

The Criterion

VOL. LV ISSUE 1 NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA-NEVADA-HAWAII DISTRICT OF THE AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY

New year, new outlook

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Rose show with a fun twist

How do you get people interested in your local rose show? Beverly Rose Hopper shares how the Mother Lode Rose Society's show made a big comeback. See Page 13

Dates to remember

District Show

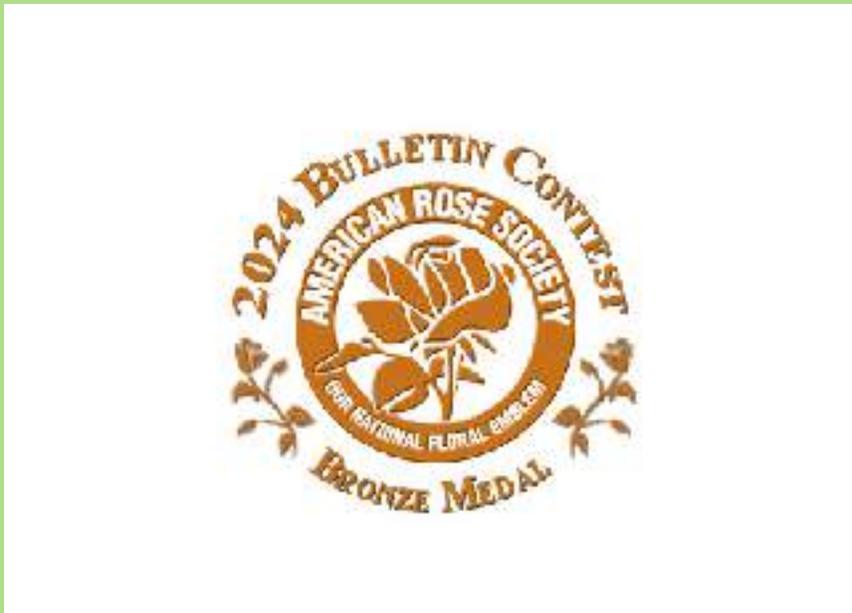
Once again, NCNH will combine efforts with a local rose society to host the District's Spring Show. This year's show is set for **May 3** in Redwood City with the Peninsula Rose Society as our co-host. More details on **Page 7**.

Fall Business Meeting

Set for **September 26** in Auburn. Gold Country Rose Society will be our host. More details to come.

Criterion deadline

Our next issue of The Criterion will highlight coverage of our Spring District Show, our Spring Business Meeting and reports from our District chairs. Please submit your contributions by **June 1**.



Got roses?
Got events?
Please share!

The Criterion is YOUR newsletter, sharing with other rose societies in our District all the wonderful events, milestones and accomplishments of our members. We need articles and PHOTOS!

Please remember to submit your show results.

Send submissions to Debbie Arrington, debarrington17@gmail.com.

Thank you!!!



District Director's Message: Updates from Cindy Phipps

Greetings and Happy 2026!

I hope everyone had a wonderful and restful holiday season with friends and family.

By now, we've wrapped up our annual rose pruning, yard maintenance and overall cleanup. Then comes time to decide what roses need to meet "Mr. Shovel", need to be moved for various reasons, and what new roses we are going to purchase. There are some nice ones out there. I was in the Bay Area over the holiday and purchased 'Pop Art,' a fairly new Weeks rose; 'Light Years Away,' a new Weeks floribunda; and 'Martha Stewart' from Meilland, offered by Star Roses. I always have hope that this growing season will be spectacular.

Speaking of hope, we hope 2026 will be a new beginning for the American Rose Society (ARS). As was mentioned via several different venues and dates, the ARS intends to legally separate from the American Rose Center (ARC) soon. Here's where the proposal stands per ARS President Craig Dorschel's email sent on December 18, 2025. A new non-profit corporation American Rose Center, Inc. (ARC) has been formed. ARC will purchase the Shreveport, LA property (where ARS headquarters currently resides) including gardens, buildings, and unimproved land from ARS using funds from the Maintenance Trust. The new ARC will take over management of the property and has generally agreed to provide office and storage space for ARS staff, with inventory rent free for three years and rent negotiable thereafter.

Horace McFarland – the society's most influential leader – desired that ARS create a rosarium. This has been done and while ARS will not retain ownership, the ARC will remain a monument to McFarland's century-old vision.

