



The Rose Window



PC: Lisa Plesko

June Is for the Rose & Rose Shows

June is rose month, the time of year every rosarian looks forward to. Months of pruning and feeding finally give way to gardens filled with blooms. It's also the season when we cut our finest roses, pack the grooming boxes, and head to the show to share them with the community.

The spring show season kicked off on June 13, when the Rhode Island Rose Society hosted its 27th annual rose show, I Always Promised You a Rose Garden, at Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church in Hope, Rhode Island. The show was led by Show Co-Chairs, Laurel Curtis, Diane and Chuck Brailsford, and Assistant Chair Terri Medeiros.

With so many events taking place throughout June, there had been some concern that the show might see fewer entries than usual because many exhibitors had scheduling conflicts. Instead, the room was filled with an impressive display of roses. The show committee's expanded marketing efforts also paid off, bringing in many new attendees to view the show, with several people joining the Rhode Island Rose Society as new members.

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COMES TO THE US



*Hybrid Tea Court (Left to Right): Moonstone (K), Marilyn Monroe (Q), Veteran's Honor (P)
PC: Lisa Plesko*

The Hybrid Tea Court belonged to Regan Duffee, whose entries earned all three top awards. Marilyn Monroe was named Queen of Show, Moonstone received King of Show, and Veteran's Honor completed the court as Princess of Show.

The show also emphasized education. In addition to serving as a horticultural judge, Dave Cannistraro presented an educational seminar for attendees, continuing a tradition of pairing competition with opportunities for learning.

The following weekend, on June 20, the New England Rose Society hosted its 86th Annual Rose Show, Once Upon a Bloom, at The Garden at Elm Bank, marking the society's first show at its new home. Moving to a new venue always comes with a bit of uncertainty, but the Massachusetts Horticultural Society proved to be gracious hosts and wonderful partners throughout the event. As with any first year in a new location, the committee came away with ideas for improving the experience next year, but overall the move was a tremendous success. Visitors enjoyed two educational seminars, a rose sale, flower crown and bouquet-making activities, and a full schedule of horticulture, arrangement, and challenge classes.



Left to Right: (L) Paul Raymond & Chuck Brailsford during award ceremony. (C) Mike Chute preparing his rose for the show. (R) Chuck Brailsford & Zack Lau during award ceremony

PC: Lisa Plesko

The children's storybook theme was especially well received, with many attendees commenting on the creativity of the challenge classes. It served as a reminder that while rose shows celebrate excellence in horticulture, they don't have to be stuffy events — they are just another fun activity with roses.

At the NERS show, Lauren Gisel won Queen of Show with Francis Meilland, while Irwin and Cindy Ehrenreich earned King of Show with Rock n Roll. One of the day's biggest success stories came from Melissa Arsenie, who was exhibiting for the first time. Her entry of Full Sail was awarded Princess of Show and also received the Best Novice award — a fantastic debut!

Neither show would have been possible without the many volunteers who worked behind the scenes. Judges, clerks, exhibitors, committee members, and countless other volunteers contributed their time to ensure both events ran smoothly from start to finish.

Special thanks go to Lisa Plesko for photographing the Rhode Island Rose Society show and Chu Jung for photographing the New England Rose Society show.



Top: NERS Court (Left to Right): Full Sail (P), Francis Meilland (Q), Rock n Roll (K). Above: Audrey McLaughlin & Regan Duffee. Left: NERS Show Room. Bottom Left: Trader Joe's-Saugus sponsored the Flower crown & bouquet making craft table. Below: Judges, Jason Capote & Craig Dorschel with apprentice judge, Maria Connell, and clerk, Jane Lambert looking over the exhibits. PC: Chu Jung



For complete results and a full list of award winners, visit the Rhode Island Rose Society and New England Rose Society websites.

Director's Note



By the time you read this, I suspect many of us will be in the same stage of the gardening season. The excitement of spring has given way to the realities of summer. Japanese beetles have discovered our favorite blooms, blackspot seems determined to test our patience, and there always seems to be one rose that simply refuses to cooperate.

Some days, gardening can feel like an endless battle. But then a long-awaited bloom opens, a seedling surprises you, or someone shares a cutting from a favorite rose, and you're reminded exactly why you do it.

One of the things I've come to appreciate most about being part of the Yankee District is knowing that none of us are gardening alone. Whenever I talk with fellow rosarians, I'm reminded that we're all celebrating the same successes and facing the same frustrations. We exchange ideas, compare notes on what's working and what definitely isn't, and encourage one another through another season. That shared experience is one of the greatest gifts our district provides, and it is the sense of community that keeps me excited about the future of the American Rose Society.

