



# NEWS RELEASE

## American Rose Society American Rose Center

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **“SAVE THE RAMBLERS” INITIATIVE KICKOFF AT AMERICA'S ROSE GARDEN**

SHREVEPORT, LA – The American Rose Society (ARS) held a reception at America's Rose Garden to kick off the “Save the Ramblers” Initiative. Personnel of own-root nurseries, public gardens and individuals wanting to participate in the program were introduced to the plan to preserve and grow rambler roses throughout the United States. The ARS has a collection of more than 300 rambler varieties at America's Rose Garden, the largest collection of rambler roses in the U.S. and one of the largest collections in the world.

The ARS recognizes the significance of these historic roses, the original climbing roses that were grown in great gardens of the world. Many varieties in the ARS collection are one of a kind in the U.S. and not available to gardens or botanical gardens today. ARS President Diane Sommers, stated, *“The ARS goal is to change that through partnerships with retail nurseries that will propagate and sell ramblers, and public gardens that will display rambler roses for public enjoyment and education. This program aligns with the American Rose Society mission to promote the culture, preservation and appreciation of the Rose, and to improve its standard of excellence for all people through education and research.”*

Anne Belovich of Stanwood, Washington was the original collector of these magnificent plants, with many plants acquired from outside the U.S. The collection was replicated in Chambersville, Texas, through the support of Dean and Carol Oswald who subsequently generously donated the collection to the ARS. Claude Graves, curator at the Dallas Arboretum, has been the leader of this initiative and has worked tirelessly to establish the collection at the American Rose Center in Shreveport, Louisiana over the last three years. The ARS Board of Directors approved the final plans to “Save the Ramblers” in 2023.

Heirloom Roses of St. Paul, Oregon is the first nursery partner in the program, with plants first available for retail purchase in 2025. The ARS is seeking additional partnerships with other own-root nurseries wanting to participate in the project to re-introduce these amazing, rare roses as well as seeking public gardens interested in growing rambler roses.

We anticipate a large segment of the Old Garden Rose community, individually and corporately, will get behind the “Save the Ramblers” initiative and support the effort to preserve these wonderful giant roses and restore them in many gardens. Those interested in participating in the “Save the Ramblers” initiative should contact ARS Executive Director, Claire Bissell at [claire@rose.org](mailto:claire@rose.org).

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The American Rose Society is a non-profit, educational organization working to promote the beauty, culture and preservation of the rose. Their headquarters home, America's Rose Garden, features more than 7,000 rose bushes – this translates into more than 400 different types of roses in one place. The grounds also include various sculptures and water features, as well as a playground and picnic area. America's Rose Garden is located at 8877 Jefferson Paige Road in Shreveport, Louisiana, will be open Wednesday through Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM and Saturday and Sunday 9 AM to 1 PM, April 1 through October 31. Admission is \$5 per person or \$10 per family. *There are sometimes weather exceptions, please visit [www.rose.org](http://www.rose.org) or follow us on social media to get the most up-to-date information.*