

**From:** Wisconsin Peony Society Ltd wipeonysociety.president@gmail.com  
**Subject:** [Test] WPS July Newsletter  
**Date:** January 20, 2024 at 1:47 PM  
**To:** rita5586@gmail.com

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The Wisconsin Peony Society, Ltd. is a non-profit organization that formed in 2009 to promote, foster and generate interest in the cultivation and use of all peonies and to assist with the sharing of information pertaining to all peonies.

## President's Message

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

Looking back at last year, most of my peonies bloomed extra early, and this year it was quite the opposite! Almost everything bloomed about a week to a week and half late. Despite the delay, we had a really good bloom season and was thankfully not cut short like last year with the sudden hot weather in June. As of July 3<sup>rd</sup>, I still have some cultivars blooming on their sidebuds like '**Elsa Sass**', '**Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt**', and '**Casablanca**', which is quite late but appreciated. I normally disbud most stems as I enjoy showing at some of the flower shows, but it is nice keeping some stems with their sidebuds to extend the season. Due to the late bloom time and overlapping of obligations with the American Peony Society, I wasn't able to do as many crosses as I had hoped for this year. I focused most of my energy on making crosses where I take pollen from lactifloras or hybrids and put it on early-blooming species – typically ones that haven't really been used before like *P. arietina* or *P. mairei*. We will see in August if anything took, but the seedpods are growing so I can only hope.

We recently had our garden tour and picnic at Gary Bieck's at the end of May. We had 45 members attend and several new people joined just to come for the

tour! Gary and his son entertained us with their organ and piano playing, which was quite the treat. The gardens were looking lush and were popping with color from the early-blooming hybrids and tree peonies as well as an assortment of other perennials Gary has tucked into each of the flower beds. Thank you again to Gary and his family for hosting the WPS!

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



Photo by Cory Tischman

**Calendar of Events**



**\*\*October 1st – Fall Root Auction (In person)**

Time: 10:30 – Check-in

11am – Business meeting & lunch

12pm – Root Auction

**\*\*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\*\***



Photo by Tracey Nelson

**WPS Fall Root Auction**

Dear Members,

We're calling for donations! Start taking a look at your gardens now, members, because we are desperately in need of plants for our fall auction. The Wisconsin Peony Society depends upon its fall root auction for a majority of its funding, and it would be impossible to hold this event without the generosity of individual members. Over time, the Society has become increasingly dependent upon commercial growers to do the heavy lifting with regard to supplying peonies. While the Society is exceptionally grateful to them, it has become apparent in recent years that this practice is not sustainable, nor is it necessarily fair to the growers. We implore our members to take a look at their garden beds and contemplate what could stand to be transplanted, divided, or removed entirely to make space for something new! Even if you can spare a division of just a single plant, your donation will be integral to perpetuating the Society and its mission. Again, what you donate does not necessarily need to be on the cutting edge of modern hybridization, an old cultivar that seldom sees distribution, nor even something that will bring in a sizable sum. Certainly such items are exciting, but we will be just as excited and grateful to receive a donated division of Sarah Bernhardt. If these sentiments are not persuasive enough, it bears mention that donating plants can even be more satisfying to than purchasing a plants in the auction! So, get out there and rummage around in your gardens, members - We are excited to see what you might find for us!

Jordan Kabat

Barring any unforeseen events, we will be having our meeting and auction in-person on Saturday October 1<sup>st</sup> at the West Madison Agricultural Research Station (8502 Mineral Point Rd, Verona, WI 53593). Scott Parker is the Auction Chairperson, so if you have roots to donate, please contact Scott at [oldtooltrader@centurytel.net](mailto:oldtooltrader@centurytel.net) or call 608-378-4778.







Photo by Jerri O'Connor Blushing Princess (first year)

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Hello Peony Lovers

I'd like to share with you the exciting collaboration Ovans Peony Farm has had with the City of Beaver Dam. We created the **Wisconsin Art & Peony Festival, June 3-5, 2022**, with the goal of becoming the destination for Midwestern Peony Enthusiasts!

In the fall of 2021, over 119 peonies were planted in our Downtown District which included our Non-Profits Organizations and our revitalized Riverwalk. In January 2022 we presented our plan to the members of the Wisconsin Peony Society for the establishment of a Peony Display Garden to be located along the Riverwalk. This Riverwalk allows visitors to stroll along the river with two

picturesque bridges connecting both sides of the river with multiple mass plantings of Peonies along with a large Peony Display Garden.

With the generous donation from the Wisconsin Peony Society in the amount of \$1,000 and Ovans Peony Farm donation of \$500 it has allowed us to purchase the Peonies needed for the large Peony Display Garden. Thank You! These peonies will be planted in the fall of 2022. We are so excited to be able to introduce, share and spread the love of peonies with new and existing enthusiasts! Your donations have made this dream a reality! Once these gardens are completed, a museum style placard will be placed in front of the garden indicating all donators of funds or plants.

