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Abstract: This is the February issue of the World Federation of Rose Societies' Newsletter. Jolene Adams sent this out as the ARS is a member of this society and thought this might broaden our understanding of the rose world around us.

The document is 76 pages long so it might take some time to download. There is excellent information and photos. There is a great article in the document on Fragrance by Dr. Tommy Cairns.



World Rose News

NEWSLETTER of the WORLD FEDERATION of ROSE SOCIETIES

EDITOR

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WFRS was founded in 1968 and is registered in the United Kingdom as a company limited by guarantee and as a charity under the number 1063582. The objectives of the Society, as stated in the constitution, are:

- To encourage and facilitate the interchange of information and knowledge of the rose between national rose societies.
- To co-ordinate the holding of international conventions and exhibitions.
- To encourage and, where appropriate, sponsor research into problems concerning the rose.
- To establish common standards for judging new rose seedlings.
- To establish a uniform system of rose classification.
- To grant international honours and/or awards.
- To encourage and advance international co-operation on all other matters concerning the rose.

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Editor's Comments

This is our second all electronic edition of *World Rose News*. This edition contains reports from Regional Vice-Presidents and also from some of our Standing Committees, Associate Members, newer members, gardens of note, awards to distinguished rosarians, a tribute to Frank Benardella, some articles about roses and dates of up-coming events in the rose world...in short, a celebration of roses and rosarians. I hope the activities and people included will inspire the readers to engage in more rose adventures in the coming months and years. Photos have been provided by the contributors except where specified.



There are two important issues I would like to raise that will help to make my task easier and this communication more effective. Both are related to the new electronic format:

1. How to submit articles. Some of the articles sent have incorporated photos that are fairly high resolution. If I am putting together a publication of 16 pages (or more) and one page sent is 1800 Kb in size, it makes my task hard to create a file of a size suitable to send by email. The best way to send your article/report is to forward the photos (as jpg files) and text separately. If the photos are too big to send in one email, then they will be most likely be too big to include in the article without downsizing. You could send them one at a time if necessary and I will downsize them, but you could indicate where you would like them inserted in the article (text version). Please note, making the photos smaller does not downsize them. If articles include

large photos and I am unable to extract the photos and save them as jpg files, downsize them and re-insert, they will simply be deleted to make the document manageable. Text should in general be doc files and NOT pdf files as these cannot be readily edited.

2. Distribution of *World Rose News*. For us to benefit from an electronic format, we NEED to distribute to **ALL** members and interested people or organisations. It does not cost anything to forward the information on. I will send copies to all Member Nations (a listed contact person), Executive, Associate Members, Members of the Breeder's Club etc. Would national secretaries/contact people PLEASE forward on to state/district groups and hopefully they in turn, with your encouragement, will send on to all members for whom they have email addresses. One of the tasks that will make this work better is for all groups to collect and keep their member's email addresses on a file for this purpose. There is no advantage in keeping the information to yourself.

Happy rose growing.

Richard



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – January, 2010

SHEENAGH HARRIS
WFRS President 2009 – 2012

Dear Rosarians of the Forty-one member Countries,

Thank you for all your wonderful messages for Christmas and the New Year I have received over the festive season – beautiful cards, thoughtful and kind messages, all of which give encouragement and support for a full and productive year ahead in our very special world of roses. I hope you all had a happy and relaxed festive season with your families and that you are ready to fulfill your role in the rose world with enthusiasm.



It is six months since we met in Vancouver and my first official function took place in July in Belgium for the 250th anniversary of the birth of Pierre-Josef Redouté. Frans Thomas and the Belgian Rose Society organised a very enjoyable and exciting weekend of celebrations in St Hubert, the birth place of the man known as the Raphael of roses. Baron and Baroness Velge

nurtured me into my new role with kindness and generosity and all the Belgian Rose Society made me and my daughter, Christine, most welcome, for which I thank them.

Since returning to South Africa a number of societies in Johannesburg and further in Bedford, Knysna and Grahamstown invited me to officiate at functions in different ways thus spreading the love of the rose through my role in the World Federation of Rose Societies. It is this love of the rose and a desire to expose the WFRS to our many members throughout the 41 countries of the world that led the Executive Committee to support the new initiative of an electronic World Rose News. I trust our eleven Vice-Presidents are making it a priority to reach as many members as possible and in this way are spreading the word and making our members more aware of the WFRS and the important role it plays in the world of roses.

I recently visited Esther Geldenhuys, who played an active part in the WFRS in her younger days. Some of our older members will be interested to know she is well and happy in a retirement village in Pretoria (north of Johannesburg). Last winter she managed to teach some of her neighbours to prune roses from her electric golf car and she is always interested in rose news of the world.

It was with sadness in September, that we learnt of the death of Ralph Moore at the wonderful age of 102. He was without question the father of modern miniature roses. He will be missed by more than those who knew him personally but the rose legacy left by him will long be remembered. Among the many awards received by Ralph was the most prestigious Dean Hole Medal in 1990. And now, nearly 20 years later we congratulate Ann Bird, immediate past President of the RNRS, on being the latest recipient of this prestigious award.

I would like to thank the societies that have kindly sent me a copy of their annual or rose periodical. In order to help me get to know more about your societies, I would be most grateful if other countries would follow suit. I very much look forward to this communication.

In April, we have the WFRS Regional convention in China to look forward to. I hope to see as many of you as possible in Changzou where, as rosarians, we will have the very special opportunity to learn about Chinese traditions, appreciate the generous hospitality of the Chinese Rose Society and visit beautiful rose gardens...an opportunity not to be missed.

Best wishes for 2010 – may it be healthy and happy and filled with good rose experiences.

Rose Regards,



REGIONAL REPORTS

**Vice-President (Australasia – Australia)
Kelvin Trimper**

Roses continue to be popular in Australia with specialist rose nurseries and general garden retail centres reporting good sales of both bare-rooted roses and potted roses in 2009.

Significantly, this success has been driven by severe water restrictions which have now existed for many years in most capital cities and country towns. Roses have performed very well under water restriction regimes and certainly much better than most other flowering plants, although succulents have also gained in popularity.



National show, Kiama – photo Deidre Swan

the Trial Ground and subsequently attended the Rose Trial Garden Awards presentation at the Adelaide Town Hall – all providing excellent promotion for the rose and strengthening our relationship with the media.

Our Spring Shows, Pruning Demonstrations and other public information sessions were also well attended, thanks again to good media coverage.

The National Rose Championship Show and AGM were hosted by New South Wales in the lovely country town of Kiama, approximately 2 hours drive south of Sydney. The venue for the Show and AGM overlooked the ocean and the hospitality extended by our NSW group was excellent. The floral art demonstration by WFRS President Emeritus, David Ruston, was most spectacular and popular.

The Annual General Meeting covered many matters. Relevant to the WFRS were the following points and decisions:

- Sheenagh Harris, WFRS President, has been invited to attend our 2010 National AGM, Show and various events in Brisbane. She will then attend the Heritage Roses in Australia Convention, also in Brisbane, and tour each Australian mainland State to promote the WFRS and upcoming WFRS conventions in Japan (Heritage Roses) and South Africa.
- It was agreed to form a National Judging Panel (Chaired by Dean Stringer, recipient of WFRS Rose Award in 2009) to ensure our National Rose Judging Rules are up-to-date and to develop processes for recommending judges who are qualified to judge internationally.
- At least two WFRS Show Classes will be included in future National Shows.
- Committees have been formed to assist both our National Editor and Web Master.

- It was agreed that the WFRS Award for a Rose Trial Ground category will be presented to the “most popular rose” judged by the general public.
- Australians were encouraged to attend the 2010 WFRS Regional Convention in China, 2011 WFRS International Heritage Rose Conference in Japan and the 2012 WFRS World Rose Convention in South Africa.
- Tony Stallwood, President of the Queensland Rose Society, was elected as National President for 2010. Queensland will host our National Show and Meetings in 2010.



Kiama, looking across the beach to the show venue – photo the editor

At the National Dinner, Mr. Trevor Grant was presented with the T. A. Stewart Memorial Award for Service to the Rose. His rose named **Let's Celebrate** was selected to signify The Rose Society of South Australia's Centenary Year in 2008.

The WFRS was well represented by Margaret Macgregor (past WFRS Vice-President), Ian Spriggs (WFRS Awards Committee Chairman) and Malcolm Watson (WFRS Executive Director) at the presentation of the WFRS Garden of Excellence Award to the Morwell Garden in November (refer to the separate report in World Rose News).

The Rose Society of South Australia hosted the presentation by Malcolm Watson of the WFRS Rose Award to Mr. Dean Stringer in August. WFRS Emeritus President David Ruston and WFRS Rose Award recipient, Walter Duncan, were also in attendance.

The David Ruston Sculpture Fundraising Committee continues to work hard with raffles and events including a marvelous weekend at Sue and John Zwar's garden in the South East of South Australia. On this occasion, David, helped by protégé Danny Hoffman, made floral arrangements within the garden; in addition Kelvin Trimper and Peter Burton presented general talks on rose culture.

Thanks to a recently received grant of \$10,000 from the Government of South Australia, our fundraising total now stands at \$90,000 still \$10,000 short of our target. Donations are still being sought and can be made to: David Ruston Sculpture Appeal, C/- The Secretariat, P O Box 12, Renmark, South Australia, 5341 or to obtain further information email: davidrustonsculpture@riverland.net.au

The sculpture has been commissioned and hopefully will be completed for unveiling on 16th October, 2010 to coincide with the Renmark Rose Festival.

Finally, Australia will have over 50 registrants attending the International Regional Convention in China and we all look forward to a wonderful event and renewing acquaintances with our many rosarian friends from throughout the world.

Australasia - Roses in New Zealand By Hayden Foulds (on behalf of Peter Elliott)

November is rose month in New Zealand with roses beginning to bloom throughout the country. It is also a busy month for rose enthusiasts with numerous rose shows and displays held by many of the 35 district rose societies around New Zealand, a national spring show and convention, two rose trials and other events held around the country.

2009 was no different, although the spring weather created a few challenges along the way. From October onwards, day after day presented itself with cold, wet and windy weather over much of the country. It was hardly great rose-growing weather and the roses were running a week or two late over much of NZ. Despite this, the quality of blooms exhibited was of a very high standard and many thanks must go to the exhibitors who put a lot of time and effort into preparing and showing their blooms.



The National Spring Rose Show and Convention was held in Hamilton in mid November, in conjunction with the Pacific Rose Bowl Festival. Hamilton hosted the very first WFRS World Convention in 1971 and is widely regarded as one of New Zealand's rose cities. The Waikato Rose Society, probably the strongest rose society in New Zealand, were hosts and provided a memorable weekend for all those that attended. It was also a privilege to have the President of the National Rose Society of Australia, Glynis Hayne and her husband Doug in attendance for the weekend. They were very impressed with our show and I think they might have picked up a few ideas to try on the other side of the Tasman.

Onto the show itself, which filled the Hamilton Gardens Pavilion with an array of colours, forms and fragrances. The theme of the show was 'Rosa Pacifica' and many of the special classes had themes based on the countries of the Pacific Rim including Australia, Japan and the United States. There were some very interesting and creative entries in these classes, which are very popular with the public at the shows.

In the more traditional classes, there was a good spread of entries from exhibitors all over New Zealand. It is also good to see many New Zealand bred roses appearing on the show bench including **Millennium** (Gralove), **Sky Tower** (Somskywer), **Mikayla Paige** (Flimika), **Reflections** (Simref) and **Sir Tristram** (Attbright).



Auckland Metro



Kaikoura

Champion of Champions in the large roses was won by Marie Ryan from the Matamata Rose Society with a full open bloom of **Auckland Metro** (Macbucpal), while in the miniature type roses, the champion of champions award was won by Janice Walker from the Northland Rose Society with a large stem of **Kaikoura** (Macwalla). A full list of the champion blooms and photos can be found on the New Zealand Rose Society's website at www.nzroses.org.nz.

Hamilton is also home to the Roger's Rose Garden, a WFRS Garden of Excellence winner, and this is where the Pacific Rose Bowl Festival is held. This year, the festival had a Japanese theme and so there was Japanese entertainment for the five days of the festival plus tours of the rose gardens, an interschool rose competition and experts on hand from the Waikato Rose Society. The public are also involved through voting for the New Zealand Rose of the Year, a trial run by the Rose Introducers of New Zealand. Over 1500 members of the public voted and once the invited guests judge on the last day, the scores are tallied and the results announced.



Rogers Rose Garden, Hamilton



Sir Tristram



Beach Baby



Candy Kisses



My Girl



Hayley Westenra

Local rose breeder Brian Attfeld was a very deserving and popular winner of the 2009 New Zealand Rose of the Year with his red Hybrid Tea **Sir Tristram** (Attbright), which is named after a very successful and locally bred racing horse. It also won the best Hybrid Tea award.

New Zealand breeders also had success with all but one of the other awards presented. David Benny won the award for best floribunda/shrub rose with **Beach Baby** (Cambabe), a low growing apricot orange floribunda while Doug Grant won best climber with **Candy Kisses** (Graemma) with clusters of pink blooms. Sam McGredy won the Children's Choice Award for **My Girl** (Macnijmeg), a lavender pink Hybrid Tea. Local school children visit the gardens during the festival and vote for their favourite rose on trial. The other award presented, for the most fragrant rose, was won by Tantau of Germany with **Hayley Westenra** (Tanguste), an apricot pink HT named for one of New Zealand's brightest singing stars.



McGredy Garden, near Hastings

A special event also held in November was the opening of the McGredy Garden just out of Hastings in the Hawke's Bay region. For the last two years, Georgina Campbell, a heritage rose enthusiast has been building up a collection of roses bred by the McGredy rose breeding dynasty so they are preserved for future generations. With the support and encouragement of Dr Sam McGredy, she already has 160 growing of the

estimated 600 varieties that the McGredy family has created and is determined to add to the collection.

At the opening, Dr Sam McGredy accompanied by his wife Jillian and daughter Maria spoke warmly of the project saying “No where else in the world to my knowledge, is there such a collection of roses, this is a world first. We all love when our families come together; this is how I feel about this garden. My roses are like my children.”

Georgina’s garden, which also contains over 2000 varieties mostly of old fashioned roses mixed with other garden plants, is open to visitors by appointment.

After a busy November, the final event of the rose year for 2009 was the presentation of awards at the New Zealand Rose Society trials held at the Dugald Mackenzie Rose Gardens, a WFRS Garden of



Excellence in Palmerston North. This was the 40th year of the trials operating, since the first plantings were made in 1969, which makes it the oldest trial grounds in the southern hemisphere.

2009 saw the first ever clean sweep of awards on offer by one breeder with Rob Somerfield of Glenavon Roses in Tauranga winning all three awards. The premier award of the trials, the Gold Star of the South Pacific, went to **Love Heart** (Somsirwith), a medium red Hybrid Tea of medium to tall height. Unfortunately, there was no fragrance with this one. This was Rob’s fourth Gold Star in the last five years and confirms his status as New Zealand’s leading rose breeder.



Creme de la Creme



Picotee

There were also two Certificates of Merits presented. **Crème de la Crème** (Somwarcent) is a usual coffee cream coloured Hybrid Tea with an alluring fragrance. It also won the June Hocking Fragrance Award presented for the most fragrant rose on trial. **Picotée** (Somcarpaint) was the other winner in the trials. It is a patio rose with 'hand painted' blooms of pink and white.

The New Zealand Rose Society has had a busy and challenging 2009. In March, the Canterbury Rose Society created a display at the Ellerslie International Flower Show in Christchurch which was very well received by the 90,000 people who attended.

Our new website (www.nzroses.org.nz) was launched in April and has brought the society well and truly into the 21st century with a range of features to better communicate our passion for the rose with members and the public. People can join the society online and we have had several new members join this way. Overseas rosarians are invited to join for \$NZ40. Check it out in 2010 as it is updated on a regular basis and some new features are planned

Also in April, the winner of the Frank Penn Award for services to a district rose society was announced. The winner was Mrs Olwyn Hill from the South Canterbury Rose Society who sadly passed away not long after the award was presented to her, but she did feel very honoured and privileged to receive it.

In June, a contingent of New Zealand rosarians travelled to Canada for the World Convention in Vancouver. We all had a fantastic time and enjoyed visiting many great gardens and the rose show, plus meeting old friends and making new ones from all around the rose world.

All photos, Hayden Foulds



During the year, the New Zealand Rose Society has also been involved with rose related features in the Weekend Gardener magazine, a nationwide gardening magazine which has given the rose and the society free and positive publicity at no cost to the society. 2009 features have included growing roses without spraying, new roses for 2009, climbing roses and results of the New Zealand Rose of the Year competition.

In 2010, we have two national shows and conventions to look forward to and both are in the South Island. The autumn show and convention will be held in Greymouth, on the very scenic west coast from March 5 – 7 and the spring show and convention in Timaru from November 26 -28.

Vice President (Central Asia - Pakistan, India, Bangladesh)
Mian Zafar Iqbal

During the past few months my activities have been limited due to sickness. I underwent Angioplasty in 1997 and once again had the same trouble, was hospitalised for Angioplasty again last October.

I visited Abu Dhabi as well as Dubai in the hope of establishing Rose societies there; I have been trying to do so for many years and have held several meetings with high-ranking officials involved in horticulture in United Arab Emirates. One of our society's rosarian friends has migrated to UAE and hopefully we will be able to establish a rose society there.

I sent one of our rosarians to Bangladesh with a view to revive their society. He met several people working in horticulture and held discussions about organising rose culture. We hope this time there will be a good response from Bangladesh rosarians.

In Pakistan normal horticulture activities are taking place, such as rose budding instruction and demonstrations and lectures in September. The Pakistan National Rose Society held an Autumn Rose show in mid-November and now it is pruning season. In January the election for executive member council was held.

Vice-President (Europe – Denmark, Finland, Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Norway, Sweden)
Mrs. Ann Bird

Firstly, may I extend greetings and good wishes for 2010 to rosarian friends around the world, and record my grateful thanks to all who have given me so much support during my four-year Presidency of the Royal National Rose Society – it was greatly appreciated. To be nominated as a WFRS Vice-President was a totally unexpected honour, and although not able to take part in the whole of the Vancouver convention because of prior commitments in the UK I did attend the inauguration of our new President, and also the introduction of the new Vice-Presidents. What a wonderful evening that was.

Whilst still President of the RNRS I knew it would be difficult initially to fully devote the time to expand on my new role, as it seemed all my waking hours were taken up with the trials and tribulations of the Society, but I did immediately contact the countries under my remit to let them know I would be looking after them to the best of my ability under the circumstances. I finally stood down as RNRS President two months ago, and handed over to Mr Rod Petty, whose excellent business acumen will be of great benefit to the Society, I am sure. I now feel able to look forward to my new role in the WFRS, and plans are already in place for a trip to an event in Gothenburg in July to enjoy meeting new and old friends.



In the summer of 2009 I was lucky enough to attend two events representing the WFRS – the first being to the Belfast International Rose Trials in Northern Ireland, where I had the honour of being Chairman of the Judges at Lady Dixon Park. As always, the roses there were magnificent, despite an unexpected deluge of torrential rain, thunder and lightning, which sent everyone dashing for cover. In the evening, a Civic Dinner hosted by the Deputy Lord Mayor of Belfast rounded off a most enjoyable day. However, it was the public garden we visited the following morning, Greenmount, some 20 miles north of Belfast near Antrim, which left a lasting impression. Spectacular roses in bush form, climbers, ground cover, all in full bloom were a sight to behold. Another part of the garden was devoted to many different types of plants, all wonderfully healthy and well cared for; what a treasure.

