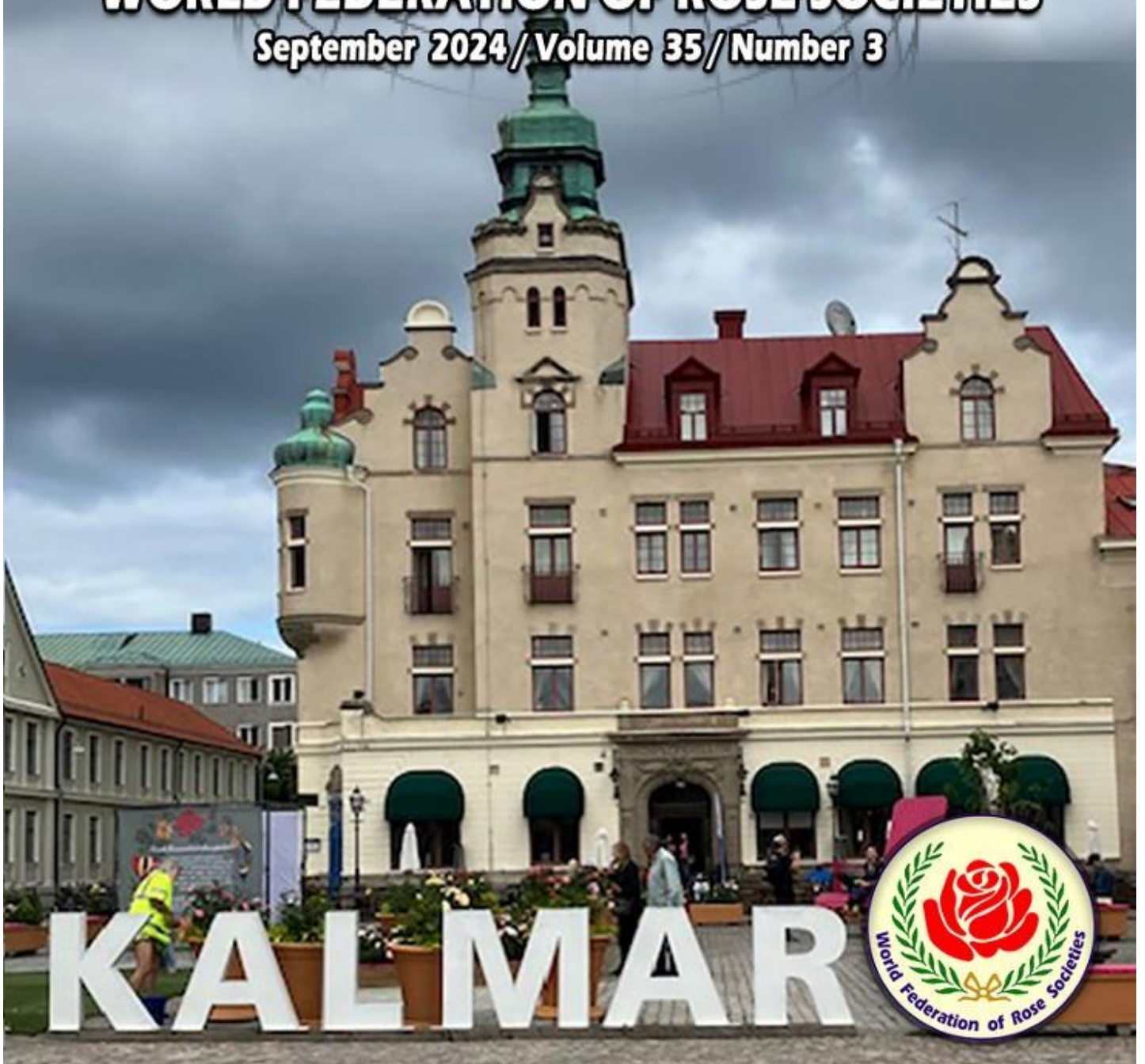


World Rose News

The Newsletter of the
WORLD FEDERATION OF ROSE SOCIETIES

September 2024 / Volume 35 / Number 3



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

We were awed by the Kalmar Regional Convention. Our cover features the rose festival in front of the host hotel, the Calmar Stadshotell.

We also have updated information on the World Rose Convention in Japan. Registration is now open. Hotels may be reserved on/after 21 Oct 2024. There is a lower "early bird" fee until 6 Jan 2025.

We also offer several Vice President Reports in this issue.

My photograph for this issue is 'William C Egan', one of the first ramblers to bloom in my garden. It grows effortlessly along a fence trimmed in back by deer.

Enjoy!

Steve Jones, Fiddletown, CA, United States



'William C Egan' (HWich, Dawson, 1900)

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

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

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Visit our website at www.worldrose.org

Table of Contents

Cover Page (<i>Designed by John Mattia</i>)	1
Editor's Message	2
Table of Contents	2
President's Message	3
Executive Director Opening	4
Executive Director's Message	5
Rose News	6
Pre-Tour Kalmar Regional Convention	7
WFRS Kalmar Regional Convention	10
Post-Tour Kalmar Regional Convention	15
2025 WFRS World Rose Convention (WRC)	19
WRC Tentative Pre & Post Tours	28
WRC Hokkaido Post-, Post-Tour	39
Vice President Report - Canada—Bermuda	41
Vice President Report - Australasia	44
International Rose Trial Dates	46
WFRS Office Bearers	47
WFRS Standing Committee Chairmen	48
WFRS Member Countries	48
WFRS Associate Members	49
WFRS Breeders' Club Members	50
WFRS Calendar of Events	51
Friends of the Federation	51
And Finally...	52
Please Patronize Our Sponsor	52

Do you receive our sister publication
by any other name?

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

The latest edition is available at this link:

bit.ly/BAON29

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



2022-2025

September 2024



Photo: Diane vom Berg

Diane vom Berg

I attended a busy schedule of events prior to the Swedish Convention.

Spring has sprung in Australia and the roses are looking great as they put on their new growth.

My first stop was to FELCO along with WFRS Past President Henriette de Briey, WFRS Treasurer Sushil Prakash, and WFRS Vice President Mireille Steil for the baptising of the 'FELCO Rose', provided by the WFRS, a red and white rose bred by Martin Vissers. Our association with FELCO and the Global Network it represents is much appreciated. Member countries are encouraged to engage with FELCO whenever the opportunity arises. Their sponsorship assists the Federation to maintain its Website and Member Countries that host a WFRS Convent

The World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS) encompasses and promotes many activities, among them are the trials of new roses.

Twenty-six trials are registered with the Federation and many have adopted the WFRS Standard Judging Criteria. The final judging of the trials is often undertaken by an International Jury; and the results are included with previous assessments by the local assessors of the trials.

It is a great experience to judge at a trial and if the opportunity arises, I trust you will consider participating. I found it an honour to be invited to join the International Jury at five of these trials in June this year while I was overseas prior to attending the WFRS Regional Convention and Heritage Roses, in Kalmar, Sweden.

The trials I attended were in: Nyon, Switzerland; Baden-Baden, Germany; Saverne, France; Bagatelle, France; and Kortrijk, Belgium.

The breeders, gardeners and organising committee members play an integral part in supporting the trials. It is deeply gratifying to be involved in such a collaborative activity that plays an important role in the evolution of roses that may be made available to the public.



Registration for the next World Rose Convention in Fukuyama City from 18 -24 May 2025 are now open. Please refer to further information within *World Rose News*.

The Swedish Convention held in Kalmar was a very well organised, and featured informative lectures, garden visits, social functions and Gala Dinner that was a highlight for delegates.

Left: Blessing of the 'FELCO Rose', Right: 'FELCO Rose'





Rose Trials: Left: Nyon, Middle: Saverne, Right: Baden-Baden

It was announced in Sweden that the San Diego Rose Society (Southern California, United States) will host a Regional Convention in 2027 – more details will be provided in upcoming editions World Rose News. *(Editor: During the post tour, Argentina announced they were interested in hosting the 2026 Regional Convention.)*

We have been advised that our Executive Director will be resigning at the next World Rose Convention, so please consider any potential replacements for this rewarding position.

WFRS – Executive Director

The World Federation of Rose Societies is seeking application for the position of Executive Director. The successful applicant would commence this role at the next World Convention 18-25 May, Fukuyama, Japan at the Executive Meeting No 2.

This is a rewarding position within the World Federation of Rose Societies, an honorarium is paid every six months. The ability to attend Conventions, prepare Agendas, take Minutes and liaise with Member Countries correspondence are the main criteria applicable for this position.

PLEASE submit your Expression of Interest for this position to Derek Lawrence, dereklawrence@talktalk.net by the 31st October, 2024. Any further information and a Position Description may be obtained from Derek.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Derek Lawrence

September 2024

Being a rosarian, I guess you're often posed with the question: "What's your favourite rose?" Myself personally, I've been asked this on innumerable occasions. On reflection, I suspect that the enquirer wants to gauge your expertise on what is the best variety to grow; be it for disease resistance, robust growth or the fine quality of delivering a heavy fragrance?

