

**From:** Wisconsin Peony Society Ltd [wipeonysociety.president@gmail.com](mailto:wipeonysociety.president@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** [Test] WPS 2022 Winter Newsletter  
**Date:** January 20, 2024 at 1:46 PM  
**To:** [rita5586@gmail.com](mailto:rita5586@gmail.com)

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## President's Message

Cory Tischman, President – [wipeonysociety.president@gmail.com](mailto:wipeonysociety.president@gmail.com)

This fall seems to have flown by for me, especially the last few weeks. I have been busily making new tags and planting Peony roots. In going about my planting, I realized my error in buying way more roots than I have space for. As a good friend of mine often says, "You need another Peony like you need kick in the head." He's right, but it's hard to say no in the dead of winter when looking at all the new catalogs and one special Peony catches your eye, then another, and yet another. Soon you end up with several dozen roots and only space for half that many!

This time of year is particularly exciting as it's time to collect seeds and to watch certain cultivars put on a spectacular show of fall foliage color. One of the standouts this year is a double lactiflora that is not well known or often grown, but has a fantastic plant habit and has beautiful foliage color both in the spring as well as the fall. The cultivar I speak of is 'Shawnee Chief', registered in 1940 by Myron Bigger. This cultivar is one that I recommend everyone grow, that is if you have the room.

WPS had our annual fall auction on Oct. 1; this time it was in-person only. There were over a hundred donations and we raised a total of \$2,507.50! I would like to thank the following people who helped make this year's auction such a success. Many thanks to Scott Parker, of Parker's Peony and Perennial Farm, for helping organize and solicit donations. as well as being our auctioneer. We had quite a number of

donations, as well as being our absolute top most generous member of donations, with a record number of 26 coming from a single member, Sharon Schmitz! Thank you to the following people who donated roots that helped make this auction so great: Nate & Kimberly Bremer (Solaris Farms), Sue Anderson & Leroy Mielke (Oh My Peonies), Scott Parker, Alvin Sevald (Sevald Nursery), Kay & Mike Wenzel, Jerri O'Connor, Alex Tai & Linda Chao, Julie & Todd Hausser, Jordan Kabat, Damon Smith, Lloyd Ravet, Sharon Schmitz, Bob Tyle, Betty & Richard Dahlke, Tracey Nelson, David & Linette Sorrentio, The Minnesota Peony Society, and the WPS Guest Garden Program.



Photo by Linette Sorrentino - Shawnee Chief

## **Elections for the Board of Directors**

**We rely heavily on volunteerism to make this group thrive and**

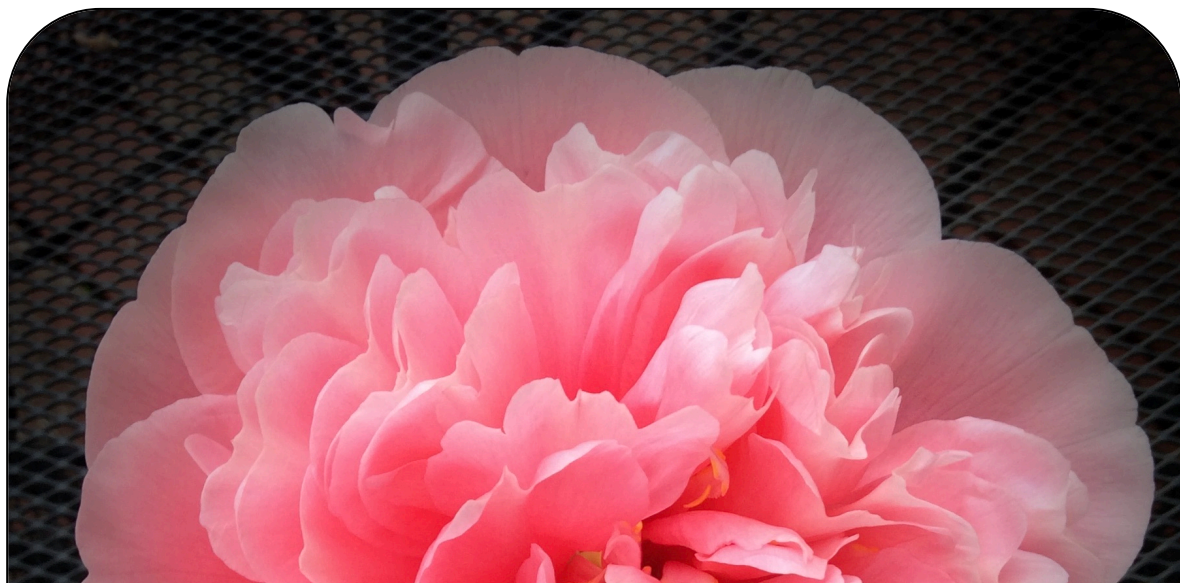
we rely heavily on volunteerism to make this group thrive and succeed. Our next meeting will be in March, which will also include elections for the Board of Directors. **The following officer positions will be open and we will need new people to step into these roles:**