The funds provided to ARS will be used to pay all outstanding indebtedness and current accounts payable, giving ARS a clean slate with funds in the bank for the first time in many years. We will also have a staff dedicated to providing member services and fulfilling our mission and vision statements. The fresh start for ARS provides an opportunity to think carefully about our future. Vice President Carrie Bergs has been asked to convene a Strategic Planning Committee for that purpose and we look forward to hearing their plans for implementation.

We should be seeing an announcement once the transition is complete. In the meantime, THANK YOU to everyone for supporting ARS!!

We made some other changes at the NCNH District in 2025 as well. As we are all aware, we have had a hard time getting local rose societies to volunteer to host a District Rose Show and Conference. There are many reasons for their reticence, which I won't elaborate here, but we decided to change things up at least for the near future.

First, we asked a local rose society to volunteer to host their local rose show in conjunction with the District in the spring. North Bay Rose Society stepped up and hosted with

the District on May 3, 2025, in Vallejo. Thank you to that rose society, and

all of their volunteers and Eileen Jackson and Mike Myrick who were the show chairs.

Also, thank you to NCNH judges chairs: Lesa Lane (arrangements), Judy Frederick (horticulture), and Eileen Jackson (photography) and to Dave Coop for coordinating all of the District Challenge Classes and trophies.

Second, we asked a local rose society to volunteer to host the Fall Business meeting, an Awards luncheon to provide the rose show awards for the Challenge Classes, photography and arrangements, the Silver Medal, Outstanding Consulting Rosarian and Judges and determine a speaker. Mt. Diablo hosted that function with the District on September 20, 2025, in Castro Valley, The meeting was very successful with Tom Carruth the featured speaker and Burlington Roses sold at the venue. Thanks to Mount Diablo Rose Society and all of their volunteers and Lou Evans for coordinating.

For 2026, we are following the same process. Peninsula Rose Society (which includes

Santa Clara and San Mateo) will be hosting the rose show in conjunction with the District. This will be held on May 3, 2026, in Redwood City. Stu Dalton is the show chair and Heather Dalloul is in charge of the judges. The NCNH Judges chairs, Dave Coop and others will also help coordinate. It should be a terrific show.

In the fall, Gold Country Rose Society is going to host the Fall Business meeting and awards luncheon. We're still working on a speaker. Venue will be in Auburn on September 26. More to follow on this event

Finally, our Spring business meeting will be held on Sunday, March 29, at the Orangevale Grange in Orangevale. It will be hosted by the Sierra Foothills Rose Society. Our ARS President, Craig Dorschel will be attending and I'm hoping he will give us an update on the "state of the state" of our rose world.

Thanks to everyone for their continued support of the NCNH District!!!!

Cindy Phipps, NCNH District Director



The American Rose Center in Shreveport, LA, the longtime headquarters for the American Rose Society, will become its own separate entity under the plan to stabilize the society's finances and assure its future.

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA NEVADA HAWAII (NCNH) DISTRICT
OF THE AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY**

SPRING BUSINESS MEETING, SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026

HOSTED BY SIERRA FOOTHILLS ROSE SOCIETY (SFhRS)

YOU'RE INVITED!

**PLEASE JOIN US AT THE ORANGEVALE GRANGE ON
SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH, MEETING STARTS AT 9:00AM, CONCLUDES AT 2:00PM.**

**ORANGEVALE GRANGE IS LOCATED IN THE SACRAMENTO AREA.
5807 WALNUT AVENUE, ORANGEVALE, CALIFORNIA 95662**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: CRAIG DORSCHEL,
PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY (ARS)
HE WILL ADDRESS THE CURRENT STATUS OF ARS & THE WAY FORWARD**

**WE ARE HAVING A LUNCHEON FOLLOWING OUR MEETING &
OUR EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY DRAWING for GIFTS.**

**QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT: PAULA AGOSTINI, 916-806-2750, SFhRS PRESIDENT
OR CINDY PHIPPS, 916-420-0344, NCNH DISTRICT DIRECTOR**



Sacramento Tower Bridge with roses in the foreground.

