

May 7th, 2019



Dear APS Convention 2019 Guests,

We are looking forward to seeing you very soon! We are experiencing cooler and wetter weather than usual and peony bloom is agonizingly slow. You will likely be seeing species, early hybrids, and *rockii* cultivars in bloom. Expect temperatures in the 50's as we start garden tours, with highs in the low 70's.

Transportation:

Driving directions to the Gateway Hotel are as follows: From either north or south on I-35, take the Hwy 30 exit into Ames, go west on Hwy 30 to University Blvd., turn south. Take the first exit to your right onto Green Hills Drive and follow the signs to the hotel.

If you are flying into Des Moines airport and do not wish to rent a car, you may make arrangements for transportation to and from Ames with Executive Express, executiveexpress.biz; round trip for 2 individuals is \$98.00. Departures are every hour during peak times. Ask to arrange delivery to the Gateway Hotel. We will have a sign-up sheet in the hospitality room for ride-sharing to/from Reiman Gardens, about 1 mile from the hotel, on Saturday and Sunday.

Hospitality Room at the Gateway:

The hospitality room, the Ada Hayden Conference Room, will be open starting at noon on Wednesday, May 15th, with hosts Mary and Brian Grimm. Please go there to pick up your registration materials, sign up for a restaurant venue in Des Moines on Friday and, of course, meet other attendees.

Additional Restaurants:

Should you wish to sample Ames restaurants other than the very good IowaStater at Gateway, consistently in the top ten for burgers in Iowa, here are some of our favorites!

The Café, 2616 Northridge Parkway, places.singleplatform.com, open for breakfast/brunch, lunch, and dinner

Provisions, 2400 N Loop Drive, provisionsames.com, open for breakfast/brunch, lunch, and dinner

Dublin Bay, 320 S. 16th St, dublinbayames.com, open for lunch and dinner

In Downtown Ames

Aunt Maudes, 547 Main Street, auntmaudesames.com, open for lunch and dinner

Bar La Tosca, 400 Main Street, barlatosca.com, open for lunch and dinner

The Spice, 402 Main Street, thespiceames.com, open for lunch and dinner

APS Exhibition:

We hope those of you in warmer zones will bring an **extra abundance of stems** for the flower show! We want our local visitors to see the full range of what the peony world offers. We have the use of a large walk-in cooler at Reiman Gardens for storage of stems. No need to cram stems into your hotel room refrigerators! Please talk with Linette or David Sorrentino or Kris or Lois about getting stems to Reiman.

Even if you don't have stems to show, consider entering your peony photos into the new photo contest. If you don't have time to get 8 X 10 prints made before you leave, you can order prints online, photosynthesisia.com, from Photosynthesis in Ames and they will be ready for pick up (317 Main Street) the same day if ordered before 1 pm. Cost is \$4.95, unmounted. We will have some 8 X 10 foam core available for mounting photos.

APS Auction:

If you haven't already done so, please send information on your donations to the auction chair, Mary Muellner. Already promised are some rare Saunders peonies and some brand new introductions from contemporary breeders.

Please let us know if you have other questions! Safe travels!

Convention Co-Chairs Kris Jurik k.jurik@yahoo.com and Lois Girton loisgirton@gmail.com