

# American Rose Society Establishes Rose Breeders Hall of Fame

by Dr. Tommy Cairns, Chair, Prizes & Awards Committee

MOST OF US WHO ARE FERVENT AND PASSIONATE rose growers love our gardens for the preponderance of beauty accentuated by a spectrum of colors, fragrances and plant habits. There has been some latent urge to delve into the fascination of how they got their names. Little investigation has occurred into who were the wonderful teams of individuals, the rose breeders, who have devoted their lives into fulfilling the commercial thirst for a continual parade of new varieties each and every year.

Several avenues of approaches that have ultimately populated the direction of cross rose breeding are intuitive experience gained for many years, manipulating and understanding genetic inheritance, and serendipitous exploration (like buying a lottery ticket). Founders of rose breeding in the 19<sup>th</sup> century can be attributed to a number of prominent people – Henry Bennett, a farmer turned rose grower; Joseph Pemberton, a gentle bachelor curate; and Wilhelm Kordes, a German nurseryman. Along the rocky road to successes pivotal contributions were provided by the Frenchman Jean-Baptiste Guillot of Lyon who created the first hybrid tea, 'La France'. In the U.S. the firm Jackson & Perkins soon became the main and exceedingly large corporation devoted to expansion of the evolution and genetic inheritance. All over the world, rose breeding became a highly respected profession satisfying the public with their annual new creations.



Over the last century the American Rose Society (ARS) has established various accolade mechanisms to recognize outstanding varieties, e.g. AOE, Miniature Rose Hall of Fame and others. Rarely has recognition been afforded directly to those individuals who have enriched our daily lives through their creativity in providing a wide spectrum of colorful varieties, namely the rose breeders.

Many breeders, both American and from other countries, have contributed over the last 80+ years to a wonderful array of varieties that have stood the test of time. And yet this one group of rose creators, Jack Harkness referred to them as “Makers of Heavenly Roses”, has never been formally recognized for their extensive body of work, only one variety at a time usually recognized for fragrance, etc... Therefore, ARS in early 2022 has now established formal recognition be granted via a “Rose Breeders Hall of Fame.”

Initiating such a program was greeted as a most welcome format to pay respect and honor to the many fine rose breeders over the past 100 years. However, sensitive planning to address and recognize past rose breeders was necessary. Three time zones were developed, 19<sup>th</sup> century, 20<sup>th</sup> century and 21<sup>st</sup> century, to honor individual breeders and family businesses who have contributed to both the evolution of roses and their proliferation as the world’s favorite flower. Breeders belonging to these time periods were collectively grand-fathered into the ARS Rose Breeders

Hall of Fame (see Master Chart and selected short biographies for details). Thereafter the induction of one rose breeder per year on an international level would become the standard protocol.

Tangible and intangible benefits to the world of roses would be warmly embraced within the world rose community not to mention agreement for the need for such a recognition program. Charting the legacies of fine rose breeders for future generations to admire captures history in the making otherwise it might be long forgotten in the 22<sup>nd</sup> century.

## DETAILS OF THE PROGRAM

### Purpose

This recognition awards program has been established to honor rose breeders and hybridizers (alive or deceased), professional and amateur, who have contributed to the promotion and evolution of the rose through their productive efforts in the field.

Election recognizes the highest levels of excellence in the field of horticultural rose breeding.

### ACTS WORTHY OF RECOGNITION

The following examples may be used as general guidance to identify those activities that are deemed worthy of nomination for consideration:

- Sustained performance by over two or more decades of providing high quality rose varieties to the world representing a lifetime achievement deemed worthy of consideration for nomination because it greatly advances the public's perception and interest in roses.
- A single act of achievement by an individual within the field of rose breeding or rose development that has a measurable profound or major global impact on the advancement of promoting rose growing as well as advancing genetic knowledge.
- A significant act of scientific development in the field of genetic inheritance by an individual that has provided a major advancement to the knowledge and evolutionary educational base of growing roses.