The second event was my usual trip to the Glasgow International Rose Trials at Tollcross Park where I had been a member of the final judging team for the past twenty years. I had always been impressed by the quality and care of the roses, which I felt should be recognised, so decided 18 months ago to put forward this garden for a WFRS “Award of Garden Excellence”, and was privileged to be present at the Vancouver

Convention when the results were announced and Tollcross was declared a winner. Everyone concerned with the garden was overjoyed, from the garden staff and the Land Services Department to the Lord Provost of the City of Glasgow himself. I had the great pleasure of presenting a citation to the Lord Provost at a celebratory dinner, with an indoor fireworks display thrown in for good measure! When the plaque itself is ready there will be another celebration as it is placed in a prominent situation at Tollcross Park, definitely something to look forward to this year.

In closing, I quote a couple of sentences from a speech I made at the Civic Lunch in Glasgow City Chambers following the Rose Trials -

“ I cannot imagine there is anyone here who did not know, or had heard of, Dick Balfour, ‘Mr Rose’ himself, President Emeritus of the World Federation of Rose Societies, and a great dancer. My baptism of fire in this respect was in the Kibble Palace here in Glasgow many years ago. Dick died on his 93rd birthday in February this year, and I cannot help but think how he would love to have been here today, in these magnificent surroundings, amongst his rose friends.”

The link of friendship with rosarians around the world was one of Dick’s greatest pleasures, and long may it continue for us.

**Vice President (Europe – Austria, Czech Republic, Greece, Israel, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia)
Dr. Stefan Wagner**

In the zone of Central and Eastern Europe, after the Convention in June 2009, there is not too much to report. However, having discussions with our Hungarian friends, we got good news concerning of the establishing in the near future, of a new rose garden in the city of Kecskemét. The municipality is giving the land and the facilities and personnel for management and caring, the rosarians have to provide the know-how. I think that this will be interesting and we have had a few discussions about how to make this garden. The plans are ready, and they have yet to get the plants. They have been informed that Romania can provide a few varieties for the new garden.

As I heard at Vancouver, there is bad news regarding the Polish Rose Society: they declared that they cannot remain active, but nobody will telling us what the problem is; if we knew why we might be able to provide some help from abroad. Probably they no longer have the leadership that is needed to request members to do what is needed. It is sad that I have not been able to make contact with them because they do not answer to mail.

Mr. Vremec, Mrs. Breda Copi and Stefan Wagner



Newly established rose garden beds



In last September I made a very short trip to Venice, Trieste (Italy) and Koper, (Slovenia) being accompanied by Mr. Vladimir Vremec, a landscape architect and a supporter of the Italian and Slovenian Rose Society, playing a main role in the activities of both societies. In Trieste we saw a nice new rose garden established by Mr. Vremec, having some hundreds of varieties, in the courtyard of a hospital, and having a good sponsor. In Koper, the President of the Slovenian RS, Mrs. Breda Copi, was with us, showing a few roses in the public parks, but the varieties were very new ones,



Gravel used as mulch

mainly ground covers, being resistant to ambient conditions. Here I observed them using gravel as mulching material - not some organic material but gravel!!! When I expressed my surprise about that, the comment was: "gravel is not blown away by the strong winds on the sea-shore. I had to accept that, but I can tell you that I have never seen in the entire world such a mulching material. Nevertheless, the method works efficiently; I could not find any weeds.

In the Romanian RS there was a significant increase in the membership in the last year. In only one year we gained 400 new members. Perhaps this is partly co-incidental, but we developed a new website, giving a lot of information about our activities and I think that this helped also.

Now we are preparing to participate in the China Rose Conference in April-May 2010 and I can tell you that there are 30 people who are waiting for the departure day. I do hope that this trip will be as good as others, organised in the last four years (Japan, South-Africa, Australia, Canada)!

Vice-President (Europe – Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland)
Maurice Jay, Saint Usage, France

Our last meeting in Vancouver was like yesterday, a very short time. Nevertheless some activities took place during these last six months.

Belgium celebrated magnificently the anniversary of the birth of Pierre-Joseph Redouté in his natal city of St Hubert. It was a good opportunity to remember the fabulous works of this flower painter; he worked in different places in Europe and specially in Paris where his main sponsors lived; he had a particular passion for roses. The WFRS President Sheenagh. Harris and the South Europe V.P. M. Jay participated in this ceremony and spoke at this event. The Royal Belgium Rose Society organised around this anniversary a two-day exhibition of roses with a rose show, and various other activities. A delegation of the Grand Duché Luxembuorg Rose Society was present at this ceremony; they were present to express their admiration for the great painter P.J. Redouté.



In September 2009, as usual, the international rose trial in Le Roeulx (Belgium) took place; a nice morning, just before the rain, allowed the jury of the day to make notes on 54 varieties; the work was made easier thanks to the quality of bushes which had received particular care during a summer season excessively high in temperature and very poor in rainfall for the year in south Europe. For the proclamation of the results, a large rose community (about 200 people) had come from almost all rose societies of south Europe, and the United Kingdom.

Concerning the 2015 world convention, the announcement in Vancouver awarding the conference to France and Lyon City as organisers, was appreciated and gave a great deal of gladness and respect, gladness that this choice showed the confidence of the WFRS members and respect for the engagement to welcome all the national rose societies in the best conditions. The preparation of this event is beginning with the

main three players: Société Française des Roses, Roses Anciennes en France and the City of Lyon. Some good news was already revealed, showing that France and Lyon were ready to honour, on this occasion, the position won in the rose world by their breeders during the 18th and 19th centuries.

The last point of the report is about the Vice-President of Europe, Maurice Jay, who was elected President of the Société Française des Roses in July 2009; he replaces Robert Catterini, who is not continuing due to serious illness. I sincerely thank all of you who have sent me very kind encouragements for this new responsibility.

**Vice-President (Far East – China, Japan)
Mr. Takamasa Tsuge**

Two Plaques of “Garden Excellence” 2009 came to our region.

Photos Mr. Tsuge



On 1st November, the Awarding Ceremony of the Plaque of “Garden Excellence” to the Renmin Park Rose Gardens in Shenzhen, China took place at the Shenzhen International and Flower Expo Park. Actually, it is the first prize that came to a rose garden in China. The plaque was presented to Mr. Wang Hui, the Director of the Renmin Park, from Dr. Gerald Meylan with the attendance of Mr. Lu Rufeng, Vice Mayor of the city of Shenzhen, Mr. Zhang Zuoshuang, the President of China Rose Society. Thousands of people gathered in the park and celebrated the event on a beautiful autumn day.

Botanical Garden has received the Plaque of “Garden Excellence”.2009. Mr. Takamasa Tsuge



On 6th November, another awarded Rose Gardens in the Tokyo Metropolitan Jindai Gardens in the Tokyo Metropolitan Jindai Botanical Garden has received the Plaque of “Garden Excellence”.2009. Mr. Takamasa Tsuge handed over the Plaque to Mr. Keiji Ito, the director of TMJBG. The official awarding ceremony is scheduled on 30th May, 2010 and Mr. Gerald Meylan will be in attendance.

The first organising committee for the WFRS 12th International Heritage Rose Conference 2011 in Sakura, Japan was held in Tokyo in September.

Convenor : Mr. Katsuhiko Maebara
President of Rose Culture Institute
(Associate Member)
maebara@heritageroses.jp

and put on the website.

The details should be finalized by March 2010,

The Awards Ceremony for The 9th Gifu International Rose Competition was held at Flower Festival Commemorative Park in Gifu in October.

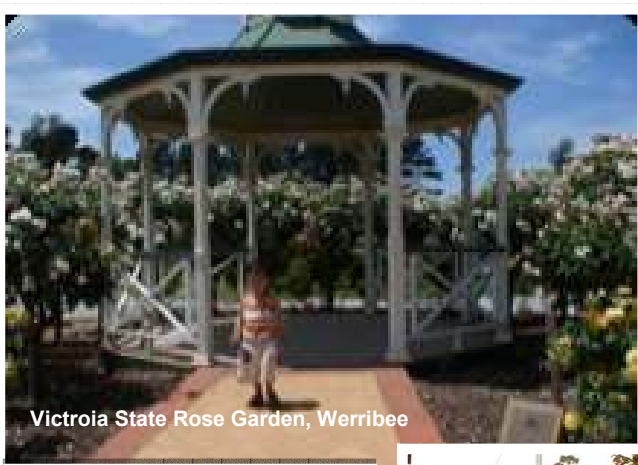
WFRS’s “Certificate of Merit” went to the Gold Medal awarded

Kobeni (S)

Breeder: Mr. Shunsuke Takeuchi

**Vice-President (North America – Canada)
Patrick White**

This will be an informal report, much like the one I sent to Canadian Rose Society members this month. I felt I needed to communicate with the CRS members at least in my own part of Canada (the west coast) to indicate to them that we of the board are working on the viability/survival of the Society. I myself am embarking on a task of introducing interactive portals to the society website, so that information may be obtained that would attract or encourage potential members to subscribe to CRS, as well as keeping our members “in the pipeline”. Specifically we are looking at an ‘Open Source’ approach to website maintenance, such as Joomla”. We feel we must achieve this or fall by the wayside. Publications in hard copy will, after this year, be difficult for us to undertake, if only due to cost.



Ceramic tile labeling and mulch



In view of the fact that most Canadian rose gardens are this season in dormancy I want to show what I encountered in November. I just returned from Down Under, hitting the prime of the first flush of roses. With unusual spring temperatures of 38-40 degrees Celsius the blooms were incredible.

Interestingly, the gardens are ROSE gardens, with little in the way of companion planting, the antithesis of what I do in my garden. There is a consistent use of mulch in all the beds, and the cultivars are well labelled.

(See ceramic tile above, photographed at the Victoria State Garden at Werribee). I attended the Victorian rose show in a suburb of Melbourne, and the presentation of the Award of Excellence for the Morwell Centenary Rose Garden in the eastern part of the state, and the State Rose Garden shown in the photos, west of Melbourne. My contact from the June Vancouver meeting was Veronica O'Brien of Werribee who generously enabled me to network. I saw large gardens maintained totally by volunteers, and funded by

the municipality. I touched bases with a web designer, a rosarian, from whom I can but learn. This is the point of including in this report my experiences in Australia. With the direct help of someone I met at the Vancouver meeting I was able to see so much more in the way of rose activities in that part of the globe.

There is a WORLD of experience for any who care to use the networking potential of this world organisation. It is there for you.

Closer to home we have reached an impasse with hard-copy publications for the CRS. We simply cannot afford to produce them. From my understanding, even the ARS (American Rose Society) has been obliged to think along these lines. Electronic communication is the only option. We hope to consolidate this new direction over the winter months, to have some impact before the next growing season.

In the meantime, the “Société des roses du Quebec Rose Society” is planning a great celebration for its 20th anniversary June 18-20, 2010. Check out their web-site, or contact me re putting you in contact with the appropriate people. The Quebec Rose Society is determined to have a good show. The CRS national classes will be included in this event.

Here in Victoria there has been a ceremonial planting of an **Emily Carr** rose at the site of this famous Canadian artist's grave in Victoria. I actually got to plant it, and say a few words, to the gathered people to the effect that both the artist's fame and the own-root rose will endure!

The Vancouver Rose Society is recovering from the cost of the Festival held during the WFRS meeting. Losses from the Festival have been offset by the Convention financial picture, a commendable state of affairs.

A note from Nilda Crivelli, WFRS vice-president for South America: Ten members from Argentina are confirmed to attend the regional WFRS meeting in China April next. Will Canada do as well?

Closer to home, (the west coast of Canada) in this month we continue to work in our gardens, dividing and moving roses and companion plants, pruning the loose canes to protect the bushes from winter wind damage...between Arctic outflows of weather! There have been two so far this autumn, interesting weather for all.

The roses sleep for 6 weeks and the skier in me celebrates.

**Vice-President (North America – Bermuda, USA)
Steve Jones, Valencia, CA, USA**

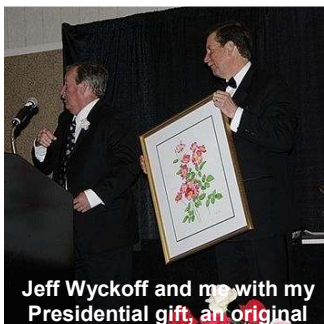


The Scottsdale trophy done by Kitty Belendez, all Austins

As 2009 comes to a close, the roses are put away for the winter in the north and still blooming here in the south of California. After the very successful WFRS Convention Vancouver, Canada, the next event was the American Rose Society (ARS) Fall Convention in Palm Springs, California. The convention was one of our largest in several years with over 400 people attending and over 100 exhibitors. The roses were fabulous and there were over 200 arrangements alone and they were excellent. Lynn Snetsinger of Arcadia, California won the coveted McFarland Trophy, seven different hybrid tea roses in separate vases, not an easy feat.

Kitty Belendez won quite a few trophies including the District McFarland and several other district trophies. I was very impressed with her bouquet of English Roses in the Scottsdale Trophy. The trophies were spread around several exhibitors. Satish & Vijaya Prahbu won the Pacific and Kirk Trophies, Tommy Cairns and Luis Desamero won the Warwick, Lawton, Moore, Williams, plus several district trophies. The arrangement trophies were also spread out among the arrangers including Lauren Toth, Sue Diller, Brenda Smith, Marcia Walsh, and Barbara Schneider. Kathy Strong won the Garden Web Trophy with a great spray of **Rhapsody In Blue**

The convention also marked the triennial changing of the guard as I completed my three year term as ARS President, and Vice President/President Elect Jeff Wyckoff took over the reins at the conclusion of the convention. Jolene Adams of Haywood, California was sworn in as the next Vice-President and will take over from Jeff in 2012, just before the WFRS Convention in South Africa.



Jeff Wyckoff and me with my Presidential gift, an original watercolor by Louise Estes of Dorothy Rose, a rose I hybridized

I was pleased to present the ARS Gold Medal, the highest award given to an ARS member, to Jack Walter of Grand Saline, Texas. Jack has been an ARS member for over 60 years and is a staple at ARS Headquarters in Shreveport, Louisiana, about a two hour drive. Jack was actively involved in the test gardens and American Rose Center committees. Jack may be better known as the owner of Kimbrew-Walters Nursery. It was an award well deserved.

Other awards included the Glenda Whitaker Membership Annual and Triennial Awards to winners Charles Lott and Bill DeVor; the AARS Garden Award to Golden Gate Park (awarded by Tom Carruth); the David Fuerstenberg Award for best American rose to Jackson & Perkins and Keith Zary

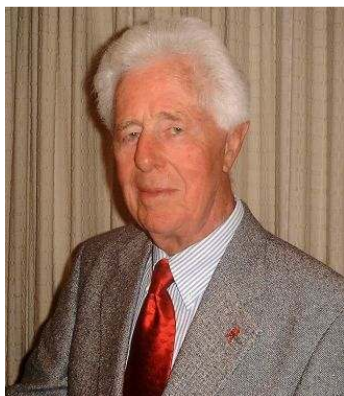
for **Veterans' Honor**; the Member's Choice Award for the top rated rose by ARS members to Weeks Roses and Tom Carruth for **Julia Child**; the Blake Hedrick Award for exceptional exhibitor ethics and mentoring to Donna & John Hefner; and the presentation of the ARS Klima Awards to Bob Martin and Andy Plasz, our co-winners.

The garden tours were of member's homes and featured Cliff Orent's home and nursery, EuroDesert Roses. Cliff has over 5000 roses of 3800 varieties. He grows all types of roses but specialises in polyanthas and rare roses imported from Europe.

The next ARS convention will be in Shreveport, Louisiana at the ARS Headquarters in April 2010. The date unfortunately coincides with the WFRS Convention in Changzhou, China, which Susie and I plan to attend.

Vice-President (Africa – South Africa)
Alan Tew, Knysna, South Africa

Towards the end of any year there are always exchanges of greetings between affiliates within specific groupings wishing each other well through the year to come. Being new to the international rose fraternity I have been struck with the quality and sincerity of these Rosarian exchanges. We of Africa are grateful: Thank you.



Vancouver remains a high point of the year now ended and the delegates from South Africa were impressed with the standards achieved by our North American friends. ROSAFRICA 2012, the World Convention scheduled for 10 – 18 October 2012 and centred on Sandton that lies between Johannesburg and Pretoria, is well down the planning road. There will be some truly spectacular displays of massed roses in gardens, extensive conversations with local rose breeders and many opportunities for discussion around presentations on topics of

growing interest to Rosarians world-wide. And of course, Africa itself is just wonderful!

October is the spring month in South Africa when roses are really at their best and perhaps it is true that Rosarians themselves at this time are at their most constructive best. Anyway, at the AGM of the Federation of Rose Societies of South Africa, or ROSA for short held in October, the members tackled a revision of the Constitution. After considerable discussion the revision was accepted so we can now concentrate on enjoying our roses and participating in rose events planned for the near future.

A select group from South Africa is all set to be at the Regional Convention being held at Changzhou in China at the end of April 2010 and another group is considering plans to be at the 12th International Heritage Rose Conference in Sakura, Japan at the end of May 2011.

In between these major events the next South African National Rose Convention is being held from 21st to 24th October 2010 in Knysna, a very attractive coastal town midway along the well known Garden Route. The headline for our convention is "Garden Route Roses 2010". Plans for this are

well advanced and as the Rose Society in Knysna is very much my baby, my personal commitment to its success is guaranteed.

This said, weather in South Africa is giving farmers and gardeners difficulties specifically because rainfall is turning out to be much less than expected. More important for the economy is a growing inadequacy of water storage to handle expanding economic and basic human needs. Hard decisions need to be taken and full commitment given to their urgent implementation.

Finally I could mention the problem that for sure is not ours alone. In South Africa we are not increasing in numbers of societies or in individual members of societies so that the base nation-wide representation in ROSA, is hardly as might be expected to indicate a universal love of the rose. The challenge is with the local or regional rose society, to be attractive as an encouraging group of people with a common wish to enjoy roses and each other. If we fail in this, private or personal rose growing could become a mystique that only gives pleasure to the fully initiated rose technicians among us. It is my aim to encourage the joy of rose growing among ordinary gardeners for whom practical simplicity is the key. And it does work!!

Vice-President (South America – Argentina, Chile, Uruguay)
Mrs. Nilda Crivelli

July: Activities were suspended because of Influenza

August: A report was written about the Convention in Vancouver, which was published in our Annual (November 2009).

At the General Annual Meeting of our Association, on August 20, Mrs Nilda Crivelli was again elected President (2009-2012)

September 17: At the monthly meeting, Mrs. Crivelli gave a talk about the Convention in Vancouver, including the visits to the gardens in the City and Vancouver Island.

October 27: Asociación Argentina de Rosicultura Rose Show.

November 4: Judging at the Rose Society of Uruguay Rose Show. I took the opportunity to talk to some members about going to China.

November 6: Buenos Aires New Roses Contest. Judging.