The criteria for selection of peonies were based on if the peony held titles of American Peony Society Gold Medal Winners (GM), Award of Landscape Merit (ALM) or the peony was an introduction from a Wisconsin Hybridizer. We are so happy to share the list of purchased peonies with you. See the list below. Beaver Dam is looking forward to 2025 when these plants will be mature and ready for you to stroll down the Riverwalk!

Michelle Ovans

Bartzella GM/ALM

Bowl of Cream GM/ALM

Buckeye Belle GM/ALM

Burma Ruby GM/ALM

Coral Sunset GM/ALM

Do Tell GM/ALM

Dolorodell GM

Eliza Lundy GM/ALM

Etched Salmon GM/ALM

Gay Paree ALM

Garden Treasure GM/ALM

Hillary GM/ALM

Red Charm GM

Roselette ALM

Rozella ALM

Seashell GM

Salmon Dream GM/ALM

Scarlet O'Hara ALM

Sword Dance ALM

The Mackinac Grand GM/ALM

Topeka Garnet GM/ALM

Walter Mains GM

White Cap GM/ALM

Carnation Bouquet: Seidl.

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Mahogany GM/ALM

Merry Mayshine ALM

Minnie Shaylor ALM

Miss America GM

Mother's Choice GM

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt GM

Nice Gal ALM

Old Faithful GM/ALM

Prairie Charm ALM

Paula Fay GM

Herbaceous Hybrid

Charon, Bremer. Advanced  
Generation Lutea Hybrid

Christmas Velvert, Anderson.  
Herbaceous Hybrid

Dreamtime, Seidl/Bremer.  
Herbaceous Hybrid

Lolipop, Anderson. Intersectional

Lemon Dream, Anderson.  
Intersectional

Viking Full Moon, Pehrson/Seidl.  
Intersectional







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Faithful Dream photo by Rita Thomas

## Membership Report

We currently have 119 subscribed members. This year we gained 29 new members already! So, we're growing! Thank you for joining our Wisconsin Peony Society!

Next year, 1/3 of our memberships will expire; that's a lot of us! If you're wondering if you're one of them, just email me at [peony-lover@hotmail.com](mailto:peony-lover@hotmail.com) and I'll check for you or, you can just go to our website, <http://www.wipeonysociety.org>, and renew your membership. Chances are if you didn't sign up this year, your membership will be expiring.

Hope to see you all at the auction this year!

Sharon Schmitz

Membership Chairperson

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If you are interested in having your favorite peony photos published in our newsletter, send them to [rita5586@gmail.com](mailto:rita5586@gmail.com).

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## Hybridizer Edward Auten, Jr (1881-1974)

by [Axel Rabell](#)

Reprinted with Axel's permission.

Hello Peony Lovers! Well it's been a while since I've highlighted a hybridizer, so today I'll talk about another amazing grower. This gentleman is also Peony Royalty! Some of his peonies are still grown worldwide. His name is Edward Auten Jr (1881-1974) He was partial to growing roses but in the winter of 1909, he lost most of his crop. He was then determined to find a hardier crop and lucky for us he found peonies. The rest is history! He introduced over 300 peonies! He was a native from Princeville, Illinois. His farm flanked route 91 on the North side of the village, everyone drove by to witness the Auten peonies. It must've been quite the sight! It became so famous that in 1981, the Village of Princeville was declared the "Peony Capital of the World" and May 31st "Peony Day."

Mr. Auten was really known for his red peonies but he introduced so many wonderful cultivars that are still growing in our gardens. In 1968, he was awarded the American Peony Society's Saunders Memorial Medal for his contributions to the peony world. To name a few of his wonderful peonies; We'll start with Mr. Auten's personal favorite: Nippon Gold (Mr. Auten is holding it in the picture), Auten's Pride, Auten's Red, Maestro, Robert W. Auten, Do Tell, Gay Paree, Sword Dance, Nippon Brilliant and so many more! This "Maestro" is responsible for so many amazing peonies that are popular to this day. So today we tip our hats to one of the most prolific hybridizers in the world, the pride of Princeville, Illinois: Mr. Edward Auten Jr.