**President**  
**Vice President**  
**Treasurer**  
**Recording Secretary**

These roles are critical to making the group function, and if not filled, this society faces the real possibility of it going dormant until we have the volunteers to take on these positions.

If you are interested and want to learn more about what these positions entail, feel free to reach out to me at [wipeonysociety.president@gmail.com](mailto:wipeonysociety.president@gmail.com).

Check out our website: [www.wipeonysociety.org](http://www.wipeonysociety.org) or visit us on Facebook: "Wisconsin Peony Society Group" for updates and posts on events or if you just enjoy looking at pictures of Peonies.





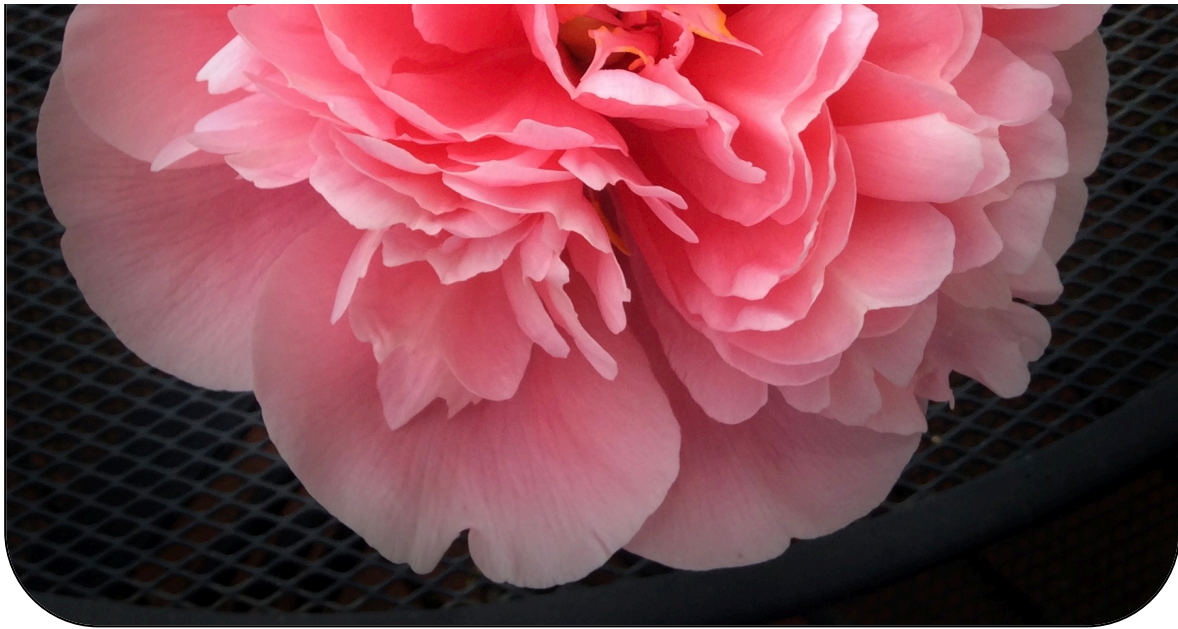


Photo by Sharon Schmitz - Etched Salmon

## **A Look Into the Future of Peonies**

Rita Thomas, Recording Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Although our fall root auction was great fun, the business meeting preceding it was even more exciting. Nate Bremer, American Peony Society President and owner of Solaris Farms, presented us with the opportunity to participate financially in a unique and far-reaching study being conducted by the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the University of Michigan.