In 1976, the World Federation of Rose Societies had the good sense to launch the 'Rose Hall of Fame Award'. All Member Countries were invited to send in their nominations to establish the 'World's Favourite Rose'. The first recipient to reach this status was the all-time classic Hybrid Tea named 'Peace'. The honour has since become a highly sought after award for breeders to be graciously recognised on a truly international platform, amid a sea of delegates, journalists and keen photographers. The cultivar must have been in commerce for at least 15 years to be eligible to enter the competition. A watercolour artist is commissioned by the Federation to produce a stunning image of the winning variety, in form of a framed painting, to be presented to the original breeder or a surviving relative. It's always an emotional, tearful moment and a highlight of any World Convention. Over intervening years, the prize became so popular, that it was decided to initiate an 'Old Garden Rose Hall of Fame' in 1988. To qualify, any rose nominations received must have been introduced before the year 1900.

Over recent years, I've been rather dismayed by the increasingly lack of support from some Member Countries to send in nominations or cast votes, bearing in mind the high significance of these wonderful accolades. I invite you to contact your Member Country to supply suggestions for the 2025 Award. As guidance to prevent any duplication, previous winners are posted on the Federation's website, www.worldrose.org. All nominations must be sent directly by the Member Countries only to my Office by 31st October, 2024.

Who knows, your favourite rose could be bestowed as the 'World's Favourite Rose' in Japan next year? That would be not only a truly awesome moment for the original hybridiser, but for you too!



Author with portrait of 'Pink Flower Carpet', 2022 Hall of Fame winner

ROSE NEWS

From the Executive Director:

I am very pleased to advise you that the Publications Committee have appointed Marga Verwer to become WFRS Webmaster.

Marga will commence the role on 1st September, 2024.

Marga will work with Visual Translator to ensure that the site is kept up to date and looking in great shape.

On the Federation's behalf, I wish to warmly congratulate Marga and wish her much success in the role.

Walter Duncan

Word has come to us that another great Australian rosarian has passed this year. Walter Duncan of Sevenhills, South Australia, was a WFRS World Rose Award winner in 2009 at Vancouver, Canada.

His personal garden, Heritage Garden, is one of the best private gardens in the world. The highlight was the 'tunnel' of arbors supporting 'Cl. Souvenir de la Malmaison' leading up to his house. The garden is primarily old garden roses and shrubs; about 2000 roses on about a hectare. David Ruston would call to see if the tunnel was in bloom before taking guests up there.

I was impressed that Walter and Kay opened their Heritage Garden every spring in November to thousands of visitors as a fundraiser for The Royal Flying Doctor Service and The Women's and Children's Hospital Foundation.

Michael Elwood wrote: "Walter will be remembered for his passion, leadership, the roses he produced, and his generosity and wonderful sense of humour. He was indeed a much loved and highly respected member of the rose world."

Our thoughts go out to Kay and their family.



President Emeritus David Ruston (l) and Walter Duncan (r) receiving their awards at the 2009 WFRS World Convention held in Vancouver, Canada

Luis Desamero

Word has also come to us about the passing of Luis Desamero, long time partner of former WFRS President Dr Tommy Cairns.

From in part of his obituary: "Luis was recognized internationally as the most authoritative source on the promotion of Miniature Roses and their rise in popularity during the latter half of the 20th century.

Luis traveled to many WFRS Conventions showcasing his miniatures in rose shows to the delight of everyone.

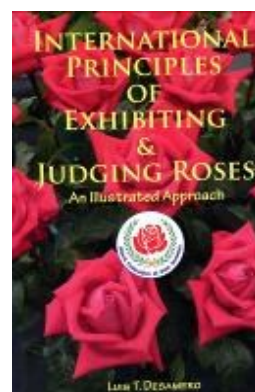
He served as WFRS Chairman of the Judging Committee for almost 10 years culminating in the WFRS publication *International Principles of Exhibiting and Judging Roses* in 2018. This volunteer approach alone resulted in a professional, fully illustrated book catapulting the tangible merits and authority of WFRS to develop one cohesive set of guidelines.

Blending and harmonizing the consensus approaches taken by WFRS Member Countries was not an easy task, but the result was spectacular! At the 2006 WFRS World Convention in Osaka, Japan, Luis had been awarded the World Rose Award."

Our thoughts go out to Tommy and Luis' family.



Luis with trays of the miniature rose 'Dancing Flame'



KALMAR REGIONAL CONVENTION PRE-TOUR TO FINLAND

By Martine LaBelle

The perfect travel adventure for me includes gardens and museums. Attending a WFRS conference allows both. This summer's Nordic Conference met and exceeded my expectations. My travel companion Jolene Adams and I flew into Stockholm, Sweden, arriving the day before we left for Finland. We were meeting at a hotel in Stockholm called Hasselbacken. Many others had also had done the same. We ran into others who we had met from prior conferences. By the following morning, a group got together and took a walk in the park like setting. Many of the groups peeled off after the walk and explored many of the museums that were close to the hotel. Our ferry would not be leaving until early evening, so it allowed us to explore Stockholm. By early evening, we all taxied over to the ferry. Cabins had been arranged for us; allowing us to park our luggage before going to dinner. Although we got to know each other hanging out in the lobby of the hotel, dinner was the time to slow down and watch the scenery as we left Stockholm and headed to Turku. This was also the formal introduction to our Tour Guide – Michael Luther (President of the Finnish Rose Society). We watched the scenery slip past us with multitude of small islands that had a dreamy like quality. This was done all while eating our dinner. It was still light outside and 10:30 PM (16:30). Jolene and I went to bed soon after dinner, but I understand some folks danced the night away.



Left: Ferry to Finland, Right: Turku University Botanical Garden

The following morning, we arrived in Turku, Finland and were greeted by our other travel companion, the Bus Driver Christian. He was a fan favorite on the tour.

Our first stop was the Turku University Botanical Garden. The guided walk included many old garden roses, a large vegetable garden, irises, and peonies. We then drove to the Musku Rosarium, where they had a collection of roses found in the surrounding community; some were Finnish Roses or were old garden roses. We were asked to identify or correct the names of roses. Staying in Turku, we visiting a museum of contemporary art. The real treat was an archeological site under the museum, consisting of buildings from the late 16 century. At one point, the city had burned down so many times that it had been filled in. The newer city was built over the old city. We continued after the museum/archeological site for 2-hour drive to our hotel in Kirkkonummi. The hotel was in the middle of a forest. It was also on a marsh that looked out on to the Baltic.



Wohls Gärd

In the morning we left the hotel, driving through heavily treed scenery to arrive at a private garden. The style of garden around the front and side of the house was deeply planted with everything from columbines, irises, daylilies, and peonies. As you got to the back, the garden sloped downward with many roses that I personally was not familiar with. What we learned as we visited this and other gardens, rugosas do very well in colder climates. I don't remember seeing any miniatures or minifloras. We left this lovely garden and arrived at Wohls Gärd. This old house is where we eventually had lunch. While waiting for lunch, we all meandered through a lovely garden full of old garden roses. Beyond the garden that hugged the house, there was an expanse of lawn that had a large walking path that eventually led to a lake. Apple trees hugged both sides of the path. As you got closer to the lake there a fenced in rose garden with Finnish hybridized roses. Again, my observation was none of roses were taller than 2 feet (61cm). Soon we were off to Helsinki, where we go visited the Meilahti Rosarium. We left for Tampere and spent the night there.



Left: Robo mower, Middle: Lake at Hatanpää, Right: Swimming in the lake

In morning we explored Hatanpää Arboretum and Rosarium. There quite a few roses I didn't recognize but it was a treat. The unusual item I saw was the robo lawnmowers. I found these at this garden and other gardens we visited. This rose garden sloped down to a lake. We eventually had lunch at an industrial museum. We left for a private garden in Visuvesi. The summer home was built in the 1890's. The property included lake access. This garden was mixed of a variety of plants. The garden wrapped around the house and spread down toward the lake. A video was shared that had photos of the garden through all seasons. It was really quite extraordinary. With the heat, several people went swimming in the lake. Yes, it was that hot. We then all walked down the road and got on a 1920's Steamboat called the Tajanne. Many of us sat in the back of the boat trying to find reprieve from the heat. It was a long lake with brackish water. We got back on the bus arriving to Lapua and stayed at the Hotel Lapuahovi. This hotel is where the Finnish Olympic team stays while training. With the heat, many of us sat on a dock that looked out on a lake. Sitting out until almost 11:00pm enjoying the coolness and the fact the sun had not set.



Visuvesi Private Garden

The following morning, I was not able to sleep so I was prepared for another oppressive heat day. Then the skies opened up and it began to pour. The rest of the trip was wet and cold. We all know that a good garden will look good in any weather. And this was true for the rest of the trip. We visiting a garden that had an amazing circular design. This was a teaching garden that held a mixture of vegetables and flowers. We eventually left, driving along the countryside arriving in Vassa. The howling wind racing across the open water had everyone huddling against the wall while waiting for the restaurant to open for lunch. After lunch, we left for the Kvarken World Heritage Site. This was an extraordinary site. This is an archipelago that after the last ice age, the land became depressed. The land is slowing rising. Once, ports that had access to the ocean are now brackish lakes and ponds. We were given a guided tour that pointed to an area that had been a port that was active in the 17 Century; it is now a pond. As we had our guided tour we were all mauled by mosquitos. At the end of the tour we had dinner while enjoying the scenery.