November 8: Rose Show in Mar del Plata City, our latest branch. Mrs. Nilda Crivelli was again invited for Classification and also gave a talk as WFRS Vice-President, about the Convention and the activities of the different Committees.

During these months, attempts were made to contact the President of the Asociación de la Rosa de Chile, but without success. Thanks to María Isa, we are now in contact with their Secretary and she has just send us a mailing address so that the Convention programme for China could be sent to all members. In Vancouver, Maria Isa had asked us to wait until the end of the year, to be able to finish successfully the dialogue with Peru about becoming a member of the WFRS. Unfortunately, this was not possible.

Up to this moment there will be 10 participants from Argentina attending the convention in China.

Associate Member Reports

Association Friends of Roses in Sant Feliu de Llobregat - Spain



Palau Falguera, headquarters of the National Exhibition of Roses

First of all, I would like to thank our president's kind invitation to write this article for the internationally printed magazine World Rose News. Given that our English is truly limited, we believe we were requested to explain what our organisation actually is and does.

It is difficult to explain who we are without referring to the rose tradition linked to our city, Sant Feliu de Llobregat, and of course to Pere Dot (1885-1997). Pere Dot was born in the Torreblanca estate, owned by the marquis of Monistrol, who introduced new methods of cropping in his lands especially in his Torreblanca estate, situated on the border with

Sant Feliu. Pere Dot's father, Simó Dot i Camalias, was a gardener there in charge of designing and transforming it by introducing new and innovative techniques of cropping. He also created a huge garden including a small rose garden. Therefore, Pere Dot was traditionally related to rose gardening and innovation from a very young age. When he was sixteen, he worked with one of the first rose hybridisers in Spain, Joaquim Aldrufeu. Later, during a trip to Paris and Belgium aimed to widen his education, he found the book by Cochet-Cochet i S. Mottet "Les Rosiers". Apparently this finding inspired him to devote his life to roses, and so he established his crops in Sant Feliu.

At the age of 20, Pere Dot offered his first Exhibition (1928) through a local association with progressive tendencies, and later the Republican city council kept on holding these exhibitions every year.

In 1931 the first Catalan entity devoted to roses was founded: "Friends of the Roses", after which we

take our entity's name. At that time love for roses was increasing in Catalonia, but the Spanish Civil War cut it short. Catalonia's defeat on the Republican camp brought bitter consequences for the country and obviously also cut short the love for roses for a long period of time.

During war times Sant Feliu got its name changed to Roses of the Llobregat, following a proposal by the antifascist citizens.

During those years, and despite having his children on the front, Pere Dot kept on working tirelessly. Just after the end of the war he



Torreblanca planting by the people in the park

offered the world one of his innovations achieved by following one of his research lines on the **Rosa chinensis minima** (Lawrenciana). In the years that followed, repression, silence and sadness dominated the country. Pere, though sympathetic to Catalonia and the Republican ideals, was not politically active, that is why he was never bothered. Still the victors forgot him, so he was funnily ignored in his own country but renowned worldwide.

In the fifties, the local government was entered by a more moderate person sensitive towards his work and the city's rose tradition, so roses exhibitions were recovered.

But Pere Dot was not the only rose breeder in Sant Feliu and its region. Llorenç Pahissa was another great rose lover and hybridizer from our city, and Cebrià Camprubí, Mata de Bassó, J. Bordás, the Munnés, and Pedrosa and F. Bofill and their company Roses Torreblanca, founded in 1949, were in the surrounding cities. Most of the rose breeders and hybridisers from our Sant Feliu, thanks to its recovered Exhibition, became the capital of roses both in Catalonia and Spain. In the 50's the Exhibition became known locally and nationally thanks to the institutional support it received as well as to the presence of professionals on the field.

These internationally-renowned professionals attended the Exhibition, which was declared National in 1957, to introduce their new varieties. In Sant Feliu love for roses kept on growing and a great amount of enthusiasts took part in several contests related to roses.

In the 70's both the city and the region underwent a vast urban development and the Dot family had to find new lands for their rose bushes. That is when the family separated into two branches. One moved to Cervelló and the other to Vilafranca del Penedès. The company Roses Torreblanca also shut down.

Then the Exhibition fell into decline. Many of the crops of rose enthusiasts disappeared and that affected the rose Exhibition negatively.

Once the Spanish dictatorship ended and the transition towards Democracy began, the Exhibition was not held for a couple of years. It was with the recovery of democratic liberties that the democratic city council promoted this project again.

Institutional support was the key to keep roses and the Exhibition in the city. In 1998, on the occasion of the Exhibition's 70th Anniversary and the 40th Anniversary of its Declaration as National, a Citizens Council for the Roses was created, in an attempt to promote it further. Besides many initiatives, it was decided to work on three future themes:

- To build a space in the city specially dedicated to roses.
- To find a definite location for the Rose Exhibition
- To achieve a higher involvement from citizens in the project.

These results were as follows:



Dot-Camprubí Construcció the Rose Garden

At the end of 1998 the rose gardens Dot i Camprubí started to be built by three workshops. Thanks to this project, students under the age of 25 learnt a trade while working. At the present time this project is still unfinished and we hope that we can soon enjoy this space of almost two hectares full of roses.

In 2005 the Exhibition was moved to the Falguera Palace, an ancient noble palace which now belongs to the city council and has a park of two hectares.

And finally in 2003 the Association Friends of the Roses in Sant Feliu de Llobregat was founded. Its goal is to

show the rose world and keep our city's rose breeding tradition. We chose Saint George's day as a symbolic foundation date, as it is a very popular festivity here during which the rose is the main motif. On this day men give a rose to their beloved women (wives, girlfriends, mothers...) and they give men back a book. More than 6 million roses are sold in Catalonia on that date, and the streets of towns and cities are crowded with people in the search of roses and books.

For our Association these have been years of hard work. Our first step was to find some land where our members could grow rose bushes. After the signing of an Agreement with the County Council (Public Administration) we managed to sort out this matter. By this agreement some land in the Torreblanca Park, nowadays a public property, was granted to the Association Friends of Roses. We now there take care of about 940 rose bushes, which belong to some 25 of our members, and we also collaborate with the maintenance and replacement of over 1100 more rose bushes.

Secondly, we intended to foster the rose bush cycle in the city. That is why in February we organise a mass planting to replace rose bushes in the Torreblanca Park. On Saint George's day we sell roses on the streets and we obviously participate in the National Exhibition of Roses, where on the one hand we take part in several rose contests as amateurs, and on the other hand, we organise a space devoted to a certain aspect related to roses.

We have an activity program throughout the year, including lectures and workshops about cropping, rose tradition and usage (pruning, grafting, Ikebana, flower art, new roses etc.).

On a media note, we regularly publish an internal leaflet named "Pétals de Roses" (Rose Petals) and we have a webpage on which we are currently working in order to





various workshops for children ENR

that the National Exhibition of Roses of Sant Feliu was declared Cultural Heritage in Catalonia. More than 20 local entities and about 800 people joined this campaign.

In November we created the award “Friends of Roses” in order to recognise the effort that people, organisations and media do to spread the knowledge of the rose in any way. This year, on the annual members dinner, this award was given to a well-known and popular TV program called “Espai terra” (“Land Spaces”) centered on Saint George’s roses. Its director collected the award himself.

This December we just launched our 2010



amateur competitions ENR

translate it into English and Spanish and to add new sites. We also have a project called the “Roses World” and we have more than 20 new collaborators just for it.

2009 has been a great year for us. In February we signed a Protocol of Collaboration with the WFRS and the AER. On the occasion of this event, both presidents paid us a compliment. At the Vancouver Convention we were admitted as associate members of the World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS).

In May we started a public campaign locally so



assembly inside the Palace Flower ENR

project “125th Anniversary of Pere Dot’s birth”. This project, though, should be dealt with in another article.

We now have about 80 members and we believe we will reach a 100 next year. Our Board of Directors is formed by 8 people with different levels of responsibilities and commitments. 50 % of our funding is public, and the rest comes from membership fees and other sources such as product sales and activities.

By Pilar López Rodríguez and Jaume García i Urpí, President and Vice-President of the Association Friends of Roses of Sant Feliu de Llobregat.

Associate Member – La Tacita - Italy Helga Brichet

For many years Giorgio Mece, a Roman fiscal consultant, harboured the dream of establishing a Country Club amongst the Sabine Hills, birthplace of the Emperor Vespasiano, just north of Rome, where he had a country home. Thus land was gradually acquired, vineyard and olive groves planted and cypress forests and vegetable gardens laid out.

An encounter with Gianpaolo Bonani, a psychologist, gardener and passionate rose lover, proved fatal. Bonani suggested a rose garden should be included within the spacious grounds of the Country Club, La Tacita, open to the public, near the ancient town of Roccantica. In his own words, Mr. Bonani says: "There is a new divine location for roses in the very centre of Italy. 60 km north of Rome in the heart of Sabina Region, Goddess *Vacuna* has requested a great garden dedicated exclusively to the cult of roses". Permission to construct the garden was granted, and thus in 2002 Bonani initiated the realisation of *Vacunae Rosae*, dedicated to *Vacuna*, the local Sabine goddess of fertility and peace. The design of the garden is based on symbolic and spiritual allegories, which he had gathered together from Roman and Renaissance traditions, and seen as the natural aesthetic counterpart to the exclusive nucleus of the Club. The views across the garden, from the entrance gates, along the perimeter and, above all, from the Club House, are impressive, over-looking the sunset on the Tiber River Valley.



Looking at the Country House from the bridge at the centre of the garden

The design, in the form of an angel's wing, covers almost two hectares of sloping ground with seven, curved stone walls, festooned by garlands of roses in chromatic schemes. The whole is surrounded by some 160 almond, pomegranate and tamarix trees, a high metal fence and more than 500 climbing roses. The main entrance leads to a small traditional Zen garden, while a rose labyrinth is situated towards the centre of the garden. Nine fountains on eight levels are colligated by water channels, a sight particularly impressive at night when illuminated by optic fibres.

Presently the garden contains some 4,500 varieties; wild and old roses as well as all the classes presently on the market and are planted in 133 sectors, each holding a group of homogeneous roses, showing the various families (centifolia, bourbon, muscosa, etc), the timeless geographical origins of the flower; the periods of creation and breeding since the 18th century until today; their colours and perfumes; the creation of several master breeders as well as curiosities such as winners of competitions; and the meaning and attribution of names and dedication to celebrities. Visiting groups are welcomed by appointment for the moment, and the whole project should be completed by 2010. Next to the rose garden an electronic documentation centre on roses will be developed.

From an architectural point of view, the garden's sections are identified by three physical and virtual design elements: the sloping of the the land, the waterways and the main wandering paths. The garden can be visited at one's own leisure, enjoying the panoramic stops and following the main itineraries which are divided by longitudinal and transversal lines of connection between the nine monumental coloured fountains, the view points and the stops.

The main entrance is located on the lowest north-west part of the territory, from where the visitor starts an intellectual ascent of five terraces towards the paradise garden, where the *Virgo* fountain waits. A secret oriental fountain, *Sirr*, will be reached descending to a well. The first step is the encounter with an unexpected oriental rock garden, *karesansui*, designed according to Zen traditions. The passage between one level and another is by stone steps. Access for disabled is available on each level.



The upper terraces of the garden and the fountain *Virgo* from the bridge that brings you out of the rose labarynth

The platform in the centre of the garden has a radius of 15 metres, which is where the labyrinth of roses is located and the main fountain-pool of the complex, named *Psyche*. The walls and terracing have been created with local stone. Painting of basins, fountains and avenues uses colours in tone with the landscape.

Each of the nine pool fountains incorporates a specific spiritual idea, evoking a symbolic meaning, through the shape of the containers, the elements and the falling and spurting of the water.

The passage of the water from pond to pond is allowed by small copper channels, giving the effect of the light running of water in an arabian garden. Each fountain is illuminated by a game of water and lights. The visual effect in the darkness is like the lights of a nomadic camp in an oasis in the desert, that can be suddenly lit up by an explosion of jets of water.



The Fountain *Virgo* seen from the outside path with a *Lijiang* climbing rose

In May, 2009 the first International Rose Trials, La Tacita, were staged in an area separate from that of the garden *Vacunae Rosae*, on a south-facing slope to the left of the Club House. Seventeen rose breeders from across Europe and the USA participated in this competition, aimed at showing the gardening public the best new varieties introduced onto the market over the previous five years.

Dr. and Mrs. Mece were delighted to host the occasion with a splendid lunch for their foreign and local guests, who had participated in the labours of the International Jury. The winning varieties were announced in the afternoon:

- Best Perfumed Rose – **Lavender Simplicity** Jackson & Perkins, USA.
- Best Groundcover – **Lemon Meidiland** (MEIfancy), Meilland International, France.
- Best Florifunda – **Occhi di Fata** (BAR5244), Rose Barni, Italy.

Best Hybrid Tea – **Bernadette Lafont** (SAUvachild), Roseraies Sauvageot, France.

Overall Winner – **Bernadette Lafont** (SAUvachild), Roseraies Sauvageot, France.

The second edition of these trials held at La Tacita are planned for 17th May, 2010, when the shrub and climbing varieties, which have been held over for an additional year, will also be in the running.

Good luck to all!

Associate Member - NPO Rose Culture Institute - Japan Katsuhiko Maebara

The Rose Culture Institute was established in 1995 by six rose enthusiasts, including the author. In 1996 Rose Garden Alba was opened in Sakura City to display 450 plants of 250 rose varieties, most of them species and old garden roses, donated by the late Mr. Seizo Suzuki, known to all the rose lovers in Japan as the Father of Roses. The aim of opening this small rose garden was to collect and preserve precious species and old garden roses, and to draw Japanese rose lovers' attention to the appeal and importance of these roses, with which even rose enthusiasts in Japan in those days, were not so familiar.

After opening this garden, it was presented with many roses from kind rosarian friends all over the world. The collection grew and soon came to have 800 plants of 500 different species and varieties. This small rose garden was highly appreciated by many rose lovers in Japan, and in spring rose seasons, when filled with sweet fragrance, attracted a large number of visitors, some from very remote cities and towns.



Kusabue-no-oka Rose Garden

As the collection of roses was enlarged, and the number of visitors increased, the small Rose Garden Alba found it impossible to fully attain its purposes. It was then proposed to the authorities in Sakura City, where the institute and the garden are located, that a new rose garden be opened in the city. In 2005, in co-operation with the city, the City of Sakura Rose Garden (also known as Kusabue-no-oka Rose Garden) was opened. All the rose plants in the Rose Garden Alba were donated to

this new garden, and were planted there with 800 newly obtained plants of 350 varieties, donations from rose loving friends in different countries of the world – France, Italy, USA, India, Germany, and Japan. The garden is still being expanded, and in March, 2010 is expected to cover an area of 3.2 acres and contain 2 500 plants of 1 050 different species and varieties.



R. multiflora Cathayensis

In January 2000, the institute was registered by Chiba Prefecture as a non-profit organisation and was renamed the NPO Rose Culture Institute. It is now made up of fourteen directors and eight consultants, and its work, from garden designing to public relations, is all carried out by a six member operating committee and forty registered volunteers. These volunteers, who work a total of 3 000 man-days a year, are credited with all the successful management of the rose garden. All through the year, excepting the five days at the end and the beginning of the year, some operating committee members and volunteers stay in the garden, taking care of the roses and dealing with the office work of the institute.

The articles of the institute define the business it is supposed to carry out as:

1. collecting and preserving species roses and important old garden roses;
2. researching and studying rose cultivation techniques;
3. collecting and publishing rose-related literature;
4. assuming the management of the rose garden;
5. giving courses on rose cultivation;
6. selling rose plants, rose-related books, and gardening tools;
7. lending out photos and other visual records of species roses and old garden roses;
8. planning and sponsoring rose related events.

In order to attain some of the business mentioned above, the institute



has opened a library in the garden, where it collects and preserves important rose related literature and other materials. At present the library has a large number of documents including the

9 000 items donated by the late Mr. Seizo Suzuki, and is continuing to enlarge its collection of important materials. In 2010, a new stack room is to be added to the library.



Volunteers



Volunteers

The members of the operating committee and volunteers, whose average age is about 60, are people with many different professional careers, such as a publishing company employee, a tennis coach, a company owner, a copywriter, a researcher at a chemical factory, a secretary, a computer graphic designer, a gardening consultant, a high school teacher, etc, etc. They make the most of their knowledge and experience in their work at the institute, and effectively carry out their tasks in the care of roses in the garden as well as in the management of the library, the planning and holding of courses, public relations activities, the publication of books and documents, etc.



From the 28th May to the 3rd June 2011, the WFRS 12th International Heritage Rose Conference will be held in Sakura City. For this important rose event, an operating committee has been organised, whose members are mostly from the institute. The preparations for the conference are now proceeding smoothly. It is a great honour for the institute members, lovers of species and old garden roses, to be able to hold an international heritage rose conference in Japan. This conference, sponsored, self-planned and self-staged by many volunteers, and held in the small historic city of Sakura in a provincial region of Japan, will turn out to be a most memorable rose event for all guests from abroad. Obtaining the help of ideal lecturers from different countries is very fortunate. Everyone involved is looking forward to welcoming you to Sakura, and showing you the fruit of their efforts, the City of Sakura Rose Garden (Kusabue-no-oka Rose Garden). For detailed information on this conference, please visit the following website: www.heritageroses.jp/conference-sakura2011/

The rose garden is located in Sakura, Chiba Prefecture, about 40km to the east of Tokyo and 15km to the west of Narita International Airport. From the airport, you can come to Sakura station in about 20 minutes by taking a Keisei Line train for Tokyo. From Tokyo, a train for Narita Airport will take you to the city in an hour. From the station you can get to the rose garden in five minutes by taxi. For further information on this garden, please visit the website: <http://www.heritageroses.jp/>

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[The author is very grateful to Mrs. Sheenagh Harris, Mr. Malcolm Watson and Mr. David Ruston, who encouraged him to write an article on the NPO Rose Culture Institute for the World Rose News.]

REGIONAL CONVENTION, CHANGZHOU, CHINA
28 APRIL – 1 MAY 2010
Dr Gérald Meylan, Convention Convenor

For the first time in the history of the WFRS, a regional convention will be held in China. It is both a privilege and a pleasure for rosarian friends to gather together in this vast country, where numerous botanical roses can be found, many of which are at the origin of our modern roses.

The organising committee, under the chairmanship of Mr ZHU Weiping, Director of Changzhou Municipal Gardening and Greening Management Bureau, is doing its utmost to ensure the success of this convention. Thanks to the substantial support of the Municipality of Changzhou, along with the excellent collaboration of the Chinese Rose Society, the programme promises to be outstanding. We will have the opportunity to learn about Chinese traditions, appreciate the art of hospitality of rosarians

from this country, visit beautiful gardens, listen to interesting lectures, take part in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, attend a high-class show, all of this whilst staying at a five-star hotel in Changzhou.

The detailed program can be found on the website of the WFRS (www.worldrose.org) and I encourage you to take part in this wonderful experience and discover a part of this huge country. You also have the possibility of registering for the Post Conference Tour, which includes either a visit to Shanghai where the World Expo will be taking place, or Beijing for a visit to the Forbidden City, the Great Wall and other places of interest.