The study focuses on *“establishing genomic markers of cultivar identities and related studies that come from understanding the true relationships of different lineages; determining the range and extent of peony diseases, including viruses and how disease resistance relates to the genomic heritage of cultivars, and; how to create an international network of peony collections that conserves the maximal range of peony diversity, since conserving peony diversity is not the same thing as preserving every cultivar possible. All these issues coalesce around contemporary issues in scientific collection databasing and curation\*.”*

Bremer emphasized the high cost of such studies and the importance of Peony Societies, such as ours, to help support it. He suggested a

\$10,000 donation.

As one might imagine, there was much discussion as to the amount and the timing of our donation. Pat Trapp moved that we donate \$7,500 this year with a promise of more funding in future years. The motion failed. Rita Thomas moved that we donate the full \$10,000 this year. That motion was seconded by Sharon Schmitz and passed.

Cory Tischman is working with Dr. David Michener, BOD of the American Peony Society, as to the best way to make the donation. The university would prefer all donations be made in one lump sum, so they are coordinating that. One big check creates more notice at the university than several smaller checks.

For further information regarding the study, members of the American Peony Society can refer to the Summer 2022 bulletin, “Peonies for Peace”, Issue #402 pp.19-25.

\*Used with Permission: Dr. David C. Michener, Curator, University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum; Board of Directors - American Peony Society.

Dr. Nastassia Vlasava, Lead Scientist, Central Botanical Gardens Minsk - National Academy of Sciences of Belarus; Visiting Researcher, University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum.





Photo by Rita Thomas - Macinac Grand

## Hidden Spring Flower Farm

By Scott Parker

Hidden Springs Flower Farm was owned and operated over the past 10 years by Brigitte and Harvey Buchite. They decided to retire and sell the nursery along with all the Peony stock. Harvey said they have completed their digging, cleaning, dividing, and packaging Peonies for the last time and that he will miss those activities.

Harvey has spent a lifetime breeding and hybridizing a variety of plants including: Daylilies, Peonies, Sedum, Species Iris, Primroses, and Dianthus. He and Brigitte introduced Wisteria "Blue Moon" which has the unique characteristic of blooming twice a year in zone 4. He has also introduced a series of Peonies called: Romantic Lace, Romantic Dreamer, Romantic Elegance, and Romantic Blush.

He is a past president of both the Minnesota Peony Society and the American Peony Society. In 2022 Harvey was awarded the Bertrand H. Farr Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Peony Society for his work with Peonies. He rejuvenated the Seed Exchange Program for APS, and handed it off to me a number of years ago. Harvey is a world of knowledge of all things Peony and has written numerous articles for the APS Bulletins and other publications including one recently published in Sweden! In addition, he has



publications including one recently published in Sweden! In addition, he has given numerous presentations about Peonies, from basic information to the most technical, throughout America, Canada, and Europe. In short, Harvey is a walking rolodex of knowledge of all types of plants, but his knowledge of Peonies is equal to none.

Harvey and Brigitte met while attending the University of Minnesota where she was on a Fulbright Scholarship and studying the science of blueberries. Now, after a lifetime of working in the nursery industry, they decided to retire and sell their business. They plan to retire in Brigitte's home country of Austria. We know that he will continue to be involved in the world of Peonies and that he will keep in touch with his Wisconsin Peony friends.





Peony "Romantic Dreamer" Harvey and Brigitte Buchite

### **Regarding all of my auction donations this fall.....**

I want to send a big shout-out to **thank Nate Bremer & Jordan Kabat** for rescuing my peonies. I have collected peonies since 1976 and have loved every one. Circumstances change and sadly now I need to downsize. I reached out to Nate and Jordan, fellow Wisconsin Peony Society, Minnesota Peony Society and American Peony Society members, for help. They came 300 miles to dig, clean, and divide over 40 of them. That was a ton of work! Then Nate donated them to the fall auctions of the APS, the MPS, and the WPS in **my** name after they did all the work! I greatly appreciate what they did for me and want to be sure that they get credit for all their time and hard work. It was so very, very kind!

I'm thrilled to know that my peonies were able to find new homes and also benefit the societies that have taught me so much over the years.