That future took an important step forward this summer when the American Rose Society Board of Directors voted to support the separation of the American Rose Society and the American Rose Center. While there is still much work ahead, this represents a significant milestone in positioning the Society for long-term sustainability. It reflects thoughtful planning and a commitment to ensuring that the American Rose Society remains strong for generations of rosarians to come.

Here in the Yankee District, my goal continues to be making your ARS membership valuable where you experience it most: close to home. National membership offers outstanding resources, but I also want our members to see tangible benefits here in the district. Whether that means discounted registration for district events, ensuring our members have access to educational opportunities like this August's Consulting Rosarian School, or expanding programming throughout the year, I want your membership to feel worthwhile every time you participate.

Director's Note Continued

Speaking of the Consulting Rosarian School, I have been thrilled by the response. We have had tremendous interest from both within and outside the district, and the program has come together with an exceptional group of speakers. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time to make this possible. I am excited to welcome both new and experienced Consulting Rosarians for what promises to be a wonderful program.

Of course, one of our most beloved traditions is just around the corner. Lobsterfest has long been a favorite event of the Yankee District. Over the years, our membership numbers have ebbed and flowed, leadership has changed, and the district itself has continued to evolve, but this tradition has endured. I think that is because Lobsterfest reflects what our district does best: bringing people together through a shared love of roses and the friendships that grow alongside them.

I hope many of you will join us on Cape Cod from September 11 through 13. If you are planning to attend any of the Lobsterfest events, please register by August 23 online at arsyankee.org. Your timely registration helps our volunteers prepare for a wonderful weekend.

Thank you for all you do to make the Yankee District such a welcoming and vibrant community. Whether you are starting a new garden or tending one that has taken decades to create, thank you for sharing your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your friendship. Those connections are what make this organization so much more than a rose society.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Consulting Rosarian School in August and at Lobsterfest in September.

Happy gardening,

LAUREN GISEL



From the Editor

Summer is always a busy season for rosarians, but this year there seems to be something happening everywhere. Between rose shows, garden visits, educational programs, and upcoming events, our calendars are certainly full. This issue of The Rose Window highlights many of those opportunities, both here in the Yankee District and across the country.

I'm especially proud of Lauren and the Yankee District Executive Board for everything they have been working on behind the scenes. Organizing a Consulting Rosarian School and Lobsterfest in the same summer is no small task. Both require months of planning and coordination, and it's exciting to see the district continuing to expand the programs and opportunities available to our members.

There is plenty happening beyond New England as well, including the ARS National Convention in Nashville this October. One of my goals with The Rose Window is to help keep our members connected to what is happening throughout the larger rose community, while also sharing the great work taking place right here at home.

I hope you enjoy this issue, find an event or two to add to your calendar, and take advantage of everything our rose community has to offer this summer and fall.

REGAN DUFFEE

SAVE THE DATE: NERS's Founders Day

Mark your calendars! The New England Rose Society's annual Founders Day will be held on **Saturday, October 17**, and we're excited to welcome **Paul Zimmerman** as this year's keynote speaker.

This year, Founders Day is also moving to a new venue: the **Hopkinton Center for the Arts in Hopkinton, Massachusetts**. We're looking forward to gathering there for a day of roses, learning, and time with fellow NERS members.

We're especially fortunate to have Paul joining us. He will also be speaking at the 2027 World Rose Symposium in San Diego, so if you can't make it to California next year, you can hear him right here in New England!

Paul Zimmerman is an internationally recognized rose expert, writer, lecturer, and Consulting Rosarian. He was one of the founders of the Tinseltown Rose Society and has written numerous award-winning articles for The Rose and other gardening publications. He also writes the "Roses Are Plants, Too" blog for Fine Gardening and has served as an international juror for rose trials around the world.

Paul's approach to roses comes from years of hands-on experience designing and caring for gardens. While living in Los Angeles, he founded Hundred Acre Woods Rosescaping, specializing in Antique, Shrub, and David Austin roses. Today, he and his partner, Pam Stone, live on a horse farm in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains with their horses, dogs, cats, and several hundred roses.

Paul also has one of the more unusual résumés in the rose world. Before making roses his career, he studied Aerospace Engineering, attended clown school, toured as a stand-up comedian, and worked as a television writer. We have a feeling his Founders Day presentation won't be boring!

Tickets are not yet available on the NERS website, but we'd like to get an early estimate of attendance for our caterer. **If you think you'll be joining us on October 17, please RSVP now to help us plan.**

Additional details, including the program, ticket information, and registration, will be shared as we get closer to the event.

We hope you'll join us for Founders Day and help us welcome Paul Zimmerman to New England!



The Yankee District's 2026 Lobsterfest Weekend



BY REGAN DUFFEE

Yankee District, Editor

New England Rose Society, President

Registration is now open for Lobsterfest 2026, which will be held September 11-13 on Cape Cod.