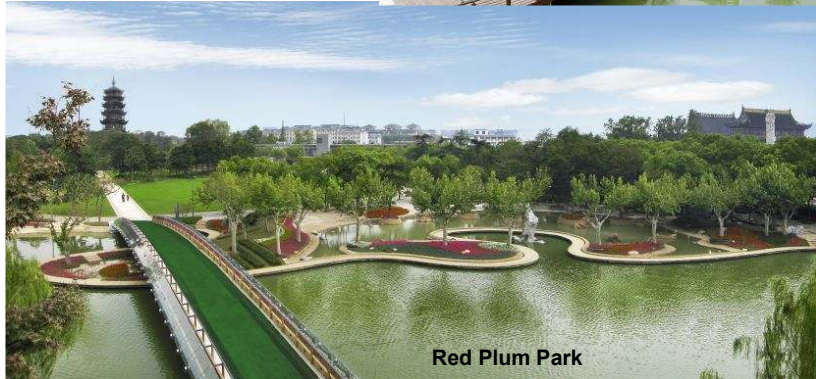
Several national societies have expressed a keen interest and are in the process of organising a trip



Dongpo Park – photos Gerald Meylan



Red Plum Park



Red Plum Park

to China: Australia, France, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Romania, Switzerland, Uruguay and USA.

Our president, Sheenagh Harris, is looking forward to meeting many of you in Changzhou on this occasion and sharing moments of friendship together in the name of the rose.

I am at your entire disposal if you have any questions or if you need any further information and I also look forward to seeing you very soon in China (contact details on the WFRS website).

St Hubert: an international Rose Salon for Redouté
Ingrid Verdegem
Photos, except for the Steeple Rose, by Sheenagh Harris

When you love roses dearly, as we all do, you want to share your passion with as many people as possible. At one end of the spectrum you will be showering friends and neighbours with cuttings, and at the other end, there is the true desire to see the industry flourish and bring the joy of roses to gardens and dinner tables alike. It was in this vein that Mr. Georges van Oost, the father of Baroness Lily de Gerlache, founded the Belgian Rose Society (1924), a charity that had as one of its goals to give an economic stimulus to the rose industry of the perilous nineteen thirties. One tradition the Baroness carried with her through all the years of her presidency was the organisation of International Rose Salons to present roses new and old and their growers to a larger audience.

**Steeple Rose (*Rosa centifolia*
prolifera)**



Even after her retirement, the tradition was carried on by her successor Mr. Frans Thomas. The last Salon in the series was held on 4 and 5 July, at Saint Hubert, birth place of Pierre-Joseph Redouté, to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of the great flower painter, once termed the 'Raphaël of flowers'.

There were times when one could have wondered whether there really was a house in Europe that did not at least have one reproduction taken from *Les Roses*. And in a way, that was a pity, because these oftentimes bad reproductions took away from the pure joy imparted by the exquisitely detailed and unequalled rose paintings by this extraordinarily gifted man. Nobody gave life and identity to roses like he did, but it would be a great injustice to remember him only for his roses, or for his contacts with the Empress Josephine.

Pierre Joseph Redouté was born in 1759 in Saint-Hubert, deep in the woods of the present-day Belgian Ardennes, where his love for plants and botany seems to have been kindled by the monks of the local abbey. At age 13, he started the itinerant life of a portrait painter and decorator, ending up living with his older brother Antoine-Ferdinand in Paris ten years later. While still working as a decorator, he was discovered by Charles-Louis l'Héritier, the famous French botanist. So began his life as a flower painter *pur sang*. In 1786, still under l'Héritier's wing, he travelled to London, staying in the house of Sir Joseph Banks, and making several trips to Kew and the Chelsea Physick Garden to paint flowers. These pictures illustrated l'Héritier's *Sertum Anglicum*, 1789-1792.

As botany was the pastime of the rich and famous, his work was readily noticed in court circles and he became flower painter and teacher to Queen Marie Antoinette in the fateful year 1788. Needless to say, the 1789 *Révolution Française* put paid to that, though Antonia Ridge, in her romanticised biography, *The Man who Painted Flowers*, recounts in a moving anecdote how Marie Antoinette, then already bereft of her freedom, commissioned a painting of her 'midnight cactus', and how Redouté was allowed inside the prison at night to paint it. In the period of the Terror, right after the Revolution, l'Héritier was in jail for a while, but Redouté's royal connections do not seem to have put him in harm's way. Together with his brother Antoine-Ferdinand (for zoology) he was officially appointed flower

painter to the National Museum of Natural History, where Dutch flower painter and mentor Van Spaendonck, was in charge of the Vellums¹. His early work is evident in the elegant black-and-white illustrations to *Geraniologia*, L'Héritier's 1792 study of *geraniaceae*. At the latter's invitation, Redouté also began a series of paintings of succulent plants, which would herald his co-operation with

Augustin-Pyramus de Candolle. The two-volume book *Histoire des Plantes grasses* was published in instalments as of 1799. The images, grouped in volume 2, were the first time that any major work of Redouté's hand appeared in colour, though a few Through mediation of l'Héritier, yet again, Redouté



Mrs Paul Smeyers and Frans Thomas (Belgian RS,) and Mrs Sheenagh Harris



Belle d'Ardenne, created by Van Gampelaere and presented to the town of St Hubert

had also met botanists Cels and Ventenat, the former having been appointed at Malmaison, the country retreat that Josephine, Mrs Bonaparte (not 'Empress' yet) was doing up. It seems to have been Cels who got him the appointment to paint the flowers, as the Malmaison collection of rare plants from around the globe was growing rapidly. The transition from patron to patron was a lucky event, because in 1800 l'Héritier was brutally murdered, leaving a void that otherwise would have been very difficult to fill.

His work in the Malmaison garden resulted in, among others, the illustrations for Ventenat's work *Jardin de la Malmaison*, a deluxe limited edition² of 120 colour plates intended for distribution among European courts, and Bonpland's *Description des Plantes rares cultivées à Malmaison et à Navarre* 1812-1817.

As of 1802, the first volume of *Les Liliacées*, Redouté's *Magnum Opus*, was published, and it would keep him occupied for the next fourteen years. He had come of age as an artist, and for this work he became his own editor, seemingly winging it alone, but still the descriptions of the plants in the first four volumes were provided by botanist Auguste Pyramus de Candolle. In the book, Redouté followed the Linnean classification, which was by no means accepted by every botanical illustrator. Still, the emphasis visibly shifts from the purely botanical and anatomically detailed illustration to the more ornamental, with more emphasis being laid on the flowers and the pure enjoyment of their beauty, a tendency that would ultimately culminate in the visual delight of *Les Roses*. Obviously, taxonomy has been revised many times since then: there are *liliaceae* among the succulents in *Plantes Grasses*, as

¹ *Les Velins du Roi* is a collection of paintings of flowers and animals, commenced by Gaston Duke of Orléans and built up over centuries, contributed to by many artists. One of the reasons for it being that a picture preserves a plant very lifelike, and a herbarium is much more perishable. Many plants or parts of them are also very hard to dry.

² 200 copies published in 1803-1805

there are many plants that belong to other families in *Les Liliacées*, but it is precisely the attention to detail and the absolute precision of his work that greatly facilitated later identification. It cannot be stressed enough that Redouté painted in an era of botanical advance that was only equalled by the renaissance and the advent and heyday of the great herbals. What the discovery of America had been for Clusius, was the influx of plants from Australia, South Africa and the Orient to the French and English botanists of the late eighteenth and the early nineteenth century.

For *Les Liliacées* Redouté perfected the methods of stipple engraving and printing with multi-colour plates³, and also devised a system of mirrors to transfer a drawing to the copper plate the right way around instead of mirrored. Moreover, in one copy he finished each colour print by hand to serve as an example to other illustrators who worked on hand-finishing the prints. His technique, however, was greatly influenced by Francesco Bartolozzi, whom he had met during his stay in London, and who had taught him to wear his copper plates down by striking black prints first before starting the actual print run.

Then there were roses. There is no doubt Redouté had been preceded, among others, by Miss Lawrence, and by Salomon Pinhas, of the garden Wilhelmshöhe in Kassel (Germany). Of course, even if the latter preceded Redouté by two years at least, his paintings never were very influential since they were never printed and only exist as drawings. Redouté may have known of their existence though, since Wilhelmshöhe became Napoleonshöhe for the short while that it was inhabited by Napoleon's brother Jérôme Bonaparte, who was married to Catherine of Wurtemberg. Many roses from the famous chateau collection found their way to France during that time. He certainly knew Miss Lawrence's book *A Collection of Roses from Nature*, and Andrews' *The Genus Rosa*.

Arrangements and tea party, part of the rose exhibition



As of 1817, Redouté started publishing what would become his most famous work of art, *Les Roses*. Claude Antoine Thory, who wrote the text that accompanied most of the pictures, leaves no doubt as to what was the primary purpose of the book: it was to be a work of reference, striving for the utmost accuracy, allowing for a few roses included for their beauty, a point-of-view completely belied by the sheer beauty of Redouté's images, but underlined by their complete accuracy. The fact that botany is still omnipresent in this collection has been overshadowed by the popularity of the pictures of the sumptuous garden roses, but it cannot be denied that almost 50% of the roses depicted are single roses, mostly species. Then as now there was some difficulty in determining which single roses were

³ He is not the *inventor* of the technique.

true species and which ones were not, but these roses certainly were collected in the same vein as the other plants, for their botanical interest rather than their ornamental value.

The book, in a large *in folio* format was published in very expensive instalments. It was followed by a smaller and cheaper edition, which made it more accessible to the *bourgeois* rose amateur. The work was very popular, and inspired many romantic dreams, of which the idea that it was the image of the Empress Josephine's rose garden is not the least. Yet, upon close perusal of the Thory texts it becomes clear that that cannot be the case. Whereas there certainly are roses painted from life in her collection among them, *Les Roses* appeared in 1817, three years after her death, and was continued till 1824 in 30 instalments. Some 30 of the roses illustrated (and of which a date is provided) are too young, and it is therefore excluded that they ever graced the collections at Malmaison, among them such landmark roses as *R. banksia* or 'Lady Banks' Rose' (1817), *R. noisettiana*⁴, or 'Blush Noisette' (1818), *R. Canina Bourboniana*, the Bourbon rose (1819). Many of the roses simply came from Thory's and probably also Redouté's own collection. Thory, who wrote the comments for 70 of the roses, refers to some 10 literally as his own. As the work progressed, more and more recent seedling roses were introduced, peculiarities that were obtained by botanists and rosarians, among which Redouté himself, (*Rosa rubiginosa flore semi-pleno*, *Rosa gallica caerulea* and *R. Indica caryophillea*), to be exchanged among the like-minded. Most of these roses are chance variations of more common species and they disappeared in the course of the nineteenth century. The same holds true for the many seedlings of the Chinese rose gracing the pages of *Les Roses*.

In their search for completeness, they even introduced a rose they perhaps had never seen: *R. sempervirens Leschenaultiana*, hailing from India, is described as having been given to Thory by Leschenault, but at the same time it is mentioned that the rose only exists 'as dried specimens in Paris' and that 'gardeners regret that it has not been possible to bring live plants to Europe.' Are we to understand that Redouté made his painting from a dried specimen, and was filled in on the colours by Leschenault? Or did the latter indeed have a live seed-raised plant at one time? At any rate, the purple stems of the rose are very life-like.

Notwithstanding the success of his work, Redouté did not see out his life on a financial bed of roses. The times and fortunes were too fickle for that to be the case, and he had to continue painting, almost literally till his dying day. For this, he kept seeking the patronage of those in power, and when Belgium became an independent country in 1830, he obtained the high protection of Leopold, first King of the Belgians and uncle of Queen Victoria of England. He produced a new book of roses *Choix de Soixante Roses* which is, sadly, much less known than *Les Roses* but equally lovely. He dedicated it to Louise Marie, Queen of the Belgians, in the following terms:

'Madame, permit your old teacher to depose his work at Your Majesty's feet, a few beautiful flowers that are French like you. To whom else could I better dedicate them than You, Madame, who can give them so much beauty, so much colour, I had almost said, so much scent? Madame, You are twice my Queen, because I am an artist of France, but I was born in Belgium which is so proud and so happy to have that young Queen given to her by France.'

The Belgian Royal family did possess quite a bit of Redouté's original work, but all was lost when King Leopold II's library was destroyed by fire in the late nineteenth century.

Pierre Joseph Redouté expired in 1840, after a long life filled with the joy of flowers he was such an expert in imparting to all who viewed his work.

⁴ There spelling of rose names is as it appears on the plates.

To honour this man, a child of the Belgian Ardennes to the last, a new rose was baptised during the 2009 Salon de la Rose at St Hubert, called **Belle d'Ardenne**. The ceremony was held in the esteemed presence of Mrs Sheenagh Harris, new President of the WFRS, and Prof. Maurice Jay, Vice-President for Europe. The rose was obtained by Mr. Jacky Van Gamphelaere, who gave us the award-winning **Jacky's Favourite** (Golden Rose of The Hague), among others. It is delicate, blush white, small-flowered and old-rose scented, but it flowers profusely all summer long, not just once like most roses still did in Redouté's time. At the same time, a rose exhibition was held in the church of St Gilles, the Redouté Museum, the rose garden and the Town Hall, which were all exquisitely decorated with large bouquets arranged by volunteers. Some twenty Belgian rose growers, parks and collections presented themselves to the public, and there was ample room for everyone to ask for advice about roses: People were advised on how to plant, prune and fertilise, plant schemes were drawn up, and the best roses chosen. Since there were also roses for sale, a first in the long tradition of Rose Salons, most people went home embracing containers of roses and leaving a scented trail that will linger for a long time in this charming little Belgian town.



Professor Gianfranco Fineschi
Breda Bavdaž Čopi, President of Slovenian Rose Society



Prof. Fineschi with the Slovenian ambassador to Italy, Andrej Capuder

The Slovenian Rose Society is proud to announce to its members and to members of the World Federation of Rose Societies that on 28th September 2009, Professor Gianfranco Fineschi, eminent Italian orthopaedic surgeon and passionate collector of all roses, was presented the Order of Services of the Republic of Slovenia, awarded by the President of the Republic of Slovenia, Dr Danilo Türk.

Professor Fineschi received this award for his co-operation with Slovenia in the area of orthopaedic surgery and for his outstanding contribution to the development and preservation of the culture of garden roses in Slovenia.

The awarding ceremony took place in the premises of the honorary consulate of the Republic of Slovenia in Florence, Italy. The Order of Services was presented to him by the ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to Italy, Andrej Capuder, in the presence of Piero Tacconi, the honorary consul. The ceremony was attended also by the Mayor of San Giovanni Valdarno, where the magnificent garden of Professor Fineschi is located, the members of the Management Board of the Slovenian Rose Society and



Prof. Fineschi and Management Board of the Slovenian Rose Society

Cavriglia (Arezzo, Tuscany, Italy).

From his collection came the roses that now form the core of the rose garden of the Orthopaedic Hospital in Valdoltra, the very first rosarium in Slovenia. From this garden, under the auspices of the Slovenian Rose Society, roses have begun to be appreciated and grown all over Slovenia.

Professor Fineschi has offered to the Orthopaedic Hospital in Valdoltra not only his professional expertise, but he also donated a collection of multiflora roses for its park, where they now provide joy not only for patients and their visitors, but for all lovers of roses.

He also co-operated in the creation of the garden of Bourbon roses in Kostanjevica near Nova Gorica, Slovenia. The Bourbon's easygoing charms are gaining popularity among today's old rose people, and help the evolution of horticulture in Slovenia.

Members of the Slovenian Rose Society are grateful to Professor Gianfranco Fineschi for his contribution to the rose culture in Slovenia. His collection of roses which includes several rare species is not only a superb rose garden, but a place where rose lovers and scientists may learn about each rose's history and origin and a botanical laboratory which contributes to the progress of science and horticulture all over the world.

representatives of the Valdoltra Orthopaedic Hospital, Slovenia, where he began this extraordinary collaboration which brought together orthopaedics and roses.

Professor Fineschi, a renowned orthopaedic surgeon, has always had a passion for roses that were grown on his family estate in Tuscany. He has worked with roses with the same passionate and professional commitment he has devoted to orthopaedics. The result is a world-famous collection of roses admired by both professionals and rose lovers alike, The Roseto Botanico "Carla Fineschi", at



Dr Tommy Cairns

The fragrance of the rose has always been one of the main qualities that has drawn us to the flower. The Persian poet Ha'afiz speaks of his being 'lured in to the garden by the scent of roses', where he found comfort from the fever of unrequited love; and the Greeks believed that Eros carelessly spilt some of the nectar of the gods on a rose, and that the flower has retained its sweet perfume ever since.

If he did, he must have been careless with several vintages, for the rose offers not just one perfume, but many. Think of the pure soft sweetness of the Damasks and Centifolias; of the warmer fragrance of the Teas, which does vaguely resemble that of a fresh packet of China tea; of the sharper, more piercing scents of such Modern Garden Roses as **Fragrant Cloud** or **Double Delight**. Then there is the intense musk-like fragrance of some of the Ramblers, such as *Rosa filipes*, *R. moschata* and *R. multiflora*. Their scent is exhaled, not by the petals as occurs in other roses, but by the stamens. A note of musk can be detected in the scent of many of their descendants, such as the Hybrid Musk Roses and Cluster flowered Roses like **Elizabeth of Glamis**. The scents of roses are as varied as their colours. It is a shame we cannot photograph them!

Unfortunately, there are many roses Eros seems to have missed, and 'They do not smell like they used to!' is one of the commonest remarks on the subject is roses. Even allowing for the elusiveness of scent, which varies with the weather, the time of day, the age of the flower and the sensitivity of one's nose, this does seem to be true. There are relatively few of the Modern Garden Roses that can give the rich fragrance that is the birthright of the Old French Roses.

After denying the obvious for many years, hybridists are now actively seeking to improve things, but they are not finding the process easy at all. For one thing, fragrance appears to be what students of genetics call a 'recessive character', which makes it difficult for a hybridist to plan for. Crossing two

fragrant parents is as likely as not to result in a brood of scentless seedlings, and a rose which is itself scentless may yet be able to give the gift to its children and grandchildren. **Charlotte Armstrong**, parent of **Sutter's Gold**, **Tiffany** and **Mojave** and grandmother to **Chrysler Imperial**, **Mister Lincoln**, and **Double Delight**, is one such, and **Dr A. J. Verhage** another. The family trees of fragrant Large-flowered roses will often show the names of the same few roses: some examples are **Ophelia**, **Crimson Glory**, **Signora** and, further back, **Lady Mary Fitzwilliam**. Indeed, it was the belief of Wilhelm Kordes that **Lady Mary** was the most potent of all donors of perfume that led to the revival of this almost-extinct old variety.

The business is complicated by the fact that breeders are usually looking for other things as well as perfume. For a new rose to be successful it must score highly for shape, colour, vigour, disease resistance and what have you, and not all these desirable characteristics appear to be compatible with rich fragrance. The priceless gift of repeated flowering, for instance, comes from the China Rose, which is only mildly fragrant at its best, and many of its early crosses with the old European roses were scarcely fragrant. Tough, long-lasting petals seem less able to release their scent than those more delicate, which is why the cast-iron varieties you find in the florist's tend to give only the vague smell that all roses have. The search for new colours has not helped any either. Some think it fortunate that the 'Persian Yellow' proved unable to transmit its heavy odour along with its golden colour, but as a rule, there has to be a suffusion of red on the petals of a yellow rose if there is to be scent as well. **Sutter's Gold** is an example; **Friesia** is an exception. The earlier orange-red varieties tended to scentlessness, but there are fragrant ones coming forward—**Dolly Parton** and the duller-toned **Fragrant Cloud** are as strong and sweet as any of the dark reds and rich pinks with which fragrance is traditionally associated.

