

New England Rose Society
presents

Once Upon a Bloom



Garden at Elm Bank

June 20, 2026

Event Calendar

Saturday, June 20, 2026

- 7:00 – 10:00am** Exhibit Entry & Grooming
Location: The Parkman Classroom & Education Courtyard
- 9:30 – 10:00 am:** Judges' Breakfast & Briefing
Location: The Dearborn Room
- 9:30 – 10:00 am:** Clerk's Meeting
Location: The Parkman Classroom
- 10:00 – 12:30 pm:** Exhibit Judging
**Exhibit Room will be Closed to the Public at this Time*
- 10:00 -2:30 pm** Rose sale, Flower Crowns & Bouquet Making Table Opens
Location: Various tables around the education building
- 10:30 – 11:15 am:** Seminar: Easy Roses, Happy Gardens
Speaker: *David Cannistraro*
Location: The Cheney Classroom
- 11:15 – 12:00 pm:** Seminar: Structure in the Landscape
Speaker: *Rosemary Aldridge*
Location: The Cheney Classroom
- 12:30 – 3:30 pm:** Show Exhibition Open to Public
- 12:30 – 1:30 pm:** Judges' and NERS Member Luncheon
Location: The Cheney Classroom
- 2:30 – 3:00 pm:** Awards Ceremony
Location: The Parkman Classroom
- 3:00 – 5:00 pm:** Show Clean-up & NERS Departure

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

The rules and regulations governing this show are usually in accord with the rules and regulations of the ARS for exhibiting roses. Special instructions are provided for the Rose Arrangement classes.

1. Except as noted in the schedule, competition is open to all rose growers regardless of residence. All entries must have been grown by the exhibitor in his or her own private outdoor garden. Only one person or team from any one garden may enter a class.
2. Worktables will be available beginning at 7:00 a.m. Please arrive early, so that entries can be placed in time. Worktables must be removed, and all debris and water spills cleaned, by each exhibitor as required by safety regulations of the facility by 9:45 a.m.
3. Entries will be received from 7:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., Saturday, June 20, 2026. Judging will begin at 10:00 a.m. The show will open to the public at 12:30 p.m.
4. Except as noted in the schedule, the show committee will furnish all containers. Containers and other properties are available on a first come, first served basis. Exhibitors who find they will not require a property are asked to return it at the earliest moment. Exhibitors are responsible for filling containers with water.
5. All entries must be accompanied by an entry tag showing: class, variety name, and the exhibitor's name and address. One tag per exhibit regardless of number of containers. Both sections of the tag must be completed. Please print. Use only pen with black or blue ink, stamps or name labels. Challenge Class tags are available for classes where multiple varieties must be listed.
6. Wedges and supports are permitted; however soft, water-absorbing floral foam such as Oasis is discouraged and Styrofoam is preferred. Please ensure that wedging material can be easily removed and will not fall to the bottom of the container.
7. Except for Class 26 (The Lost Boys' Who Am I Class?), rose varieties exhibited must be entered under the American Exhibition Name (AEN) of the American Rose Society as listed in any one of the following official ARS publications: Modern Roses Database, the Official List of Approved Exhibition Names for Judges & Exhibitors, the Handbook for Selecting Roses, or the Rose Registrations column of The American Rose magazine. In cases where a variety is not listed in any of the above ARS publications, a listing in The Combined Rose List or a listing on www.helpmefind.com is acceptable when not available in these publications. Classification of all roses shall be in accordance with ARS publications to the date of the show.
8. This is an alphabetical show. Except for challenge classes and classes specifying multiple varieties, all roses in each class will be placed alphabetically and each variety in each class shall constitute a separate subclass for judging. Unless specified otherwise in the class

description, exhibitors may make multiple entries per class provided each entry is a different variety.

9. ARS Gold, Silver, and Bronze Certificates will be awarded to Queen, King, and Princess of Show. ARS Gold, Silver, and Bronze Certificates will also be awarded to the Queen, King, and Princess of each Floribunda, Modern Shrub, and Miniature & Miniflora sections. ARS Certificates will be awarded in all other classes for which they are available.
10. Entries in the horticultural classes (Section A, Classes 1-21) are to be placed by exhibitors in alphabetical order. The committee may move these entries for the purpose of alphabetization. Entries in the challenge classes (Section B, Classes 22-37) are placed by the exhibitors in designated locations and may not be touched or moved by others until completion of judging of the class. Members of the show committee will assist exhibitors with placement, but responsibility for correct classification and placement is solely that of the exhibitor. During judging, only Judges, Clerks, and Members of the Show Committee shall be permitted in the show area.
11. A. Judging shall be in accordance with rules and regulations of the American Rose Society, and all decisions of the judges are final. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible for trophy awards.

