



## Illinois-Indiana Rose District Website:

<https://illinoisindianadistrict.org/>

## From the District Director

Dear Rosarians,

Hard to believe we are past the holidays and in the middle of January 2026.

My major news is about our March 20-21 meeting in Effingham, Illinois. We now have a full list of speakers.

Tune your ears to southern accent mode. We will have two speakers, in person from Tennessee. Dr. Mark Windham has been one of your favorite speakers. He is retired now from the University of Tennessee, and still a vigorous speaker. We are especially honored to sponsor his presentation at the National meeting in Nashville in October. We know him as the rose rosette doctor, but he will be talking to us on a brand new topic.

We also host Ron Daniels, the ever gracious past president of the Nashville Rose Society. He will be talking to us about growing All Kinds of Roses. (You will have the opportunity to see his stunning garden at the National Meeting.) Ron will also talk about the publication of his book, Rose Therapy.

Sonja Lallemand, our Vice Director will cover the basics of soil in her presentation "Just Don't Call it DIRT". Sonja has given us excellent talks in the past. Such a good speaker, she was asked to speak at the Tenarky District meeting in February.

You will have the opportunity to meet two excellent speakers from our nation-wide ARS family by Zoom. Jason Capote will talk about growing roses in pots. He tends an extraordinary rose garden in Brooklyn, New York—all in pots. He is also the new ARS chair for Roses in Bloom. You

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### 2026 Calendar of Events

March 20-21  
District Meeting,  
Effingham, IL

September 18-19  
District Meeting,  
Indianapolis, IL

October 2-5  
National ARS Meeting  
Nashville, TN

## District Team

might check him out on You Tube.

On Friday evening. Melissa Schiff will be coming to us from Albuquerque, New Mexico by Zoom. Have you ever noticed how many paintings include roses? Melissa has put together a review of “Roses in Art” through the centuries. Come join us for snacks and “something different”.

Please share this packed agenda with all your gardening friends. Come March everyone will be eager to get out of the house and talk roses.

Until then, check all those garden catalogs,

Sharon Shipp

District Director

**Sharon Shipp** District Director  
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**ARS Treasurer**  
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**Cristie Rans** Membership Chair  
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zsap@sbcglobal.net

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# SPRING MEETING AGENDA

## Friday, March 20, 2026

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 6:30 PM | Casual Gathering, snacks and drinks   |
|         | Zoom presentation “Roses in Art” by Melissa Schiff, Vice President of the Albuquerque Rose Society. |

## Saturday, March 21, 2026

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 8:00 AM       | Registration  |
| 8:45 - 9:00   | Introductions   |
| 9:00 - 10:00  | “Physiological and Genetic Disorders of Roses”<br>Professor Emeritus Mark Windham, University of Tennessee  |
| 10:30 - 11:30 | “Just Don't Call it DIRT!”<br>Sonja Lallemand Horticulture Educator with the University of Illinois,<br>Vice Director and newsletter publisher for the Illinois-Indiana District. |
| 11:30 - 12:45 | <b>Lunch</b>  |
| 12:45 - 1:45  | “Growing and Caring for all Types of Roses”<br>Ron Daniels, Master Rosarian, previous President of the Nashville Rose Society and author.   |
| 2:00 - 3:00   | Zoom presentation “ Growing Roses in Pots” Jason Capote, President of the Long Island Rose Society, ARS National Chair for Roses in Review.                                       |

**The Silent Auction will run from Friday 6:30 PM to Saturday 3:00 PM**



# THE SPEAKERS

## Melissa Schiff

Melissa Schiff is the Vice President and leads the publicity committee for the Albuquerque Rose Society. She has been growing roses for 10+ years in Albuquerque and has recently become interested in rose photography. Before retiring, Melissa worked as a physician and public health researcher. Since retirement, she has been studying Art History on her own through the Khan Academy, attending online lectures through the Smithsonian Associates program and visiting art museums on her travels. Her talk on Roses in Art was inspired by her interest in applying her new art history knowledge to her favorite flower - Roses.