Recent research studies on rose fragrance from living plants has finally uncovered many of the secrets of rose fragrance, as well as providing a classification scheme to conveniently subdivide fragrance into six major groups. Instead of analysing distilled rose water or extracts from petals using solvents, which often resulted in the degradation of compounds, a more gentle method of examining the volatile composition of roses has been developed by Dr. Ivon Flament of the Firmenich Company in Geneva, Switzerland. The vapours from a rose are analysed by sampling the air directly above the rose while it is still growing. Essentially, the fragrant compounds are drawn off from the airspace above the blooms and trapped in a charcoal filter for later analysis in the laboratory. One advantage of this method is that the chemist can measure the changes in fragrance composition as the rose grows, opens and finally drops its petals. The resulting new chemical data reveal that rose fragrance can be attributed to six major groups of chemical compounds associated with distinctive fragrances. *The table below illustrates the six groups and the fragrances and roses linked to them. This new research may well help hybridisers to breed for fragrance. In the meantime, rose lovers continue to lament the lack of perfume in many of our modern rose varieties – 'Where has all the fragrance gone?'

Fragrance Facts

- **Crimson Glory** is not only intensely fragrant itself but has proved able to transmit fragrance to generations of descendants among the Large-flowered and Cluster flowered Roses.
- Show anyone a beautiful rose, and their first act will be to sample its perfume.
- The Ramblers of the Synstylae group are often blessed with remarkable fruity fragrance. Unlike all other roses, the fragrance comes from the stamens rather than the petals. This one is *Rosa filipes*.
- **Silver Jubilee** has been hailed as the finest Large flowered Rose since **Peace**. It endows its descendants with great health and vigour, but, alas, it seems unable to give outstanding fragrance.
- Not all fragrant roses are universally admired. The name *Rosa foetida* means 'the stinking rose'. Some people agree; others simply find the odour a trifle heavy, like some medicinal lotion. The admixture of the genes of *R. foetida* in the Modern Roses is no doubt responsible for the rather sharp scents of many.
- **Baronne Prévost**. The flat, quartered flowers characteristic of the Old Garden Roses are far more efficient at releasing their fragrance than the long, fewer-petalled buds of the Modern Garden Roses.

Major Chemical Compounds (%) responsible for fragrance in Selected Cultivars

CULTIVAR	% and CHEMICAL COMPOUND IDENTIFICATION*										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
'Sonia'	43.1			20.9							
'Monica'		22.3	21.5								
<i>Rosa rugosa rubra</i>				53.9							
<i>Rosa gallica</i>				41.8							
<i>Rosa muscosa purpurea</i>				29.9	20.6						
'Rose a Parfurn de l'Hay'				23.2							
'Margaret Merril'							39.5				
'Concord 92'								48.8			
'Baronne Edmond de Rothschild'								45.1		32.9	
'Summer Damask'								29.7			
'Sutters Gold'								23.7		28.8	
'Cockail 80'									59.8		
'Southampton'					22.1				42.0		
'Elizabeth of Glamis'				19.4					24.5	20.4	
'Fragrant Cloud'									19.3		
'Hidalgo'										43.2	
'Congratulations'											67.3
'Youki San'											55.8
'Gina Lollobrigida'											52.5
'Papa Meilland'							29.4				40.3
'White Success'											29.6

*Chemical ID Code:

1 = Germacrene-D; 2 = (E)-4,8-Dimethyl-1,3,7-nonatriene; 3 = Beta-Carophyllene; 4 = Phenylethanol; 5 = Geraniol; 6 = Citronellol; 7 = Hexanol; 8 = (Z)-3-Hexenyl acetate; 9 = Phenylethyl acetate; 10 = Hexyl acetate; and 11 = Orcinol dimethylether.

Five Main Fragrance Groups

The Hydrocarbon Group

The cultivars in this group derive their fruity odours from complex hydrocarbons such as terpenic, homoterpenic and sesquiterpenic compounds (which account for more than 40 per cent of the fragrance content), with a small contribution from esters. Roses in this category include **Monika** and **Sonia**. A study of the parentage of these varieties has revealed no common ancestor responsible for passing on these fragrances.

The Alcohol Group without orcinol dimethylether

These cultivars reveal the role of the essential alcohols such as phenylethanol, citronellol, nerol and geraniol (which account for between 35 and 85 per cent of the fragrance content) in providing a fragrance range from honey to balsamic to lemon to resinous. They include such classic roses as **R. rugosa rubra**, **R. muscosa purpurea**, **R. gallica** and **R. damascena**. The parents of these old roses are unknown, but Flament's analysis of a few Modern Roses that descend from them has shown them to display similar fragrances with a similar chemical composition, indicating that this range of fragrances can be transmitted.

The Alcohol Group containing orcinol dimethylether

Three of the varieties Flament studied, **Châtelaine de Lullier**, **Margaret Merrill** and **Westerland**, possess a combination of fragrances derived partly from the above two groups but to a major extent from phenols and aromatic esters – the latter in the form of a powerful odour called orcinol dimethylether, which is detected mainly in modern hybrids (see below). In effect they combine elements of the old and the new.

The Ester Group

This group consists mainly of modern Hybrid Teas developed by Meilland and Herbert Swim. These roses have a range of fruity scents, which have been found to have a total ester content greater than 30 per cent, with moderate quantities of alcohols (less than 25 per cent) and of orcinol dimethyl ether (less than 30 per cent). Among them is perhaps the most fragrant rose of the modern era, **Fragrant Cloud**. Each of the roses in this group that Flament analysed has its own distinctive fragrance:

Baronne Edmond de Rothschild – light and not overpowering: a well-balanced fragrance, similar to that of an expensive perfume

Cocktail 80 – floral, rosy, fruity and green

Concorde – green, floral and earthy-woody 'Elizabeth of Glamis' – deep damask fragrance, spiked with lemon

Jardins de Bagatelle – famed for its typical rosy, faintly lemon-like smell

Sutter's Gold – oriental rose smell, slightly fruity with cherry and cognac undertones

Fragrances of English Roses

David Austin's strategy in creating 'English Roses' was to marry Old Garden Roses, with their classical – if somewhat narrow – range of fragrances, with Modern Roses, which feature a much broader and more novel range of perfumes. The offspring that have resulted display an even wider and more diverse group of fragrances. Examples include:

Evelyn' – fresh peaches and apricot

Golden Celebration – sauterne wine and strawberry

Jude the Obscure – guava and sweet white wine

Mary Rose – honey and almond blossom

Varieties Winning Fragrance Awards

HYBRID TEAS

- 'Alec's Red', Hybrid Tea , Crimson Edland Fragrance 1969, RNRS Int'l Trophy 1970, Belfast Fragrance 1972, ADR 1973
- 'Alpine Sunset', Hybrid Tea , Apricot, Belfast 1976, Hague Fragrance 1976
- 'Baronne Edmond de Rothschild', Hybrid Tea , Cerise, Lyon, Monza, Rome 1968, Belfast 1991
- 'Charles de Gaulle', Hybrid Tea , Mauve, Belfast 1978
- 'Chrysler Imperial', Hybrid Tea , Crimson , AARS 1952, Portland Gold Medal 1951, Gamble Fragrance 1965
- 'Double Delight', Hybrid Tea , Red/White Blend, WRF 1986, AARS 1977, Gamble Fragrance 1986
- 'Fragrant Cloud', Hybrid Tea , Coral , Gamble Medal for Fragrance, RNRS, WFR 1981
- 'Fragrant Hour', Hybrid Tea , Pink/Orange Blend , Belfast Medal for Fragrance 1975
- 'Frederic Mistral', Hybrid Tea , Candy Pink , Fragrance: Baden-Baden Fragrance 1993, LeRoleux & Monza Fragrance 1994, Belfast Fragrance 1996
- 'Granada', Hybrid Tea , Pink/Yellow Blend , Gamble Medal for Fragrance 1968, AARS 1964
- 'Jardins de Bagatelle', Hybrid Tea , White/Yellow Blend , Bagatelle Fragrance 1984, Geneva Gold, 1984, Poitiers Gold 1986, Genoa Gold 1987
- 'Paul Shirville', Hybrid Tea , Shell Pink, RNRS Fragrance 1982, New Zealand Fragrance 1984, Courtrai 1989, RHS-AGM 1993
- 'Pristine', Hybrid Tea, White, Portland 1979, RNRS Edland Fragrance 1979
- 'Royal Amethyst', Hybrid Tea, Mauve, Portland Gold Medal and Fragrance Award, 1996
- 'Sutter's Gold', Hybrid Tea , Apricot , Portland Gold Medal 1946, Bagatelle Gold Medal 1948, AARS 1950, NRS-CoM 1951, James Alexander Gamble Fragrance 1966
- 'Tiffany', Hybrid Tea , Pink/Orange Blend , Portland Gold 1954, AARS 1955, Gamble Fragrance 1962
- 'Yves Piaget', Large Flowered , Rose , Geneva Gold & Fragrance 1982, LeReleux Gold & Fragrance 1982, Belfast 1986, Bagatelle 1992

FLORIBUNDAS & SHRUBS

- 'Arthur Bell', Floribunda, Chrome Yellow , RNRS 1964, Belfast Fragrance 1967, RHSAGM 1993
- 'City of London', Floribunda, White , LeRoieux Medal 1985, Belfast 1990, New Zealand Fragrance Award 1992, Hague Gold Medal 1993, RHSAGM 1993
- 'Elizabeth of Glamis', Floribunda, Salmon , RNRS award for Fragrance
- 'Fragrant Delight', Floribunda, Coral/Gold Blend , Edland Fragrance 1976, James Mason Gold Medal 1988
- 'Margaret Merrill', Floribunda, White , Geneva Gold Medal 1978, Monza Gold Medal 1978, RNRS Fragrance 1978, Auckland Fragrance, 1978
- 'Radox Bouquet', Floribunda, Pink , Geneve Coup de Parfum 1980, Belfast Fragrance 1983
- 'Sheila's Perfume', Floribunda, Pink/Yellow Blend, Edland Fragrance 1981, RNRS 1991, Glasgow Silver Medal & Fragrance Awards 1989
- 'Sunsprite', Floribunda, Chrome Yellow, Baden-Baden 1972, Gamble Award 1979, Mason 1989
- 'Molineaux', Shrub , Apricot , RNRS President's Int'l Trophy 1996, RNRS Edland Trophy
- 'Perdita', Shrub , Pale Apricot , RNRS Edland Medal for Fragrance & TGC 1984
- 'Sweet Juliet', Shrub , Pale Apricot , Belfast Fragrance 1992
- 'Compassion', Large Flower Climber , Pink/Orange Blend, Baden-Baden 1975, Geneva 1975, Orleans 1979, RNRS Fragrance 1973, ADR 1976

Some Great Rose Gardens

Park Coloma Rose Gardens, Sint-Pieters-Leeuw (Belgium)

About 10 Km Southwest from the city centre of Brussels in the Flemish municipality of Sint-Pieters-Leeuw You will find Park Coloma, a public park in an area of 15 Ha.

The history of the park starts in 1515 with the building of a medieval castle that 200 years later turned into a barony where noblemen lived till 1947. In 1982 the Belgian Government bought the estate to make it a public park in the green belt around Brussels. Two years later the local municipality became owner of the castle and turned it into a cultural centre.



The Rose Garden Project in Park Coloma (Belgium) was an idea of Marcel Vossen, one of the leading engineers within the Agency for Nature and Forests from the Flemish Government. It all began with the request of local people for an ornamental feature to make Coloma more attractive. So a classic rose garden was first built in 1995; a tribute to the former baron Roose. The Rose Garden being so successful, Marcel Vossen had a vision for the development of Park Coloma. His vision resulted in the lay-out of a “roses walk” through the park:

- In the first garden (built in 1995), the designers played with red and white roses in a strictly geometrical framework. Yew hedges form sections in which the roses are exhibited as though they are growing in museum cases. This garden is dominated by the coat of arms of the ROOSE barony, of which SPL was part centuries ago, in floribunda-roses and box hedges.



- A second rose garden, built on a higher level in 1996, displays roses of Flemish rose growers like Mr. Louis Lens. This garden is also designed in a classical, geometrical pattern with the centrepiece consisting of circular pergola, covered with climbing roses.



- The third garden is a living history book. 710 rose varieties dating from earlier than 1950 grow there. As you walk through this garden you will see a chronological survey of the history of roses since classical times. In this garden with heritage roses a significant space has been reserved for resistant roses. The selected varieties have excellent growing and flowering qualities, in addition to a solid resistance to common diseases, so call them ‘environmentally-friendly’.



- The fourth garden is the international rose garden and is the biggest garden of all: roses coming from France, Holland, Luxemburg, Germany, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Denmark, Finland, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Italy, Spain, Israel, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand and Australia were collected in separated “garden-rooms”. All are designed in landscaped style with numerous playful elements (like wine tubs and barrels, zoom stone, rocks) to refer to the various participating countries. Thanks to the effort of Ian Huxley, David Ruston and Richard Walsh, Australian bud wood was collected and sent over to Belgium which resulted in a nice rose collection of 37 Australian varieties. All Australian roses are doing well in Coloma. The United Kingdom is represented by 330 rose varieties, Northern-Ireland with 44 Dickson varieties, France and Germany each

by 270 varieties, New Zealand 20 varieties. The third and fourth gardens were opened to the public in July 2000.



The fifth garden shows the visitors a collection of more than 300 varieties of standard roses grouped by colour to guide people to the entrance of the Rose Museum of Coloma, a nineteenth century pavilion that was renovated in 2002 and has been given a new and educational function within the roses project. It illustrates the history of rose breeding, an interactive database concerning the roses in Coloma, experiencing the rose in all its 'senses'. The collection of standard roses was planted in spring 2004.

Behind the garden with standard roses a new garden has been built at the beginning of 2009 to collect and present the visitors Japanese roses. The roses from Japan are new to us and certainly worthy to discover as they characterise the unique identity and culture of Japan.

The basic shape of the garden refers to flags of Japan and marks the end of a vista in the park. A Japanese portal structure marks the entrance to the garden. The focal point right into the heart of the garden is a combination of natural rocks and silhouettes of cranes. In Japan, rocks represent nature while cranes are a symbol for peace. From this focal point, footpaths wander through the garden. Along those paths visitors can admire the most representative varieties of Japanese rose breeding. Next to the roses a few Japanese trees and shrubs complete the diversity in leaf shape and colour, just to create the right atmosphere in the garden. In co-operation with the Rose Society of Japan the Japanese rose collection in Coloma will be completed by the summer 2010.



The Coloma Rose Garden covers 2.2 Ha with roses and exhibits 3000 rose varieties from 25 different countries from all over the world.



The Coloma Rose Garden is open for the public from 15 May till 1 November; except on Mondays. No entrance fee for park, gardens and museum. Guided garden tours (groups of at least 10 persons) only after reservation at the Agency. They are mainly Dutch spoken, but occasionally other languages are used.

Outside the rose gardens there are even more roses to see: in the orchard; 125 varieties of climbing and rambling roses were planted besides fruiting trees doubling the flowering time in the canopies.

Every year, in the last weekend of June the agency organises, together with the local municipality, the ROSE DAYS in Coloma.

On a larger scale Park Coloma is part of the Green Belt, a ring of estates managed and developed by the Flemish Government. A few kilometres from Coloma is the park complex Gaasbeek-Groenenberg. Gaasbeek is reknown for the Museum Garden with a unique collection of espalier fruit in walled gardens. In the castle park of Groenenberg, build around 1900, botanical collections blend with the landscaping style.

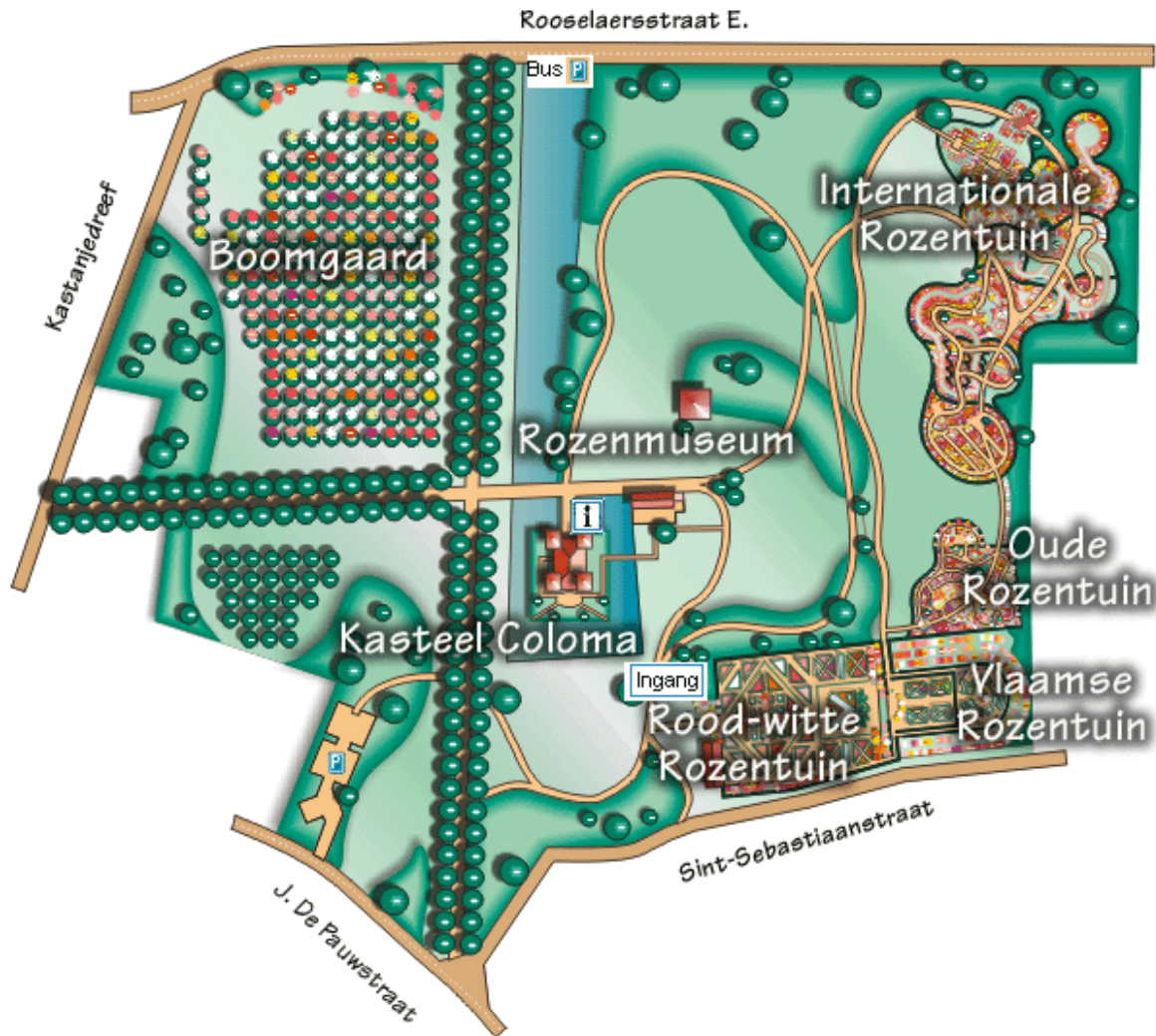
More to the southwest there is Park Ter Rijst. This estate in Heikruis, consists of a park in the landscape style, with woodland, water and a castle in neo-classical style. Solitary trees in the park guide the visitors to breathtaking views over the surrounding countryside. Together with the adjacent nature reserve the park hosts thousands of birds as well as other animals.