### Eligibility

Any rose breeder may be nominated for election into the Rose Hall of Fame by an ARS member.

## Procedures for Nomination

The procedure to be followed in nomination of an individual requires submission of the prescribed one page outlining some biographical data and the body of work of the individual naming their outstanding commercially introduced varieties.

Nominations should be electronically addressed to the ARS Executive Director at [executivedirector@rose.org](mailto:executivedirector@rose.org) to arrive no later than November 30 of each year.

## Election

Choice of the honoree for each year will be conducted by the ARS Prizes & Award Committee. Only one awardee may be installed per year. The award shall consist of a formal presentation at the ARS National Convention or a suitable event.

## OFFICIAL NOMINATION FORM

(can be found on the ARS website)

## All About the Nominee

List the following details – Full name of nominee, Address and Phone Number, Professional affiliation or Amateur status, Education and other formal academic training (if known); Areas of professional specialization; Previous Honors & Awards (include dates).

## Proposed Citation

Summarize nominee's contributions in 25 words or fewer. This will form the basis for the citation presented to the awardee.

## Executive Summary

Provide a narrative description of the significant aspects of the nominee's work and its impact on rose evolution and the public's perception.

## Supporting Documentation

Attach any documentation that supports this nomination, such as a curriculum vitae, bibliography, publications, rose patents, list of cultivars hybridized and reports. Large works such as books may be represented by an abstract, executive summary, or referee's comments.

## Sponsor

Nominator's, address, telephone and email; Sponsor's signature & Date.

# ARS ROSE BREEDERS HALL OF FAME

## Early 19th Century Pioneers/Families

### Denmark

HOUSE OF POULSEN  
Dorus Theus Poulsen (1850-1925)  
Dines Poulsen (1879-1940)

### England

Henry Bennett (1823-1890)

HOUSE OF HARKNESS  
John Harkness (1851-1920)

Joseph H. Pemberton (1852-1926)

### France

Jean-Pierre Vibert (1777-1866)

BARBIER FRÈRES & COMPAGNIE  
Rene Barbier (1845-1931)

HOUSE OF GUILLOT  
Jean-Baptiste Guillot (1803-1882)  
Jean-Baptiste Guillot (1827-1893)

Jules Gravereaux (1844-1916)

HOUSE OF MEILLAND  
Francis Dubreuil (1842-1916)

HOUSE OF PERNET-DUCHER  
Joseph Pernet-Ducher (1859-1928)  
Jean Pernet (1832-1896)

### Luxembourg

SOUPER & NOTTING  
Pierre Notting (1825-1895)  
Jean Soupert (1834-1910)

### Northern Ireland

HOUSE OF DICKSON  
Alexander Dickson (1801-1880)  
George Dickson I (1832-1914)

HOUSE OF MCGREDY  
Samuel McGredy I (1828-1903)

### Scotland

HOUSE OF COCKER  
James Cocker (1807-1880)

United States of America  
JACKSON & PERKINS  
A. E. Jackson (1807-1895)  
Charles H. Perkins (1840-1924)

### Germany

HOUSE OF KÖRDES  
Wilhelm Kordes I (1865-1935)

HOUSE OF TANTAU  
Mathias Tantau (1882-1953)  
Rudolf Geschwind (1829-1910)

Peter Lambert (1859-1939)

## 20th Century Families "The Golden Age of Roses"

DAVID AUSTIN ROSES  
David C. H. Austin (1926-2018)

PETER BEALES ROSES  
Peter Beales (1936-2013)

AGRICULTURE CANADA  
Felicita Svejda (1920-2016)

HOUSE OF COCKER  
Alexander Cocker (1860-1920)  
Alec M. Cocker (1907-1977)  
Anne G. Cocker (1920-2014)  
Alexander James Cocker

HOUSE OF DELBARD  
Georges Delbard (1905-1999)  
Arnaud Delbard

HOUSE OF DICKSON  
Alexander Dickson III (1893-1975)  
Alexander 'Pat' Dickson (1926-2012)  
Colin Dickson (1956-)