B. The “AMERICAN ROSE” magazine of January - February 2023, pgs. 32-33 announced several new procedures that allow Judges to exhibit in the shows which they are Judging. We will employ the “Step Back” procedure from that article. It allows the Judges of the NERS Show to exhibit in whatever classes they choose in this show which they are judging, as long as they step back whenever one of their roses is up to be judged. The ARS reasoning for this change is set forth in the article cited above.
12. Entries in the Horticulture Division and Challenge Classes (Sections A & B) in violation of the ARS or Show Rules may be disqualified. Entries could be disqualified for the following reasons:
 - a. Misnamed, mislabeled, or unlabeled roses
 - b. The presence of a foreign substance applied to the specimen
 - c. Violation of any other ARS, or Challenge/Collection requirement.
13. No containers may be removed from the trophy table without permission from the Show Chair. No entries may be removed from the show before closing.
14. Neither the New England Rose Society, nor Massachusetts Horticultural Society (The Garden At Elm Bank) shall be liable for loss or damage to entries, containers, or property, or for injury to persons attending the rose show. Liability of all nature is disclaimed. All specimens entered in the Horticultural Division shall become the property of the New England Rose Society.

GUIDELINES FOR JUDGING

"Guidelines for Judging Roses" by the ARS Committee on Training and Accrediting Rose Judges, is the official judge's handbook for this show.

SCORING SYSTEM FOR JUDGING

Roses will be judged on the following point scale:

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Form..... | 25 |
| Color..... | 20 |
| Substance..... | 15 |
| Stem and Foliage | 20 |
| Balance and Proportion | 10 |
| Size | 10 |
| Total..... | 100 |

- All Entries are subject to the ARS rules governing disqualification. Disqualification may occur if the specimen is, or has, as follows:
 - Misnamed.
 - Mislabeled or unlabeled.
 - The presence of a foreign substance applied to the specimen.
 - The exhibitor's name in any location other than the designated place on the entry tag.
 - In violation of the NERS rules.
- Side buds remaining on exhibits will not disqualify an entry, however, an entry with side buds may be penalized as a distracting feature.
- At the time of judging, an exhibition rose should be in the most perfect phase of its possible beauty. This is when the bloom is approximately one-half to three-quarters open and has a well-formed center. Buds, roses just beginning to open, do not qualify as blooms.
- Polyanthas, floribundas, climbers, and other roses which naturally occur as sprays, may be shown with side buds.
- All sections for miniature roses are open to miniflora roses as well, when so designated in the show schedule.
- Only blue-ribbon winners are eligible for trophy awards.
- Challenge class entries will not be considered for court awards.
- Special sections may be added after entries close if the quantities of exhibits warrant this action.

Section A: Horticultural Classes
(Placed Alphabetically on the Table)

1. One Hybrid Tea or Grandiflora Bloom

One bloom stem at the exhibition stage. Side buds may be penalized.

Queen, King, and Princess of Show

2. One Decorative Hybrid Tea or Grandiflora Bloom

One bloom at the most perfect stage of beauty of a Hybrid Tea or Grandiflora variety that does not display the exhibition form.

NERS Certificate

3. One Hybrid Tea or Grandiflora Spray

Two or more blooms on a stem.

ARS Certificate

4. One Hybrid Tea or Grandiflora Open

One bloom stem, fully open with stamens showing. Side buds may be penalized.

ARS Certificate

5. One Floribunda Bloom (Frederick W. Levesque Memorial Award)

One bloom stem at the exhibition stage for that variety. Includes climbing floribundas (Cl F). Side buds may be penalized.

ARS Certificate

6. One Floribunda or Polyantha Spray (Karl Jones Trophy)

Two or more blooms on a stem. Includes climbing floribundas (Cl F).