To the southeast there are the Parks Frankveld in Beersel and Schaveys in Linkebeek, the Halderbos and the Zevenborren estate. Further to the east is the Zoniën Forrest with the Groenendaal lakes and the Jan van Ruusbroek Forrest Museum.

All these are managed by the Flemish Government on the basis of a provision that they should receive visitors with open arms, while maintaining the highest level of respect for the existing natural assets.

Flemish Government
Agency for Nature and Forrests
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W.F.R.S. Award for the Morwell Centenary Rose Garden Margaret Macgregor, Australia

On Monday, November 9, 2009 the residents of the City of Morwell situated 145 km from Melbourne in the beautiful Latrobe Valley gathered in the Centenary Rose Garden for the presentation of the W.F.R.S. Garden of Excellence Award in recognition of the outstanding beauty of this garden dedicated to the nurture of the Rose in its many forms.

Work on converting this unloved railway land into an outstanding international garden treasure commenced in 1991 with a small but passionate group of volunteer rose lovers who were determined to succeed in converting this wasteland into a rose garden which would become a focus for the residents of Morwell and attract visitors from near and far.

Joining the volunteers for the presentation were representatives of the W.F.R.S.: Mr. Ian Spriggs, Chairman of the Awards Committee and President of the Rose Society of Victoria; Mr. Malcolm Watson, Executive Director of the W.F.R.S.; and Mrs. Margaret Macgregor, W.F.R.S. Immediate Past VP for Australasia. In her presentation speech Margaret outlined the history and evolution of the garden, referring especially to the dedication of the volunteer group, now more than 50-strong, who are entirely responsible for the year round care of the plants, while the Latrobe City Council maintains the lawns and surrounds. The Council also has established roadside plantings of roses throughout the city demonstrating their enthusiastic support for the garden.

Executive Director Malcolm Watson outlined the protocol for the Garden of Excellence Award and Chairman Ian Spriggs referred to the ongoing support of the Rose Society of Victoria members, especially at pruning time.

Chairman of the Garden Committee, Mrs. Edith Colley, then accepted the award on behalf of the volunteers and called on Ian, Malcolm and Margaret to jointly unveil the plaque which has been set into a magnificent rock situated in an area affording clear vision of the award from many points in the garden. On this special day the garden was at its sparkling best set off by glorious spring sunshine.

Following the presentation, the volunteers and visitors were guests of the Mayor and Councilors of the City of Latrobe at a sumptuous buffet luncheon, a fitting conclusion to a very special day.



Dignitaries at the presentation



View of the garden



View of the garden



The Plaque on display – photos Margaret Macgregor

A new Rose Garden in Trieste – Between the Past and the Future Vladimir Vremec

The New Rose Garden in Trieste, Italy, is located at the former Mental Asylum in the district of San Giovanni, near the university. The Asylum was constructed at the beginning of the twentieth century and now houses, amongst others, some of the university's institutes and faculties and the provincial Health Department. The edifice is surrounded by a twenty hectare park, found to be in a state of complete neglect seven years ago. In 2004 an initiative to plant some 250 rose varieties dating from the Liberty or Art Nouveau period (1888-1925) was undertaken, and intended as an expression of homage towards the era of the construction of the building, designed by the architect Braidotti in the neo-classical style and much influenced by the Liberty movement.

The spark which ignited the realisation of an important rose collection was the return of Dr. Franco Rotelli to head of the Health Department of Trieste. Dr. Rotelli's great knowledge of plants and particular passion for roses simplified the realisation of the



Ground cover roses on the slopes



Ground cover roses on the slopes



design to house an important collection of roses. As a garden architect, my task was to recreate not only a beautiful park, and also include an interesting rose garden, which could accommodate scientific and cultural events, such as flower shows, in order to induce citizens to visit the area encircling this unusual structure. At present we have brought together some 6000 rose plants – 3000 different varieties, which include 1100 Hybrid Teas, 300 Floribundas, 800 Old and Wild roses, 250 Climbers and Ramblers, 150 Ground Covers and 350 Shrubs. Previously the rose was the

most important plant in the original garden and today the new garden with these different collections offers an opportunity to continue and enhance the varieties present for the pleasure of future generations. Thanks to Professor Fineschi, we have been able to include many rare varieties already present in his world renowned collection in Cavriglia. Thus our Garden emphasizes the continuous development and modification of the rose from the past and the present and on into the future.



Roses and ornamental grasses

The New Rose Garden covers approximately two and a half hectares, the ground sloping up northwards. The

upper part of the garden contains modern roses – the collection of Liberty roses and repeat-blooming shrubs, 50 climbers and some 100 Romantic or Nostalgic varieties from breeders including Kordes, Tantau, Barni, Delbard as well as, of course, Austin's English Roses. The big terrace garden, around 7000 square metres, will contain more than 1100 different Hybrid Teas, planted in chronological order from the very first of this class to the newest on the market, thus giving visitors the opportunity to experience the extraordinary richness and variety of this group. Here too are situated the Floribunda and Polyantha collections.

In the lower portion, near the south entrance and behind the old Villa Bottacin, where there are the most beautiful trees, Old and Wild roses were planted in 2006 and 2007 in formal beds, with some 600 cultivars including nearly 50 Gallicas and more than 100 Hybrid Perpetuals. The original owner of Villa Bottacin was very interested in botany and had great expertise in local flora as well as new garden plants. Around the 1860's he was in constant contact with Archduke Maximilian of

Austria, who was overseeing the building of his Castle and the Park of Miramar, along the coast, only two miles from Trieste.

During the last three years we have planted nearly 90 different Ground Cover varieties, taking advantage of the many slopes on the property. It is perhaps the largest concentration of this class of roses in any garden of which I am aware.

The New Rose Garden has a contemporary, formal design with parallel rose beds and a main boulevard lined with climbers trained over columns. The terraces and beds are separated by ample lawns, while box edgings, ornamental grasses and prostrate rosemary are used as companion plants.

A new Society of the Friends of the Park and Rose Garden will assist the local authorities to maintain and improve the whole organisation with a library and an info-point in the terrace rose garden, supplying visitors with information regarding all aspects of the cultivation of roses in Italy as well as the culture of roses around the world.

Inheriting Chinese Rose Culture and Creating Harmonious Life A Brief Introduction of Shenzhen Renmin Park



Shenzhen Renmin Park, established in 1983, is one of the earliest parks in Shenzhen City. It is located in the central urban area and occupies an area of 12.95 hectares with a lawn of 10.7 hectares and a lake of 2.25 hectares. In the Park, there are five functional zones named Garden Zone, Sports Zone, Recreation Zone, Nursery Zone and Park Management Zone. There are more than 20 spot attractions of plant, hill, bridge, lake, pavilion and others. Therefore, it is an excellent park, integrating modern and traditional elements.

The primary element of the Park is the roses. With great effort in the past decades, Renmin Park has gained rich experience in planting, researching and cultivating roses, and developing Chinese culture. In recent years, we have established a theme park of roses for communicating the culture among Chinese and visitors. Following the objective of Inheriting Chinese Rose Culture and Creating Harmonious Life, we carried out cultural activities and also held a series of colourful art exhibitions related to Roses in the Park. Moreover, roses are blossoming in four seasons in Shenzhen Renmin Park. Even in the cold spring holidays, when roses are rarely seen in Northern China, a wonderful rose flower exhibition is held in the Shenzhen Renmin Park which attracts many visitors and is highly regarded by them.

By planting roses and promoting the culture of roses in this South China subtropical area, we have had great success and win lots of praise. In 1993, the Park was honored as the Shenzhen Centre of Roses by The China Rose Society. In 2005, it was awarded the title of 5-star Park by Shenzhen

Municipal Government. In 2009, the Park won the title of 'Award of Garden Excellence' by The World Federation of Rose Societies. The president of The World Federation of Rose Societies, Mr. Gérald Meylan, praised the Park as the most beautiful rose garden in China, and which could become a world-famous one, when he visited the Park for the first time in May 2008.

1. Plant Scenery of the Park

Shenzhen is a coastal city on the South China Sea. It enjoys a southern sub-tropical monsoon climate featuring long summers and short winters, sufficient sunshine and rain. This excellent climate enables the Park to grow above 70 plant families, or above 300 kinds of plants, including trees, shrubs and herbs. There are more than 5 000 trees and the planting area of shrubs and herbs is about 80 000 m². These plants are growing together to create the very beautiful scenery in the Park.



We have successfully created different scenes in different places and made the Park look larger and more complicated with them. In the Park, there are four open areas which are named Lawn, Rose Sea, Sleeping Lake and Tower View that have different characteristics.

The Lawn in the west occupies an area of 5 000 m². There are strong banyan, Hainan ormosia, mahogany, tall bottle-brush, flame tree and other trees. The lawn grows carpetgrass that has big green leaves all the year around. Visitors enjoy the grassy areas and feel comfortable in the open scenery. Along the arbors, there are bushes of different shapes and colorful flower belts. The Lawn looks excellent from different angles. This lawn has won lots of praise by comparison of lawn management in Shenzhen City.

Garden Zone is the area for Rose flower exhibition, which occupies an area of about 20 000 m². It is surrounded by water and enjoys a mild and open aspect. There are many flower exhibition sections with different kinds of roses. It is really a flower sea which attracts visitors to enjoy the charm and beauty of the roses.



Recreation Zone is on the top of the hill. When you climb up one of the two bamboo paths to the top of the hill, you will suddenly see an open lawn. Looking through the thick plants, you may see the Moon Pavilion that is a quiet place for you to relax or read.

Since the park was built a long time ago, some of its trees are very strong and tall, and have many branches and thick canopies. Moreover, there are different plants in the park according to their characteristics, climate, land and other factors.

2. Rose Planting



Recreation area

We started planting roses in the park in 1985. It was decided to take roses as the theme flowers of the Park in 1989. With above 20 years' hard work on exploration, researching, and planting Roses, we have created a comprehensive theme park of roses which can attract many experts and fans of the rose, and also many citizens of Shenzhen. In the park, there are about 5 000 roses from about 150 families. We have also created more than 40 mini-landscapes of Roses with more than 200 tree-roses. Some of the mini-landscapes and tree-roses have won golden awards in Kunming World Horticultural Exposition and the China Flower Exhibition of Rose.

Tree-roses (standard roses) are features in the park. Ever since 1989, our gardeners started to graft roses onto rosaceous trees. After several years' development, we have successfully cultivated roses on *Rosa banksiae*, *Rosa laevigata* and other rosaceous standard understocks. They are strong, eugenic and have more flowers so they are more suitable for enjoyment. In recent years, we have tried to cultivate roses onto stronger rosaceous trees.

Rose mini-landscapes are also shining brand products in the park. Our gardeners have integrated the traditional mini-landscapes art with roses. By grafting **Red Diamond**, a kind of mini rose, to a piece of *Rosa banksiae* rootstock or *Rosa laevigata* rootstock, gardeners can create classical rose mini-landscapes. Some rose mini-landscapes have won golden awards in Kunming World Horticultural Exposition in 1999.

At present, we are still open-minded about ways of cultivating the diversity of ornamental roses. In this aspect, we have made some success in tower-shape Rose and climbing Rose.

Roses usually grow in temperate zones and they may not grow well in the high temperature and high humidity area of Southern China. At present, in Southern China, roses are usually potted, but rarely used in urban greening. Therefore, we carry out research on selecting roses that can grow in high temperature and high humidity areas, and hope that roses can be used in urban greening in the future. At present we are planning to establish a test station of new roses and a nursery of Chinese roses. By co-operating with breeders, we aim to collect 100 new varieties and 50 Chinese roses and hope to select 5-10 varieties which are suitable for Southern China's climate and can be widely used in urban greening.

3. Culture activities of Rose

Following the objective of Inheriting Chinese Rose Culture and Creating Harmonious Life for citizens in Shenzhen, we held colourful rose flower exhibitions and developed the culture of rose to enrich the colourful life of Shenzhen citizens.

In the past 11 years, we successfully held a big rose flower exhibition in the Chinese Spring Festival. We also held a rose variety exhibition on May 1st and an Ikebana exhibition on Oct 1st. At the same time, we developed aspects of rose culture, such as scientific knowledge, Chinese painting and

poems, calligraphy, photography and artwork of Roses. These colourful activities have won praise from the citizens of Shenzhen.

The rose flower exhibition, especially in the Chinese Spring Festival, has great influence in Shenzhen and throughout China. While there are only snow and ice in Northern China, the Spring Festival is a holiday for all Chinese people and the best time to enjoy the roses in Shenzhen Renmin Park, which is the only park where people can enjoy a rose flower exhibition in winter in China.

In the Rose flower exhibition, we value cultural aspects of rose very much. Therefore, we combine the park with the flower exhibition providing scientific knowledge, Chinese painting, calligraphy, poems, photography and artworks of roses. Visitors can not only enjoy the beautiful flowers, but also enjoy the colourful culture of roses.



Ceramic Roses

Photography exhibitions of roses has 6 years' history in Shenzhen Renmin park. Because the park enjoys a long season of rose blooming, many shutterbugs like to take photos and relax in the Park. Therefore, the photography exhibition of roses was set up. In each exhibition, many photographers from Shenzhen and its neighbouring cities gather in the park and enjoy the roses. They may take pictures for the roses or the visitors. Beautiful roses, creative ideas and excellent photographic skills will win high marks. In the exhibitions held in the past ten years, we have collected thousands of excellent pictures of roses. These pictures are the combination of the culture of roses and photography skills, from which, people learn more about the beauty of roses as well as life in Shenzhen.

Many artists are trying to exhibit the real charm of roses in their special ways. For example, a famous Chinese painter, Mr. Chen Yuhua, has devoted himself to painting roses. We exhibit his paintings in the park and they attract many fans. In recent years, we have held poem, painting and photography exhibitions of roses with the help of the Shenzhen Calligraphy Poetry Association.

In addition, we have planned Return Journey of old Roses. In the past, old roses were introduced to Europe and cultivated with western roses, which produced many kinds of modern roses and have had a great influence on the development of world rose industry. In Sept 2008, the President of World Federation of Rose Societies, Mr. Gérald Meylan visited the park and brought six varieties of old roses to Shenzhen Renmin park, which symbolised the perfect ending of the Return Journey of



Ikebana



old Roses.

4. Domestic and International Communication

4.1 Awards in China

In May 1999, we selected more than 30 roses from Shenzhen Renmin Park to attend 1999 Kunming World Horticultural Exposition, which won a golden award, four silver awards and eight bronze awards. Therefore, Shenzhen local government honoured the park as the outstanding exhibitor of the 1999 Kunming World Horticultural Exposition.

On Jul. 18, 2001 the Park was honored as the Garden-style Park by Shenzhen local government.

On Apr. 14, 2004 the Park passed the ISO14001 environment management system certification.

In 2005, the Park was honoured as a 5-star park by Shenzhen local government.

In May 2006, the Park took part in the Second National Rose Flower Exhibition and won golden award for its mini-landscapes of roses.

In May 2008, the park took part in the Third National Rose Exhibition and won gold, silver and bronze awards for its tree-roses, and a gold award for its rose mini-landscapes.

4.2 Present Chinese Old Roses to Entian Rose Memorial Park

In 2009, Mrs. Jiang Entian welcomed the 100-year birthday celebration of The “Modern Rose” in China and also the completion of Entian Rose Memorial Park. In order to commemorate her contribution to the world rose industry, the Meilland family named a new rose as **Madam Entian**, which was first planted in China by the president of World Federation of Rose Societies, Mr. Gérald Meylan. Moreover, Shenzhen Renmin Park presented above 20 varieties of Chinese old Roses to Entian Rose Memorial Park. In return, Entian Rose Memorial Park donated 60 **Madam Entian** roses to Shenzhen Renmin park. Therefore, the **Madam Entian** rose will be recognised as the symbol of communication and friendship between Chinese culture and western culture, and will always be cherished in Shenzhen Renmin Park.

4.3 President Gerald Meylan and Mr. Alain Meiland visited the Park



Vice-President Takamasa Tsuneaki and Alain Meiland visiting the park.

In May 2008, President Gérald Meylan, accompanied by the son of Mrs. Jiang Entian, Dean Chen, visited Shenzhen Renmin park. By the end of the visit, Mr. Meylan gave very complimentary regarding the cultivating technology of planting roses, its colourful culture exhibition, and the influence to the citizens. He is also impressed that Renmin Park is the best one among many parks in China and can become a world-famous park. Mr. Meylan also suggested the Park to nominate for the rose garden of excellence award and make efforts to win the honour in the

future for Shenzhen City, or even the whole of China.

In Sep. 2008, Mr. Meylan accompanied by Vice President Takamasa, visited Shenzhen Renmin Park again during his second visit to China. Mr. Meylan formally recommended the Park to nominate for the Award of Garden Excellence, and also gave marks on the park. A reception was made by Shenzhen Deputy-Mayor, Lv Ruifeng, to welcome the guests and hoped that the WFRS can greatly support the international culture communication of the rose in Shenzhen.

Mr. Alain Meilland, a famous member of the rose industry, visited Shenzhen Renmin park in 2008. Mr. Meilland was very interested that roses can grow in such a high-temperature and high-humidity area. He also gave instructions on how to grow and cultivate roses, and offered to provide 60 varieties of new roses to the park.

4.4 Return Journey of Old Chinese Roses



During his communication, President Meylan learned that the park values traditional Chinese roses very much. Renmin Park takes the traditional roses as the foundation of the rose park in China. Therefore, President Meylan said that he will help by donating six varieties of Chinese old roses to Shenzhen Renmin Park. At the end of 2008, Shenzhen Renmin Park received these important gifts, which were recognised as a big event in the rose industry and attracted many members of the press to report.

4.5 Attending 15th World Rose Conference and Holding Award Activities

On Jun 24, recommended by China Rose Society, and approved by Shenzhen Municipal government, Shenzhen Renmin Park participated in the competition and won the Award of Garden Excellence. The park becomes the first rose garden in China to win this award.

Due to the language barrier, there has been no organisation in China which participates in the competition for Award of Garden Excellence before. Shenzhen Renmin Park encourages all staff to prepare for the competition, producing promotion text, pictures, Powerpoint file and DVD movie of 10th Rose Flower Exhibition with the culture and beautiful scenery of the park, and sent these materials to the secretary de the WFRS.

On Jun. 18, at the 15th World Rose Conference, the representatives of Renmin Park spoke with other attendees and gave a report in English on the rose garden and its role in China's Pearl River Delta. They used 116 pictures to display the history and economic development of Shenzhen City, and the development of Shenzhen Renmin park.

Their excellent performance and preparation allowed the commission to learn more about Shenzhen City and Renmin Park. Finally, Shenzhen Renmin Park was honoured with the Award of Garden Excellence along with another six famous rose gardens.