INTERPLANT ROSES  
Peter Ilink

LEGRICE ROSES  
Edward LeGrice (1902-1977)

FRYER'S ROSES  
Gareth Fryer

HOUSE OF HARKNESS  
Jack Leigh Harkness (1918-1994)

HOUSE OF KÖRDES  
Wilhelm Kordes II (1891-1976)  
Wilhelm Kordes III (1953-2016)  
Tim Herman Kordes (1965-  
Werner Kordes (1923-2003)  
Reimer Kordes (1955-1977)  
Thomas Proll (1967-)

MATHEWS NURSERIES  
Tom & Pearl Mathews  
Bob & Cath Mathews

HOUSE OF MCGREDY  
Samuel McGredy II (1861-1926)  
Sam McGredy III (1897-1934)  
Sam McGredy IV (1932-2019)

HOUSE OF MEILLAND  
Antoine Meilland (1884-1971)  
Francis Meilland (1912-1958)  
Marie Louise Meilland (1920-1987)  
Alain Meilland (1940-  
Jacques Mouchotte

NOACK ROSEN  
Werner Noack (1927-2003)

NOR'EAST MINIATURE ROSES  
Harmon Saville

ROSES ORARD CREATIONS  
Pierre Orard

JACKSON & PERKINS  
Jean Henri Nicolas (1875-1937)  
Eugene S. Boerner (1893-1966)  
William A. Warriner (1922-1991)  
Dr. Keith Zary

HOUSE OF POULSEN  
Svend Poulsen (1884-1974)  
Niels Dines Poulsen (1919-2003)  
Pernille & Mogens Oleson

SEQUIA NURSERY  
Ralph S. Moore (1907-2009)

ROSE BARNI  
Vittorio Barni (1944-1999)

JAN SPEK ROZEN  
Jan Spek I (1890-1934)  
Hette Spek (1975-2007)

HOUSE OF TANTAU  
Mathias Tantau (1882-1953)  
Mathias Tantau (1912-2006)  
Hans-Jurgen Evers (1940-2007)  
Christian Evers

WEEKS WHOLESALE ROSES  
Ollie L. Weeks (1912-2002)  
Herbert C. Swim (1912-2002)  
Bill Christensen  
Tom Carruth

TINY PETALS  
Dee Bennett

## 20th Century Breeders

### Australia

Alister Clark (1864-1949)  
Frank Riethmuller (1884-1965)  
George Thompson

### Belgium

Louis Lens (1924-2001)

### England

Edward LeGrice (1902-1977)  
Chris Warner

### Ireland

Sean McCann (1928-2015)  
David Kenny

### Italy

Domencio Aicardi (1878-19674)

### The Netherlands

Jan de Vink

### New Zealand

Rob Somerfield

### Spain

Pedro Dot (1885-1976)

### United States of America

Walter Van Fleet (1857-1922)  
Walter E. Lammerts (1904-1996)  
Joseph Hill (1916-1958)  
Griffith Buck (1915-1991)  
Joseph F. Winchell  
J. Benjamin Williams  
Frank Benardella (1932-2010)  
Dennis Bridges  
Nelson & Betty Jolly  
Gene King  
Robbie Tucker  
David Clemons  
Dr. Dennison Morey  
Verlie Whitson Wells, Jr.  
Michael Williams  
Pete & Kay Taylor

## 21st Century Breeders

Christian Bedard  
Will Radler  
Ping Lim  
Jim Sproul



## Early 19th Century Rose Breeders & Pioneers

### Henry Bennett

(England 1865-1890)



Born into a rich farmer family, Bennett in mid-life turned to rose breeding and was credited as "The Pioneer of Hybrid Teas". Bennett began his rose breeding

venture as a hobby with great passion interest in the inheritance factors. He embarked on cross breeding with a certain pride in naming the parents. Bennett even traveled to the USA, warmly received by transatlantic colleagues, his introduction 'Mrs. John Laing' had been awarded a Gold Medal in New York in 1885. Henry passed away in 1890 at his birth home in Shepperton. For shaping the future of cross breeding Henry Bennett was accorded the accolades of rose history.