NCNH Pre-Business Meeting Reception

Saturday, March 28th

3:00pm-5:00pm

Sue Bennett's 7560 Shelborne Dr. Granite Bay, CA

Meet **Craig Dorschel, President, American Rose Society**

Please bring an appetizer and/or beverage to share

**You may also tour Saint Joseph Marello Catholic Church rose garden nearby.
A stunning garden located at 7200 Auburn Folsom Road, Granite Bay, CA
A guided tour will begin at 2pm**

RSVP by March 23rd to either:

**Cindy Phipps, NCNH District Director
(916) 420-0344 or acura9797@yahoo.com**

**Paula Agostini, President Sierra Foothills RS
(916) 806-2750 or hapisle@sbcglobal.net**





AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY

Northern California, Nevada, and Hawaii District

Host - Peninsula Rose Society

With support from Santa Clara & San Mateo County Rose Societies

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026

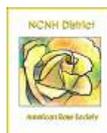
Community Activities Building
1400 Roosevelt Avenue Redwood City

7:00 - 9:45 AM Entry Check-In for Judging

12:30 - 3:30 PM Public Rose Sale

1:00 - 4:00 PM Public Exhibit & Activities

Judged Divisions for Photography, Horticulture,
Arrangements, NCNH Challenge





NCNH Volunteers Needed for the 2026 Rose Show

Help Us Bring The 2026 Rose Show To Life!

NCNH member volunteers are warmly encouraged to participate in setup show-day support, and post-event activities.

Volunteer Dates

Saturday, May 2, 2026 — 9 AM–12 PM **Show Setup**

Sunday, May 3, 2026 — 7 AM–5 PM **Volunteer roles**

Ways You Can Help

- Show setup and cleanup
- Assisting novice exhibitors
- Activities for kids and adults
- Providing information to visitors
- Serving food to judges and volunteers
- Event photography
- Placement and classification support
- Data management
- Sales and hospitality support

All helping hands are welcome—there’s a role for everyone!

Interested in Volunteering?

Please contact **Stu Dalton** to coordinate efforts:

Phone: 650-575-9816 Email: studalton@gmail.com

More Information

Full details and the Show Schedule will be available at

PeninsulaRoseSociety.org.

.A final online Show Schedule will be posted before the end of March.

Stay connected

Facebook & Instagram @PeninsulaRoseSociety

PeninsulaRoseSociety.org or click the QR code for more info



PHOTOGRAPHY CHAIR REPORT

While I was writing this, the entrants to the 2025 ARS Digital Photography Contest were eagerly awaiting the results, which were disclosed by Pam Powers on January 18 via Webinar. Anyone interested in competing in photography should watch this and see what makes a winning photo. If you missed the original presentation, it's now available online. You could also look at previous winning photos.

Here is the link to the awards presentation via YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8NJotLkoEpY>

I was pleased to see a huge increase in the number of photos being entered in the fall rose shows. Sierra Foothills and Butte both put on workshops during the summer.

People enjoyed them and we could see by the results it worked. If your society would like a workshop please let me know. The Sierra Foothills one was an all-day affair where we went from reading the schedule, understanding the rules, how photos were judged, taking photos with phones to mounting the photo ready for exhibition. I hope all those people will continue with their photography and encourage others.

Judges, please fill out your report for the year and write on it if you would like to judge photography and would be willing to attend a workshop for judging during the summer.

In order to judge, you have to enter, so make sure you enter photos to your spring shows.

Eileen Jackson
NCNH Photography Chair

CR CHAIR REPORT

Happy 2026. Lots of changes are forthcoming soon both National at the ARS and locally.

For all the CRs in our District, the CR report will be on the new website as of January 1, 2026. I have been working on the site for several months now to get it ready for this new year. The information will be there but I will be spending time to make it “pretty” and Rosy moving forward. We have lots of information on our old web site that needs to be moved to the New Site. Thanks for your patience.

We have two new CRs this fall, Shearin Whalen and Margaret Talcott in the Humboldt Rose Society. Congratulations!

I will be reaching out to the local CR Coordinators for help with the monthly CR newsletter in 2026. Keep in mind any articles you write for the local newsletters and then is published in my monthly CR newsletter will earn you a CR point. Something to consider.

Hope all your roses are doing well and are pruned!

Rebecca Shaw
NCNH CR Chair

Horticulture Judges' Chair Reports on Rose Shows for 2026

By Judy Frederick

Here are the NCNH Local Society Rose Show Dates for 2026. The day of the week, date, and hosting society are listed followed by location, if known. Find the Contact information as either the Chairperson or the President from 2025. (More information will follow in the New Year as societies install new Boards of Directors and fill in the necessary information before this is printed in the 2026 NCNH District Directory.)