The following day was our final day in Finland. We visited Stundars Museum village. This was an open air museum with a collection of buildings that had been brought there from all over Finland in about 1939. This was done to save the building before they disappeared. After visiting we walked along a road that took just a few minutes arriving at Micheal Luther's home. We were welcomed by Michael's wife, daughter and granddaughter. We enjoyed ice cream with cloudberries (which are delicious) along with a cottage style garden. What a treat with paths that lead you to spaces that created rooms. We soon sadly left and visited a museum in the visitor center, then a walking tour that included several grand houses and an apple orchard. At the end of the tour we drove back to Turku and said farewells to Christian our bus driver. We all got on the ferry that took us back to Stockholm.



Circular Garden



The take away that I have is this was a love letter to Finland. We visited many beautiful gardens public and private, along with many historic sites. Micheal Luther shared sites we wouldn't have normally seen.

(All photos courtesy of the author.)



Upper: Michael Luther home & gardens, Lower: Attendees at the Finland Pre-Tour, leader Micheal Luther kneeling far right

Finnish Roses



Left: Rosa Puistoruusu-Ryhma "Lumo", Middle: Centifolia Nuit d' Ete, Right: Rosa Centifolia - "Tahtitorninkatu"

KALMAR REGIONAL CONVENTION

We have seen most of the gardens in Finland so we decided to opt out on the Pre-tour and signed up for the Main Event and Post Tour to Norway, a country we have been to before and love. The attendees from the Pre-tour raved about the trip when they arrived in Kalmar.

The convention started with a Meet and Greet with a variety of local foods and a local sparkling wine which was pretty good. All of the events took place at the Kalmar Congress Center about six blocks from the host hotel. We were greeted by the Vice Mayor of Kalmar as the Mayor couldn't make it to the event at the last minute.



Left: Convenor Sven Oddvar-Oson (l), Kalmar Vice Mayor (r), Middle: Welcome sign, Right: Local foods to enjoy

The next day, we were welcomed by Diane vom Berg, WFRS President, Svein Oddvar-Oson, Convenor, the Vice Mayor of Kalmar, and a special guest, an actor portraying Carl Linnaeus, the famous Swedish botanical classification expert who stole the show. It was a great way to start off the convention.



Left: WFRS President Diane vom Berg welcoming delegates, Right: Martine Labelle with "Linnaeus"

The day continued with lectures by Lars-Åke Gustavsson on the rose gene banks of Sweden, Martin Scott who filled in for Michael Marriott on the women in rose names, a presentation on the 2028 convention in Bhopal India, roses in India by Sushil Prakash, Robert Ardini on American gardens you may not know, Charles Quest-Ritson on identifying roses from paintings and prints.

The afternoon featured an excursion to Öland Island to the royal family's summer house and garden. A rose baptism of 'Royal Victoria' was held on the grounds. The rose hybridized by Danish rose breeder Rosa Eskelund. Solligens manager Carolina Thaysen did the honours.

Sollidens Slott, the current summer home of the royal family, contains many different gardens spread over the vast property. Roses are mainly in the Dutch Garden and scattered around in beds on the rest of the property. The Dutch Garden is formal with boxwood hedges and four Greek Goddesses statues by J. N. Bystrom (Hygeia, Victoria, Flora and Venus). There was decent bloom here. Roses include 'Rose de Rescht', 'Queen of Sweden', 'Charlotte', 'Ingrid Bergman', 'Royal Estelle', etc. The garden is so named because it was a gift from Queen Wilhemina of the Netherlands to Queen Victoria on her 60th birthday.

Dinner was at the old Borgholm Castle which dates back to the 1200s and featured local fare such as the yummy Kroppkaka, a stuffed potato dumpling.

In an unusual twist for a convention, we took an overnight trip through Skåne (Southern Sweden) to Alnarp, then to Helsingborg, where we stayed the night and the next day went back to Kalmar while visiting gardens along the way. It rained hard and was windy at the Genbank Garden at the Agricultural University of Alnarp, one of several gardens collecting roses for the gene bank, aka POM. We decided to stay dry in the bus while other rosarians braved the weather.



Left: Solligens Slott, Right: Dutch Garden

On the way to Helsingborg, we stopped and visited the Fredriksdals Rosarium. A former royal house from the 1840s, the main rose garden has around 350 varieties of roses. There were other roses planted around the large complex of 36ha. The formal gardens are lined at one end by rambling and climbing roses on arches and pergolas, and has two rose gardens, one with several beds featuring heritage roses and the other divided into colour themes; red, pink, white and yellow roses.



'Royal Victoria' baptism. Solligens Manager Carolina Thaysen (2l) and hybridizer Rosa Esklund (2r), Right: 'Royal Victoria' (photo by Rosa Esklund)

The next day we stopped at the Sofiero Palace & Garden near Helsingborg. Another summer palace for the King built in the 1860s. The main building was quite impressive. There were several themed gardens, even a maze on the property. We were too late to see the massive "river" of 500 varieties of rhododendrons in bloom flowing down a canyon. There was a "rose walk" with a few roses here and there, plus some ramblers and climbers on a few pergolas. The grounds cover about 15ha.



The highlight of the trip back to Kalmar was the visit to the Rosenlund Rosarium in Jönköping.

This garden was awarded the WFRS Award of Garden Excellence in 2022, and you can see why. A large rose garden edged by trellises with rambling and climbing roses, different garden roses, and a planned future International Test Garden. Here 'Lykkefund', 'Valdemar', 'Brenda Colvin', and *Rosa helena* were among the stars. There are over 550 varieties of roses here. I must have taken 1000 photos here alone. The gardens were pretty well in peak bloom or just past. During the rain that just started in the afternoon, the WFRS Plaque was unveiled by President Diane vom Berg and garden staff.

On a side trip, we stopped at the fabulous Kosta Boda Glass Factory and got an impressive display of glass work creation, even roses. A lot of merchandise left this facility, even a small glass rose I bought for Susie.



Fredriksdals Rosarium

That night we attended the Friends Dinner at the host hotel which was quite enjoyable. There we all met Ji Naizhe of China, winner of the first Friends Scholarship, who gave us a talk on what she learned from the convention so far.

The next day the events continued with talks on the 2025 World Convention in Fukuyama City, the story of *Rosa multiflora* in Japan by Yuki Mikanagi, *Rosa spinosissima* cultivars by Peter Boyd, Urban design by Helle Nebelong, a presentation by FELCO including the new FELCO Rose, a talk on beauty versus contemporary by Lukasz Rojewski, amateur British rose breeders by Ray & Pauline Martin, followed by a breeders panel covering the topic of getting younger people interested in roses and sustainability.



Solfiero, Left: Guides give the history of the garden, Right: Rose Walk

Before the Gala dinner there was time to walk around the city and visit the rose garden Kalmar Rosentradgard near the Kalmar Castle. The rose garden had several beds that meandered throughout the park with companion plantings. We also enjoyed walking through the Sodra Krykogarden (cemetery) where many graves had roses planted on them.

The Gala Dinner was that evening featuring the awarding of the WFRS Bronze Medallion to the Swedish Rose Society, and were entertained by a band featuring lead singer Sophie Zelmani. Kordes presented her with a rose named after her, 'Zelmani's Dream'.

Two announcements were made concerning future WFRS conventions: San Diego is planning for 2027 and Argentina is planning for 2026. San Diego would be the first convention in the US since Houston in 2000.

The next day a busload of attendees took off for the Post Tour of Norway.



Rosenlund Rosarium: Top Left: 'Lykkefund' at entrance, Top Right: Modern rose beds, Lower Left: Old garden rose beds, Lower Right: Rose arbors and beds



Rosenlund Rosarium Left: 'Valdemar', Right: Unveiling of the WFRS Award of Garden Excellence



Left: Kalmar Rose Garden, Right: 'Mothersday' on a grave in Kalmar Sodra Cemetery



Gala Dinner: Top Left: Attendees, Top Right: Thomas Proll dedicating rose to lead singer Sophie Zelmani, Lower Left: awarding the WFRS Silver Medal to the Sweden Rose Society, Lower Right: Turning over the WFRS Regional Convention flag to the United States, Robert Ardini WFRS Vice President (r) accepting on behalf of the American Rose Society



KALMAR REGIONAL CONVENTION POST TOUR TO NORWAY

The next day after the Main Event, 66 of us loaded onto a large double decker bus and headed toward Norway.

Our first stop was in Gothenberg, where we visited the Rosarium there with over 1200 varieties of roses. There are three main areas for roses, the Rose Oval which features mostly modern roses, the Rose Park which features old garden roses, and the Species Garden. A treat was visiting the Palm House next to the Rose Park. It is a large conservatory which is under renovation. We had a buffet lunch here. A nice café was next to the rose oval where we got ice cream and drinks after visiting the gardens.



