Subject: [Test] WPS July Newsletter
Date: January 20, 2024 at 1:50 PM
To: rita5586@gmail.com

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# **President's Message**

Cory Tischman, President – wipeonysociety.president@gmail.com

For many, Peony season started quite early this year. My first bloom was *P. anomala* that bloomed on May 1<sup>st</sup>, which is typically about two weeks later other years. This season sped up quite quickly and then came to a screeching halt for a couple of weeks with the cold weather. In the last heat wave, a lot of the flowers didn't even bloom and seemed to "mummify" right on the stems. Despite all of the weird weather, I was able to get quite a bit of pollinating done with over 1,200 crosses made. I've already started collecting seeds from the fernleaf (*P. tenuifolia*) peonies. If you have any of these, it may be good to check now as those seeds can be quite tiny and hard to find once they hit the ground.

Peony hybridizing can be a lot of fun as you can take the same two parents and make dozens upon dozens of crosses and the seedlings will all vary. You may notice some crossed pairs will have lots of diversity in their offspring and others may look more uniform, but those subtle differences in flower form, color, consistency, plant habit, etc. are what hybridizers are seeking to either use further in their breeding goals or to register.

Every hybridizer has different breeding goals and you may find yourself drawn

to certain hypholeers introductions due to your similar goals and ideas. I would have to say one of my favorite hybridizers is the late Eugene Lins, who happened to be a native of Cologne, MN. I find a number of his introductions are what I look for in a cut flower and find they do quite well to "show".

'Casablanca' and 'Mandaleen' are two of Lins' creations that I especially enjoy.

As usual, we are constantly on the lookout for individuals who would like to volunteer or be interested in a leadership position in one of our committees. If you are interested, or just want to know more, please contact me using the email: wipeonysociety.president@gmail.com. If you want to find out about what we are doing here in Wisconsin, check out our website: www.wipeonysociety.org or visit us on Facebook: 'Wisconsin Peony Society Group'.



### **Calendar of Events**

August 28<sup>th</sup> – Grafting Class Workshop (In person)

Time: 1pm

Location: Solaris Farms, 7510 Pinesva Rd, Reedsville, WI 54230

September 24<sup>th</sup> to 29th– Fall Root Auction (online)

\*\*October 2<sup>rd</sup> – Fall Root Auction (In person)

Time: Business meeting - 11 A.M.

Root Auction - 12 P.M.

Pick up for online auction - 3 P.M.

\*\*This meeting may change to an online format and the in-person auction will be cancelled. Notification will be given at least a month beforehand\*\*

### **2021 Annual Root Auction**

Due to the success of last year's fall online auction, we will be having an online and in-person component to this auction. The online portion will be starting on September 24th and run until 10pm on Wednesday September 29th. Pick up for roots will be on Saturday October 2<sup>nd</sup> at the West Madison Agricultural Research Station where we be holding our fall meeting and the in-person auction. If you are planning on attending the fall meeting and auction in person, you will be asked to wear a mask while inside, no exceptions. Failure to follow this request, you will be asked to leave.

Pick up for roots on Saturday is from 3-4.p.m. for any of the online auction winning bids. If you do not pick your roots up at this time, you will be asked to pick up your roots in Eau Claire, WI and you will need to call in advance to schedule a pick up time. If you are wanting your roots shipped, the winner is responsible for all shipping costs and payment needs to be received prior to roots being shipped. Please note that roots shipped may need to be trimmed in order to fit in the boxes. The cutoff date to claim and

pay for roots is October 9th. Any unclaimed or unpaid for roots will be destroyed.

\*\*The Wisconsin Peony Society is not responsible for any unclaimed or unpaid roots and no refunds will be given\*\*

All checks can be made out to the Wisconsin Peony Society. If you are paying after the pick-up date, mail your checks to 1136 Barron St., Eau Claire, WI. 54703

If you have roots to donate, please contact Scott Parker at oldtooltrader@centurytel.net. The deadline for donations is September 15th.