Saturday, April 18: Mt. Diablo

Contact Lou Evans, louevans@comcast.net

Saturday, April 25: Sacramento

Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento

Contact Kay Jelten, kjelten@frontiernet.net

Saturday, May 2: North Bay

Contact TBD

Saturday, May 2: Redwood Empire

Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center, 2050 Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa

Contact Karen Ernsberger, klekrose@sbcglobal.net

Sunday, May 3: Peninsula with San Mateo and Santa Clara, co-hosting NCNH District Show and plant sale

Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City

Contact Stu Dalton, studalton@gmail.com

Sunday, May 3: East Bay

Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland

Contact Martine LaBelle, rmdgham@pacbell.net

Saturday, May 9: Marin

Contact co-chairs:

Connie Pelissero, runner2056@gmail.com; Betty Mott, mottbetty@gmail.com; or
Gail Trimble, gail@violethour.net

Sunday, May 10: San Francisco

Hall of Flowers, County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park, 1199 9th Ave., San Francisco

Contact co-chairs:

Alessandro Palumbo, aleale.x@gmail.com; or Maryanne Razzo, maryannevrazzo@gmail.com

Sunday, June 14: Humboldt

Redwood Acres, Eureka

Contact Paula Grabowski, pgrabows46@gmail.com

Saturday, June 20: South Western Oregon

Coos County Fairgrounds, Myrtle Point, Oregon

Contact Ed Kreutzer, ednmarykreutzer@gmail.com

Saturday, October 3: Lodi-Woodbridge

Contact Liz Ochoa, cutelikeliz@gmail.com

Saturday, October 17: Sierra Foothills

Contact Baldo Villegas, sactorose@gmail.com

Saturday, October 24 Butte

C.A.R.D. Community Center, 545 Vallombrosa Ave., Chico

Contact Gwen Quail, egquail@earthlink.com

Saturday, October 24: Mother Lode, “A Treasure of Roses” pirate theme

Amador Senior Center, 229 New York Ranch Road, Jackson

Contact Beverly Rose Hopper, brhopper@gmail.com

Gold Country, Honolulu, Monterey Bay, Reno, and Woodland Library currently have no plans for a rose show in 2026. As Chair of Horticulture Judges, I have resources to help you begin or renew this annual tradition. Contact me, Judy Frederick, at firstrose1987@yahoo.com.

JUNIOR CHAIR YEAR-END REPORT

I wrote in the last edition of *The Criterion* how happy I was about those Societies that recognized, celebrated, and involved their youths in Shows and Society activities. Especially, thanks to Mike Myrick and the NCNH District Show, held May 3. It was outstanding! These are Societies that acknowledge how important our youths are to the future of the ARS in the decades to come.

Lastly, to the Mother Lode Rose Society, and in particular Beverly Rose Hopper, for the amazing and fun-filled Rose Show that they held for their community, and all the kids involved! It was a fantastic day for me!

Here's to 2026, and to planners of our upcoming District Show, where youth will be celebrated. Let's hope that other Societies realize the value of involving youth in their programs, for without them, there will be no ARS.

Julie Matlin
NCNH Junior Chair



A Rootin' Tootin' Good Time: Building a Better Rose Show

By Beverly Rose Hopper

Emeritus Horticulture Judge and Master Rosarian

After almost disbanding in the aftermath of Covid, the Mother Lode Rose Society has regrown into a vibrant group. The key for success has been following the wise advice the late and great Ed Griffiths (former National Chair of ARS Judges) shared with me decades ago for planning events: "Make it educational and entertaining."

The root word of "society" is "social." To be social means engaging people. It means changing with the times to keep things fresh and interesting. I've been a member of the American Rose Society for 40 years, and too often groups wither because they keep doing things the same old way. This isn't to say "tried and true" isn't good. Many things that are old are classic. However, there's no question the vast majority of people growing roses today have different goals than we did 20, 30 years ago. Certainly, everyone still wants to grow good roses, and passion for roses is eternal. Yet most people today do not spray, are not interested in all the crazy things we did years ago as hard-core exhibitors. And a lot of people, especially newer members, do NOT want to be judged.

In 2024, the Mother Lode Rose Society held our first Rose Show in five years. It was a hybrid, combining a smaller Judged Division with a much larger Non-Judged/Display Only Division. We had a number of other innovations, including allowing members to enter their Display Only roses during Show Set-Up on

Friday afternoon if desired, and to use their own bottles and vases.

Instead of kicking out everybody out of the Rose Show for Judging, the show opened to the public Saturday morning at 10 a.m. when entries closed. Allowing exhibitors, members and the public to view the show when the roses were at their freshest worked out just fine.

Mother Lode loves a theme, and as we were celebrating rebuilding our society the theme was "Under Construction." The theme was incorporated throughout the show with festive construction type decorations and exhibitors and judges were invited to come in construction type apparel. It was a huge success.

In 2025, we decided to do it again with a few additional improvements. The theme was "Rootin' Tootin' Roses" with western decorations including hay bales, horse stuff, and cowboy hats.