Lobsterfest is one of the Yankee District's signature annual events, combining a rose show, social activities, and the opportunity to visit one of New England's premier private rose gardens. Whether you're planning to exhibit, show off your mini golf skills, or simply spend the weekend chatting roses with friends, we hope you'll join us.

The weekend begins Friday evening with miniature golf at Susan's Garden Mini Golf, followed by dinner at The Cleat and Anchor. We'll finish the evening with ice cream at What's the Scoop, which is opening especially for our group after its regular season has ended.

On Saturday, the focus shifts to the Yankee District Rose Show at the Chatham Community Center. Co-chairs, Lauren Gisel and Lisa Plesko have planned a nautical themed show which includes some fun new challenge classes. It should be fun! Pizza will be provided for rose show volunteers.

Saturday evening, we'll gather at Gray's Beach for our traditional Lobsterfest dinner. Swan River will be preparing the meals, with a choice of clam bake, steak tips, or vegan ravioli. Registration includes your dinner selection, a choice of clam chowder or garden salad, and a key lime pie.



*From Lobsterfest 2025 - Attendees enjoying a sunset cruise on Friday night
PC: Regan Duffee*

Sunday's activities will take place at the home of Irwin and Cindy Ehrenreich. We'll begin with the Yankee District meeting before heading into their garden, where attendees will once again have the opportunity to take cuttings from their extensive collection of rare and out-of-commerce roses. Their willingness to share these roses has made this one of the most anticipated parts of the weekend.

Although the discounted hotel room block has ended, we encourage members who are staying overnight to book a room at the Ocean Breeze Motel, where many attendees will be staying. Being in the same location makes it easy to gather before and after the scheduled events and enjoy additional time with fellow members throughout the weekend.



*2025 Lobsterfest rose show attendees getting a little silly.
PC: Lisa Plesko*

The online registration form is now available. The only payment required during registration is for the Saturday evening dinner; the remaining questions simply help us plan attendance for the weekend's activities. A printable registration form is also available for anyone who prefers to register by mail.

Please register by August 23 so final counts can be provided for the Friday and Saturday dinners.

We look forward to another fantastic Lobsterfest weekend and hope to see many familiar and new faces on Cape Cod this September.



*Photos from Lobsterfest 2025: (Left) Dave Cannistraro teaches attendees how to propagate a cutting. (Center) Craig Dorschel awards Audrey Osborn Best Mini/Miniflora Open Bloom. (Right) Lauren Gisel and Jeannette Danehy having fun during the Ehrenreich's open garden.
PC: Lisa Plesko*

Save *the* Date

2026

AMERICAN
ROSE
SOCIETY

National Convention & Rose Show

OCTOBER 2-5



Sheraton Music City Nashville Airport Hotel | Nashville, TN

Keep up to date

Convention info: MedleyOfRoses.org

Rose Show Open to Public: MedleyOfRoses.org/schedule

Help make the Convention and Rose Show a success.

MedleyOfRoses.org/donations/



Roses Take Center Stage In Nashville



BY REGAN DUFFEE

Yankee District, Editor

New England Rose Society, President

Rosarians from across the country will gather in Nashville, Tennessee, this fall for the Medley of Roses – 2026 American Rose Society National Convention & Rose Show, hosted by the Nashville Rose Society October 2-5, 2026.

It has been two years since the last ARS National Convention brought us together in Rhode Island. Nashville will give us another opportunity to reconnect with rose friends, meet growers from other parts of the country, learn from some of the leading voices in the rose community, and see what promises to be an impressive national rose show.

The Nashville Rose Society last hosted the national convention in 1999, and they have put together a busy four days of roses, education and plenty of opportunities to enjoy Nashville.

A Headlining Lineup of Rose Experts

The speaker lineup alone provides a good reason to make the trip. This year's program covers everything from disease management and sustainable gardening to photography, the future of rose societies and modern rose breeding. Several sessions will also qualify for ARS Consulting Rosarian credit.

On Saturday afternoon, Dr. Mark Windham, Professor Emeritus of Ornamental Plant Pathology at the University of Tennessee, will present "Holistic Rose Care." During his career, Windham spent years researching Rose Rosette Disease, including its mite vector and potential sources of genetic resistance. His presentation will look at rose health as an interconnected system rather than a series of individual problems. Rose growers regularly find themselves acting as soil scientists, nutritionists, entomologists and plant pathologists, and Windham will discuss how decisions in one area of rose care can affect another.