5. Future Vision

As the rose centre in Southern China, Shenzhen Renmin Park takes the responsibility of carrying on with the culture of the rose and promote the development of the rose industry. Furthermore, we will constantly attend international and domestic rose conferences. By absorbing the advanced

cultivation and breeding technology, we can make Shenzhen Renmin Park a wonderful theme park of roses with Chinese characteristics, and the park will play an important role in Chinese and western communication regarding rose culture.

In the future, we will follow the object of inheriting Chinese Rose Culture and Creating Harmonious Life in Shenzhen City. Through our colourful activities centred on roses, we can exhibit the diversity of roses, develop the culture of roses and enrich people's lives.

Furthermore, we will co-operate with the China Rose Society, the [WFRS](#) and world rose breeders. We are planning to establish a test station for new roses and introduce colourful cultural activities and new varieties to the public. At the same time, we will make every effort to use climbing roses, landscape roses and others to and create more beautiful landscapes. We will continue to hold rose flower exhibitions, promote scientific knowledge, calligraphy, poems, photography and artworks involving roses. We will plant more tree-roses and rose mini-landscapes. In addition, we will maintain advanced cultural technology and further develop and introduce more types of understocks for rose cultivating. In research and development, we will select roses that can grow in high-temperature and high-humidity areas and endeavour to use roses in urban greening in the future.

Standing Committee Reports – Awards Ian Spriggs, Chairman



When I agreed to take on this role, I did not realise what a difficult task it would be. With a commercial background in banking, specifically lending, I was always one that followed the rules or instructions of the organisation for which I worked, otherwise I would not have had a job. As a lender of last resort, I also had to show compassion for the people with whom I dealt and not be so inflexible that a worthwhile decision could not be reached, always within the rules or the charter which I was given.

With that sort of background, I believe these same set of 'principles' or 'rules' should apply to the WFRS and in particular the standing orders. I fully realise that we are dealing with many wonderful people who all love roses, and at times language can be a problem, but the rules are in place, and must be adhered to.

Early in the New Year, I shall be putting forward a list of suggestions or recommendations to the Executive Committee on ways to improve the standing orders of the Awards Committee. I do not expect all will be passed, but I am at least hopeful some will be. I am particularly concerned with the Hall of Fame nominations and voting—the responses from Countries have been unsatisfactory in general and it is only after many reminders that we get responses. The Literary Awards also need close attention.

For those that know me well, it is clear that I like to get things right. I have always tried to do that, in all the roles I have filled.

Please follow the standing orders.

The WFRS Publications Committee Helga Brichet, Chairman

The Publications Committee of the Federation was brought into being as early as 1971 during the first World Rose Convention, in Hamilton, New Zealand, with the object of “encouraging and facilitating the exchange of information about and knowledge of the Rose between rose societies.” Over the ensuing years Bulletins were circulated amongst the steadily increasing number of Members, while as early as 1979, the Swiss Society offered to publish a directory of rose gardens, nurseries and breeders, worldwide.

In the 28 years since its inception, the Publications Committee has gone from strength to strength, and is presently responsible for *World Rose News*, until now mailed to all Members and Associate Members twice yearly, a *World Rose Directory* online, improved and overhauled annually, containing Members’ input, and also a website, which is constantly updated with reports of past events and programmes of future rose trials, meetings and conferences around the globe.



At the recent World Rose Convention in Vancouver last June, Members approved the appointment of the new Editor, Richard Walsh, who is presently, and has been for a number of years, the Editor of *The Australian Rose Annual*. Hopefully it will be possible to increase the number of editions of *World Rose News* to four per year. To assist Richard in this task an Editorial Board has been established, which is composed of the following members: the President, Sheenagh Harris, the Immediate Past President, Gérald Meylan, the Honorary Treasurer, Jill Bennell (ex-officio), the Executive Director, Malcolm Watson, the Editor of *World Rose News*, Richard Walsh, the Webmaster and Editor of *The Rose Directory*, Ethel Freeman, plus two additional members, Jolene Adams (USA) and Rosario Algorta (Uruguay), and myself as Chairman of the Publications Committee.

In the meantime a first number of the Federation’s magazine has been issued online, and necessarily included the rather cumbersome minutes of all the meetings held during the Vancouver World Conference, as well as reviewing the lighter side of this most enjoyable event. This made for mammoth work on the part of our Editor, who was really thrown in at the deep end and immediately demonstrated his skill and experience at the job.

A meeting of the Editorial Board is programmed next April during the Regional Conference in Changzhou in order to, firstly have the pleasure of meeting our new Editor personally, as well as discussing the duties and business, for which the Board is responsible. I’m convinced that WFRS Members and rosarians worldwide can look forward to good rose reading – we shall do our utmost to satisfy your expectations and look forward to receiving YOUR contributions.





Photos show Helga's garden with some snow on the roses

The *WFRS Rose Directory* and Website

Ethel Freeman

roseguys@rogers.com

At the request of our President, here is a little about myself and my WFRS roles as both Editor of the *WFRS Rose Directory* and webmaster of the WFRS website.



I live in Toronto, Canada and grow about 150 roses of all types on a small city lot, with a special interest in winter hardy roses and roses for the garden, as opposed to exhibiting. I dabble in hybridising, again with a particular interest in winter hardiness and also disease resistance, as I don't use any sprays in my garden. I am a Past President of both the WFRS and the Canadian Rose Society, and was also Editor of the *Canadian Rose Annual* from 1985 to 1994 and Chairman of the WFRS Convention in Toronto in 1985.

In 1994 Milly Weyermann of Switzerland and I conceived the idea of an annual *WFRS Rose Directory*, and I have been its Editor ever since.

One of the most important functions of the World Federation of Rose Societies, as stated in our Constitution, is "To encourage and facilitate the interchange of information about and knowledge of the rose between national rose societies". The *WFRS Rose Directory* attempts to do that.

The aim is to gather together the most important rose information from each of the 41 member countries that make up the WFRS. This is information that is commonly known by members of each national rose society about roses in their own country, but it is information that is hard to come by for other rose lovers

Since 1994 the data in the *WFRS Rose Directory* has been provided annually by member societies of the WFRS. For each country we seek to include contact information, descriptions and fees for the national rose society, details about when the roses bloom, the year's rose events throughout the country, and detailed lists



of the major rose gardens, rose hybridisers, rose nurseries, rose research facilities, and major rose libraries.

Of course, the accuracy of the information is dependent on the data provided by the member societies. So a lot of my time is spent contacting all the societies and asking/pleading for current information.

The *WFRS Rose Directory* also contains information on the Breeders' Club and WFRS historical information such as the Past Presidents, Convention venues, awards, Hall of Fame winners, Award of Excellence Gardens and Literary Award winners.

Until several years ago the *Rose Directory* was distributed in book form – one copy to each national rose society every year. Because the cost of postage became so onerous, we then sent it as a CD for several years. Keeping up with modern technology, we now send it by email. But since the aim is to disseminate rose information to as many people as possible throughout the world, and typically a member society's copy remained with its Secretary or President, the *WFRS Rose Directory* is now also available to everyone as a PDF file on our website.

In 1997 the WFRS decided to join the new age and have a website. Since I am a retired computer engineer, I volunteered to design the site. As always happens, I have been the webmaster since, and have also redesigned the site twice. Our website is www.worldrose.org

Some of the information that is in the annual *WFRS Rose Directory* is also on our website – contact information, etc for each national rose society, bloom dates and their schedule of rose events and links to their websites. Our website is kept updated as new information is received. There is also the Breeders' Club information and the Hall of Fame winners, Award of Excellence gardens, and literary awards, all enhanced by photos. In addition, our website has the latest information on all upcoming WFRS conventions and regional conferences.

One of the most important features of our website is the rose trials results from around the world as we receive them, including photos of the winners wherever possible and, of course, *World Rose News* is also now on the website.

Our website is constantly evolving and ever broadening the range of rose information we provide to rose lovers everywhere. In 2009 over 40,000 unique visitors accessed our site and the number continues to grow every year.

Between the *WFRS Rose Directory* and the website, I spend a lot of time at my computer. It is time I am happy to spend in spreading the word on roses, but any comments, advice, help or even offers to take over are always welcome.

Celebrating and Honouring Distinguished Rosarians

Dean Hole Medal

Ann Bird retired as President of The Royal National Rose Society in October 2009 having held this high office for 4 years. She was the 51st and the first lady President of the RNRS.



Ann's first foray into the world of roses was when she bought six pre-packed plants from a local supermarket for the new garden of her house in the middle-England market town of Market Harborough. Little did she think then that this would lead to a passion for roses, developing from those six plants to a garden of some two hundred roses. Old and historic roses became her greatest love and her garden overflowed with gallica, china, moss, bourbon and damask roses; all climbing and tumbling and filling the air with fragrance. Her care in photographing roses wherever she goes results in perfect slides for her illustrated talks which she gives all over the UK and throughout the world. Ann always takes the time to learn the history of the houses, the gardens and their owners, making her

presentations all the more interesting for her audience not all of whom are necessarily rose orientated.

Ann first joined the RNRS in 1974 and I well remember the first time I met her at HQ in St Albans. Hungry for information on the history of roses and their origins, she was keen to collect the editions of *Rose Annual* from its first publication in 1907 and placed her name on the waiting list for back copies. She would happily drive down the motorway for just one edition which had been squirreled away waiting for her. The library at St Albans was another place to find her, so it is not surprising that one of her priorities as President was to ensure that the books, many valuable editions, were catalogued and stored in a secure environment.

Exhibiting at shows was the next step on her path into the 'Rose World' and her exhibits of bowls, pedestals and baskets of old garden roses won her many prizes. This progression led to her taking the Shows Judges exam and she became an RNRS Accredited Judge in 1981. From shows to rose trials, Ann has served on both committees, with a short break, up to the present day. She also judges trials at St Albans and throughout the world.

I doubt Ann ever thought of becoming President of the RNRS and she took over at a time when the Society was floundering as were many similar organisations. Her determination to resurrect the Garden at St Albans was fierce. It was redesigned and she worked, hands-on, digging, planting, weeding, mulching in preparation for the re-opening of the Garden. It did open again in June 2007. This last year has seen it back to its former glory with the roses and companion planting established, the lawns lush and the fountains 'dancing'.

Having served four years, Ann stood down as President at the Society's AGM in October 2009. She was awarded the Society's highest honour, that of The Dean Hole Medal, for her outstanding service to the Society through what was one of the most difficult periods in its history.

There is a little story attached to the particular Dean Hole Medal presented to Ann. It was originally held by Mr Frank Bowen, President of the Society in the year that Ann became a member and because of this she chose to have it re-engraved for herself. Frank Bowen was also a President of The World Federation of Rose Societies in 1971 and now Ann is our Vice President for Northern Europe.

Jill Bennell

Great Rosarians of the World
William (Bill) Grant, USA
by clairg

On Saturday, January 23, 2010 Bill Grant was recognized as a Great Rosarian of the World™ 'Friend of the Rose' by the Executive Committee in recognition of his dedication to the Great Rosarians of the World Program.



Bill has been a stalwart friend of our program since its inception, dipping into his experience and sharing his knowledge of the rose world to help us select the best rosarians for this unique honor. Unfortunately Bill had to miss the year's banquet and program but it was decided to go ahead with the award and Thea Gurns accepted the honor in Bill's name.



All who know Bill from his years supporting roses around the world and his now famous rose garden tours join in acknowledging Bill at this moment and wish him only the best!

In Memoriam

Frank Benardella

“The Picasso of Modern Miniature Roses”

On January 30th, 2010 the rose world lost yet another true hero of the 20th century. Frank Benardella passed away surrounded by his family and friends at his home in New Jersey. Recounting his life is not difficult at all. Like the sun, he shone brightly bringing beauty to rose lovers throughout the world.

Frank was president of the American Rose Society from 1977 to 1979 and was awarded the Gold Honor Medal soon after his presidency. He also served as WFRS Vice-President for North America. Frank's rise as a national rose exhibitor was fast and furious. He often related the story of driving with his family from New Jersey all the way to Denver to attend a national convention and rose show, packing lots of roses on the back of his car and winning! Indeed Frank was a hallmark fixture at ARS National Conventions, always to be found in the hotel lobby at midnight smoking his pipe, talking roses and ordering pizza for his eager audience.



But the story of Frank's passion for miniature roses began soon after his service to the Society. The surge in the popularity of miniature roses at the end of the 20th century brought so much beauty into every garden, public and private alike. Under the leadership of the acknowledged Father of Miniature Roses, Ralph Moore paved the way for F. Harmon Saville, Dee Bennett, Ernest Williams, and others to create their own versions of small and beautiful roses and how truly magnificent they were. Along came Frank Benardella who, in 1985, stunned the rose world by introducing two of his own creations, **Jennifer**, a pink blend miniature that verges to light lavender and has a lovely fragrance, and **Black Jade**, the deepest

and darkest rose yet with excellent form. Not surprisingly, both roses won the coveted AOE (Award of Excellence) that year. Frank continued to win numerous AOE awards right up until last year and was particularly proud of his latest creation, **Magic Show**, which also won a Certificate of Merit at the Rose Hills International Rose Trails in 2009. His hope was that finally he would win a Gold Medal at Rose Hills for this variety and that can happen!

Following his successes with **Jennifer** and **Black Jade**, he came out next in 1988 with **Old Glory**, an orange-red mini with good exhibition form; 1989 with **Jim Dandy**, a red blend which blooms with some good potential but sort of faded out quickly from the limelight. 1992 came the sensational **Figurine** lovely light pink blooms that produces excellent form blossoms and fabulous sprays. **Kristin** (aka **Pirouette**) came next in 1993 and nothing but pure superlatives can describe this rose. In form, color, growth habit, ability to cycle fast and resistance to disease, this rose is topnotch.

For the next 7 years, Frank laid low as a hybridizer. The reason? He moved from Old Tappan, New Jersey to Millstone Township, same state. He built a new and fabulous house, erected state of the art greenhouses and restarted his hybridising program. Then in 2001, he introduced **Ruby**, a pure medium red mini, small but with good form and long lasting blooms. In 2002 came **Merlot**, another red but with light to silver reverse and in 2003, his latest, the vigorous and prolific **Baby Boomer**. This variety has excellent exhibition form, lovely medium pink blooms that stay pretty as it opens and aged. All these roses have earned the Big E Award which means that they have been tested across the country for two years prior to their introduction and found superior in their growth and performance. Frank has now accumulated over 20 of these awards, with **Magic Show** being his latest in 2009.

Other varieties that Frank has introduced includes **Lavander Jade**, **Tiny Tots**, **Jilly Jewel** and in honor of the Philadelphia convention, the miniflora, **Liberty Bell**. He also hybridised the first striped Hybrid Tea, aptly called **Tinseltown**.

On a personal note, Frank often visited California and would stay a few nights at our home. On the first occasion, when smoking his pipe on the patio, the high tension power cables broke causing a power failure for days. Apart from the inconvenience, the incidence was soon forgotten until the next year when Frank visited again. Imagine the shock when a car accident on the canyon outside the house toppled the power lines and we were without power for days. Needless to say, when Frank

visited the following year, we had an ample supply of candles! We still have that box of candles unopened.

To Frank Benardella, we all owe you a great debt of thanks for making our daily lives so much more rewarding through all your wonderful creations and for making this world a more beautiful place to live in. To his wife June and their family, who must now live their daily lives without Frank, we offer our condolences and prayers knowing full well that Frank's legacy will survive the test of time.

Luis Desamero

Reports from Newer Member Societies

Hungarian Rose Friends' Society KECSKEMÉT, HUNGARY Ágoston Guszti, President

I am from Hungary, and my job is to send to you a little information about our society. Our new President Mrs. Sheenagh Harris sent a letter to me, so I try to give some information: we were founded in 1885 and now in 2010 we celebrate our 125th anniversary. This time was full of all kinds of problems and of course joys too, political, economical and private for all of us, but I am sending a "rosy picture"; we are not pessimists. We are trying to build a new rose garden in our town.

Some words about me and my family:

I'm Ágoston Guszti, 66 years old. I and my wife Mária (62) are both horticultural engineers. We finished university in Bulgaria. She has a tissue culture laboratory with our daughter Erika (38); she is also a horticultural engineer, (her husband is in the national park as an ornithologist). They produce hot water plants in the lab, mainly for abroad.

I make substrates (labels?) for profit and hobby (www.jofold.hu). 15 years ago I was the secretary of Hungarian Ornamental Plants Council (the operative head of the lobby, member in the AIPH presidency, to represent Hungary. I organised earlier the www.hortushungaricus.hu too).

We have three children; they have in turn families, 7 grandchildren. We have two boys Karl (41). He and his wife Christina are in computer business. The youngest Guszti, 35, is an architect; his wife is also a horticultural engineer, and they have an agency for plant protection machinery.

In 1885 the Hungarian Horticultural Council (HHC) was founded; a rose department operated in HHC too, and had its own newspaper, titled *Rózsa Ujság (Rose News)* until 1910. The publication was bilingual (Hungarian and German) and was six times per year.

In 1935, the 50-years jubilee edition, *The Gold Book of HHC*, was published and commemorated the Society's life, filled with historical memorabilia, successful national and international exhibitions, results of breeding etc.

In the mid-fifties a new development in the horticulture profession was starting. The Rosarium in Budapest was established (planned by the epoch-making creative designer, Professor Dr. Imre



Ormos, landscape architect), which led to a new fashion in the cultivation of roses. The annual rose exhibition in the Rosarium became famous also in Europe through the activity of the successful rose breeder, Dr. Gergely Márk.

In the late sixties the traditional rose-stock production from Szőreg (a district of Szeged, on the riverside of Tisza and Maros in Sued-Hungary) developed significantly and today 3-5 million rose-stocks are exported yearly to Western-European countries. The agencies for the biggest rose breeding houses from Europe obtain their supplies here for the most part.

In 1991 the Hungarian Ornamental Plant Council was established and as one of the 13 member Societies of the Council since 1995, the Hungarian Rose Producers' Society (HRPS) from Szőreg was collaborating too.

The HRPS is traditionally organises on on the 3rd weekend in June the colourful Rose-Festival in Szőreg and also the very popular Rose-Ball Carnival in winter.

In 2007 we started to make consultation with Dr. Istvan Wagner Vice President of WFRS, how to organise the rose friends society in Hungary, like the neighbouring countries.



Accordingly, with him advising, we started to organise rose exhibitions synergistic with Kecskemét-Festival in August and again the reissue of the *Rose News* too. In 2007 we had over 5000 visitors.

In August 2008 we organised the second rose exhibition in Kecskemét with the goal to introduce the most beautiful garden roses from Europe.

Accompanying program for the International Rose Congress “In memory for Rudolf Geschwind”, with Mr. Gérald Meylan, the immediate past president of the WFRS honorary chairman

The Mayor of Kecskemét Dr Gábor Zombor officiated as host was very satisfied with our Rose Congress and the exhibition “ROSA FORMA 1”, he closed the Congress with this question: “Why not have we own rose garden in our town Kecskemét?”

So in 2009 in the budget of Kecskemét, there is a decision: an old garden (about 6500-7000m²) in the centre of the city Kecskemét will be rebuilt as a public rose garden. The concept plan will be ready soon, designed by Dr. Petrekovich Perjés András, President of the Hungarian Landscape Architects Societies.