Breakfast was complimentary for Judges, exhibitors, members and guests. MLRS President Martin Hopper cooked up Johnnycakes in the "Chuckwagon" and for lunch members brought an assortment of soups and stews in crockpots for a complimentary Soup Bar. For desserts more western type goodies such as fruit cobblers was served for all in attendance. Nobody went away hungry, and as one person joked "They should have worn their stretchy pants."

Having a combined Judged and Non-Judged show was once again very popular. It attracted outside exhibitors who enjoy the opportunity to compete for the top prizes of Queen, etc., in the Judged Division, while also offering a Non-Judged Division meant many members could “share” their roses without having to “show” roses. In the Non-Judged Division, we also allowed up to three stems per vase which meant more roses and a more colorful show.

What about ribbons vs. dots? Many societies reverted to dots to save costs, and because old-timers don’t really care about ribbons anymore. The thing is, newer members do care. Those ribbons mean a lot, and awarding ribbons (even if a society just opts for blues) encourages and excites new exhibitors. Mother Lode uses official ARS ribbons in the Judged class for that reason. But what about the Non-Judged classes? Even though much of the MLRS Show in Horticulture, Arrangements and Photography is not judged, we recognize the importance of acknowledging effort and

excellence. For that reason, our Judges are each given a stack of blue “Award of Excellence” ribbons (available on Amazon) to bestow on any entry in the Non-Judged classes they feel deserving of special recognition. It’s an easy way to make the Show more inclusive and exciting for all levels.

Once again, we opened the Rose Show (and the Rose Sale) to the public at 10 a.m. rather than waiting until judging was completed. This surprised those who are more familiar with the old- style of practically sealing the doors and not allowing anyone inside until hours later. Instead of a vibe which shuts people out, we welcomed exhibitors, members and the public to view the roses while they were at their freshest. It’s a nice reward for those who labor to bring in roses for all to enjoy. In addition, as at our show the public votes for Most Fragrant, Best Arrangement, and Best Photograph, it provides plenty of time to view the show and pick their favorites.



As the Arrangement Division was Non-Judged, it was low pressure, which encouraged a range of creativity. Interestingly that resulted in over a dozen arrangement entries this year. The public voted for Best Arrangement and their choice was quite surprising, a whimsical arrangement made by a novice that broke all the “rules” entitled “Woody’s Campfire.” It was the public’s favorite because it made them smile.

Rather than going off-site for the Judges Lunch (which often results in a show room that looks empty because everybody takes off), we once again set up a Judge’s meeting area in the corner of the Auditorium. The Judge’s Corral was festooned with western flair where Judges, exhibitors, members and guests were invited to enjoy a complimentary breakfast and lunch. We also set up a few small tables with chairs here and there so people could enjoy a snack, meal or simply rest while surrounded by a roomful of roses.

As our membership continues to grow, so can our show. In 2026, we hope to feature in the Arrangement and Photography Division what we have offered in Horticulture – both Judged and Non-Judged classes. This would appeal to the traditionalists as well as those who just want to just have fun.

Speaking of fun, the comments we receive the most is our Show is “Relaxed and fun.” This is what keeps people engaged and coming back. Our Rose Show has also featured a special children’s activity making rosy bouquets, which has been popular with little kids, juniors and parents. It’s important to engage the younger generation as they are the future of our rose societies.

During the Rose Show, Mother Lode also holds a Rose Sale. This year we had over 100

potted roses, including many rare, unusual and hard-to-get varieties. Almost all of the roses in the sale were propagated from cuttings by our members. This Rose Sale is one of our major fundraisers of the year, and has been very successful and popular with the public.

The model Mother Lode has developed for our Rose Show is one that could be emulated by other societies. It’s easy, practical, affordable and engaging. People went home happy and excited about attending as one person called it, a “Rose Party.” And what rose lover doesn’t want to attend a rose party?

In fact, we’re already excited about our upcoming spring show. Shiver me timbers, it’s going to be a Pirate theme, including a treasure hunt for roses!

About the Author, Beverly Rose Hopper:

Outstanding Judge NCNH District 2008, Silver Honor Medal 2005, Master Rosarian 2005,

Outstanding Consulting Rosarian 1998, Past President Mother Lode Rose Society & Santa Clara County Rose Society, Co-Founder Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden. Currently retired in Jackson CA on 16 acres with 700 roses and 40 chickens.



Linda Knowles gets into the cowboy spirit at Mother Lode Rose Show.

What's that fuzzy growth on those roses?