**PHYSIOLOGICAL AND GENETIC DISORDERS OF ROSES** – rose health is more than managing for diseases and insect pests. In this seminar we explore how roses react to stresses (nutritional, water, etc.) and study various genetic disorders that rosarians could encounter with their roses.

**Mark Windham** was a Distinguished Professor of Ornamental Plant Pathology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. For the last 14 years of his career, Mark worked toward developing management plans for Rose Rosette Disease (RRD). Upon retirement, Mark was appointed as Professor Emeritus by the UT Institute of Agriculture. He serves as an advisor for American Rose Garden Selections (AGRS). Mark is a member of the American Rose Society (ARS) and a recipient of the ARS Klima Award. Currently, Mark writes a monthly column call “Mark’s Mayhems and Maladies” for ARS society newsletters. Mark and his wife Karen were made permanent honorary members of the Connecticut Rose Society in 2023. In 2024, Mark was honored by the University of Tennessee as a UT Gardens Horticulture Legacy. In 2025, he was made an honorary member of the Winston Salem Rose Society.



**JUST DON'T CALL IT DIRT!** Most of us do call it Dirt! It is in fact a living organism that supports life! This presentation will look at the components, textures, structure, color, fertility of our garden soil, and outline some practices that develop a great soil for rose gardens.





# THE SPEAKERS

**Sonja Lallemand**'s love of plants began at a very young age in her mother's rose garden. Observations made in that garden developed a love of nature and appreciation for roses as well as the flora of her native island of Haiti. With degrees in Botany (B.S.), Horticulture (B.S.) and Fruit Science (M.S.), it took 20 years to put her knowledge of the plant word into real practice. With the help of the Rose Society of the Ozarks, generous donations from members, a rose garden built in the 30s at Phelps Grove Park, Springfield, MO, was rescued and Sonja learned a great deal about roses in the process. She served the group as editor of the newsletter *Rose Review*, and president; she is currently a member of the Belleville Area Rose Society. Sonja retired in 2015 from the University of Illinois Extension where she enjoyed sharing her knowledge of the plant world and guiding others in improving their surroundings.



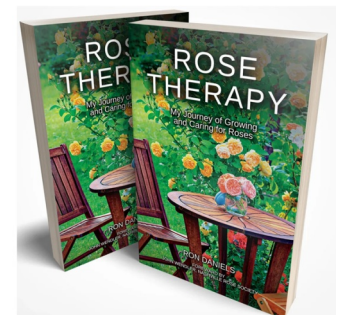
Photo: S. Lallemand

## GROWING & CARING FOR ALL TYPES OF ROSES -

**Ron Daniels**, author of *Rose Therapy: My journey of Growing and Caring for Roses*, is a Master Consulting Rosarian with the American Rose Society. Ron is a member of the Nashville Rose Society where he served as president.



Ron has enjoyed growing roses for more than 30 years and maintains about 150 rose plants in his personal garden in Hendersonville, TN. These roses include Hybrid Teas, Grandifloras, Shrubs Roses, Miniatures, Climbers, David Austin, Old Garden and English roses with other companion plants. Ron is also a Consulting rosarian for Belmont University's Adelecia Acklen Garden at Cheekwood, as well as for other public and private gardens.



Ron opens his personal garden up to public garden tours in the Spring and Fall, annually. The garden provides him with much pleasure, but also provides for an ongoing flower ministry at his church, Long Hollow Church in Hendersonville, TN.

Ron's personal Mission Statement: "to grow roses and to share with others along with teaching beginners rose growing basics; to apply myself to continue learning about growing roses and remain teachable. I am continually committed to mentor and encourage others on how to care and share roses."