Peony 'Auten's Pride, 1933







### **Treasurer's Report**

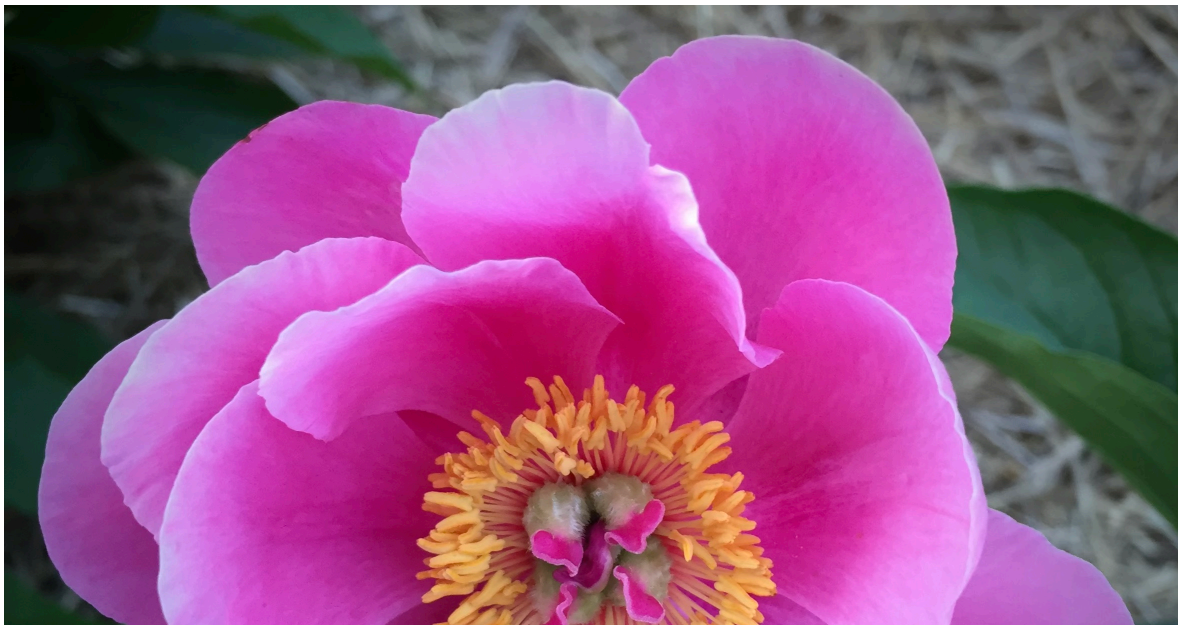
	6-30-2022	6-30-2021	6-30-2020
Checking	1,495.05	5,997.53	2,668.81
Savings	20,439.47	20,437.42	19,165.45
Cash	321.00	321.00	N/A

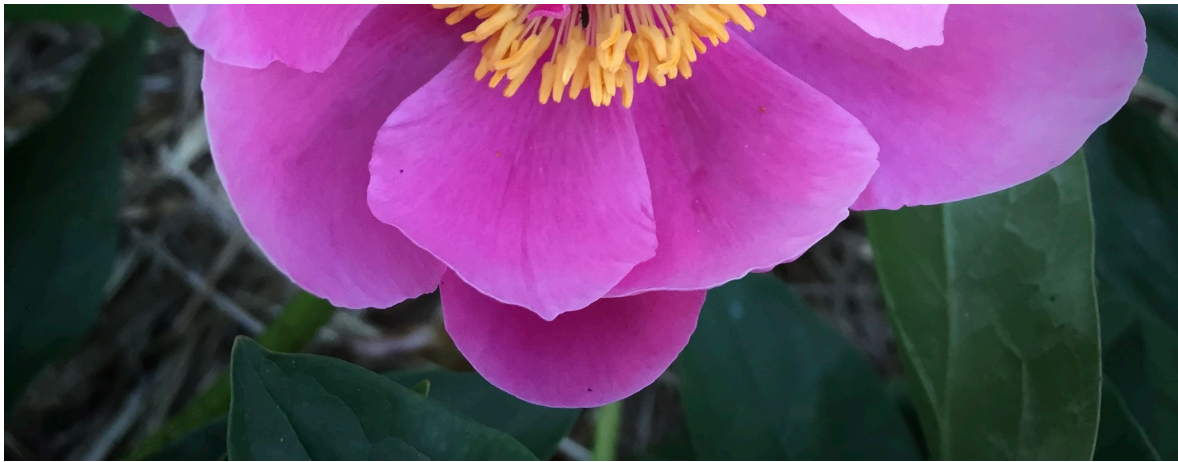
### **Donations made in 2022:**

University of WI Foundation: \$2,000

Beaver Dam: 1,000

Rosendale Historical Society: 1,500





Lotus Bloom - Photo by Sharon Schmitz

### **Board Members**

**President:** Cory Tischman

**Vice President:** Jordan Kabat

**Treasurer:** Viv Grossman

**Membership:** Sharon Schmitz

**Newsletter Editor &  
Recording Secretary:** 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:**

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Beaver Dam, WI 53916

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