'Mrs. John Laing'

One of Bennett's most famous rose introductions was a medium pink Hybrid Tea, 'Lady Mary Fitzwilliam'. Later the pollen was used by Pernet Ducher in raising 'Mrs. Caroline Testout' and history records that thousands of modern Hybrid Teas also have the "Bennett Touch". In 1883 Bennett gained a Gold Medal from the National Rose Society for his outstanding new introduction shown in exhibition, 'Her Majesty'. History recorded that this award was "granted by acclamation". His last seedling failed to bloom before his passing. His son, Edmund, later introduced the rose as 'Captain Hayward'.

### Pernet-Ducher

(Lyon, France 1859-1928)



His early years were spent at his father's nursery and an apprenticeship with the nearby rose Ducher Nursery. Young Joseph Pernet gained the respect of

Mme Ducher and of her charming daughter Mademoiselle Marie, whom he married in 1881. In preserving both family businesses, the decision for Joseph to assume the name of Joseph Pernet-Ducher was adopted. Shortly after Marie Ducher introduced 'Mme Cecile Brunner', this exquisite rose called the "Sweetheart Rose" in the USA.



'Mme. Cecile Brunner'

His experiments with *Rosa Foetida* (aka 'Persian Yellow') were difficult. Pernet-Ducher found out that it had very little pollen for crossing. Joseph was persistent with experimentation and rather than discarded the few plants he planted them in a border. Despite his earlier failure he noticed that each year the abandoned orphan plants from the dismal crosses produced more pollen. Success eventually came with the introduction of 'Soleil d'Or' featuring an intense orange-gold color instantly becoming a marvel. This genetic discovery earned him the title of "Wizard of Lyon".



'Soleil d'Or'

### Jean-Baptiste Andre Guillot

(Lyon, France 1827-1893)



Son of Pierre Guillot, a rose grower in Lyon, started his own career with introduction of 'Mme Falcot' in 1858. Rev. D'ombrain, a visitor from

England, on touring the Guillot Nursery remarked on a medium pink seedling for his view was it was something different from a Hybrid perpetual and yet had the smoothest of a Tea rose. In response to D'ombrain inquiry about the parents, Guillot replied "... it differs from all the rest, I regret it is not possible to trace which parents gave birth ...". In 1867 a panel of 50 members of the Society for Horticulture of Lyon selected this seedling as distinctive enough to declare it the first of a new class.



'La France'

Discussion of a new class continued for almost 13 years until finally the professionals depending on its suspected parentage, Hybrid Perpetual x Tea, called it the first of the new class *Hybrides de Thé*. It took another 13 years for the British National Rose Society to adopt the classification as Hybrid Tea. In due course this class has dominated the development of modern roses. In his senior years, Jean-Baptiste received the accolades of the rose world and his place in history. He died in 1893, having raised about 80 varieties, with the knowledge that his son Pierre would succeed him and carry on the family business in Lyon into the 21st century.



## Rose Breeders during “The Golden Age of Roses”

### Francis Meilland

(Antibes, France 1912-1958)



Most celebrated member of the six generation Meilland family of French rose breeders, he was born into rose breeding with a passion for creating new

varieties. His early attempts were not successful and acquiring Charles Mallerin as a mentor improved his techniques. It was years later that Francis named one of his dark red Hybrid Teas ‘Charles Mallerin’ to honor his mentor and instructor. Francis traveled to the US where he met Robert Pyle (Star Rose Nursery) to learn of new ideas in rose breeding. That relationship blossomed to formalize a business relationship that has now lasted 70 years. Francis while a talented and prolific breeder, he is best remembered as responsible for breeding the ‘Peace’ rose. In 1935 he had produced a seedling (#3-35-40) with dark green foliage with exquisite cream-yellow blooms pink edged. Right before the invasion of France by German troops he had wisely sent cuttings to Conard-Pyle under the name ‘Madame Antoine Meilland’. After successfully propagating it was introduced in the USA as ‘Peace’ to mark the end of war. Needless to say it was heralded as an outstanding success and then sold worldwide. Sadly Francis passed away on June 15, 1958 at the age of 46. Francis had bred over 150 varieties with sales of ‘Peace’ in the multi-millions even still today some 80 years later. This variety contributed to the Golden Age of Roses since countless prodigy were produced.