ARS Certificate

7. Best Climber

One bloom or spray of two or more blooms of a large-flowered climber (LCl), hybrid wichurana (HWich), or hybrid gigantea (HG). No other type of rose is permitted in this class (including Cl HTs, Cl Min, etc.)

ARS Certificate

8. Singles

One bloom stem of any large variety rose at the most perfect stage of beauty. Must be classified as a single (4-8 petals). Side buds may be penalized.

ARS Certificate

9. One Miniature Bloom

One bloom stem at the exhibition form. Side buds may be penalized.

Miniature Queen, King, and Princess of Show

10. One Miniflora Bloom

One bloom stem at the exhibition form. Side buds may be penalized.

Miniflora Queen, King, and Princess of Show

11. One Miniature Spray (Nor'East Miniature Roses Trophy)

Two or more blooms on a stem.

ARS Certificate

12. One Miniature or Miniflora Open Bloom

One open bloom stem. No singles. Must be fully open and stamens must show. Side buds may be penalized.

ARS Certificate

13. One Miniflora Spray

Two or more blooms on a stem.

ARS Certificate

14. Dowager Queen (Denman-Whidden Trophy)

One bloom or spray of two or more blooms. Species (Sp) roses and old garden rose varieties introduced prior to 1867, including roses of unknown dates known to have been in existence prior to 1867. It is suggested that the date of introduction be noted on the entry tag.

Dowager Queen Certificate

15. Victorian Award

One bloom or spray of two or more blooms. Old garden roses introduced in 1867 or later, or with unknown dates of origin after 1867. It is suggested that the date of introduction be noted on the entry tag.

Victorian Rose Certificate

16. Classic Shrub

One bloom or spray of two or more blooms of a hybrid rugosa (HRg), hybrid kordesii (HKor), hybrid musk (HMsK), or hybrid moyesii (HMoy).

ARS Certificate

17. Modern Shrub (Edmund Albert Lowe Memorial Trophy)

One bloom or spray of two or more blooms of a variety classified as a shrub (S).

ARS Certificate

Eligible for Modern Shrub Queen, King, and Princess of Show

18. English Style Roses

One bloom or spray of two or more blooms of any variety with flowers that display the form of an English Garden Rose. Roses bred by any hybridizer may be entered.

NERS Certificate

Eligible for English Style Rose Queen, King, and Princess of Show

19. Little Red Riding Hood's Best Red Rose (Frazer Cup)

An entry of one bloom (without side buds) or spray of two or more blooms at the most perfect stage of beauty that is classified as red (mr, dr). Limit one entry per exhibitor.

NERS Certificate

20. The Little Engine That Could - Novice Class

This class is open to exhibitors who have not yet received three (3) blue ribbons, or won best in class, in any horticultural class in an ARS sanctioned show. Exhibitors may enter any type of rose specified in Classes 1 through 19. Please indicate the type of rose on the entry tag. Novice entries are eligible for their respective courts.

Best overall entry in this class will be awarded the ARS Novice Certificate

21. Judge, or Judge Not - Judges of the Show

Judges of the show may enter up to three (3) stems of any type of rose as specified in classes 1 through 19.

ARS Certificate

Section B: New England Rose Society Challenge Classes

Exhibitors or exhibiting teams are limited to one entry each in Classes 22-35.

22. Painting The Roses Red

One stem each of three (3) different varieties and color class: one white (w), one red (mr, dr, or rb), and one of a red/white blend, at the most perfect stage of beauty. Each displayed in their own container and arranged in such a way that it creates a transition of color. No miniature or miniflora varieties.

NERS Certificate

23. Goldilocks & The Three Shrubs (Buck Trophy)

One stem each of three (3) different shrub varieties, classic or modern shrub, exhibited in separate containers. Exhibitors may use their own containers in this class.

NERS Certificate

24. The Very Hungry Caterpillar - Organic Rose Garden

One bloom or spray of two or more blooms of any rose, at the most perfect stage of beauty from a garden that is exclusively managed through organic gardening techniques. Roses grown in gardens that utilize non-organic sprays, systemic pesticides and fungicides, and/or synthetic fertilizers are not permitted.

NERS Certificate

25. Harold and the Purple Rose

One bloom or spray of two or more blooms of any rose classified as mauve (m) or mauve-blend (mb).