Gothenberg Rosarium—Top Left: Rose Park, Top Right: Rose Oval, Lower Left: Palm House, Lower Right: Species Garden



We drove north in Sweden to Son, where we had a nice fresh catch lunch at the local fish restaurant. Susie is not a fan of fish but they had an excellent chicken skewer meal instead. The local beer was also very good. We stopped in Oslo to visit the Frogner Park with sculptures by Gustav Vigeland. Susie and I visited this park in 2018 and the sculptures were, well, many and weird. We stopped at the local café in the park for a refreshing drink after visiting the rose garden which is mass plantings of maybe a dozen varieties of roses. That night we stayed at Wood Hotel, currently the tallest wood building in the world. It offered great views of Lake Mjösan.

The next day was the longest of the trip, about an 8-hour bus ride from Brumunddal to Molde, Norway. Our first stop was at Ringeby Stave Church and Rectory. This church dates back prior to 1220 and the rectory has a nice rose garden of about 150 roses, mostly one per variety and of roses that do well there such as Albas and Rugosas. I enjoyed the row after row of headstones in the cemetery dating back centuries. Our drive was long but we saw some beautiful countryside as we went along, especially when we drove by Romsdalen to the walls of Trollveggen, a popular sheer face climbing slab of granite. This valley is known for their trolls and statues can be found all over. Unfortunately, when we arrived at Trollveggen, it was clouded over. Not much more we can do other than get a snack and drink. Our last segment took us to Molde, the “City of Roses” which is assessable by ferry. Arriving late we had a late dinner in the hotel.



Frogner Park, Oslo, Norway

The next day we walked to the City Hall for lectures on the city and found out why it's called the City of Roses. Every city block had roses planted everywhere. In the last year alone, over 5000 roses were planted. We were welcomed by the Molde Mayor, Hege Merethe Gagnat. Nina Elisabeth Bøe, talked about growing roses in the North and Jarle Sanden spoke on the history of Molde. We found out the Gulf Stream creates a mild climate this far north and roses do very well here. As a treat we were serenaded by Silje Wierli Hagen, a well known Norwegian singer. The main Rose Garden in town is actually planted on top of the City Hall.

Roses here are somewhat winter hardy including 'New Dawn', 'Coral Dawn', 'Aspirin', 'Sahara', 'Alychemist', 'Allotria', and two named for the city, 'Molde Rose' and 'Louisa Dahl of Molde', a well-known gardener from the last century.

That afternoon we boarded the bus to Alesund to board the ferry to Bergen. We arrived in Bergen the next day after a 14-hour "cruise". We stayed at the Hotel Norge which was centrally located to downtown, the port, and great restaurants and gardens. We walked around the large park and lake near the hotel before dining at the hotel.



Rectory Rose Garden (l) Ringebu Stave Church (r)

The next day we boarded the bus and went to the Milde Botanical Garden where we met the former head of the garden Professor Harald Salvesen who showed us around the rose garden, tree forest and Japanese Garden. The rose garden was impressive flowing down to a valley and separated into modern and heritage roses. A lookout is high above the garden for a great view. After we returned to the hotel, we went to an authentic Norwegian restaurant hidden near the port from the 1700s. It was small and the floors uneven but the food was very good.

The next day we boarded the bus for a trip to the island where the Baroniet Rosendal is located. Next to the house is a formal rose garden which was mostly in bloom. Unfortunately, many of the roses were misnamed. Other rose beds dot the estate's property. Afterwards we took the cable car to Skyskraperen Restaurant for dinner and views of the city.

The next day they had a walking tour around the park, which we did on the first day, so we decided to take the funicular to Fløibanen for views of the city instead, then visited many of the local art museums including those with works by Edvard Munch.

We left for Edinburgh the next day for some well needed R&R while the other attendees took off to their final destinations. Overall, we enjoyed all the gardens, no matter what Mother Nature threw at us.



Molde: Top Left, Our hotel with roses, Top Right: Statue of 'Girl with Golden Roses', Lower Left: 'Romanze' in rose bed on the waterfront, Lower Right: Roses on top of the Molde City Hall



Post Tour attendees on overlook to Milde Rose Garden



Milde Rose Garden: Left: Modern roses, Right: Old garden roses



Top Left: Bergen Park, Top Right: Baronit Rose Garden, Lower Left, View of garden from house, Lower Right: Troll





WFRS 20th

WORLD ROSE CONVENTION 2025 in FUKUYAMA



18th - 24th May 2025,
A New Future Begins in
Fukuyama



WFRS 20th
WORLD ROSE CONVENTION
ROSE EXPO FUKUYAMA 2025

September 2024

Dear Rose Friends,

Memories in Sweden

Members of the Japanese Rose Society and the WRC 2025 Organizing committee visited Regional & Heritage Rose Conference held in Kalmar, Sweden.

We were truly moved by the Nordic-specific scenery and a heart-warming welcome.



Left: Pictures with President Diane vom Berg (L) and Chair of the Convention Liaison Committee Henriette de Briey (r), Middle: Organizing Committee with President of the Swedish Rose Society Svein Osen (l) and President of the South Korea Rose Society Wook-Kyun Kim (r), Right: Host hotel

Still in the excitement of Sweden, the WRC 2025 will take place from May 18th (Sun) to May 24th (Sat) in the City of Roses, Fukuyama, Japan, next year.

We, the Convention Organizing Committee, promise to give every delegate a wonderful experience. As described in the last issue of World Rose News, Fukuyama is a city where the culture of roses has been cultivated by all 460,000 citizens.

We believe all visitors will be inspired to experience our city through its rich history.

While registration began this July, fortunately, many friends from 18 countries (Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Republic of South Africa, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, the U.K., the U.S., Uruguay) have already registered.

For those who haven't registered yet, we look forward to your early registration.

Many rose-loving citizens are eager to meet you here in Fukuyama, the City of Beautiful Roses.

We hope you will register for a full-day pass, allowing you to enjoy an 8-day stay filled with roses. In addition to the engaging lectures and tours of local rose gardens that are typically part of the World Rose Convention, Fukuyama offers unique experiences such as participating in the Fukuyama Rose Festival, immersing yourself in Japanese culture at the Opening Ceremony, and exploring the world of roses at the Rose Expo. This pass grants access to all these special activities, ensuring a truly unforgettable experience.

If you plan to select a one-day pass, please carefully consider which day and tour you choose. While one day may not be enough to fully showcase all the charms of Fukuyama, we promise that the day you join will still be an amazing and unforgettable experience for you.



WFRS 20th
WORLD ROSE CONVENTION
ROSE EXPO FUKUYAMA 2025

When considering attending the Fukuyama Convention, we highly recommend suggesting the 'Accompanying Person Pass' to your family members. While exploring Japan's sightseeing spots without participating in the convention would also be a wonderful experience, the Accompanying Person Pass allows your companion to join all the tours throughout the convention period. These tours are designed to be enjoyable even for those who may not have an interest in roses.

You can participate in the convention at a discounted price if you complete your registration by **January 6th**, so don't miss out.

Registration will be completed by answering a series of questions. If you encounter any issues, feel free to reach out to the WRC desk (wrc2025-regist@or.knt.co.jp). Our agents will respond within 3 business days.

[Online Registration page](#)

<https://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp/registration/>

We have secured sufficient rooms in hotels around the venue, offering a variety of types and price ranges, which will be available to convention participants at special rates. However, due to certain local circumstances in Japan, the opening of hotel reservations has been delayed. We now plan to begin accepting hotel reservations starting on **October 21, 2024**. Please wait for our official announcement and avoid booking through other websites until then. We will notify those who have already registered by email once the reservation system is live. Below are some of the available hotels:

Fukuyama New Castle Hotel / <https://www.new-castle.net/global/en.html>

The main hotel where lectures and various committee meetings will be held.

8-16 Sannomaru-cho, Fukuyama, Hiroshima 720-0066

Daiwa Roynet Hotel Fukuyama Ekimae / <https://www.daiwaroynet.jp/en/fukuyama-ekimae/>

A city hotel adjacent to the main convention hotel.

2-16 Sannomaru-cho, Fukuyama, Hiroshima 720-0066

Accommodation

Richmond Hotel Fukuyama Ekimae / <https://richmondhotel.jp/fukuyama/>

A city hotel located a 3-minute walk from the main hotel.

Higashi-Sakuramachi, Fukuyama, Hiroshima 720-0065





Each of these hotels is fully prepared to ensure that you have a comfortable stay.

For all participants in WRC2025 in Fukuyama, we are pleased to offer attractive day tours from the 3rd to the 6th day of the convention. These day tours are included in your registration fee, and you can choose which tours you would like to join. This is a wonderful opportunity to explore and enjoy the beautiful scenery and culture of Fukuyama.

Please note that day tours require pre-selection of the course. To ensure your preferred choices, please submit your selections by February 21, 2025. After registering for the convention, you can choose your preferred day tours through your personal page.

On May 22, we will host a full-day tour titled "A Day Trip to Hiroshima: City of Water, Peace, and Culture." All participants will follow the same itinerary, which includes visits to Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and the Botanical Gardens.

For May 20, 21, and 23, you will have the option to choose from four different tour options each day. Feel free to select any combination and order of tours that best suits your preferences.

