



## Illinois-Indiana Rose District Website:

<https://illinoisindianadistrict.org/>

# From the District Director

Dear Members,

I hope you are sharing the bright sunshine we have today in Northern Illinois. It is 42 degrees, hard to believe it was -10 degrees F two weeks ago.

I also hope you have a good case of Spring Fever and remember that our District meeting is just a month away, March 20-21.

We have a full schedule of excellent speakers in person and by Zoom. Please check the attachments in previous letters and on our website for the full agenda and speaker bios.

Our Sonja will be covering the basics of roses and dirt...oops...sorry, Sonja (see the agenda). We will also have two of your favorite speakers, Professor Mark Windham, and Ron Daniels, both coming from Tennessee. Our National Chair of Roses in Review, Jason Capote is coming to us from Brooklyn, New York by Zoom. The president of the Albuquerque Rose Society, Melissa Schiff, rosarian and art historian will also be here by Zoom.

Bring a friend, all are welcome. Whether they have lots of roses or none at all, I am sure they will enjoy the gardening tips and community. There is lunch too. And a free rose.

Oh, did I mention roses???

Due to the generous responses of several rose vendors, we will have lots of roses to share.

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### Calendar of Events

FALL DISTRICT MEETING  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 18-19, 2026  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN

ARS NATIONAL MEETING  
OCTOBER 2 - 5, 2026  
NASHVILLE, TN

## District Team

The first 40 registrants will be given a free bareroot rose by Star Roses.

We will also have roses from Weeks and Edmunds. Maybe even a Martha Stewart!! And maybe more(??).

Think of this as a late winter adventure.

Wishing you crocuses and forsythia,

Sharon

Director, Illinois-Indiana



Sheraton Music City Nashville Airport Hotel | Nashville, TN

*More information coming soon!*

2026ARSConvention@gmail.com



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markbnolen@comcast.net

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Consulting Rosarian Chair  
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Sonja Lallemand Newsletter  
Cristie Rans Membership Chair  
crisrans@aol.com

Andy Plasz Awards chair  
zsalp@sbcglobal.net

Teresa Byington Website - Social Media  
teresabyington@gmail.com

## 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”  
Professor Emeritus Mark Windham, University of Tennessee

10:30 - 11:30                “Just Don't Call it DIRT!”  
Sonja Lallemand Retired Horticulture Educator, U of I Extension,  
Vice-Director and newsletter publisher for the Illinois-Indiana District.

11:30 - 12:45                **Lunch**

12:45 - 1:45                “Growing and Caring for all Types of Roses”  
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**

**star<sup>®</sup>**  
ROSES *and* PLANTS

# 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 Mayhem 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 world 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

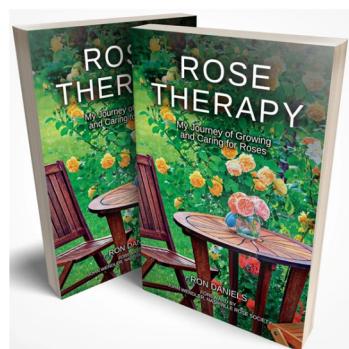
### GROWING & CARING FOR ALL TYPES OF ROSES -

**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.

## Illinois-Indiana Rose District 2026 Calendar of Events

Date	Time / Place	Activity
<b>Friday and Saturday March 20-21, 2026</b>	<b>6:30 p.m. 8:30 a.m. Fairfield Inn, Effingham, Illinois Phone: (217) 540-5454</b>	<b>Friday – Registration “Roses in Art” with Melissa Schiff, V.P. Albuquerque Rose Society Registration – Presenters: Sonja Lallemand, Dr. Mark Windham,, Ron Daniels, Jason Capote</b>
<b>Friday and Saturday September 18-19, 2026</b>	<b>Indianapolis, IN</b>	<b>Presenters: Mike Shoup, new President of The Heritage Rose Foundation Natalie Carmoli from Proven Winners.</b>
<b>Friday to Monday October 2-5, 2026</b>	<b>Nashville, Tennessee</b>	<b>National American Rose Society Meeting</b>

# 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

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

## New Possibilities ...

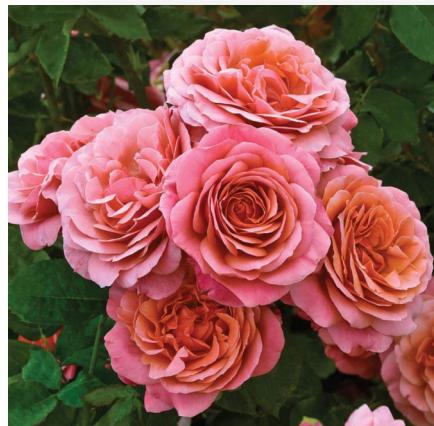
A collage of rose varieties. At the top left is a cluster of yellow roses. To the right is a cluster of red roses. In the center, the word 'star' is written in a large, stylized font above the text 'ROSES and PLANTS'. Below this is the text '2027 NEW ROSE VARIETIES'. On the left, a yellow rose is shown with the label 'BLOOM-abler' and the name 'Be Good'. In the center, a yellow rose is shown with the label 'BLOOM-abler' and the name 'Brick House' Yellow. To the right, a cluster of yellow and white roses is shown with the label 'BLOOM-abler' and the name 'Lemon Frost'. At the bottom right, a cluster of red roses is shown with the label 'knock OUT' and the name 'Triple Knock Out'.

NEW POSSIBILITIES ...

**POPUP**  
Garden



R. 'Light Years Away' Floribunda



R. 'Uptown Girl' Grandiflora



# 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)



Rosa 'Gourmet Popcorn', miniature

## 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)



R. 'Lofe's Little Pleasure' Miniature

## 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.



R. 'Make me Blush' HT

## 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)

# 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.

*Join Today*

AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY

Scan Here



**THINGS GROW 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 Rosemen across the country.
- DISCOUNTS at Merchant Partners up to 20% on roses, plants, supplies, & more!
- Monthly NEWSLETTER include your email to receive The Frequent Rose, chock-full of rose growing tips & info.
- DIGITAL RESOURCES Access to webinars, 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 ROSE SOCIETY

VISIT [ROSE.ORG](http://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:**  1 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,  
 SHREVEPORT, LA 71130

MAIL FORM | CALL 800.637.6534 | JOIN AT [ROSE.ORG](http://ROSE.ORG)