NERS Certificate

26. The Lost Boys' Who Am I Class

One specimen of any type of rose without an American Exhibition Name or whose American Exhibition Name is not known by the exhibitor, including seedlings, sports, found roses, and other non-registered roses.

NERS Certificate

27. Bouncing Tigger's Best Striped Rose

One rose bloom of any kind featuring stripes of color at the exhibition stage for that variety.

NERS Certificate

28. The Giving Rose

One bloom or spray of two or more blooms of any rose that was either gifted from a fellow rosarian, purchased from a rose society's auction or sale, or won as a society's door prize. Exhibitors are encouraged to include a note where/when the rose was received. No miniature or miniflora varieties.

NERS Certificate

29. Mooney B. Finch's Masterpiece

One or more blooms of any one variety except Miniatures or Minifloras. May be shown with or without stems, foliage and buds. No accessories allowed. Frames (8" x 10") furnished by the Show Committee are available on a first come basis. Exhibitors may provide their own 8"x10" frame for this class. The frame may be displayed vertically or horizontally. One entry per exhibitor.

NERS Certificate

30. Madeline's Roses, All in a Row - English Box - Large Roses

Six (6) blooms, without foliage, of one, two, or three varieties, at the most perfect stage of beauty, in an English Box. No miniatures or minifloras. English Box to be supplied by the show committee. All varieties to be correctly named on one entry tag.

NERS Certificate

31. Snow White & the Six Dwarves - English Box - Miniature or Miniflora

Six (6) miniature or miniflora rose blooms, without foliage, of one, two or three varieties at the most perfect stage of beauty, in an English Box. English Box to be supplied by the show committee. All varieties to be correctly named on one entry tag.

NERS Certificate

32. Cinderella's Glass Rose Bowl - Large Open Bloom (Peck Award)

One large rose bloom without foliage, fully open with stamens showing, of any type other than miniature or miniflora exhibited floating in a glass bowl of clear water.

ARS Certificate

33. Thumbelina's Rose in a Bowl - Miniature or Miniflora Open Bloom

One miniature or miniflora bloom, without foliage, fully open with stamens showing, exhibited floating in clear water.

ARS Certificate

34. The Three Little Pigs Rose Bowl - Miniature or Miniflora Roses

Three (3) different varieties of miniature or miniflora roses, all classified as pink(lp, mp, dp,pb), at the most perfect stage of beauty, floating in a bowl of clear water. The container should be

proportional to the size of the roses. No foliage. Stamens may show but are not required to be visible. **Note: Exhibitors must provide their own containers for this class.**

NERS Certificate

35. Ferdinand's Fragrant Flowers – People's Choice

One rose of any type per exhibitor. Judges will verify identity, and the winner will be chosen by ballot of show attendees.

NERS Certificate

36. The Three Billy Goats Gruff – Mike Lowe Award – Yankee District Traveling Trophy

Three different Old Garden Rose specimens in a single container of the exhibitor's choice.

Yankee District Certificate

SPECIAL AWARDS

All the Jewels of Agrabah – Sweepstakes (Arnold Trophy)

The sweepstakes award and ARS certificate will be presented to the exhibitor receiving the most first place awards (blue ribbons) in Classes 1 through 35. The sweepstakes award is restricted to members of the New England Rose Society.

ARS Certificate

Long John Silver's Best English Box

Judges will select the winner of the ARS Best English Box certificate from the winners of Classes 30 & 31.