Day Tours

May 2025	20 Tue. Afternoon	21 Wed. Afternoon	22 Thu. All day	23 Fri. Afternoon
	A. Sera Kogen: a Fascinating Highland Surrounded by Flowers	A. Sera Kogen: a Fascinating Highland Surrounded by Flowers	D. Full of Peace and Culture, "The city of Water" Hiroshima	A. Sera Kogen: a Fascinating Highland Surrounded by Flowers
	B. Encounter with Anne, and Lakeside Affectionate Handcrafted Rose Garden Tour	B. Encounter with Anne, and Lakeside Affectionate Handcrafted Rose Garden Tour		B. Encounter with Anne, and Lakeside Affectionate Handcrafted Rose Garden Tour
	C. <Recommended> Join Rose Trials Voting! Explore Tranquil Rose Gardens & Meet Locals	C. <Recommended> Join Rose Trials Voting! Explore Tranquil Rose Gardens & Meet Locals		C. <Recommended> Join Rose Trials Voting! Explore Tranquil Rose Gardens & Meet Locals
	E. Tomonoura, the Japan Heritage port town, and Shinshoji temple in the season of fresh green	E. Tomonoura, the Japan Heritage port town, and Shinshoji temple in the season of fresh green		E. Tomonoura, the Japan Heritage port town, and Shinshoji temple in the season of fresh green

The details of each course are as follows. All of the tours offer unique, special experiences that can only be enjoyed here, and the local community is working hard to prepare them. We encourage you to register for the full-day pass and experience all of the tours.

A. Sera Kogen: a Fascinating Highland Surrounded by Flowers

About an hour by bus from the coastal city of Fukuyama lies Sera Kogen, a highland area known for its unique climate and diverse farms. One of the main attractions is the Sky Rose Garden, where English roses and perennial plants create a stunning landscape. In a special section of the garden, we will serve Sera burgers made from local ingredients, fresh salads, and wine crafted from local grapes. This tour provides a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the local cuisine.

Maximum capacity: 200 participants





WFRS 20th
WORLD ROSE CONVENTION
ROSE EXPO FUKUYAMA 2025

B. Encounter with Anne, and Lakeside Affectionate Handcrafted Rose Garden Tour

This tour explores Fukuyama's history through its rose community. First, visit the Holocaust Education Center, where local children will share the history of the Holocaust and their initiative of spreading the rose 'Souvenir d'Anne Frank' across Japan as a symbol of peace. You'll be moved by how this story connects with Fukuyama's own story of planting roses for post-war recovery.

The tour also includes a visit to 'Garden Tomitani,' which won the Grand Prize in the 2024 Fukuyama City Rose Garden Contest. Here, you'll interact with the local volunteer group, 'Friends of Garden Tomitani,' who manage the garden.

Maximum capacity: 100 participants



C. <Recommended> Join Rose Trials Voting!

Explore Tranquil Rose Gardens & Meet Locals

On this tour, you will experience the charm of 'the City of Roses, Fukuyama.' At the Fukuyama City Gardening Center, featuring rose gardens on mountain slopes and grassy squares with views of the Seto Inland Sea, you will participate in the 'Fukuyama International Townscape Rose Trials.'

Next, visit 'Rose Garden Kanae' at a local elementary school to interact with children and residents who love roses. Finally, explore the unique rose garden at the Sanyo Expressway Fukuyama Rest Area, where you can enjoy rose-themed treats, gourmet food, and souvenirs while experiencing Fukuyama's warm hospitality.

Maximum capacity: 100 participants



D. Full of Peace and Culture, "The city of Water" Hiroshima

This tour, held exclusively on May 22, invites all delegates to join together as we explore Hiroshima's history, culture, and commitment to peace. You will visit significant sites such as the Atomic Bomb Dome and Peace Memorial Park, where you can engage in reflective and thought-provoking moments.

The tour also includes a visit to the Hiroshima Botanical Garden, located on a hillside overlooking the Seto Inland Sea. This 18.3-hectare garden features various greenhouses and gardens throughout its expansive grounds, where the scent of flowers and plants will accompany you as you stroll.

Given the opportunity to visit Hiroshima, we highly recommend participating in this tour.

Maximum capacity: 600 participants



E. Tomonoura, the Japan Heritage port town, and Shinshoji temple in the season of fresh green

This course offers an in-depth exploration of Fukuyama's natural beauty, history, and Zen spirit. Your journey begins with a visit to Tomonoura, a renowned scenic spot featured in Japan's oldest poetry anthology, the *Manyoshu* (AD 759). Historically known as the 'Harbor of Waiting Tides,' this picturesque town has preserved its Edo-period charm and has been the backdrop for numerous films and dramas.

Next, you will visit the Shinshoji Zen and Garden Museum. Here, amid lush greenery and tranquil surroundings, you will have the chance to fully immerse yourself in the essence of Zen. Experience the expansive world of Zen as you relax and engage your senses in this serene environment.

Maximum capacity: 200 participants

Details about the day tours can be found on the online registration page.

<https://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp/registration/>





WFRS 20th
WORLD ROSE CONVENTION
ROSE EXPO FUKUYAMA 2025

On the second day of the lectures in Fukuyama (please refer to the previous WRN for the first day), we will focus on the theme of **Conservation**. In the context of this convention's theme, **Roses for the Future**, the conservation of heritage roses is a critical topic. The Fukuyama Convention will feature a distinguished lineup of speakers, who will address this vital issue and engage in discussions with participants.

Here, we provide brief introductions for each lecture. For full abstracts, please visit our website:

https://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp/program_conference/119/#conf0

Lectures

1st period

Brigid & Charles Quest-Ritson: Rose Conservation for Future

Conserving rose varieties is not just about horticulture but also an important effort to protect culture and history. This lecture will cover methods for conserving roses that are at risk of extinction and emphasize the need for international cooperation. It will discuss strategies and techniques for conserving heritage roses that are disappearing from gardens around the world, ensuring they remain intact for future generations.



2nd period

Daniel J. Myhill: the UK National Collection of *Rosa persica* Hybrids

The flowers of *Rosa persica* display a distinctive red "eye," a unique characteristic not found in any other rose species. Recently, the appeal of these varieties has been gaining attention. In his lecture, he presents the history of rose breeding in the U.K. that has been ongoing since the 1960s and provides background on 55 different varieties conserved as the National Collection. He will discuss the importance of future breeding and conservation efforts related to these collections.



3rd period

Gregg Lowery: A History of Roses in California

The history of roses in California began with their practical and spiritual significance to Native Americans. It includes the introduction of garden roses by European immigrants and has evolved into a blend of diverse cultures. In his lecture, he explores the influence of roses during the post-Gold Rush era and examines the key movements that have shaped their role in Californian life, drawing on the state's rich historical background.





WFRS 20th
WORLD ROSE CONVENTION
ROSE EXPO FUKUYAMA 2025

4th period

Svein Osen: The Collection and Conservation of Found Roses in Sweden

He provides a detailed overview of the purpose and methods involved in conserving 'found roses' in Sweden. As part of a collaborative effort among five national rose societies in Scandinavia, these initiatives focus on maintaining genetic resources, conducting DNA studies, and conserving varieties at the Nordic Gene Bank and other institutions. Through the work of POM (Sweden's national programme for diversity of cultivated plants), he explores the significance of collecting and conserving historical rose varieties.



More details below;

https://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp/program_conference/

FAQ

Q: Can I change from a full-day pass to a one-day pass after registration?

A: Yes, it is possible to change your pass type, but you cannot modify the registered name, email address, or pass type yourself. To make these changes, please email the WRC Desk (wrc2025-regist@or.knt.co.jp), and they will assist you with the updates.

Q: If I have over two accompanying persons, how should I register?

A: Please contact the WRC Desk. Note that registration for accompanying person is limited to family members

Q: How does group registration work?

A: Group registration is possible, but each individual must register separately due to the registration system. If you wish to register as a group, please contact the WRC desk.

Q: Is it acceptable to make hotel reservations individually rather than through the convention office?

A: While we recommend making reservations through the WRC Organizing Committee, as hotel options will be available on the convention website starting October 21, 2024, it is also acceptable to make individual reservations if you prefer.

Q: What is the fastest way to get to Fukuyama?

A: Please refer to the "Access to Fukuyama" section for details.

Additional information can also be found on the convention website.

<https://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp/>

Language

If you have any concerns about language, English-speaking staff will be available at the convention venue, and many hotels and restaurants also have English-speaking personnel to assist you. Currently, 200 volunteers are diligently preparing to make your stay in Japan exceptional. They will help you navigate unfamiliar surroundings, facilitate communication, and become your friendly companions throughout your visit. Additionally, some staff members can communicate in other languages. We are committed to ensuring that you have a smooth and enjoyable stay in Fukuyama.

Access to Fukuyama

For those not participating in the pre-tour, you will need to travel directly to Fukuyama. You have two main options:

By Airplane: Fly into Hiroshima Airport (HIJ). From there, take a bus to Fukuyama, which takes approximately 60 minutes.

By Train: If arriving at another Japanese airport, take a Shinkansen to Fukuyama. For reference, it takes about 3.5 hours from Tokyo and 1 hour from Osaka by Shinkansen.



WFRS 20th
WORLD ROSE CONVENTION
ROSE EXPO FUKUYAMA 2025

Online reservations for Shinkansen tickets can be made starting one month before your travel date. Detailed booking procedures and links will be provided in the next issue.