By Jerry Georgette, Master Rosarian
Peninsula and San Mateo County Rose Societies

During a castle garden tour in Switzerland last fall, I came upon a row of what appeared to be species roses, as noted by the red hips from a distance. Looking closer, I noted brown fuzzy/mossy growth that grew onto several canes.

A little research gave me the identification of **Diplolepis rosae**, a tiny wasp which causes a gall known as the **rose bedeguar gall**, **robin's pincushion**, **mossy rose gall**, or simply **moss gall**. The gall develops as a chemically induced distortion of an unopened leaf axillary or terminal bud, mostly on species roses.

The female wasp lays up to 60 eggs within each leaf bud using her ovipositor. The grubs develop within the gall, and the wasps emerge in spring; the wasp is parthenogenetic (reproducing asexually) with fewer than 1% being males.

The female is about 4 mm (0.16 inches) long. Parts of the abdomen and legs are yellow-red, while the rest of the body is black. The male is black and lacks the hypopygium structure which clearly identifies the species in the female. Its legs are bicolored yellow and has a body length of about 3 mm (0.12 inches).

The bedeguar gall is surrounded by a dense mass of sticky branched filaments. This structure gives the appearance of a ball of moss, and its filaments are often brightly colored, being at their best around September; starting off green and then passing through pink and crimson to reddish brown. A large specimen can be up to 10 cm (4 inches) in width. The larvae develop and then overwinter as pupae in the now brown and dry-looking structure, emerging in May. The unilarval chambers are set in a woody core which persists after the filaments have worn off. The galls are not harmful to the rose and part of the biodiversity roses support, so no action should be taken.



*What Jerry saw in Switzerland —
a mossy rose gall.*

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diplolepis_rosae

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/biodiversity/robins-pin-cushion>

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/biodiversity/robins-pin-cushion>

Invitation to Join the American Rose Society



Member Benefits

- **American Rose:** six issues of the nationally acclaimed magazine featuring rose information and beautiful photography.
- **Handbook for Selecting Roses:** provides evaluations on over 3,000 roses.
- **Educational Webinars and Schools:** available for free to ARS members.
- **Access to the ARS website members only section** containing American Rose magazines, handbooks and other ARS literature.
- **www.forum.rose.org:** where members can ask and answer rose-related questions.
- **Discounts:** up to 20% at merchant partners with new partners being added continuously. Plus, free or reduced admission to botanical gardens through the Reciprocal Garden program.
- **World Federation:** access to online publications featuring old garden roses and their history.

American Rose Society Membership Options:

- **Annual Individual Membership** is \$55 with a digital magazine (*Currently the printed magazine is not available.*)
- **Annual Senior Membership** is \$45 with a digital magazine available at <https://rose.org/>
- **Annual Associate Membership** is \$20. When a husband and wife are both members of the ARS one pays the full membership while the other pays only \$20. **Two separate membership forms must be filled out with different names and different email addresses. One requires payment of full membership while the other pays \$20.**



Join or Renew:

- **Online at rose.org/join-renew-2/** Fill in the online form and provide credit card information.
- **By Mail:** Print and fill in the form below, enclose a check or provide credit card information.

Name: _____ Local rose society _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Preferred Phone: _____

Annual Membership: \$55 _____ Senior Membership (65+): \$45 _____

Associate Membership: \$20 _____ (*Associate members must fill out a separate membership form.*)

Check Enclosed: \$ _____ Make check payable to: American Rose Society

Mail to: American Rose Society, 8877 Jefferson Paige Road, Shreveport, LA 71119-8817

Or use Mastercard _____ Visa _____ Discover _____ Amex _____ Card # _____

Expiration Date _____ / _____ Verification Code: _____

Signature: _____

New roses for 2026: What's on tap from major breeders

By Debbie Arrington

Everything old is new again. That's certainly true in the world of roses where Old World charm, form and scent have definitely influenced new rose introductions for 2026.

These new roses encapsulate several current trends. No. 1: Fragrance is a must. Buyers want flowers that smell like roses (or something!), not scentless beauty (although a few new releases have enough other positive attributes to convince hybridizers to bring them to market).

Also mandatory: Ease of care. New roses have to have improved disease resistance and beautiful foliage to match their blooms – no spraying necessary. (Some landscape roses take “easy care” to the next level with “self-cleaning” blooms; no deadheading needed.)

When it comes to blooms, bigger is better – as in more and more petals. The heavy-petaled look of Austin roses is in demand. (Not coincidentally, these roses also tend to have stronger scent due to the link between petals and fragrance.) This trend has prompted some breeders (such as Austin) to dip into their own collections for “new introductions” (at least in the U.S.) roses that had been previously released in Europe.