*Convention speaker, Dr Mark Windham
PC: A Medley of Roses Website*

Later that afternoon, Rita Perwich will present "Natural Rose Gardening." An ARS Consulting Rosarian and UC Cooperative Extension Master Gardener, Perwich focuses on growing roses organically through healthy soil, beneficial garden life and reduced reliance on pesticides and fungicides. Her new book, *Natural Rose Gardening: An Organic Guide to Amazing Blooms*, will be released just two days after the convention, on October 6.

Sunday's educational program begins with Jim Keeter Jr., owner of the Antique Rose Emporium in Independence, Texas. His presentation, "Deep Roots, Lasting Blooms: Old Garden Roses, Companion Planting and Sustainability," will explore soil health, companion planting and ways to incorporate roses into more biodiverse landscapes. Keeter brings more than 40 years of experience in horticulture, land stewardship and sustainable landscape design to the discussion.

The afternoon will continue with Robin Jennings, Senior Brand Marketing Manager at Heirloom Roses, presenting "Bridging the Generation Gap." Jennings has helped Heirloom Roses select new roses, bulbs and perennials while working with hybridizers and rosarians to preserve historic varieties and introduce new ones. Her presentation should be particularly relevant to local rose societies as we consider how to reach new gardeners and encourage another generation to become involved with roses and the ARS.

ARS National Photography Chair Pam Powers will round out Sunday's afternoon sessions with "Photo Fun!" Powers has helped grow participation in the ARS National Digital Photography Contest and will share ideas for making more use of the cameras we already carry into our gardens.



*Convention speaker, Robin Jennings
PC: A Medley of Roses Website*

Two Hybridizers Take Center Stage

Modern rose breeding will be another major focus of the convention, with two internationally recognized hybridizers headlining the weekend's banquet programs.

Saturday evening's banquet speaker will be Canadian hybridizer Brad Jalbert, founder of Select Roses. Jalbert has been growing and breeding roses in British Columbia's Fraser Valley since founding Select Roses on his family's farm in 1990. Over the past 36 years, he has introduced more than 160 varieties, with his roses becoming known for disease resistance, hardiness, full blooms and the glossy foliage that has become one of the characteristics of his breeding program.

Jalbert and Robin Jennings will present "A Lifetime of Creating Brad Jalbert Style Roses," looking at his breeding work and varieties including Dylan Rose, Caramel Kiss, Double Ambre and Our Anniversary. His roses are becoming increasingly available to American gardeners through a partnership with Heirloom Roses. One of his newer introductions, Rockets' Red Glare, was selected for planting at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., in recognition of America's 250th birthday.

On Sunday evening, attendees will hear from Thomas Proll, Chief Hybridizer for Kordes Roses in Germany. His presentation, "30 Years of Creating New Roses for KORDES," will look back at three decades of rose breeding.

Proll studied Horticultural Sciences at the University of Hannover, where his thesis focused on resistance and susceptibility to powdery mildew in rose species and hybrids. He has spent nearly 30 years with Kordes and now leads its breeding department. Kordes has become particularly well known among American gardeners for introducing roses selected for strong disease resistance as well as garden performance, making this a rare opportunity to hear directly from the person behind many of those breeding decisions.

It's Showtime!

Of course, it wouldn't be an ARS National Convention without roses on the show table.

Exhibitors will have access to cold storage beginning Thursday evening, and preparation rooms will remain open throughout Friday and into Saturday morning. Judging begins at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, with the National Rose Show opening to the public from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Saturday and again from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Sunday.

The show includes Horticulture, Arrangement and Photography divisions. New exhibitors are encouraged to participate, and ARS Master Rosarian and Rose Show Judge Mary Ann Hext will offer a Zoom presentation ahead of the convention to walk participants through the Medley of Roses show schedule, rules and selected classes.

Even if you don't bring a single rose to Nashville, make time for the show. National shows provide a chance to see varieties grown by exhibitors from very different climates and growing conditions. They are also a particularly effective way to come home with a much longer rose wish list.

Let the Good Times Bloom

Attendees who can stay an extra day can join the Nashville Rose Society Bus Tour on Monday, October 5, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The tour will visit two of Nashville's best-known attractions: the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum and Cheekwood Estate and Gardens.

Cheekwood serves as Nashville's botanical garden, arboretum and art museum. The historic 1930s estate is surrounded by 55 acres of gardens and includes the 1.5-mile Carell Family Sculpture Trail. Several Nashville Rose Society members are also planning to open their private gardens to convention attendees, although those visits will be separate from the official bus tour.

For those adding a few more days to the trip, Nashville offers plenty beyond the convention. The Grand Ole Opry, Ryman Auditorium, Country Music Hall of Fame, Andrew Jackson's Hermitage, Belle Meade and The Parthenon are among the many options.