By the rebuilding of Kecskemét’s Rose garden, our Society is working together like a public benefit organisation and our new name is Hungarian Rose Friends’ Society. I was elected as president.

We will begin to build our rose garden in Kecskemét in 2010. That will be a long job, in these economically stressed days. We hope, we can open a small part of the rose garden in August 2010 and celebrate the 125 anniversary of the foundation of the Hungarian Rose Friends’ Society.



Growing roses in Iceland –Really?

By Vilhjalmur Ludviksson, Chairman of the Horticultural Society of Iceland.



largest rose society in the World” on per capita basis!

There is something of a contradiction of terms in the notion of growing roses in Iceland. Yet, that is exactly what we are doing - or at least trying. And trying it is – both with success and some failures. Our club was founded in April 2002 with the objective of gathering knowledge and experience in the growing of roses and spreading information among the members and to the public. Starting with some 25 founding members, The Club currently has some 280 members and is still growing. That means almost one of every thousand habitants in Iceland, which probably makes it “the

About roses in Iceland

in Iceland. The weather is characterised by frequent high winds, high rainfall, summer and winter, especially in the South; relatively low summer temperatures, and relatively mild winters with frequent variations between frost and thaw - in short, conditions generally hated by roses! The situation is, however, not hopeless and with knowledge about the requirements of the different varieties and increasing emphasis and success by some propagators in developing hardy varieties, the hopes for Icelandic rose enthusiasts are rising.

There are two species of roses occurring naturally in rather isolated spots in Iceland, **Rosa pimpinellifolia** in six or seven locations and **Rosa dumalis** in one location only. These limited natural occurrences have not led to proper adaptation of these species to the climatic conditions, their flowering is sparse and they are not fully hardy and therefore not widely used in gardening until now. The origin of these occurrences is somewhat of an enigma. There are records of some 1000 species and varieties of roses having been imported to Iceland and tried, mostly in private gardening. Unfortunately there are limited written records of the outcomes of these trials, a situation that needs to be addressed.

Regular activities

The business activities of the Club are conducted by a five man board, chaired currently by Mr Samson Hardarson. The Club receives secretarial support from the Horticultural Society of Iceland and is also served through the web-site of the Society www.gardurinn.is.

Hardy roses on a windswept hill near the sea



The activities of the Rose Club follow a rather regular pattern with Annual Meetings and business affairs completed in February. There are two club meetings with lectures and presentations of potential new rose acquisitions, one in the spring and a second in the fall. There are voluntary work days in the Club's Rose Garden (see below) around summer solstice, which includes planting new rose

varieties for trials and tending to older plantings. Then there is an open day of selected private rose-gardens around July 20th, depending on the weather and the state of rose flowering. With the growing number of rose-lovers in Iceland, this activity is likely to receive increasing popular attention.

The Club has in the last three years established close contacts with its Nordic sister societies and its members participated in arrangements organised both bilaterally with Finland and multilaterally during the biennial Nordic Rose-weekends.

The Rose list

In recent years a number of dedicated gardeners have become successful at growing roses and identifying varieties that perform well, given proper care and choice of suitable location. This success has been helped by a warming climate. The Club has already established a list of 100 recommended varieties and species roses based on the experience of veteran members. The list of roses classifies the varieties into three categories of hardiness as related to relevant Icelandic

growing conditions. The Club has each year since its foundation selected 25-30 new varieties for import from rose growers in Europe (primarily the Nordic countries) and Canada for sale to Club members to trial in their gardens under various conditions.



”The Rose Garden”

The Club inaugurated in 2005 what must be the Worlds most unusual rose garden. The site is a South-West facing hillside near the small Lake Hvalvatn, south-west of Reykjavik, among stone rubble left by the receding glacier at the termination of the last glacial period. The soil was originally glacial clay exposed by erosion, but which in recent decades had been planted with Alaskan lupins which have dominated the site and coloured the hills blue in early June. The lupins have now started to recede, leaving a rather fertile and organically

enriched soil which is rapidly becoming infested with dandelions and grasses. Over 100 varieties of roses have been planted in this somewhat forbidding site by the Club members, three plants of each variety. So far the survival is surprisingly good and bodes well for the future of roses in Iceland. A new, more conventional rose garden is under preparation in co-operation with the City Garden of Reykjavik in Laugardalur.

Rose crossings and trials

One of the Cub members, Mr. Jóhann Pálsson, former Commissioner of the City Gardens of Reykjavik, has experimented with rose crossings with considerable success borne out by winter hardiness, flowering characteristics and performance of some ten new cultivars, most of them with rugosa bloodlines as a foundation. These cultivars have been under trial for some years and are only now being considered for propagation and distribution locally

International contacts

The Rose Club became a member of the Nordic Association of Rose Societies after attending the Nordic Rose weekend for the first time in Denmark in 2006, which was a mind-blowing experience for the 14 participants from Iceland, given the outstanding success of the Danes in rose growing and traditions in rose propagation. In 2007 the Rose Club was accepted as a member of the World Federation of Rose Societies and exchanged mutual membership recognition with the most venerable Royal National Rose Society of Great Britain. In the summer of 2007 18 members of the Icelandic Rose Society paid a visit to the Finnish Rose Society on a tour of rose gardens and rose-growing establishments in Southern Finland. As a result of this visit, there arrived in Iceland in the spring of 2008 a collection some 30 to 90 small rooted cuttings each of over 20 new rose varieties that have proven hardy under strenuous climatic conditions in Finland. These were eagerly welcomed by club members and quickly potted into two litre containers for on-growing. There is much expectation



attached to this experiment among the Icelandic rose enthusiasts. The hard work of the Finns in searching for and defining new or rediscovering lost varieties of hardy Finnish roses greatly impressed the Icelandic Club members.

On July 7 to 10 two members of the Rose Club, Vilhjálmur Lúðvíksson and Jóhann Pálsson, visited Northern Finland to learn about experiences with hardy varieties of roses and lilacs in the region, finding a number of interesting potential candidates for introduction to Iceland. The Russian origin of some lovely rose varieties raised from seed in Tornio and in Oulu created intense curiosity.

On July 10-13, 2008 the Rose Society of Norway hosted the biennial Nordic Rose weekend in Lillehammer, Norway, attended by some 150 rose-lovers including four from the Icelandic Rose Club as well as WFRS president Gerald Meylan. During the final dinner, the Rose Club of the Icelandic Horticultural Society was formally and warmly adopted into the family of Nordic rose societies.

On September 5.-7, 2008 members of the board of the Association of the Nordic Rose Societies met in Iceland for the first time to discuss ways to strengthen their co-operation and decide on projects of common interest.

The Icelandic Rose Club intends to host the Nordic Rose Weekend in 2012.

The future

If the climatologists are right, Iceland is in for a warmer climate in the coming decades. This may provide opportunities and challenges for Icelandic rose lovers and they are already looking for new varieties. Some are trying their hand at rose breeding with some success. The club-members are extremely interested in making contacts with rose lovers and rose propagators working with hardy roses under similar climatic conditions

For more information see websites:

www.gardurinn.is

www.rosaklubbur.is

New Member – Russia Alexanda Ukolov President The Russian Association of Rosarians



Rose Garden in Russia

We wish all rosarians from all over the world a Happy New Rose Year 2010! We wish you sound health and prosperity, and your roses to be of perfect decorativeness and magnificent bloom in the forthcoming spring-summer season (editor's note, autumn-winter for us in the southern hemisphere). Thank you very much for co-operation, support and concern with our work, for the invitations and kind messages.

The Russian Association of Rosarians was established under the auspices of the

World Federation of Rose Societies, led by WFRS President Gérald Meylan. Russia joined the WFRS on May 5, 2007 and the Russian Association of Rosarians (RAR) became its 37th member.

The goals of the Russian Association of Rosarians are:

- advancement of rose culture in Russia;
- gather and disseminate information on world rose novelties;
 - develop contacts with foreign rose associations.



The past year 2009 was highly interesting to us – the RAR sent nurslings to many regions of the Russian Federation, and what is especially pleasant to such distant places as Juzhno-Sakhalinsk, Petropavlovsk Kamchatsky, Vladivostok, Nakhodka and abroad to Cyprus. We have had the pleasure of communicating with more than 10 000 rosarians from Russia, Ukraine, Byelorussia and other countries; we have received messages even from Alaska.

The Association is successfully developing. It presently has more than 200 members and about 10 000 people from all over Russia

receive publications from the RAR. Symposiums and seminars are held monthly; we take part in various flower shows and design rose gardens in Moscow and Moscow region.

During the seminars most interesting topics concerning roses are discussed such as advantages and disadvantages of modern methods of growing roses, traditional varieties and novelties, proved eco-friendly methods of insect and disease protection, how to withstand climate worsening, planned pruning and covering. We are anxious to tell amateur Rosarians that cultivation of roses is not so complex if one works with love.



The Russian Association of Rosarians has issued a new journal named *The Name of a Rose*. It tells about peculiarities of growing roses in the moderate climate of Russia, warns about various mistakes possible while growing these tender plants, which need special care and protection. Founded upon the specialists of the Association's experience, the issue reveals simple and proved methods of designing landscape gardens with use of the newest rose varieties of world selection. It also helps prolong the full-grown blooms of the rosariums for years.

I am looking forward to meeting our friends, the rosarians from Australia, Germany, France and other countries soon.

Dates to Remember

Regional Convention – Changzhou, China, April 27 – May 5 2010

See separate article

<http://rose.greencz.gov.cn/>

Hex Festival of Roses – September 11-12 2010

Count and countess Ghislain d'Ursel have pleasure in sending you herewith the press release with program of the *Hex festival of roses, rare plants, and kitchen gardens*.

As usual there is theme for the whole year: aromatic and curative plants. The gardener has sewn some twenty varieties in the "prince-bishop's kitchen garden" and another 40 will be scattered in the gardens.

Moreover the year is a commemoration of the centenary of the death of the Czech rose-grower Rudolf Geschwind and we will bring a panel of international experts to Hex who will explain the confusion in identifying the Geschwind roses. This will be illustrated by the new garden in the park, designed by Rozenkwekerij De Bierkreek who also offers all the roses by Geschwind available for the moment, now over 40, and more to follow.

Off course the Friday will as usual be dedicated to children with the scarecrow competition for schools and workshops and demonstration on aromatic and curative plants, nature plants, the environment and biodiversity; demonstrations and talks will be available for children as well as individual visitors on Saturday and Sunday.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for photo=material, available for free use, or an invitation for the festival.

Letta Proper-Pranger, Phone: +32 12 747341, website: www.hex.be,
email: gardens@hex.be

12th International Heritage Rose Conference – Sakura, Japan, May 28 – June 3 2011

maebara@heritageroses.jp, www.heritageroses.jp/conference-sakura2011

Programme

Historical Tea Roses and the Importance of their Preservation in a Modern World

by Di Durston (Australia)

Conservation of Old Garden Roses in China

by Zhao Shiwei (China)

Roses at the End of the 19th Century as Presented by the Hungarian Rose Periodical (1889-1896)

by Eva Kigyóssy-Schmidt (Germany) & Erich Unmuth (Austria)

Sustainable Rose Growing -- An Indian Dream

by Viru Viraraghavan (India)

Two Rose Breeders with a Passion for Species Roses -- Rudolf Geschwind and Louis Lens
by Helga Brichet (Italy)

The Correct Name of *Rosa wichuraiana*
by Hideaki Ohba (Japan)

Fragrance of Species Roses Native to Japan
by Kentaro Okagi et al. (Japan)

Japan and the Rise of the Polyanthas
by Jocelen Janon (New Zealand)

Old Garden Roses and their History in Sweden -- a Report from the Present National Inventory of
Roses
by Lars-Åke Gustavsson (Sweden)

Hybrid Setigera Roses
by Gregg Lowery (USA)

Preserving a Public Historic Rose Collection: Rewards and Challenges
by Clair G. Martin III (USA)

Tours

On the afternoons of the 29th to 31st, May, bus tours in and around the city are scheduled. Our guests will be able to relax from the tension of the lecture programme by visiting rose gardens, Japanese gardens, old temples, a sake brewery, etc. and become familiar with the history and culture of Sakura City.



Old Hotta House in Sakura City

On the post-convention tours scheduled on the 1st to 3rd of June, we would like to guide our guests to the Flower Festival Commemorative Park in Gifu, a famous rose garden which received the WFRS award of garden excellence in 2003, to the Echigo Hillside Park Rose Garden in Niigata Prefecture, noted for its international fragrant rose trials, and to the natural habitats of *Rosa rugosa*, a wild rose native to Japan.

► [Fragrance Rose Garden](#)



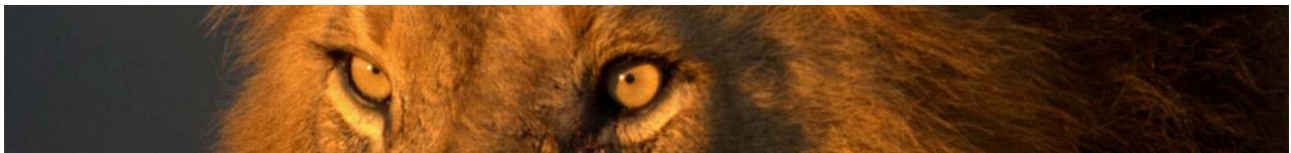
Echigo Hillside Park Rose Garden

► [Flower Festival Commemorative Park](#)



Flower Festival Commemorative Park Rose Garden

16th World Rose Convention – Sandton, South Africa, October 10-18 2012



I'LL BE WATCHING OUT FOR YOU AT THE

**16th WORLD ROSE CONVENTION
SANDTON, SOUTH AFRICA**

The Federation of Rose Societies of South Africa invites rose lovers the world over to attend the 16th World Rose Convention

FROM OCTOBER 11 TO 18, 2012

This convention includes lectures, and exhibitions of roses, porcelain and botanical painting, cake icing and other fine rose craft-work. Garden visits will delight convention delegates and provide unique opportunities for the keen photographer. Networking with fellow rose lovers has always been a special feature of these gatherings and we have no doubt that this will again be a highlight for many who have attended previous conventions.

PRE-CONVENTION TOUR

OCTOBER 8 – 10, 2012

Pilanesberg Game Reserve is set in the crater of a long-extinct volcano and is the fourth largest Park in South Africa covering an area of 55 000 hectare.

The beauty of Pilanesberg is reflected in a large central lake, the Mankwe Dam. Over time, wind and water have carved a spectacular landscape with rocky outcrops, open grasslands, wooded valleys and thickets. Virtually every mammal of southern Africa is accommodated in the Park.

Our pre-convention tour will be visiting this very special Park which is home to the Big Five and malaria-free. The tour will include game drives, very comfortable accommodation, a bush braai (bbq), plus other exciting activities.

POST-CONVENTION TOUR

OCTOBER 19 – 23, 2012

The city of Bloemfontein, well known as the Rose Capital of South Africa, will host convention delegates for the first night of this tour. Their breath-taking annual summer rose show and competition, as well as beautiful public and private gardens, will be the main features of this visit.

An early evening flight will transport tour participants to the “fairest Cape in all the world” where roses were first introduced over 350 years ago. Delegates will be treated to visits to the famous Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens at the base of Table Mountain, the Stellenbosch Winelands, the Durbanville trial garden, private gardens and much, much more.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ROSAFRICA 2012

Visit our website www.rosafrika2012.co.za Email us on info@roseafrica2012.co.za Fax us on +2711 440 3371

Organised by the Gold Reef and Northern Rose Societies
on behalf of The Federation of Rose Societies of South Africa and The World Federation of Rose Societies



17th World Rose Convention – Lyon, France, June 3-9 2015

Hosted by the Société Française des Roses 'Les Amis des Roses'

For more information, please contact Maurice Jay, email: maurice.jay@free.fr

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Member Societies

The World Federation of Rose Societies is the international organisation for 41 National Rose Societies around the world representing more than 100 000 individuals who share a love of the rose.

Argentina	<i>Rose Society of Argentina</i>
Australia	<i>National Rose Society of Australia</i>
Austria	<i>Österreichische Rosenfreunde in der Österreichischen Gartenbau-Gesellschaft</i>
Bangladesh (Inactive)	<i>Bangladesh National Rose Society</i>
Belgium	<i>Société Royale Nationale 'Les Amis de la Rose'/Koninklijke Nationale Maatschappij "De Vrienden van de Roos"</i>
Bermuda	<i>Bermuda Rose Society</i>
Canada	<i>Canadian Rose Society</i>
Chile	<i>Asociación Chilena de la Rosa</i>
China	<i>Chinese Rose Society</i>
Czech Republic	<i>Czech Rosa Club</i>
Denmark	<i>Det Danske Rosenselskab</i>
Finland	<i>Suomen Ruususeura R.Y. – Finska Rosensällskapet R.F.</i>
France	<i>Société Française des Roses</i>
Germany	<i>Gesellschaft Deutscher Rosenfreunde E.V.</i>
Greece	<i>Hellenic Rose Society</i>
Hungary	<i>Hungarian Rose Society</i>
Iceland	<i>Icelandic Rose Society (IRS)</i>
India	<i>Indian Rose Federation</i>
Israel	<i>The Jerusalem Foundation</i>
Italy	<i>Associazione Italiana della Rosa</i>
Japan	<i>Japan Rose Society</i>
Luxembourg	<i>Lëtzeburger Rousefrënn/Association Grand-Ducale des Amis de la Rose</i>
Mongolia	<i>Mongolian Rose Association</i>
Netherlands	<i>De Nederlandse Rozenvereniging</i>
New Zealand	<i>New Zealand Rose Society Inc.</i>
Northern Ireland	<i>Rose Society of Northern Ireland</i>
Norway	<i>Norwegian Rose Society</i>
Pakistan	<i>Pakistan National Rose Society</i>
Poland (Inactive)	<i>Polish Society of Rose Fanciers</i>
Romania	<i>Asociația Amicii Rozelor din România</i>
Russia	<i>Russian Association of Rosarians</i>
Serbia	<i>Royal Serbian Rose Society (Kraljevsko Udruzenje Ljubitelja Ruza Srbije)</i>
Slovakia	<i>Rosa Klub</i>
Slovenia	<i>Društvo Ljubiteljev Vrtnic Slovenije (Slovenian Rose Society)</i>
South Africa	<i>Federation of Rose Societies of South Africa</i>
Spain	<i>Asociación Española de la Rose</i>
Sweden	<i>Svenska Rosensällskapet</i>
Switzerland	<i>Gesellschaft Schweizerischer Rosenfreunde</i>
United Kingdom	<i>Royal National Rose Society</i>
United States of America	<i>American Rose Society</i>
Uruguay	<i>Asociación Uruguaya de la Rose</i>

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 Royal Society for Agriculture and Botany
 Shanghai Botanical Garden
 Shenzhen Remin Park & Shenzhen Rose Centre
 Taicang Rose Society
 Les Amis de la Roseraie du Valde Marne à; L'Hay-Les-Roses
 Rosa Gallica Association
 Roses Anciennes en France
 Société Nationale d'Horticulture de France
 Fondazione Roseto Botanico "Carla Fineschi" di Cavriglia
 La Tacita S.R.L. Società Agricola
 "Hana no Miyako Gifu" Centre for Promotion of Flowers and Greenery
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