‘Peace’

### Sam McGredy IV

(Northern Ireland 1932-2019)



With the strong and enduring legacy of four generations Sam quickly became the champion of the profession. He moved the

business to New Zealand in 1972 where he continued to achieve superlative success with hundreds of new varieties. In 1959 Sam received a Gold Medals from the National Rose Society for ‘Orangeade’ and ‘Mischief’. Promoting international rose trails he earned the title of “Champion Breeder”.

He was responsible along with Niels Poulsen for forming the “Order of the Blue Nose”, to extend breeders’ social camaraderie whenever they met as group attaining a reputation as a humorous facet of breeders. From the very beginning of his career Sam fought vigorously for royalties to recognized professional breeders as evidenced by British Parliament in 1964 passing an Act to grant such rewards followed up by the USA in passing Plant Protection Acts.

His crowing achievement came with the introduction of ‘Olympiad’ for the 1982 Olympic games held in Los Angeles. Sam always tried to breed the perfect red Hybrid Tea. Adored by the American public this variety went on to win multiple awards across the USA. - AARS in 1984, Portland in 1985. The intangible benefit of this red rose was that it introduced to the American consumer just how east it was to grow roses.



‘Olympiad’

### David Charles Austin

(Albrighton, England 1926-2018)



David began in his 30s. what was a life’s journey to pursue his dream of breeding new roses to capture both

romance and character but with the fragrance of old garden roses. Most plant nurseries as well as the gardening public were drawn to Hybrid Teas with no fragrance.

After many decades of experiments with crossing old garden roses with modern varieties he achieved the success of introducing at the Chelsea Flower Show in 1983 his creations which he cleverly named “English Roses”. The Press raved about a golden-yellow with a strong Tea rose scent - named ‘Graham Thomas’ for an eminent rosarian. For his magnificent rose displays at Chelsea David was awarded the Order of the British Empire. David also received the highest award of the Royal Horticultural Society, the Victoria Medal of Honour and the coveted Dean Hole Medal of the Royal National Rose Society.

‘Olivia Rose Austin’ was named after his granddaughter while others reflect other family members, principle figures from Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales, Shakespearian characters, and many popular contemporary artists.

David Austin had defiantly issued a challenge to gardeners everywhere to enjoy the delights offered by his new bred of fragrant rose, “English Roses”.



‘Olivia Rose Austin’



## Rose Breeders during “The Golden Age of Roses”

### Ralph S. Moore

(Visalia, California 1918-2019)



Creator, dreamer, great composer ... are all terms that have been used to describe the herculean contributions of Ralph S. Moore to the development of modern

miniature roses. Heralded by his peers as “The Father of Modern Miniature Roses”, Ralph Moore started Sequoia Nursery in Visalia, a then sleepy hamlet just south of Fresno, California. In he began experiments with two miniatures, *R. Roulettii* and ‘Oakington Ruby’, and a polyantha, ‘Etoile Luisante’. From the outset of his career, Ralph was completely devoted to the concept of producing miniature roses in a wide diversity of color and form with a pleasing low bush habit to equal the traits of the popular hybrid teas and floribundas.



‘Rise ‘n’ Shine’

Official registration files maintained by the ARS list close to 500 miniatures hybridized by Ralph Moore plus floribundas, hybrid teas, shrubs, ramblers, polyanthas and Old Garden Roses. Over the span of 80 years Ralph Moore made many varied and useful discoveries about breeding miniature roses. Ralph passed away at 102 years young!