ARS Certificate

ROSE ARRANGEMENTS

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Time Schedule: Arrangements may be put in Saturday, June 20, 2026 from 7:00–9:30 am. Judging will begin promptly at 10:00 am. All arrangements, vases and awards must remain in place until the show is taken down, allowing time to view exhibits and take photos. Removal time is at 3:00 pm. If you are unable to pick up your arrangements at the close of the show, please have someone else do so. The NERS will not be responsible for any properties left after 3:00 pm.
2. Staging: Arrangements will be staged on either black or white linen covered tables, approximately 30" in width, or on pedestals. No niches will be provided. Backgrounds, niches (winged) and frames are allowed in all sections, as long as they are proportionate to the space allotted. Fabric or other materials may be used to drape or cover the background or table. Standard designs may not exceed 24" in width or depth. There is no height restriction for standard designs. Miniature designs may not exceed 12" in width, depth or height.
3. Reservations are required before 3pm on June 19th for all arrangement classes, to ensure table space. (Entrants without reservations may be accommodated as long as table space is available.) For reservations, please contact Lauren Gisel (lrduff10@gmail.com or text 860-729-3760) with arranger's name and Class Number of each arrangement.
4. Eligibility: More than one exhibitor from the same garden may enter the same class. Horticulture Judges for this show may enter all arrangement classes. Arrangement Judges may compete in Classes 1-6 but will not judge any entered class.
5. Exhibitors are permitted only one entry in each class (except for Section D).
6. "Arranger Grown" (AG): For an arrangement to have the declaration of "AG", it must only include outdoor, arranger grown roses. "AG" must be shown on each arrangement entry tag. Roses must be grown by the arranger, however other plant/line/filler material need not be grown by the arranger.
7. Materials: Roses must be the dominant flower in all arrangements. For Section C, all roses must be fresh, and garden grown. No dried roses. Other flowers and foliage may be used except where specified. Artificial plant materials, painted plants, electrical devices or flags are not allowed. Accessories are permitted in all classes, but should be subordinate, unless when used as a featured object in the design.
 - a. For Section D, dried, florist and indoor grown roses are allowed, in addition to garden grown roses. Specifically for classes 5 & 6, all types of materials and accessories are allowed, except for flags.

8. For arrangement classes 1-6, a 3 x 5 card may be used to briefly explain the design concept.
9. Judging and Awards: Judging of Section C will be done by ARS accredited rose arrangement judges and their decisions are final. A design must score at least 90 points to be eligible for a first-place ribbon. First, second, third and honorable mention ribbons can be awarded in each class.
10. Section C is governed by the current rules and procedures of the ARS. The ARS Approved Exhibition Name or an accepted synonym for all roses must be written on the entry tag. Judges will verify that roses are not misnamed. An arrangement incorrectly placed in a class will be judged in the class in which it is placed. There are two causes for disqualification: roses are not outdoor grown and use of artificial plant material.

DEFINITIONS

Traditional Design

Line Design follows a linear pattern and uses a small quantity of plant materials in an open silhouette.

Line-Mass Design uses additional material to strengthen the line but maintains the open silhouette.

Mass Design uses large quantities of material to create a mass effect with few voids. It can still be open and airy.

Corsage or Personal Adornment must include pin for wearing and a tied ribbon bow.

Oriental Manner Design uses a minimum of plant material, emphasizing the perfection of roses.

Moribana Style uses a low container with water showing.

Nageire Style uses a tall container for a “throw-in” appearance.

Free Style Oriental uses any kind of oriental container with plant material used to express the designer’s feelings, images and impressions. Man-made materials may be included in free style designs.

Modern Creative or Abstract - Complete freedom is allowed in designing; an emphasis on open space, using some plant material with unique, bold forms, and dynamic lines. Man-made materials may be included, unless otherwise specified. Lights may be allowed to augment the design, but no electrical cords or outlets are available.

Abstract Design with dominance in abstraction, non-naturalistic, non-realistic with components used solely for line, form, color, texture and integrated space.

Underwater Designs must have a focal area of the design placed under water in a clear or transparent container. Approximately 1/3 of the design should be underwater.

Parallel Designs have three or more groupings of materials (using one or more containers as one unit). The groupings may be placed in any direction (vertical, horizontal or diagonal) to give continuity. All groupings must be parallel in the same direction. They must have negative space between groupings and appear as one arrangement.

(See “*Guidelines for Judging Rose Arrangements*” American Rose Society for more detailed information.)

ARS OFFICIAL SCORE CARD FOR JUDGING ROSE ARRANGEMENTS

CONFORMANCE: (5 points per Principle) 15
a) roses correctly named
b) conformance to type of design
c) other specific requirements of the schedule

DESIGN all principles: (5 points per Principle) 30

Balance: Visual stability. Actual or visual weight on either side of an imaginary central axis.

Dominance: No equal amounts of either color, shape or form.

Contrast: Differences in form, shape and/or color to develop interest.

Rhythm: Rhythm is achieved by repetition, radiation and/or variation; may be smooth, dynamic, graceful, or gentle. Rhythm is the dominant visual path through the design.