I've Got Friends In Low Places

Some of the best parts of a national convention never appear on the schedule. They happen in the hotel lobby, over lunch, or at the bar after the day's events are over. The hybridizer whose roses you've admired for years might end up sitting next to you for a drink. The rose YouTuber whose videos helped you choose your first rose could be at your table for lunch. A rosarian you've only known through Facebook might suddenly be someone you're talking roses with late into the evening.

That's what makes a national convention special. Our rose community stretches across the country, and increasingly around the world, but for a few days everyone is in the same place. Names you've seen in American Rose, faces you've watched on a screen, and people you've exchanged advice with online become friends you actually get to spend time with.

The speakers, rose show and educational programs give us plenty of reasons to go to Nashville, but it's often the conversations in between that we remember most. Medley of Roses is a chance to make this national rose community feel a whole lot smaller.

We hope to see plenty of familiar Yankee District faces in Nashville this October, and maybe meet a few new rose friends along the way.

*Below: NERS members at the 2024 National Convention in RI
PC: Chu Jung*



Registration Opens for the 2026 Yankee District Consulting Rosarian School



BY REGAN DUFFEE

Yankee District, Editor

New England Rose Society, President

Education has always been at the heart of the American Rose Society. For more than a century, the Consulting Rosarian (CR) Program has helped fulfill that mission by connecting knowledgeable rosarians with gardeners looking for reliable, practical advice. This August, the Yankee District will continue that tradition by offering a Consulting Rosarian School in a fully virtual format, making it accessible to American Rose Society members from every district.

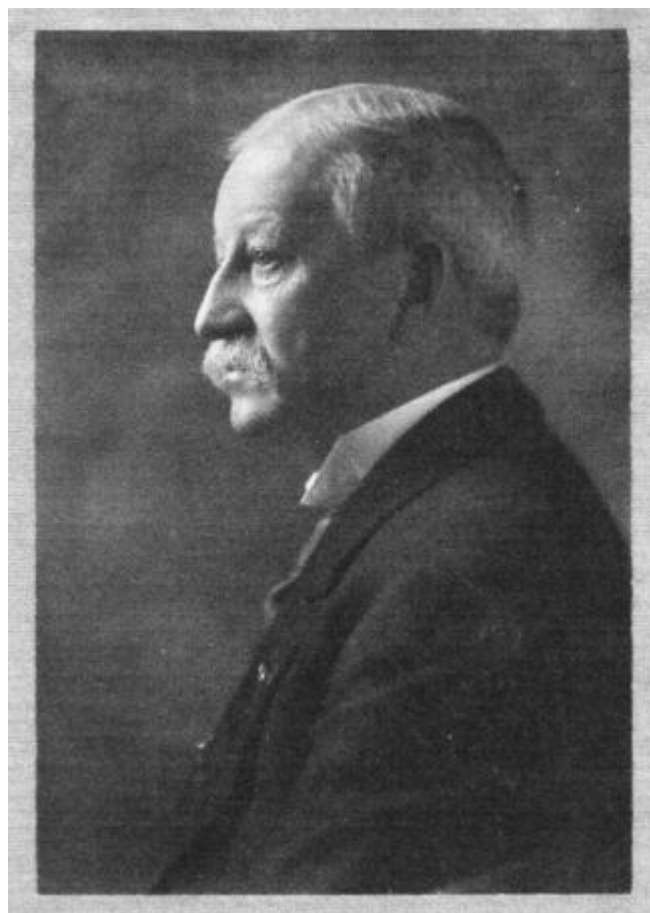
The school, organized by Yankee District Director Lauren Gisell, will be held over two afternoons on August 16 and August 23 from 2:00–5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

Participants will learn from an outstanding group of American Rose Society Master Rosarians, including Baldo Villegas, Laura Dickinson, Tom Cooney, and Bruce Monroe, who will share their expertise on a wide range of topics related to growing roses.

The Consulting Rosarian Program has a rich history dating back to 1920. During the early years of the American Rose Society, the organization was expanding its focus from serving professionals in the rose industry to becoming a resource for home gardeners. Dr. Robert Huey recognized the need for a network of experienced rosarians who could answer questions, provide trustworthy guidance, and encourage more people to grow roses successfully.

Right: Dr. Robert Huey

PC: American Rose Society's Website



That vision became a reality in 1920 when the American Rose Society appointed its first 32 Consulting Rosarians. The group included past ARS presidents, hybridizers, scholars, and many of the country's most respected rosarians. Their purpose was simple: to share their knowledge freely and help others become successful rose growers.



Jeannette Danehy, Yankee District's Consulting Rosarian Chair, received the American Rose Society's Outstanding Consulting Rosarian Award at the 2024 national convention. PC: Chu Jung

As the Society continued to grow, so did the Consulting Rosarian Program. In 1949, the ARS Board of Directors expanded the program by allowing each district to appoint Consulting Rosarians under a common set of guidelines. This made knowledgeable volunteers available throughout the United States and greatly expanded the Society's educational reach.