## THE SPEAKERS

**Jason Capote** is a lifelong rosarian based in New York City whose passion for roses began at the age of nine. Today, he grows more than 170 rose bushes representing nearly every class of roses, combining decades of hands-on experience with deep horticultural knowledge.

An ARS CR & horticulture judge, Jason is well known on the show circuit. His entries are regularly featured on the head table at rose shows and have earned numerous Queen of Show awards. He serves as president of the Long Island Rose Society, and is a former editor of *The Fragrant Rose*. He is also actively involved in the New York, Penn-Jersey, and Yankee Districts.

Jason previously served as curator of the Village Green Rose Garden at Great Neck House in Great Neck, Long Island. In recognition of his expertise and service to the rose community, he was honored as

Outstanding Consulting Rosarian at the 2024 ARS National Convention in Rhode Island. That same year he was also awarded the ARS Bronze Medal from the Long Island Rose Society and the ARS Silver Honor Medal from the Penn-Jersey District.



## Fall District Recap

Teresa Byingyon

At our Fall meeting in October, two of our members were presented with the ARS Silver Medal. Teresa Byington (2024), current Social Media Chair, past District Director, and Teresa Dunham (2025),

Both winners, members of the Indiana Rose Society, were recognized for their service and dedication to the Illinois-Indiana Rose District, their dedication to the rose and its culture, for their efforts extended in support of the American Rose Society and its objectives within the district.

Wonderful and educational speakers! A very interesting and fun Friday night presentation complete with potpourri making and herbal taste testing with Angela Batson, of Envi Botanicals,



# Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

(Full name as you would like for them to appear on your name badge)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Rose Society \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

List any dietary restrictions \_\_\_\_\_

Conference registration includes all programs and district luncheon

**Before March 14th \$40.00 each**

Friday & Saturday registration Number attending \_\_\_\_ total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**After March 14th, \$45.00 each**

Friday & Saturday Number attending \_\_\_\_ total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation (optional) \$5 \_\_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please consider a donation for the silent auction

**Contact the Fairfield Inn directly for Reservation by March 15th:**

**Phone: (217) 540-5454 Discount code: ROSE SOCIETY**

**Hotel rate: \$118.00 plus taxes and fees**

6:30 pm – Friday Evening informal gathering will be at the Fairfield Inn light snacks and refreshments will be provided. Let us know if you are joining us. Yes \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_

Checks payable to: Illinois-Indiana Rose District

Name as it appears on credit card: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_

Mail registration form and check to:

Sonja Lallemand

10309 Old Highway 13, Murphysboro, IL 62966

Questions?

Contact: Sharon Shipp, District Director

**Registrating late? Text Sonja 618-203-6657 and bring registration at the meeting.**



# MEMBER HIGHLIGHT: EMILY COOK

Sharon Shipp

This month we meet Emily Cook of the Indianapolis Rose Society.

Emily is a busy working mother from Indianapolis. She always had a small garden and a few pots. During the long, grey, isolated days of Covid, Emily discovered gardening sites on social media. She doesn't remember a specific one, but followed many. They were all bright, cheerful and interesting. She found the many rose groups especially intriguing.

As Covid eased, she began looking for roses offline. She found Rose Fest, an event sponsored by the Indianapolis Rose Society. She was surrounded by more roses than she had imagined, and people who shared her enthusiasm. "She found her tribe."

Emily began attending the monthly meetings of the Indianapolis Rose Society and soon became an active member. She was so impressed with the inclusive atmosphere. Everyone was welcoming and especially willing to answer her questions, and share their experience.

She enjoys the diverse topics of monthly meetings and especially the "hands on workshops", including grafting roses with John Heffner, floral design with a professional, and even a "how to paint roses" class. She also appreciates opportunities to visit other members gardens.

Emily is now actively involved in the Indianapolis Rose Society and is their Newsletter editor. Her husband comes to meetings too, and shares his skills.