Proportion: Proportion refers to the relative amounts of a component in relation to the other components of the design and to the whole design. Proportion also refers to the whole, the placement and to the space it occupies.

Scale: The size relationship of one component to another and to the whole. Too great a variation in sizes means poor scale.

PERFECTION OF THE ROSE 30

Roses should be in peak condition, with good substance, and have fresh foliage. Other plant materials should be in good condition.

CREATIVITY AND EXPRESSIVENESS 15

Imaginative and creative handling and use of materials.

DISTINCTION 10

Uniqueness: sets the design apart, superiority in every respect; includes technical execution/construction includes condition of non-rose material

Total..... 100

Section C: Arrangement

1. The Secret Garden

Traditional Standard Design

Arranger's choice of traditional design using fresh standard roses. May also include miniature varieties, fresh or naturally dried plant material. Design must not exceed 24 inches in width or depth; no height restriction. Type of Traditional Design must be stated on the entry tag.*

Eligible for ARS Royalty Award

Eligible for ARS Certificate if Arranger Grown

2. There Was An Old Woman Who Lived In A Shoe

Modern Standard Design

Arranger's choice of modern design using fresh standard roses within a shoe-inspired container. May also include miniature varieties; fresh or naturally dried plant material; man-made materials such as plastic or wire used in a non-naturalist manner. Design must not exceed 24 inches in width or depth; no height restriction. Type of modern design must be stated on the entry tag.*

Eligible for ARS Artist's Award

Eligible for ARS Certificate if Arranger Grown

3. Spirited Away

East Asian Standard Design

Arranger's choice of East Asian design using fresh standard roses. May also include miniature varieties; fresh or naturally dried plant material; man-made materials such as plastic or wire used in a non-naturalist manner. Design must not exceed 24 inches in width or depth; no height restriction. Type of East Asian design must be stated on the entry tag.*

Eligible for ARS East Asian Award

Eligible for ARS Certificate if Arranger Grown

4. Tom Thumb's Crafty Creation

Miniature Traditional Design

Arranger's choice of traditional design using fresh miniature or miniflora roses. May also include fresh or naturally dried plant material. Design must not exceed 12 inches in width, depth, or height. Type of Traditional Design must be stated on the entry tag. Judges will select a Miniature Gold award winner.

Eligible for ARS Miniature Royalty Award

Eligible for ARS Certificate if Arranger Grown

* Judges will select winners of the Gold, Silver, and Bronze awards for Standard Roses from Classes 1, 2, and 3.

Section D: Rose Reverie

5. Isabela Madrigal's Headband

Floral Headpiece

Inspired by Encanto's, Isabela Madrigal and her magical gift of flowers, exhibitors will design a floral headband or crown with roses as the primary flower. Large, miniature, and miniflora roses are permitted, and florist roses may be used. Additional materials are allowed to support creative interpretation, with the exception of flags. Exhibitors must provide their own display supports, such as busts or stands, provided the exhibit fits within the size requirements. Each entry may be no more than 16 inches in width; there is no height restriction.

Exhibitors may include a 3" × 5" card briefly describing the design concept to guide viewers' understanding. Entries will be displayed outside the exhibition room on white- or black-covered tables approximately 30 inches wide, or on covered pedestals.

This class emphasizes artistry, craftsmanship, and imaginative floral expression, celebrating roses transformed into enchanting, wearable garden art. The winning entry will be selected by ballot of show attendees.

NERS Certificate

6. Alice In The Garden of Live Flowers

Wonderland Garden Scene

In this class, exhibitors are invited to create an imaginative garden scene inspired by Alice's encounter with the living, talking flowers of Wonderland. Roses must be the central feature of the design, bringing the garden's personalities and magic to life. Large, miniature, and miniflora roses are permitted, and florist roses may be used. All materials are allowed except flags, encouraging exhibitors to fully interpret their own whimsical "Garden of Live Flowers." Each exhibit must fit within a space no larger than 2 feet wide by 2 feet deep; there is no height restriction.

Exhibitors may include a 3" × 5" card with a brief description of their scene to help guide viewers' imaginations. Entries will be displayed outside the exhibition room on white- or black-covered tables approximately 30 inches wide, or on covered pedestals.

The winning entry will be selected by ballot of show attendees.

NERS Certificate