To ensure that Consulting Rosarians were well prepared to serve the public, the American Rose Society introduced district-run Consulting Rosarian schools and examinations in 1996. These schools provide consistent training in every aspect of rose culture, from planting and pruning to pest and disease management, helping future Consulting Rosarians build the knowledge needed to confidently assist gardeners.

The program continues to evolve to meet the needs of today's rose growers. In 2024, the American Rose Society launched the ARS Rose Forum, an online resource that allows Consulting Rosarians to collaborate, exchange ideas, and answer questions from rose gardeners around the world.

Today, Consulting Rosarians are among the American Rose Society's greatest educational resources. They answer questions from the public, mentor new rosarians, support local rose societies, present educational programs, and encourage more people to discover the enjoyment of growing roses. They are ambassadors for both their local societies and the American Rose Society, helping ensure that knowledge about roses is shared from one generation of gardeners to the next.



ARS Master Rosarian, Dave Cannistraro, shares his knowledge with NERS members, leading a seminar about growing roses from seeds.



Consulting rosarians answering questions at a local society's monthly meeting

Those interested in becoming a Consulting Rosarian should complete and submit both registration pages of the Consulting Rosarian Candidate Form, found on the Yankee District's website, and a copy of their ARS membership card, to director@arsyankee.org. The Yankee District requires time to verify American Rose Society membership and references before the school begins.

The second page of the application requires signatures from active Consulting Rosarians. A directory of Yankee District Consulting Rosarians is available on the Yankee District website as well. Signatures may be collected electronically or by printing, signing, and scanning the application.

Applicants from outside the Yankee District are welcome. Be sure to include the contact information for your District Consulting Rosarian Chair and/or District Director to help facilitate the verification process.

Presentation materials and the Zoom link will be emailed to registered participants closer to the event. Updates, application instructions, and the directory of Yankee District Consulting Rosarians are available at www.arsyankee.org.

CR Resource Material

ROSEMANIA SPRAY REFERENCE (2018)

SOIL & WATER BASICS

FERTILIZATION CR SCHOOL

ROSE DISEASES – MARK & ALAN WINDHAM

ROSE INSECT PESTS – MARK WINDHAM & FRANK HALE

EARLY DETECTION OF RRD – MARK & ALAN WINDHAM AND FRANK HALE

ROSE DISEASE: IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT – MARK & ALAN WINDHAM

INSECTS ROSE MIDGE PRESENTATION

The American Rose Society also offers a wealth of educational resources, including the Consulting Rosarian Manual, on its website for anyone interested in expanding their knowledge of rose culture.

Questions about the 2026 Yankee District Consulting Rosarian School may be directed to director@arsyankee.org.

Above is a list of additional resources ARS provides on their website for consulting rosarians.

Garden Party On The Cape

BY REGAN DUFFEE

Yankee District, Editor

New England Rose Society, President

The Yankee District was treated to a perfect summer afternoon for Irwin and Cindy Ehrenreich's annual garden picnic on Cape Cod. With blue skies overhead, rosarians gathered beneath the couple's beautiful pergola, where climbing roses and vines created a picturesque setting for an afternoon of good food and even better company.



Top: Lori Steven's curry devil eggs - perfect for a garden party

Bottom Right: View from their back porch of their pergola

Above: Diane & Chuck Brailsford and Lisa Plesko (in front of the camera!)



Irwin & Cindy Ehrenreich's rose-filled front yard

PC: Lisa Plesko

As always, the potluck did not disappoint. Deviled eggs were a crowd favorite, with several creative variations to sample, and the dessert table was especially memorable. If there is one thing this group of rosarians knows beyond growing roses, it's how to bake.

After lunch, Irwin and Cindy gave everyone a guided tour of their extensive garden, home to more than 400 rose bushes - many rare varieties that are no longer available commercially.





The afternoon concluded with one of everyone's favorite traditions: taking rose cuttings. Guests had the opportunity to bring home cuttings from hard-to-find "unicorn" roses, giving these varieties a chance to live on in gardens throughout the district.



The Yankee District extends its sincere thanks to Irwin and Cindy Ehrenreich for their generosity, hospitality, and their continued willingness to share both their knowledge and their incredible rose collection. Their annual garden party has become a favorite tradition. We look forward to returning to their garden on the Sunday of Lobsterfest weekend for another cutting workshop and Yankee District business meeting.

