? Please reach out to Valentina Nardini, the convention's Hospitality Room Chair.

ORDER OF EVENTS

SATURDAY

PAIGE HALL BANQUET ROOM

8-9 AM

REGISTRATION CHECK-IN

9:15 AM

OPENING REMARKS
AUDREY OSBORN

9:30 AM

ROMANCE WITH RAMBLERS
LEON GINENTHAL

10:25-10:50 AM

BREAK

During the break, stop by the raffle table and connect with our vendors. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase, so it's a great time to take a look and support the Yankee District.

10:50 AM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
PING LIM

11:50-12 PM

BREAK

ORDER OF EVENTS

SATURDAY

PAIGE HALL BANQUET ROOM

12-1:30 PM

LUNCHEON BUFFET

1:30 PM

“ORGANIC PLANT MAGIC” KEVIN RICHARDSON

2:25-2:45 PM

BREAK

This is your last chance to purchase raffle tickets. Please visit the raffle table and take a moment to browse and support our vendors.

2:45 PM

“FROM AUCTION TABLE TO SHOW TABLE” - PANEL

IRWIN EHRENREICH, JASON CAPOTE & REGAN DUFFEE - MODERATED BY LAUREN GISEL

This panel discussion is centered around the roses generously donated to our Spring Convention by our corporate partners. Panelists will share tip & tricks on how to care for temperature-sensitive roses, and guide them through the spring so they are ready for the show table by June. The session offers practical, experience-based guidance to help attendees purchase donated roses with confidence and set them up for success throughout the show season.

3:45-4:30 PM

RAFFLE DRAWING

ORDER OF EVENTS

SATURDAY

PAIGE HALL BANQUET ROOM

4:30-6 PM

BREAK

6-7 PM

COCKTAIL HOUR

*CASH BAR

7 PM

CONVENTION DINNER

"HISTORY OF THE YANKEE DISTRICT"

IRWIN EHRENREICH

YANKEE DISTRICT AWARDS

ED CUNNINGHAM

ROSE AUCTION

AFTER AUCTION

HOSPITALITY ROOM OPENS

TILLYER BUILDING - 1ST FLOOR

TRIVIA!

LAUREN GISEL, THE ROSE RIDDLER

SUNDAY

TO BE ANNOUNCED

10-12 PM

YANKEE DISTRICT MEETING



MEET THE SPEAKERS



Ping Lim is one of the world’s most influential modern rose breeders, known for creating beautiful, resilient roses that thrive for everyday gardeners.

Born in Laos and trained in horticulture, his lifelong passion for roses led him to the United States, where he launched his breeding career at DeVor Nursery before becoming Rose Research Director at Bailey Nurseries. There, he developed the award-winning Easy Elegance® roses, blending classic hybrid tea beauty with exceptional disease resistance and low-maintenance performance.

Today, through his work with Altman Plants and his True Bloom™ roses, Ping continues his pursuit of the “universal rose,” combining elegance, fragrance, and garden-worthy durability.

Irwin Ehrenreich is the owner of The Rose Man, a Cape Cod-based rose care service, where he and his wife, Cindy, care for more than 2,000 roses in both private gardens and client landscapes. His gardens and work have been widely featured in American Rose magazine, Country Gardens, The Boston Globe, HGTV Gardens, and New England Dream House.

An American Rose Society Master Rosarian, Horticultural Judge, and Master Gardener, Irwin is a past president of three rose societies and a recipient of numerous honors, including the ARS Outstanding Consulting Rosarian Award and a Silver Honor Medal. He is a sought-after lecturer and has designed and maintained notable rose gardens across Cape Cod, including Heritage Museums & Gardens and the Kennedy compound.





Kevin Richardson is the founder of Organic Plant Magic, an innovative line of soil and plant nutrition products rooted in sustainability and science. An entrepreneur since childhood, Kevin's approach to plant health was shaped by formative years in Alaska, where he was introduced to organic gardening and the importance of nutrient-rich, living soils.

Motivated to recreate the vitality of Alaskan soils, he began experimenting with compost teas and organic inputs, ultimately developing a shelf-stable, soluble plant food that delivers consistent, effective results. Today, Kevin focuses on translating soil research into practical solutions that help gardeners grow stronger, healthier plants while supporting long-term soil health.

Leon Ginenthal is a longtime rosarian whose passion for gardening began during childhood summers in the Catskills and has grown into more than 35 years of experience with roses.

After retiring in 2017 from a 40+ year career in special education and staff training, Leo now focuses on roses and other horticultural pursuits. He is a Consulting Rosarian for the American Rose Society, founding president of the Finger Lakes/Southern Tier Regional Rose Society, and a 2023 ARS Silver Medal honoree for meritorious service to rose culture.

Leon is also the owner of Der Rosenmeister Nursery, founded in 2003 in Ithaca, New York, and now located on three acres in the Finger Lakes region. The nursery is proud to participate in the ARS Save the Ramblers program and will soon be offering rare ramblers from the Anne Belovich collection, including varieties not currently available in North America.





Regan Duffee discovered her love of roses during the pandemic. What began as a few roses on her patio quickly grew into an extensive container collection, at one point overwintering more than 50 full-sized rose bushes in her garage.

An enthusiastic exhibitor, Regan's proudest early milestone came at her first national rose show in 2024, where Marilyn Monroe earned King of the Show and Celestial Night won Best Novice. In 2025, she achieved another major milestone with her first Queen of the Show for her entry of Cherry Frost. That same year, she received an American Rose Society President's Citation in recognition of her contributions to the NextGen initiative.

Regan serves as Vice President of the New England Rose Society and editor of the Yankee District newsletter, *The Rose Window*, and remains passionate about growing, exhibiting, and helping shape the future of the rose community.

Jason Capote is a lifelong rosarian based in New York whose passion for roses began at the age of nine. He currently grows more than 170 rose bushes across nearly every class, bringing decades of hands-on experience and deep horticultural knowledge to his work.

A Master Rosarian and American Rose Society consulting rosarian and horticulture judge, Jason is well known on the show circuit. His entries frequently appear on the head table and have earned numerous Queen of Show awards. He serves as president of the Long Island Rose Society and was honored with its Bronze Medal in 2024. He is also a former editor of *The Fragrant Rose* and remains active in the New York and Yankee Districts.

Jason previously served as curator of the Village Green Rose Garden at Great Neck House in Great Neck, Long Island. In 2024, he was named Outstanding Consulting Rosarian at the American Rose Society National Convention in Rhode Island and received a special dispensation to be awarded the ARS Silver Honor Medal from the Penn-Jersey District.





YANKEE DISTRICT

CONVENTION COMMITTEE



ANN GIBSON



AUDREY OSBORN



BECKY MARTORELLI



CINDY EHRENREICH



IRWIN EHRENREICH



JASON CAPOTE



JOE GIBSON



LAUREN GISEL



**PATSY
CUNNINGHAM**



MARIA CONNELL



REGAN DUFFEE



**VALENTINA
NARDINI**

SPONSORS

THANK YOU

We could not have such an incredible event without the help of many nurseries.

J.C. Bakker Nurseries has committed to a generous sponsorship, while other nurseries have donated roses and gift cards that will be offered at the auction during the convention. These include longtime favorites as well as new-to-market varieties.

We encourage our members to support these businesses whenever possible and to let them know how much their generosity and partnership mean to our rose community.