Buyers are looking for new classics that just happen to be easier to grow, say the rose breeders.

“Year after year, we honor the artistry and legacy of rose breeding while continuing to

innovate for the modern gardener,” said Kelly Funk, president and CEO of Jackson & Perkins. “Our 2026 introductions are a reflection of that legacy: roses with story, soul, and staying power.”

Here's a snapshot of new rose introductions for 2026, available now (or coming soon) in nurseries and catalogs:

– **‘Ruffled Romance,’** yellow-blend floribunda, Jackson & Perkins: This lovely floribunda is the last creation of legendary hybridizer Dr. Keith Zary. It opens in warm tones of golden yellow and apricot before maturing into a soft pink. With strong disease resistance, bushes boast large four-inch flowers with moderate fragrance.



‘Ruffled Romance’

– **‘Sealed with a Kiss,’** dark red hybrid tea, Jackson & Perkins: This classic hybrid tea with exhibition form is a near-black dark, velvety red with long stems, excellent disease resistance and a lot of stately presence – both in the garden and the show table.



‘Sealed with a Kiss’

– **‘Flash Gordon,’** pink semi-double floribunda, Jackson & Perkins: These big, cerise pink blooms measure 5 inches across with showy stamens around a white “eye”; slight scent, but this rose will find its place in many a pollinator-friendly landscape.



‘Flash Gordon’

– **‘Penelope Lively,’** medium pink shrub rose, David Austin Roses: Originally released in England in 2023 and named for the beloved writer. Austin Roses calls this big pink rose an instant classic with very rosy scent and petal-packed look.

– **‘Queen of Sweden,’** light pink shrub, David Austin Roses: A flowery salute to Sweden first seen in 2004, this Austin classic features clusters of baby pink blooms, each with 140 petals and heavy myrrh scent.



‘Penelope Lively’ (left) and ‘Queen of Sweden’



– **‘The Lark Ascending,’** apricot shrub, David Austin Roses: Named for the beloved violin piece by Ralph Vaughan Williams, this is another re-release from Austin. Its large cuppy semi-double blooms come in large clusters, often more than 10 or 12, with a pleasant tea/myrrh scent.



– **‘James Galway,’** light pink climber, David Austin Roses: Named for the famed flutist, this vigorous climber boasts huge, 130-

petal light pink fragrant blooms. First introduced in Europe in 2000, ‘James Galway’ is getting a long-awaited American debut.



– **‘Kew Gardens,’** white single shrub, David Austin Roses: Another one new to the U.S. market, this shrub features huge heads of fragrant little single white roses, sort of the rose version of a hydrangea. First introduced in 2009 in England, it’s named in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew in London.



– **‘Living the Dream,’** yellow-blend grandiflora, Springhill Nursery: Vibrant yellow-gold and magenta blooms with strong fruity/citrus fragrance and excellent disease resistance. Big blooms each have 70-plus petals and

the look (and scent) of an Austin rose.



– **‘Make Me Blush,’** light yellow-pink blend hybrid tea, Weeks Roses (above): An American Garden Rose Selections (AGRS) winner, this rose was a top performer nationwide in regional testing. It looks a lot like ‘Peace,’ but with more disease resistance. Good exhibition form and large, 5-inch blooms.

– **‘Martha Stewart,’** light pink/apricot hybrid tea, Star Roses (at right): This rose had to be very special to get this name. Developed by Meilland for Star Roses, ‘Martha Stewart’ the rose is a hybrid tea that looks like an Austin with very full, fragrant blooms, 100 to 150 petals apiece. The scent is described as “bergamot, honeysuckle, lemon verbena” and strong. Glossy, dark green foliage has excellent disease resistance, too. All this star power comes in a compact package with bushes staying under 3 feet tall and wide.



– **‘Fashion Forward,’** pink floribunda, Weeks Roses for Springhill Nursery (above): Striking pink with white, fully double blooms in clusters, boasting a strong fruity scent and long bloom season. This disease-resistant rose won most fragrant honors at the 2025 Portland Rose Festival.





*Jolene Adams judges blooms at a recent NCNH Show. Send us your photos!
Photo by Audrey Brandt*

Directory

Copyright ARS Northern California-Nevada-Hawaii District
EDITOR

Debbie Arrington
428 Cedar River Way, Sacramento, CA 95831
debarrington17@gmail.com
916-799-6199

EMAIL PUBLISHER EMERITUS

Jolene Adams
jolene_adams@sonic.net
707-378-2818

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AIM & SCOPES

The Criterion provides a communication medium for the publication of relevant news items relating to National, District and local rose society activities. This journal is intended to serve the various local societies and members of the NCNH District by publication of special news of particular interest to ARS Judges, ARS Consulting Rosarians and those rosarians who wish to gain a deeper insight into the activities of the NCNH District.