*(Top Left) Susan Mascott makes a cutting; (Top Right) Irwin gives a tour of their garden; (Middle Left) Cindy Ehrenreich wearing NERS swag; (Center) Diane Brailsford capturing the moment; (Middle Right) Garden selfies; (Bottom Left) Lisa French; (Bottom Center) Garden Entrance; (Bottom Right) Front Garden.
PC: Lisa Plesko*

April 30th-May 4th
California Dreamin'

SANDIEGOROSESOCIETY.COM

SAN DIEGO 2027

San Diego World Rose Symposium

*World Federation of Rose Societies &
American Rose Society Conventions*

The World Rose Symposium Comes to the United States



BY REGAN DUFFEE

Yankee District, Editor

New England Rose Society, President

Registration is now open for one of the most significant rose events in recent history—the 2027 World Rose Symposium, taking place April 30 through May 4, 2027, in San Diego, California. Hosted by the San Diego Rose Society as part of its 100th anniversary celebration, the event will also serve as the World Federation of Rose Societies Regional Convention, the American Rose Society National Convention, and will feature the 2027 American Rose Society National Rose Show.

The symposium marks the first time in more than 25 years that a World Federation of Rose Societies convention has been held in the United States, making it a rare opportunity for American rosarians to connect with growers, exhibitors, hybridizers, and educators from around the world without traveling overseas.

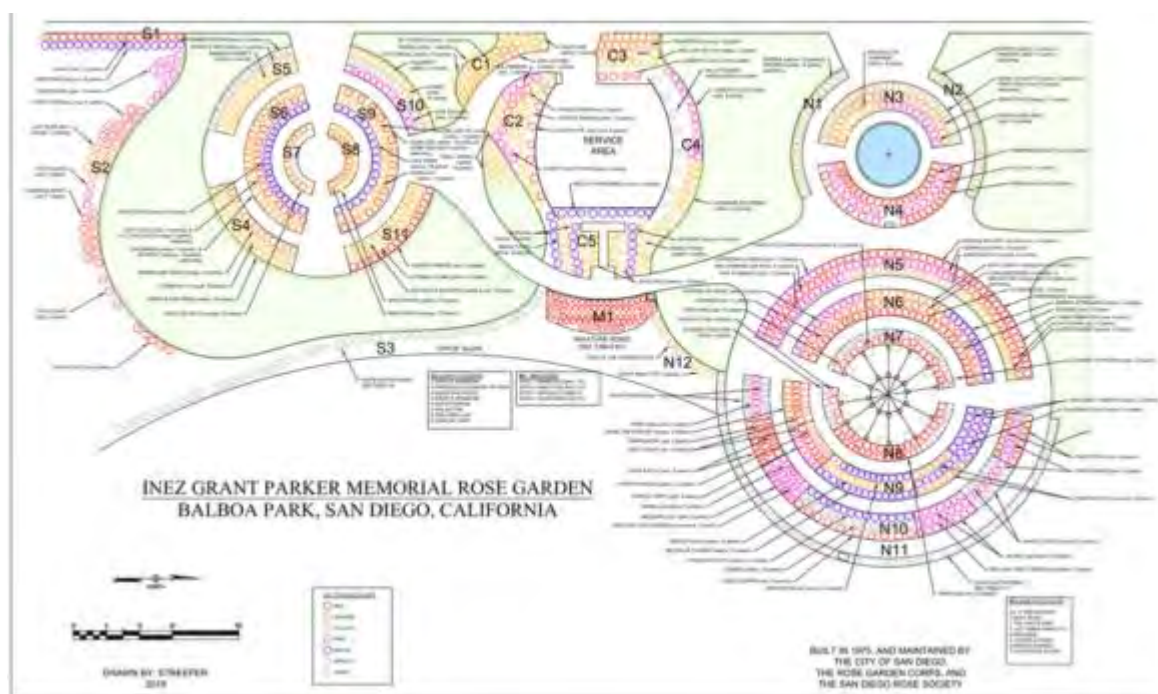
Over five days, attendees can expect a full schedule of educational presentations covering a wide range of topics, including hybridizing, garden design, integrated pest management, climate adaptation, rose history, photography, floral design, and the health benefits of gardening. The speaker lineup will feature many familiar names in the rose world, including Tom Carruth, Ping Lim, Paul Zimmerman, Ray Martin, and John Bagnasco, along with additional experts from the United States and abroad.



*Some of the symposium's speakers: (Top Left) Ping Lim;
(Bottom Left) Tom Carruth; (Right) Paul Zimmerman*

As part of the convention, visitors will also experience America's 2027 National Rose Show and have opportunities to meet exhibitors, conservationists, Consulting Rosarians, and other experienced growers. Whether you are interested in exhibiting roses, expanding your horticultural knowledge, or simply enjoying time with fellow rose enthusiasts, the symposium promises something for every rosarian.

