

Subject: American Peony Society “Un-CONVENTION-al” AUCTION DONATION REQUEST

Greetings Members,

Now that the coronavirus has been declared an international pandemic, APS has made the difficult decision to cancel the Annual Convention scheduled for June 11–14, 2020, at the Chicago Botanic Garden. While this announcement is disappointing for all of us, we are happy to announce plans for our first “**Un-CONVENTION-al**” Auction – an online event being held in lieu of our annual, in-person get together! The auction will be open for bidding during our originally scheduled dates of June 11–14.

The “**Un-CONVENTION-al**” Auction will be the Society’s main fundraiser this year and is more important now than ever to help offset our project expenses including the launch of our new, members-only portal and plans to continue publication of a year-end directory of new cultivar introductions. We’re counting on your support!

**To make this year's auction a success, we're asking our members for donations!** We welcome peony root divisions for fall delivery as well as peony seed, companion plants, peony-related items for the home, gardening tools, books, supplies, gift certificates, etc. As peony bloom season gets underway, think about which favorite varieties could be divided this fall, and please, consider sharing a division or two for the auction! We welcome any and all named varieties, especially those rare and hard-to-find cultivars! Donors will be responsible for shipping their items to winning bidders, so please keep this in mind.

**To donate, please email our Auction Chair, Mary Muellner at [auction@americanpeonysociety.org](mailto:auction@americanpeonysociety.org) at your earliest convenience, and no later than May 20, 2020.** That will give us time to add your donations to the online auction list.

In the meantime, please stay healthy and safe. Enjoy your peonies and be sure to share highlights and photos with other members on our social media pages!

THANK YOU in advance for your support! Your generosity is so greatly appreciated!

Yours in peonies,

**Lorē Sampson**

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