*For pre-tour and post-tour participants, please verify your departure and arrival points.



Background

History of Fukuyama, the City of Roses

Located at the center of the Seto Inland Sea coast, Fukuyama City sits in southeastern Hiroshima Prefecture. It is a hub city with a population of approximately 460,000, offering excellent access via the highway network and the Shinkansen (bullet train) train service. Known as the "City of Roses," Fukuyama boasts a million roses that flourish in its warm climate, offering scenic beauty across all seasons. The city is home to several notable sites, including the scenic harbor of Tomonoura, recognized as a Japan Heritage Site; Fukuyama Castle, which celebrated its 400th anniversary of construction in 2022; and Myoo-in, a temple housing two National Treasures. As for its industries, Fukuyama has developed as a city of manufacturing, with a diverse range of industries, including steel production and textile industry, notably high-quality denim used by top global brands.

The deep connection between the city of Fukuyama and roses traces back to the post-war reconstruction period following World War II. On August 8, 1945, Fukuyama City suffered an air raid that destroyed approximately 80% of its urban area. In the mid-1950s, with the wounds of war still fresh, a sentiment arose among the city's residents working towards reconstruction: "Let's plant flowers to bring vitality to our devastated city and restore comfort to our hearts." It was this movement that led to the planting of around 1,000 rose seedlings by citizens in what is now the city's Rose Park(Bara Koen), marking the beginning of Fukuyama's rose-centric urban development. This initiative, under the motto "Flowers are beautiful, and the hearts of those who nurture them are even more so," resonated deeply with the people. It inspired the creation of small rose flower beds throughout the city and various rose-themed initiatives, such as the communal celebration of the Fukuyama Rose Festival.

The affection for roses fostered a sense of compassion, kindness, and mutual cooperation, leading to the creation of the concept, "The Community Spirit through Roses". This spirit spread from home gardens to small flower beds along the streets, and eventually took root throughout the entire city.

We are truly delighted and excited to welcome everyone from around the world, with the citizens who have grown alongside roses taking the lead. We look forward to hosting the event with great anticipation.



WFRS 20th
WORLD ROSE CONVENTION
ROSE EXPO FUKUYAMA 2025



We are updating the latest information about the Convention on the official website. (<https://ja.wrc2025Fukuyama.jp/newsletter/>).

Please access the convention website and subscribe to the mailing list.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Fukuyama, the city where a million roses are flourishing.

Sincerely,

Yukiko Shimura

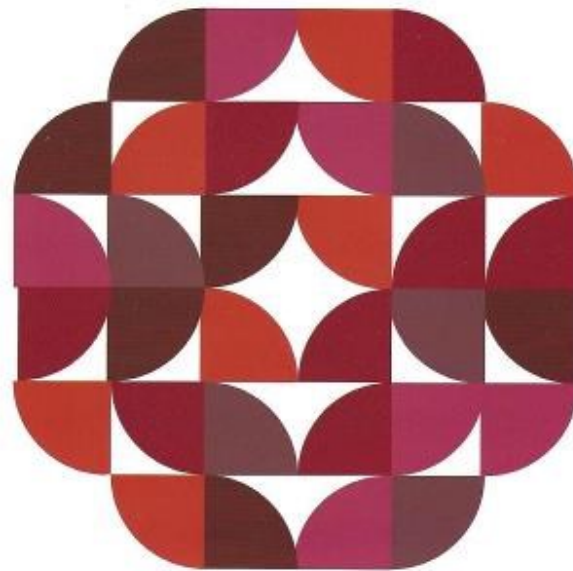
Yukiko Shimura

President, Japan Rose Society

Naoki Edahiro

Naoki Edahiro

Chair, World Rose Convention Fukuyama Organizing Committee



WFRS 20th
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CONVENTION
2025
in FUKUYAMA

Roses for the Future

A New Future Begins in Fukuyama

Create, Excite, and Shine Together!

18 (Sun) - **24** (Sat) **May 2025**

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

DAY 1 **MONDAY 12 MAY 2025** STARTS FROM HIROSHIMA

Departure Location: Hiroshima City
Nearest airport: Hiroshima Airport
Nearest bullet train station: JR Hiroshima Station
Start Time: Please check into the designated accommodation hotel by dinner time, as we will have dinner prepared for you.

DAY 2 **TUESDAY 13 MAY 2025** WORLD HERITAGE SITE: MIYAJIMA

***Rosa sambucina* native to Miyajima**

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

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



DAY 3 **WEDNESDAY 14 MAY 2025** CRUISE IN SETO INLAND SEA

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

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

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

Yoshiumi Rose Park

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

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/8AnkG5f3dmwqWDBi9>

DAY 4 **THURSDAY 15** MAY 2025 GARDEN TOUR IN TOTTORI

Tottori Prefectural Flower Park (Tottori Flower Gallery)

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

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

DAY 5 **FRIDAY 16** MAY 2025 GARDEN TOUR IN SHIMANE, ARRIVE IN FUKUYAMA

Adachi Museum of Art

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



<https://maps.app.goo.gl/uvyqioSffqjQy9UN6>

Yuushien Garden

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



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

DAY 6 **SATURDAY 17** MAY 2025 FUKUYAMA CASTLE

Fukuyama Castle

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

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

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

DAY 1 **MONDAY** 12 MAY 2025 STARTS FROM FUKUOKA

Departure Location: Fukuoka City

Nearest airport: Fukuoka Airport

Nearest bullet train station: JR Hakata Station

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

DAY 2 **TUESDAY 13 MAY 2025** GARDEN TOUR IN FUKUOKA

Uminonakamichi Seaside Park

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

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



DAY 3 **WEDNESDAY 14 MAY 2025** NATURE TOUR OF KUMAMOTO

Rosa multiflora var. *adenochaeta* along Kuma river

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

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



DAY 4 **THURSDAY 15 MAY 2025** NATURE TOUR OF NAGASAKI

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

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

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

DAY 5 **FRIDAY 16 MAY 2025** GARDEN TOUR IN NAGASAKI

Huis Ten Bosch

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

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



DAY 6 **SATURDAY 17 MAY 2025** ARRIVE IN FUKUYAMA

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

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

DAY 1 **MONDAY 12 MAY 2025** STARTS FROM OSAKA

Departure Location: Osaka City

Nearest Airport: Kansai International Airport

Nearest bullet train station: JR Shin-Osaka Station

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

DAY 2 **TUESDAY 13 MAY 2025** EXPO TOUR

Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai

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

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

DAY 3 **WEDNESDAY 14 MAY 2025** GARDEN TOUR IN OSAKA

Hamadera Park Rose Garden

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

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

David Austin English Rose Garden

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

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

DAY 4 **THURSDAY 15 MAY 2025** GARDEN TOUR IN KOBE

Kobe Municipal Arboretum

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

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

DAY 5 **FRIDAY 16 MAY 2025** GARDEN TOUR IN SHIKOKU

Ritsurin Garden

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

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



DAY 6 **SATURDAY 17 MAY 2025** GARDEN TOUR IN SHIKOKU, ARRIVE IN FUKUYAMA

Yoshiumi Rose Park

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

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



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

DAY 1-3 **SUNDAY 25 ~ TUESDAY 27 MAY 2025** HISTORIC KYOTO TOUR

Travel from Fukuyama to Kyoto by bullet train

Japanese Gardens (Nanzenji, Kinkakuji, Ryoanji etc.)

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

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



Kyoto Botanical Gardens

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

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



Arashiyama, Sagano

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

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/hpkMMHYcs2G3Qiyn9>

DAY 4 **WEDNESDAY 28** MAY 2025 GARDEN TOUR IN SHIGA

Rosa & Berry Tawada

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

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



Gifu World Rose Garden (Formerly Flower Festa Commemorative Park)

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

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



Urakuen (National Treasure)

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

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

Disbanding Location: Disband at JR Nagoya Station around noon.

Nearest airport: Chubu Centrair International Airport.

Nearest bullet train station: JR Nagoya Station.

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

Travel from Fukuyama to Niigata by bullet train and airplane.

Northern Culture Museum

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

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

National Echigo Hillside Park, Nagaoka Fragrant Rose Garden

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

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



Nakanajo Gardens

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

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



Shikishima Park Kadokura Techno Rose Garden

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

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

Ibaraki Flower Park

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

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

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

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

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

The City of Sakura Rose Garden

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

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



DAY 6 **FRIDAY 30** MAY 2025

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

Nearest airports: Narita International Airport or Haneda International Airport

Nearest bullet train station: JR Tokyo Station.

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

DAY 1 **SUNDAY 25** MAY 2025 TRAVEL TO SHIZUOKA

Travel from Fukuyama to Shizuoka by bullet train.

Acao Forest

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

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



DAY 2 **MONDAY 26** MAY 2025 HAKONE ONSEN (HOT SPRINGS)

Hakone Botanical Garden of Wetlands

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

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/q8aHSWDXXK2NgXzq9>

DAY 3 **TUESDAY 27** MAY 2025 GARDEN TOUR IN YOKOHAMA

Yokohama English Garden

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

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



DAY 4 **WEDNESDAY 28** MAY 2025 GARDEN TOUR IN TOKYO

Jindai Botanical Garden

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

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



DAY 5 **THURSDAY 29** MAY 2025 GARDEN TOUR IN CHIBA

Keisei Rose Garden

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

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



The City of Sakura Rose Garden

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

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



Disbanding Location: Accommodation hotel in Tokyo. Includes breakfast.

