



For Immediate Release

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR A BLOOMING AMAZING EXPERIENCE:

Reiman Gardens Hosts 2019 American Society Peony Convention, with a Flower Show and Exhibition, How-To Seminars with Top Peony Experts

(April 16, 2019) AMES, IOWA - The 2019 American Peony Society (APS) Convention and Flower Show, held in Ames Iowa, May 18-19, will offer a rich experience to area peony lovers. A highlight of the convention will be the society's Annual Exhibition and Flower Show, held at Reiman Gardens Garden Room, 1407 University Blvd. on Saturday and Sunday, May 18-19th. Informative engaging presentations in the Mahlstedt Building will also be open to the public.

The APS Annual Exhibition and Flower Show—the “crown jewel” of the convention—is also open to the public. This free with admission show offers a rare opportunity to see a dazzling array of peonies, including cut flowers, artistic floral designs, photography and educational exhibits. The show is open Saturday, May 18, from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm and Sunday, May 19, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Convention visitors will also find informative peony books, peony seed sales, plant vendors and an author book signing event for a range of shopping and learning opportunities.

The public is invited to exhibit cut flowers, artistic arrangements and photographs in the show. A free with admission seminar, *Exhibiting Peonies*, will be offered Wednesday, May 15, at 4:00 pm at the Gateway Hotel South Meadow Room. Presenter Kent Tretheway will share tips on selecting and staging peony blooms for competition. For exhibit classes and information, visit: <https://www.americanpeonysociety.org/images/docs/2019.ExhibitionSchedule.pdf>

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APS 2019 Convention 2-2-2-

The APS Convention is the largest peony event in North America and draws international peony enthusiasts. The 2019 Convention, themed “Back to Our Roots”, celebrates the work of Professor A.P. Saunders, known as the “father of the modern peony” during the year of his 150th birthday. Those interested in attending the convention or in becoming a member of the APS can find information online at

www.americanpeonysociety.org/events/2019-convention

Free with Admission Seminars and Forums:

The public is invited to attend the following seminars from 1:30 pm to 4:30 Saturday, and 9:30 am to 3:00 pm on Sunday. APS members attending the convention will have priority access and seating.

“Peonies 101”: *Carol Adelman*

Learn about the best peonies for your garden and how to grow them to perfection. Join Carol Adelman, author, and owner of Adelman Peonies, for a fact filled program that will cover a wide range of how-to information.

“Botanical Peony Species of Professor Saunders’ World”: *Harvey Buchite*

Buchite brings both extensive knowledge of the botanical species and personal experience in breeding new peony hybrids. He offers an exciting look at Saunders peonies, and shares how to successfully grow these gems of the garden world.

“Saunders’ Herbaceous Peonies”: *Lois Girton*

With one of the largest Saunders peony collections in the United States, Lois Girton has done extensive research on this renowned hybridizer. Join her as she discusses some of the herbaceous peonies in her collection.

“Hybridizers’ Corner” Facilitators: *Don Hollingsworth, Tim Stanek and Nate Bremer*

Join Don, Tim, Nate and other APS hybridizers as they meet to discuss the future of the peony, including selective breeding, genetics, and pollination techniques.

“Lemoine’s Disease: What’s Behind the Scenes?” *Cullen Schaffer*

Learn about the latest research into the cause of Lemoine’s disease as Cullen Schaffer provides an update on his recently published graduate work in the Plant Pathology Department at the University of Arkansas.

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“Woody Peonies” : *Nate Bremer*

Woody peonies -- with large, ornately formed flowers and unique plant habits-- turn heads in any garden. Hybridizer and grower Nate Bremer shares his expertise in growing, propagating, and hybridizing this unusual group of peonies.

“Ask the Experts” : *Panelists: Nate Bremer, Don Hollingsworth, Jim Adelman and Piet Wierstra*

Questions about peonies? This group of experts is happy to provide answers as they share their knowledge and experience with attendees.

About the American Peony Society

The American Peony Society, founded in 1903, is a non-profit organization dedicated to enriching the knowledge and enjoyment of the peony (genus *paeonia*). The society’s mission encompasses fostering research and cultivation to improve the peony’s worth as a garden and landscaping plant; supporting peony preservation; providing education and resources to interest groups ranging from backyard gardeners to professional horticulturalists; and creating a community of active, engaged peony enthusiasts. The society serves as the International Cultivar Registration for new peony hybrids, bringing order, transparency and standardization to peony naming, descriptions and cultivar marketing.

Admission rates for Reiman Gardens: \$9 general admission, \$8 for seniors ages 65 and up, \$4.50 for youth ages 2-12, and free for youth under 2.

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For complete information on the APS Convention including Flower Show and Hours:

www.americanpeonysociety.org/events/2019-convention

For scheduling interviews or appearances with Leading APS Peony Experts, Authors and Hybridizers, contact Kim Bremer kbremer@tm.net

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