If you have any questions contact Cory Tischman at wipeonysociety.president@gmail.com

# **Membership Report**

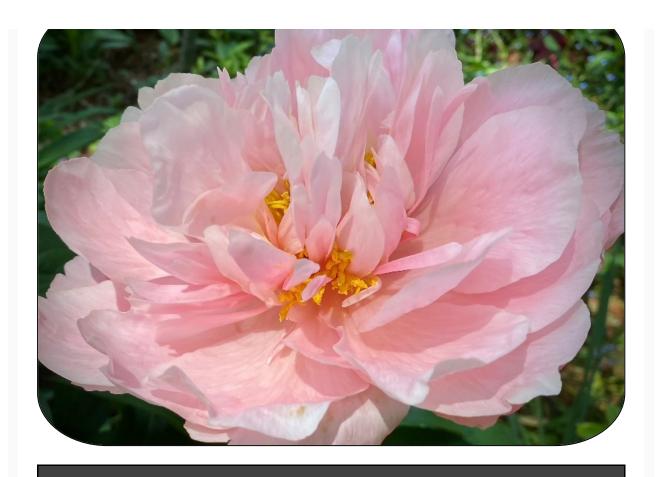
Sharon Schmitz, Membership Coordinator

We are 114 strong! 13 new members have joined our group already this year. If you'd like to renew, or know someone who'd like to join, it's super easy and you'll learn so much about peonies. Additionally, you'll be the first to know what's happening at our Fall Peony Root Auction! Dues are still only \$5 for one year or \$10 for three years.

If you're unsure when your membership expires, you can email me at <u>Peonylover@hotmail.com</u> and I'll let you know. 34 memberships will expire at the end of 2021.

This is a great time of year to renew and beat the holiday rush when we're all so busy. You can renew online at our website - wipeonysociety.org. Just click the "Membership" button and choose 1 or 3 year renewal and your method of payment. Or if you prefer, you can download the form from the website and send it along with your check to our Treasurer, Viv Grossman, 527 Pitt St, Eau Claire, WI. 54703.

Thank you and I hope to see you all soon.



# **Treasurer's Report**

Viv Grossman, Treasurer

June 30, 2021 Funds

 Checking
 \$ 5,997.53

 Savings
 20,437.42

 Cash
 321.00

June 30, 2020 Funds

 Checking
 \$ 2,668.81

 Savings
 19,165.45

 Cash
 N/A

# Garden Expo 2022

.lerri O'Connor Director-at-Large

Hello Everyone,

Garden Expo 2022 will be held on:

Friday, Feb 11, noon - 7:00 P.M. Saturday, Feb. 12, 9 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. and Sunday, Feb 13, 10 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

I have signed the club up for this event and have paid for it. If we have anyone who would like to do a Demo or Presentation, please let me know so I can send you the forms to apply.

If you have anything you would like to see in our booth, please send me a message at <a href="mailto:jerri.oconnor@gmail.com">jerri.oconnor@gmail.com</a>. I am always open for some great ideas! Have a great summer!



# The Price of Peony Cut Flowers

Rita Thomas, Recording Secretary

In early June, I visited a local flower shop in search of a bouquet for a friend. In the cooler, I noticed a vase with a single Peony flower, which wasn't in the best condition. Hanging on the vase was a sign with the number 20. I stared at it for a moment, thinking they surely must have meant to have written a 2, not a 20. Then I decided that the 20 may have been correct but that someone must have purchased the rest of the bouquet and this lonely Peony flower was left behind.

A week later, I went to Michelle Ovans tour of her gorgeous Peony farm in the Beaver Dam area. Her Peony field was lovely and at its peak bloom time. As part of the tour, she took us into her walk-in cooler, and explained how the flowers were picked and stored. While in there, she mentioned that previously many Peonies were being shipped from Kenya, Africa. I've since learned that Kenya is the third largest exporter of cut flowers in the world. Due to COVID-19 and the shipping restrictions, the wholesale price of Peonies was now \$10 and the retail price was \$20 a stem!

## **Board Members**

President: Cory Tischman

Vice President: Jordan Kabat

Treasurer: Viv Grossman

**Recording Secretary:** Rita Thomas

Membership: Sharon Schmitz

**Newsletter Editor:** Rita Thomas

Director-At-Large: Jerri O'Connor

Director-At-Large: Scott Parker







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You signed up to receive newsletters when you became a member. We will be using this for newsletters and reminders of scheduled events.

#### Our mailing address is:

Wisconsin Peony Society Ltd W9904 Cty Road CP Beaver Dam, Wi 53916

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