Nearest airports: Narita International Airport or Haneda International Airport.

Nearest bullet train station: JR Tokyo Station.

A POST-POST-TOUR, THE WORLD ROSE CONVENTION FUKUYAMA IN JAPAN

To the visitors attending the World Rose Convention Fukuyama in May 2025, the Sakura Rose Society has planned a special 4-day tour called "Let's Enjoy the Greenery of Hokkaido Gardens!" immediately following the post tour of the World Rose Convention.

Hokkaido, an island of beautiful gardens suited to the climate and environment of the northern region, is also home to the natural habitat of HAMANASU (*Rosa rugosa*). Since you are visiting Japan, we invite you to enjoy a guided tour of carefully selected beautiful gardens in Hokkaido. You can enjoy local delicacies and wine. The itinerary for the tour is as follows:

31 May (Sat) Depart from Haneda Airport – Arrive in Sapporo Airport – IKOR NO MORI – Northern Horse Park (Lunch) - Rose Garden in Sapporo odori park - Hotel in Sapporo city

1 June (Sun) Hamanasu-no-oka Park in Ishikari – Hotel in Obihiro city

2 June (Mon) Tokachi Millennium Forest (Lunch) – Rokka no Mori – Manabe Garden – Hotel in Obihiro city

3 June (Tue) Iwamizawa Park Rose Garden (Lunch) – Depart from Sapporo Airport – Arrive in Haneda Airport

Maximum capacity: 30 people

Cost: JPY 220,000 (estimate)

* The tour includes return flights between Haneda & Sapporo airport, bus transfers, 3 nights in deluxe hotels, 3 days with breakfast and lunch and entries to the gardens.

* For more details, please check the following website: https://keiseitravel.co.jp/wp/en/blog/oneday_tour/posttour_hokkaido



Left: Northern Horse Park Botanical Garden, Middle: Hamanasu-no-Oka Park, Right: Hamanasu (*Rosa rugosa*)

On the first day, we will stay in Sapporo, the capital city of Hokkaido. You will visit the "Ikor" forest, meaning "treasure" in Ainu language. At the next stop, the majestic natural surroundings of Hokkaido, you will enjoy interacting with horses at Northern Horse Park.

On the second day, you will stroll through the Hamanasu no Oka Park, located where the Sea of Japan and the Ishikari River meet. You will enjoy a "*Rosa rugosa* flower walk" while feeling the sea breeze and the soothing wind of Ishikari Beach. You will stay at a hotel where you can experience the rare "Moor hot spring." Moor hot springs are characterized by organic matter derived from plants dissolved in the water. It's also known as the "beauty bath," leaving your skin feeling smooth and radiant.



Left: Tokachi Millennium Forest, Middle: Rokka no Mori, Right: Manabe Garden

On the third day, you will visit the Tokachi Millennium Forest, which will be registered as a national park in the summer of 2024. After a lunch break, you will visit the Rokka no Mori, stroll through the forest of Hokkaido's wildflowers such as Japanese wood poppy (*Glaucidium palmatum*). Finally, you will visit the Manabe Garden, known as Japan's first conifer garden, where we will admire Japanese gardens, Western-style gardens, and landscape gardens.

On the final day, we will visit the Iwamizawa Park Rose Garden. This garden incorporates varieties not commonly seen in regions like mainland Japan due to their excellent cold resistance.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Hokkaido Garden Island tour and visiting the beautiful gardens in Hokkaido together.

For more information, please contact:

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WFRS VICE PRESIDENT REPORTS

Diana Antonition, VP Canada & Bermuda

Vice President's Report - September 2024

Well, it seems that every time Steve Jones asks me for my Vice President's Report, I am in the midst of getting my house and property secured for the arrival of yet another Hurricane.

Hurricane Ernesto approached Bermuda on Friday 16th August as a Category 1 storm. The eye of the storm made landfall around 4:30am on Saturday 17th, with sustained winds of 85 mph. As it was a slow-moving storm, we experienced Tropical Storm winds well into Sunday.



Rachael & Diana Antonition in eye of Hurricane Ernesto

Thankfully, the Island experienced minimal damage and within 48 hours, most residents had their electricity back on. My roses made it through with just wind-burnt leaves and minimal dieback, and my 1-gallon pots were safe and sound in my husband's Orchid house.

Bermuda Rose Society 70th Anniversary:

Back in 1954, a small group of rose enthusiasts came together to found the Bermuda Rose Society (BRS).

On the 9th of February of this year, the BRS celebrated its 70th Anniversary. As part of the BRS's weeklong 70th Anniversary celebration (1st-9th March), Rosarians Dr Malcolm Manners and Mr Gregg Lowery were invited to Bermuda to give lectures and workshops. Both have visited Bermuda in the past and are very knowledgeable of our Bermuda Mystery Roses.

At the BRS March monthly meeting, Malcolm gave a talk on "Bermuda Roses in Florida" and Gregg gave a presentation of new evidence regarding the story of "Bermuda's Kathleen".

The following day Malcolm hosted a fascinating hands-on workshop "Making your own new rose hybrids (rose breeding)". The slide presentation, with demonstration, introduced the science and art of creating an entirely new rose variety. That evening, Gregg, his partner, Stephen Dunatav and Malcolm, joined my family for dinner at my house and had a tour of my rose garden and my husband's Orchid house.

The 70th Anniversary Celebratory Luncheon was held on Sunday, 3rd March at the Royal Hamilton Amateur Dinghy Club. During the luncheon, Gregg gave a talk entitled "A Time Capsule of Roses", which highlighted his 10 years of work with *The Friends of Vintage Roses*.



On Monday, Malcolm and Gregg visited the BRS propagating tunnel at Tulo Valley. Here they demonstrated to the Tulo team, different methods for propagating from slips and shared advice on soils and diseases that affect warm climate roses.

Left: Gregg Lowery at 70th Luncheon at RHADC, Right: Tulo Valley Team



On Tuesday, it was a visit to the Society's Repository Garden at "Waterville". Here Malcolm and Gregg gave advice to members of the Waterville Team and BRS Executive, on how to improve the soil quality, correct pruning and answered concerns that were raised.

On Wednesday, The Garden Club of Bermuda, invited Malcolm and Gregg to speak to their members. Gregg's talk highlighted Mild Climate Roses, an examination of the roses that thrive in mild-winter climates, from cool dry coastal to subtropical, hot and humid to ultra-dry near desert environments and how roses in gardens may change in the coming years due to climate change. Malcolm's talk was on plant propagation by slips and soil fertility, particularly for planting and growing roses. That evening BRS President



Left: Garden tour of 'Pepper's', Middle: Gregg, Diana, & Malcolm at Green Thumb Bermuda Nursery, Right: Malcolm Manners at Heydon Chapel

Marijke Peterich, hosted a relaxing Potluck Dinner at her house 'Woodlands'.

Friday was spent touring the West End of the Island. First stop was "Peppers", the beautiful home and garden of Penny and Paul Leseur, who spoke of their experiences of 'growing roses on an outcrop of rock in the middle of the Atlantic'.

Next was a stop at Heydon Chapel, which is the smallest church in Bermuda. Built in 1620, it offers non-denominational morning services Monday thru Friday and weddings on special requests. The Chapel is surrounded by 44 acres of agricultural fields and lush woodlands. The rose garden here is looked after by volunteers of the Heydon Trust.

We finished the day with a stop at Aberfeldy Nurseries, where we were given an extensive tour of their green houses and seedling operations.

Saturday it was off to the West end of the Island. We made a short stop at Green Thumb Bermuda, a new plant nursery, that has an extensive succulent collection.

Next was a tour of Carter House. This 17th century Bermudian farmhouse is believed to be one of the oldest Bermuda vernacular farmhouses in Bermuda. It is now a museum with exhibits dedicated to Whaling, Fishing, and life of the St. David's Islanders. There is a small rose garden here that is tended by BRS members living in St. David's. At the bottom of the welcoming arms is a lovely Agrippina always in full bloom.



Next, we visited the gardens of past president John Howell and society member Michael Spurling's "Red Barracks", a lovely garden with an Asian influence.

Left: Carter House,
Right: Gregg at St George's



After lunch, our small group was invited by the St. George's Historical Society, for a tour of Mitchell House, which was built in the 1730s and remains much as it was nearly 300 years ago. In 1922 the Society acquired Mitchell House and it is now a museum. Notable artifacts on display include a 300-year-old bible and the State House Table dating from 1620. In the house is a pristinely preserved colonial-era kitchen. This was followed by a walk around St. George's to view the many rose bushes lining the narrow lanes.

Waterville Fun Day- Sunday, 7th April

Members, family and guests were invited to a fun afternoon in the Society's Rose Repository Garden at "Waterville".

Activities included learning how to take rose slips and different methods of propagation; how to prune your roses; refreshments included a variety of rose petal teas made by society members and there was even a table where you could bring your secateurs to be sharpened.