‘Halo Rainbow’

### Keith Zary

(Saskatchewan, Canada)



Considered by his fellow breeders as the consummate professional, best described as a dreamer and pioneer in the scientific evolution of

the rose by creating new shapes, forms and color. Keith possesses the intangible combination of innovation and passion with the skills to make the right crosses understanding the rigors imposed by plant inheritance. He holds a doctorate in horticulture from Texas A&M. Beginning his career with a five-year stint as a bean breeder in Minnesota, Keith then moved into rose breeding. Joining Jackson & Perkins as Director of Research he developed 11 AARS winners for the company building on the legacy experience of his predecessor, William Warriner. One of his most outstanding Floribundas was ‘Moondance’, a rival to ‘Iceberg’. In 1998 Keith won the prestigious President’s International Trophy of the Royal National Rose Society, only the second U.S. breeder to do so. But Keith is best known for Hybrid Teas, ‘Veterans’ Honor’ and ‘Gemini’, the 1999 AARS winner. He currently is Director of Licensing for Gardens Alive.



‘Veterans’ Honor’



‘Gemini’

### Tom Carruth

(Pampa, Texas )



Equipped with a bachelor’s in horticulture and a masters in plant breeding (1976) from Texas A&M his career began in the rose industry in Califor-

nia. In 1987 Tom eventually became the Director of Research at Weeks Roses accumulating a list of AARS winners such as ‘Julia Child’, and from his blue period, ‘Ebb Tide’. He produced some wonderful exhibition Hybrid Teas, like ‘Moonstone’ and ‘Marilyn Monroe’ and ‘Gentle Giant’.



‘Marilyn Monroe’



‘Gentle Giant’

He received the Luther Burbank Award for extraordinary achievement in the field of plant breeding. After 26 years at Weeks Roses Tom retired in 2012 and started a new challenge as Curator of the Rose Garden at the Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens responsible for a 3-acre rose garden showcasing thousands of roses. Currently Tom has the responsibility of a project involving the renovation of the rose garden to refocus the collection to emphasis beauty in roses.



## 21st Century Inductees to the ARS Hall of Fame



### Christian Bedard

Christian began his career at Weeks Roses in 2000 working with Tom Carruth as Licensing Project Manager and Research Assistant and with Tom's recent retirement, he is currently the Research Director & Licensing Manager for Weeks Roses. His varieties are frequent winners at international rose trials all over the world but particularly so at Rose Hills, California where he has excelled with multiple Gold Medals including "The Golden Rose of Rose Hills". One of his notable latest creations was 'Neil Diamond' receiving accolades throughout the various international rose trials.



'Neil Diamond'



### Will Radler

In 1992, Star® Roses and Plants received a seedling from him that changed the rose market and landscape for decades to come. Eventually it was named 'Knock Out'. Many say that Will single-handedly brought rose genetics from the 20th-century into the 21st-century with this introduction. Besides additional Knock Out® Roses in many colors Will's roses are recognized around the world and many have won prestigious awards for their top performance. He leads his own company, *Rose Innovations*, where he continues to breed exceptional roses



'Knock Out'



### Ping Lim

Ping has always valued that everyone should be able to grow beautiful roses without worrying or spraying pesticides. He deliberately breeds for stress resistance and hardiness across zones, fragrance, beauty, and easiness to grow. His innovations have earned him many prestigious honors, including three All America Rose Selection (AARS) awards, 13 awards from the American Rose Trials for Sustainability (A.R.T.S.), 11 Portland's Best Rose awards (Portland Rose Society), seven awards in Japan, and a 2021 Regional Choice Award from the American Garden Rose Selections (AGRS).



'Love & Peace'



### Jim Sproul

Dr. James Sproul is a physician by training who has dedicated his extra time to breeding roses since his very early years. Jim has especially been interested in *Rosa Hulthemia*, a Species rose from the plateau of central Asia desired for cross breeding to capture the distinctive eye surrounding the stamens. After twenty long years of work, Jim has brought great introductions like 'Pink Brick House', which has quickly become a top-selling Floribunda. These eye-catching new roses represented a breakthrough in the rose breeding world.



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