Local societies are encouraged to submit their major activities for publication. Technical articles on topics of interest to rose growers are published as an opportunity to share in the increased awareness of horticultural excellence of growing roses.

Readers are invited to submit articles for publication. Deadline dates for publication are listed in the "Dates To Remember Column."

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NCNH DISTRICT OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Cindy Phipps
4977 Chicago Ave.
Fair Oaks, CA 95628-5225
Home 916-965-4430
Cell 916-240-0344
acura9797@yahoo.com

DEPUTY DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Karen Ernsberger
12480 Wolf Run
Glen Ellen, CA 95442
707-344-2011
klekrose@sbcglobal.net

SECRETARY

Lesa Lane
P.O. Box 700
Corning, CA 96021-0700
530-570-9303
drlesa58@gmail.com

TREASURER

Scott Becker
7345 Durfee Way
Sacramento, CA 95831
916-217-8305
scottbecker@comcast.net

ARS NOMINATIONS & AWARDS

Jan Burnham
3371 Shoal River
Chico, CA 95973-2127
Home 530-809-1812
Cell 530-519-9664
Jburn0817@gmail.com

CONSULTING ROSARIANS CHAIR

Rebecca G. Shaw
155 North Ave.
Reno, NV 89508-8039
Home 775-971-0777
Cell 775-544-9259
fonegal72@gmail.com

ROSES IN REVIEW

Karen Anne McCann
1320 Magazine St.
Vallejo, CA 94591
707-246-5523
gooh9rz@sbcglobal.net

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Richard Sydor
1092 Salmon Dr.
Roseville, CA 94596
916-834-4733
tmydorpid@aol.com

HORTICULTURE JUDGES

Judy Frederick
8855 Providence Lane
Granite Bay, CA 95746-9669
Cell 916-698-9987
firstrose1987@yahoo.com

ARRANGEMENT JUDGES

Lesa Lane
P.O. Box 700
Corning, CA 96021-0700
530-570-9303
drlesa58@gmail.com

THE CRITERION EDITOR

Debbie Arrington
428 Cedar River Way
Sacramento, CA 95831-2461
916-799-6199
debarrington17@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Barbara Norkus
561 La Gonda Way
Danville, CA 94526
925-989-1748
bnorkus@capri realestate.net

OPPORTUNITY DRAWING

CO-CHAIRS
Sue Magill
324 Stonework Ct.
Roseville, CA 95747
916-772-0324
rosemtn@surrewest.net

Lou Evans
1859 Keeler St.
Livermore, CA 94550-7133
Home 925-371-6115
Cell 510-331-6115
louevans@comcast.net

WEB PAGE CHAIR

Rebecca G. Shaw
155 North Ave.
Reno, NV 89508-8039
Home 775-971-0777
Cell 775-544-9259
fonegal72@gmail.com

DISTRICT DIRECTORY EDITOR, IMMEDIATE PAST DISTRICT DIRECTOR and ARS MARKETING & OUTREACH CHAIR

Sue Bennett
7560 Shelborne Dr.
Granite Bay, CA 95762
916-316-5873
sue_c_bennett@att.net

HONOR FUND

Rose Gilardi
1438 26th Ave. Dr.
San Francisco, CA 94122-3224
415-665-5132
perfectrose1@sbcglobal.net

YOUTH CHAIR

Julie Matlin
341 W. Lincoln Ave.
Chico, CA 95926-4520
530-893-5418
matlinja@yahoo.com

PROGRAMS & SPEAKERS

Scott Becker
7345 Durfee Way
Sacramento, CA 95831
916-217-8305
scottbecker@comcast.net

NCNH TROPHIES & AWARDS

Dave Coop
8336 Bianchi Road
Roseville, CA 95747-9225
916-276-0170
d.coop@sbcglobal.net

PHOTOGRAPHY CHAIR

Eileen Jackson
117 Muller St.
Vallejo, CA 94590-7149
707-853-3963
eileen.jackson@att.net

HISTORIAN

Ann Marie Harris
4250 Longknife Rd.
Reno, NV 89519-2980
775-746-1140
annmarieharris@charter.net

NORTHWEST REGION DIRECTOR

Jolene Adams
Bay Area
707-378-2818
jolene_adams@sonic.net