She has about a dozen roses in her garden, mostly Teas and shrubs. A rose's fragrance is most important to Emily. Only those with heavy fragrance are chosen for her garden. Her favorite rose is "Sitting Pretty". She loves it because it is a big, heavy bloomer and has an extremely long-lasting fragrance.

Emily finds great joy sitting in her backyard in the evening and smelling her roses.



The Sitting Pretty™ Rose (*Rosa* 'Radbeauty', 2024) is a hardy Grandiflora rose bred by Wil Radler, and known for its large, ruffled, double-pink blooms (25-30 petals) with a moderate damask fragrance. *Sitting Pretty* thrives in full sun, and performs well in containers or as a landscape shrub (3 to 4 feet tall and wide); a repeat bloomer in zones 4 to 11. With its semi-glossy medium green foliage, strong disease resistance to pests and diseases, it offers exceptional garden performance with minimal care, making it a great choice for low-maintenance or "no-spray" gardens.

## FALL RECAP CONTINUED

Following are the recipes to those rose infused mocktails that we sampled.

The room was filled with roses, many of them from the amazing garden of Ann Wells who serves as Secretary to the IL-IN District.

There were so many roses for auction that you thought it was spring. And the plant swap was very popular. Most everyone went home with a new rose or companions for their garden.

Big thanks to those who found the roses and took care of them so we could have them for the meeting, and to those who participated for sharing plants from their gardens.



Photo:"Fall Bouquet" Photo: S. Shipp

## MOCKTAILS

### Rose Paloma

1 tsp. Of Rose Glycerite, 1 tsp. Of Rose Water, stir then add ice and fill with Grapefruit Fever Tree Sparkling Water and a slice of lemon or lime. (For cocktail add tequila)



Photo: S. Lallemand

### Elderflower Rose Fizz

1 tsp. Of Rose Glycerite, 1 tsp. Rose Water, stir then add ice and fill with Elderflower Fever Tree Sparkling Water and an orange slice ( for cocktail add vodka or gin)

★ A Rose Glycerite was used in place of a Rose simple syrup.  
Turkish Rose Seasoning- 3 parts dried edible rose petals, 2 parts dried sumac berries, 1 part pink peppercorns, 1/8 part pink salt, pinch of saffron threads, blend in grinder and voila! Adorn a goat cheese log or a cream cheese brick

★Parts are used in measuring for easily doubling the recipe.

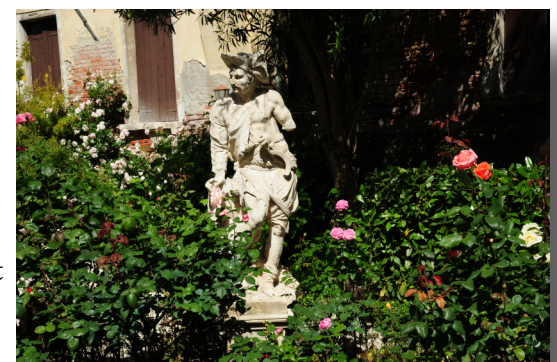


Photo: S. Lallemand

# Around the District

## Belleville Area Rose Society

The Belleville Rose Society meets the First Sunday of the month, from February to November, but does not meet in July. Meetings are at 2:00 p.m. at the St. Clair County Farm Bureau, Belleville, Illinois. contact Roger Brueckman at [rrosyacres@gmail.com](mailto:rrosyacres@gmail.com)

## Indianapolis Rose Society

Meetings, Workshops, Garden Parties

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Sullivan Munce building in charming downtown Zionsville except for special events. Our time together ranges from guest speakers and member garden tours to workshops on general rose care, dealing with rose pests and diseases, rose propagation as well as recommendations for growing roses in our region. Contact us at [IndplsRoseSoc@gmail.com](mailto:IndplsRoseSoc@gmail.com)

## Logansport Rose Society

Our club consists of garden enthusiasts focusing on a love for roses. We share our knowledge of roses along with experts in their specified fields to help us with our journey through the garden path. You can contact president, Cristie Rans, at [crisrans@aol.com](mailto:crisrans@aol.com) for any questions that you may have. We meet the first Thursday evening of each month from March through November. Our meetings are opened to the public and anyone is welcomed to attend.