No convention would be complete without visiting exceptional gardens, and San Diego's Mediterranean climate provides an ideal backdrop. Optional tours will showcase some of the region's finest private gardens as well as the internationally recognized Inez Grant Parker Memorial Rose Garden in Balboa Park, a World Federation of Rose Societies Garden of Excellence. Additional pre-convention tours will explore San Diego's public gardens, historic sites, and cultural attractions, while a post-convention tour led by Paul Zimmerman will travel through Central and Southern California, visiting notable gardens, nurseries, and horticultural destinations.



The convention headquarters will be the Bahia Resort Hotel on Mission Bay, just minutes from San Diego International Airport and within walking distance of the Pacific Ocean. The relaxed waterfront setting provides an ideal home base for five days of learning, networking, and celebrating roses.

The symposium also celebrates a remarkable milestone for the host organization. Founded in 1927, the San Diego Rose Society has grown into one of the largest and most active local rose societies in the country. Throughout its history, the society has been known for its strong educational programs, active Consulting Rosarian network, and welcoming approach to introducing new gardeners to roses. Their emphasis on mentorship, hands-on learning, and community engagement has helped build a thriving membership and offers valuable ideas that many local societies can adapt.

For members of the Yankee District, the 2027 World Rose Symposium represents an exceptional opportunity to learn from some of the world's leading rosarians, experience outstanding gardens, and strengthen friendships within the international rose community. Events of this scale come to the United States only rarely, making this a memorable destination for anyone passionate about growing and exhibiting roses.

For complete convention details, registration information, hotel reservations, and tour options, visit the official symposium website. We hope to see many Yankee District members representing New England in San Diego next spring.

2027 World Rose Symposium at a Glance

April 30 – May 4, 2027 | San Diego, California



Friday, April 30 – Symposium Kicks Off

- Educational lectures on rose history, soils, water, pests, diseases, integrated pest management, heritage roses, and the benefits of gardening.
- Welcome Lunch included with registration.

Saturday, May 1 – National Rose Show

- America's 2027 National Rose Show.
- Educational sessions on judging, exhibiting, photography, floral arrangements, tool care, and mentoring new rosarians.
- Hosted Lunch included.

Sunday, May 2 – Celebration Day

- Presentations by leading hybridizers and rose experts, including Tom Carruth, Ping Lim, and Tyler Francis.
- Additional lectures on rose care and chemical safety.
- San Diego Rose Society's 100th Anniversary Gala & ARS Awards Dinner.

Monday, May 3 – Garden Tour Day

- Visits to outstanding private gardens and the Inez Grant Parker Rose Garden in Balboa Park, a World Federation of Rose Societies Garden of Excellence.
- Catered lunch included with tour.
- Evening beach gathering at the Bahia Resort Hotel.

Tuesday, May 4 – Grand Finale

- Presentations on sustainable and chemical-free rose growing, biological pest management, and garden design with Paul Zimmerman.
- Grand Finale Brunch.
- Rare Rose Auction.
- World Federation of Rose Societies Closing Ceremony.

...But Wait, There's More



Optional Pre-Symposium Tours

April 27-29, 2027

Tuesday, April 27

- San Diego Zoo Botanical Tour
- Private garden visit

Wednesday, April 28

- Cabrillo National Monument
- San Diego Bay & Coronado
- Maritime Museum
- Private gardens

Thursday, April 29

- San Diego Botanic Garden
- Coastal gardens and Del Mar
- Private garden visits



San Diego Zoo Botanical Garden



Maritime Museum



Cabrillo National Monument

Optional Post-Symposium Tour

May 5-12, 2027

An eight-day guided tour led by Paul Zimmerman featuring Southern and Central California's premier gardens, nurseries, and cultural attractions, including The Huntington, Rose Story Farm, Otto & Sons Nursery, Hearst Castle, Warner Bros. Studios, and more.

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0:07 Hi everyone I'm Diane Summers president of American Rose Society and I'm glad to be here today with Paul Zimmerman and...



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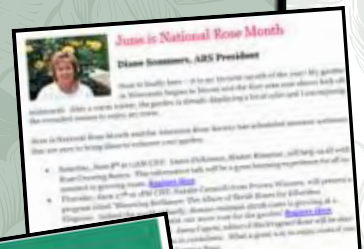
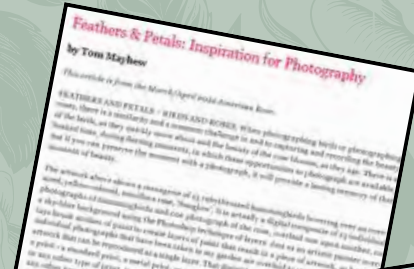
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