Sharon Schmitz

## **Calendar of Events**

February 10-12 – Garden Expo at The Alliant Energy Center in Madison, WI

March 4<sup>th</sup> – Spring Meeting & Educational

TBD – Garden Tour and Picnic

June 1-4 – American Peony Society Convention in Syracuse, NY

June 10 – Wisconsin Art & Peony Festival in Beaver Dam, WI

October 7 – Fall Meeting & Root Auction

**\*\*Specific times and details will be provided on the website on Facebook closer to the date of the event\*\***





Photo by Cory Tischman - Alexander Woollcott

## **Garden Expo 2023**

Jerri O'Connor, Director-at-Large

Hello Peony Lovers,

It's that time again to start planning for Garden Expo. The dates are Feb. 10 - 12, 2023. Hours:

Friday - 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Friday 12 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Saturday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

We will again be in need of volunteers in our booth. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated. You will be answering questions about Peonies, selling seeds for APS and assist in selling Lloyd Ravet's seedlings. Spreading the love of Peonies is very rewarding. In addition to that, the benefits you will receive are:

1. Free admission for the entire weekend.
2. Free parking for the day/s you work.

These are the volunteer blocks of time I have set up. We can be flexible.

Friday 12-4 and 3-7

Saturday 9-1, 1-5, and 2-6

Sunday 10-2 and 12-4

To sign up, please send me your name, address and desired time slot. Your tickets will be mailed to you when I receive them, usually the end of January.

My contact info is [jerri.oconnor@gmail.com](mailto:jerri.oconnor@gmail.com). (608) 345-5742.

Thank you so much!





Photo by Jerri O'Connor - a white seedling

## Membership Report

Sharon Schmitz, Membership Chair

We have 120 members through the end of 2022. However, 41 memberships will expire at the end of this year. We did have a great year for new memberships since 30 new members joined this year.

If your membership is expiring this year, I'll send a reminder email in December, or if you'd like to know sooner, you can email me at [peony-lover@hotmail.com](mailto:peony-lover@hotmail.com) and I'll let you know where you stand. If you'd just like to renew, here's a link to our membership page: Click [HERE](#) to download a printable PDF membership form.

Thank you for your continued membership. I hope to get to meet you at one of our meetings in 2023!

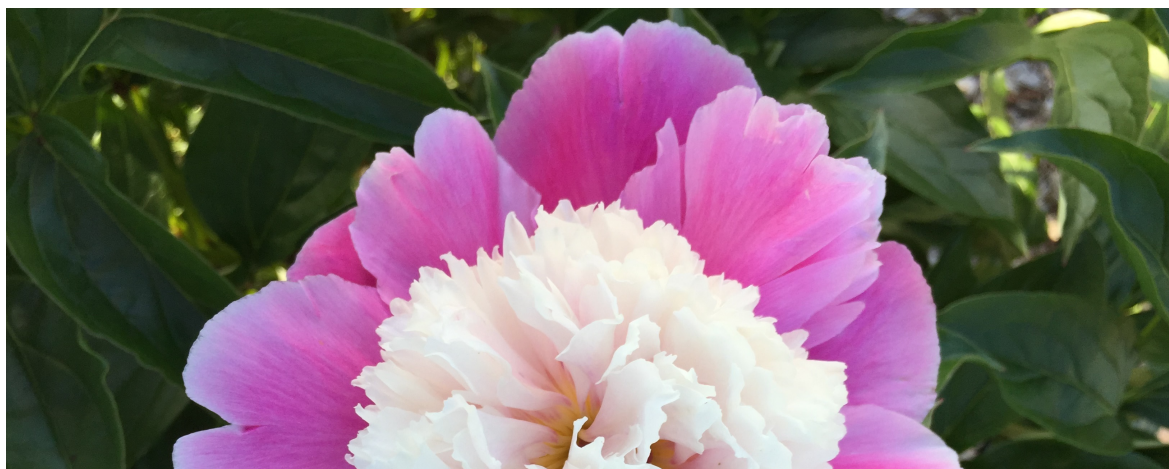






Photo by Sharon Schmitz - Cora Stubbs

### **Treasurer's Report**

Viv Grossman, Treasurer

Funds as of Oct. 31, 2022

Savings	\$20,440.50*
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Checking	3,635.76
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Cash	321.00
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\*prior to University of Michigan donation.





Photo by Tracey Nelson

## 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

We would like to print your favorite Peony photos. Email them to me at:

[rita5586@gmail.com](mailto:rita5586@gmail.com)



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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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