Diana giving a propagation demonstration at Waterville Fun Day, Right: Specimen Bench

Agricultural Exhibition

This year the annual Agricultural Exhibition was held 18th-20th April.

At the exhibition, the BRS features a competition bench, an extensive rose specimen display of roses that grow well in Bermuda and a display of Shadow Box's, created by society members (gilded picture frames set over black boxes. Roses must predominate in these pictures.



This year's Best in show was 'Little White Pet'.

Rose Sale

To finish what has already been a busy spring of events, the BRS and the Tulo Valley team held their annual Rose Sale in early May.

This is a major fundraiser for the society and always draws a large gathering of rose enthusiasts eager for that special rose.

This July, I had the pleasure of attending the WFRS Regional Convention and Heritage Roses Conference in Sweden and the Post Tour to Norway.

I would like to congratulate Svein and his team on a well-organized and most enjoyable conference.

To end my report, I wanted to share with you an interesting photo of "Red Smith's Parish", which produced a perfect half and half bloom. This is the 3rd time this particular bush has produced a bloom like this in 15 years.



Upper Left: BRS Plant Sale, Middle: Shadow Box, Right: 'Little White Pet', Lower: "Red Smith's Parish"

WFRS VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

By Gavin Woods, VP Australasia

The Australian rose scene remains active through our 5 state societies and the National Rose Society of Australia Inc. (NRSA), our peak organisation. Two of our states (New South Wales and South Australia) have branches which endeavour to meet the needs of our regional members and further widens the reach of our organisations.

Heritage rose lovers are served by Heritage Roses in Australia and ancillary groups throughout the country. An annual conference is held within various regions; the last being held in Melbourne during the spring of 2023 and from all reports was well supported. I believe that the time will come where both “genres” within the rose world in my country will combine. It is regrettable that many Australian Rosarians see the gulf between the “Heritage” and “Modern” world as a bridge too far. Our European compatriots see no such divide. Surely the attitude that a “Rose is a rose is a rose” should be embraced and all roses appreciated for the joy and beauty they bring to their admirers?



Dedication of the WFRS Award of Garden Excellence, International Rose Garden Adelaide, from left: Gavin Woods, Sandra Turner, Diane vom Berg, Frances Adamson, Rod Bunten, Andy Hart, & Michael Harvey

Our rose year began in Perth, capital of Western Australia, in October at the AGM of the NRSA and National Rose Show. Western Australia’s very strict biosecurity rules makes it very difficult to take flowers from other states and as such the National Show was a competition of local exhibitors. The Perth members showed us a wonderful time with the show containing some very good roses. My own flight from Adelaide was cancelled meaning we arrived at our accommodation in Perth at around midnight local time. This did not make for a happy start to the weekend. I was, however very grateful that I was not travelling with flowers!

My disappointment turned to elation over the course of the weekend as I was awarded the T.A Stewart Memorial Medal by the NRSA at our gala dinner. This award is given to one person annually from Australia or New Zealand, with the nominee considered to have provided outstanding service in the name of the rose.

The NRSA AGM’s rotate around the five member states, with the Presidency likewise rotating to the host state. In November we will travel to Melbourne for our event, hosted by the lovely and very popular Ms Sandra Turner as President.

States all held spring Rose Shows, with South Australia returning to one of the largest retail Garden Centres in the country, “Garden Grove”. A large display of roses attracted hundreds of adoring public to soak in the atmosphere. Here they could see the roses, purchase plants and floral arrangements as well as participate in a number of free public lectures provided by members of the society.

I travelled to Sydney in March to participate in judging at the “Royal Easter Show”. I judged some of the poultry classes followed by one of the rose sessions and then finally dahlias classes. This show is the largest public event held in Australia with some 854,000 attendees each year over the two weeks of the show. Roses are featured at 3 different sessions, each lasting two days making a wonderful opportunity to expose our flower to the public. Exhibitor supremo’s Ted and Meryl Morphett were victorious at each of the three sessions.

The South Australian society staged its autumn show in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, something that had been done for a few years. What was different this year was the fact that the show opened on Anzac Day. Anzac Day marks the anniversary of the first campaign that led to major casualties for Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War. The acronym ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, whose soldiers were known as Anzacs. Anzac Day remains one of the most important national occasions of both Australia and New Zealand and is marked with a Public Holiday. The show opened its doors at lunch time to large numbers of the public who had come to the Botanic Gardens following Anzac Day services. So popular was the event that the South Australian group plans to repeat the event in 2025. The show was held in conjunction with the National Rose Trial Garden’s “People’s Choice” voting. Both events benefit from the collaboration.

The sudden loss of Kelvin Trimper in January, was a huge shock to all Rosarians. Kelvin’s influence spread across all levels of rose organisations. The Rose Society of South Australia will honour Kelvin with a bench and a bed of his favourite rose ‘Gold Bunny’ to be placed close to the entrance of the International Rose Garden within Adelaide Botanic Gardens.

We have more recently mourned the loss of Walter Duncan, known to many world-wide for his garden at Seven Hills near Clare, South Australia. "Heritage" as the garden was known was open many times to raise funds for charity. Past WFRS President, Steve Jones, declared "Heritage" to be one of the top 10 private rose gardens in the world.

The plaque to unveil the WFRS "Garden of Excellence" award was held at the International Rose Garden in Adelaide in April. NRSA President Sandra Turner attended as did Governor of South Australia, The Honourable Francis Adamson AC; Patron of the RSSA Mr Rob Bunten; President WFRS Mrs Diane vom Berg; Director of Botanic Gardens of South Australia Mr Michael Harvey and many other dignitaries. A light rain shower saw a sudden relocation of the ceremony; this however did not quell the enthusiasm of attendees.

Such is the felt responsibility to continually improve this garden that a committee consisting of Diane vom Berg, Merv Trimper and myself has been established to advise the Botanic Gardens of future maintenance requirements. Over 300 roses have been removed from the garden with replacements planned for winter 2025. A continual removal and replanting programme is being developed in order to ensure this garden maintains a standard worthy of the award.

A highlight of the year for my partner Kim and myself was to attend the WFRS Regional Convention in Kalmar, Sweden. Several Australians enjoyed the excellent hospitality that Svein Osen and his team delivered. A beautiful country with marvellous roses we thoroughly enjoyed every moment spent there. Kim and I travelled to Stockholm following the convention. This would have to be one of the best city's we have visited and can thoroughly recommend to anyone who has the opportunity to visit.

Prior to the Convention, we travelled to London and part of regional England. It was a great thrill to be a part of the judging panel at the UK National Summer Show, held at Shepparton. Ray and Pauline Martin were great hosts; the rose show was mind blowing and the hospitality of Chairman Colin Squire was unforgettable. My sincere thanks to this marvellous group. I hope to return to this show often! We visited the David Austin nursery in Wolverhampton. Even the most ardent critic of Austin roses would be converted after a visit to this nursery.

Rain has avoided us in my part of the world. Our roses are now budding in anticipation of spring, but with only 148mm of rain falling for the year (about half the average); copious irrigation has been essential.

Excitement is building in anticipation of our 21st World Convention to be held in Fukuyama, Japan. I sense that many Australian rose lovers will be in attendance; we look forward to renewing acquaintances then.



At Heritage, the late Kelvin Trimper (l) & Walter Duncan (r)

2024 WFRS INTERNATIONAL TRIALS

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

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

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

WFRS ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

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

Association de la Rosa de Coyhaique, Chile

Associazione 'La Compagnia Delle Rose', Italy

Fondazione Roseto Botanico "Carla Fineschi" di Cavriglia, Italy

Geografisk Have, Denmark

Hana no Miyako Gifu Flower Festival Commemorative Park, Japan

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

Heritage Roses Australia, Inc.

Heritage Roses New Zealand, Inc.

Historic Roses Group of Great Britain

Huntington Library, Art Museum & Botanical Gardens, California, USA

LARN, Switzerland

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

Liga Gaart An Heem ASBL, Luxembourg

Patrimoine Pour Le Roses, Luxembourg

Piccolo Roseto Giovanni Chilanti, Italy

Polish Association of Rose Breeders

Rosenlunds Rosarium, Sweden

Roses Anciennes en France

Société Nationale d'Horticulture de France

The Botanic Garden, Meise, Belgium

The Rose Culture Institute, Japan

Vrijbroek Park, Belgium

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

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WFRS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 18 - 24 May 2025 WFRS 20th World Rose Convention - Fukuyama City, Japan,
Email: info@wrc2025fukuyama.jp, website: en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp
- 7 - 14 January 2028 WFRS 21st World Rose Convention—Bhopal, India

FRIENDS OF THE FEDERATION

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

***Become a Friend of the
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other Friends to exchange rose growing knowledge, information on rose gardens,
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Donations, with the exception of Friends for Life, cover the period
until the conclusion of the 2025 World Rose Convention in Japan.***

Friends donor forms can be downloaded from the WFRS website - www.worldrose.org

AND FINALLY...



WFRS Friends Dinner: From Left: President Diane vom Berg, Executive Director Derek Lawrence, Friends Scholarship Winner Ji Naizhe from China, President Emeritus Helga Bricet

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