## Sauk Trail Rose Society

Our mission is to promote the "Rose" through education, Consulting Rosarian activities, Rose Shows, dissemination of plant materials, garden walks and other social functions. For information on membership, the annual rose sale or how we can help you grow roses, contact John Pais at [johnpais@sbcglobal.net](mailto:johnpais@sbcglobal.net).

## Stephen Decatur Rose Society

Meets the third Monday night of the month at 7:00 pm at Temple Baptist Church, 1818 E Mound Road, Decatur, IL from March – October. Our meetings are opened to the public and you are very welcome to come! Occasionally we host ZOOM meetings to bring in National speakers. You are welcome to join us for those too. To learn more about upcoming meetings, contact Jojn or Kaye Wessbecher at [jkwessbecher@gmail.com](mailto:jkwessbecher@gmail.com)



*Rosa 'Like no Other'*



*R. 'Moonstone'*, Photo: B. Hellner



*R. 'Catalina'*, Photo: K. Bayne



# Around the District

## Alton Rose Society

For information on meeting date and time, Contact Joel Anderson at [janderson317@charter.net](mailto:janderson317@charter.net)

## AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY

The American rose Society offers several educational opportunities including monthly webinars on a variety of topics. These webinars are provided free of charge to all members of ARS. There is a fee of \$5.00 per webinar, for all others interested in attending. Questions about registering for webinars should be directed to Tanya Cole at [Tanya@rose.org](mailto:Tanya@rose.org) or 318-938-5402, ext. 108

All webinars are CR Credit Approved. Look for more information about the 2026 webinars in upcoming issues of this newsletter or on the website [rose.org](http://rose.org) of the American Rose Society.



**THINGS GROW HERE**

*Join Today*  
AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY

*Scan Here*

**WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU:**

- AMERICAN ROSE Five issues of our nationally acclaimed magazine & our collectible American Rose Annual.
- FREE OR REDUCED GARDEN ADMISSION to hundreds of gardens.
- ANNUAL HANDBOOK For Selecting Roses.
- DIGITAL BOOKSHELF Access to past issues of American Rose and numerous publications through the ARS member portal.
- FREE ROSEBUSH from Witherspoon Rose Culture.
- FREE ROSE GROWING ADVICE from Consulting Rosarians across the country.
- DISCOUNTS at Merchant Partners up to 20% on roses, plants, supplies, & more!
- Monthly NEWSLETTER include your email to receive the Fragrant Rose, check-full of rose growing tips & info.
- DIGITAL RESOURCES Access to webinar, videos, tutorials, Modern Roses database - up-to-date info on roses & much more!
- ONE YEAR of Better Homes & Gardens Magazine.

It is our mission to provide rose horticulture education and information to our members. We are here to help you enjoy your roses.

AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY  
THE NATIONAL FLORAL SOCIETY

VISIT ROSE.ORG

Questions & Rose Help: 1-800-637-6534



FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
 LOCAL SOCIETY (OPTIONAL): \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT: ☐ YEAR DIGITAL \$55  
 1 YEAR PRINT \$75 ☐ ASSOCIATE \$20 (LIST  
 PRIMARY MEMBER BELOW) ☐

CARDTYPE: ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ VISA  
☐ DISCOVER ☐ AMEX  
 CARD # \_\_\_\_\_  
 EXP. DATE: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ V-CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 NOTE: CARD STATEMENTS WILL REFLECT "BLACKBAUD  
 ARS" FOR THIS CHARGE

CHECK ENCLOSED ☐  
 MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY  
 MAIL TO: AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY, P.O. BOX 30,000,  
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