



Announcing the 2021 A.P. Saunders Memorial Medal Recipient Tim Stanek

Honoring the Best in Peonies and the People Who Love Them

Over the last century, the American Peony Society has promoted numerous international awards in support of the peony. These awards recognize not only outstanding peony flowers, but the people who serve as passionate advocates of this beloved plant.

Past awardees include hybridizers, APS Board members, educators, growers, peony ambassadors, authors, artists, researchers, thought leaders and dedicated volunteers.

APS is honored to announce and congratulate Tim Stanek.



A.P. Saunders Memorial Award – Tim Stanek, Glenwood, Iowa

The American Peony Society recognizes ground-breaking hybridizers with the A.P. Saunders Memorial Medal. This special award is named in honor A.P. Saunders, the first hybridizer to undertake an extensive hybridizing program. Saunders' hybrids produced outstanding cultivars still popular today, many of which continue to be used in current hybridizing programs.

Candidates may have introduced notable cultivars into commerce, provided educational opportunities in the area hybridizing, developed new techniques, or are respected for their advancement of the peony.

2021 A.P. Saunders Memorial Award winner Tim Stanek exemplifies excellence for his work with advanced generation herbaceous hybrids and his overall ambassadorship to the peony world.

Like many peony enthusiasts, Tim has a wide-ranging interest in plants of any type: he is a long-time hybridizer of peonies, iris and daylilies. He has been involved in the APS for many years; is an active attendee to conventions; and enjoys exhibiting peonies in shows.

As an originator, Tim has introduced seven notable herbaceous peony cultivars, including 'Faithful Dream' and 'Kayleigh Ann'; both of which enjoy wide distribution, and are popular in the trade and social media. Both cultivars represent Tim's careful selection process for fine and unique attributes. (More information and images of Tim's introductions can be found by searching "Stanek" in the APS Registry of Cultivars.)

A meticulous and thoughtful hybridizer, Tim is always on the hunt for unique cultivars to be used in breeding and forward desirable characteristics in the genus *Paeonia*. It's not uncommon for him to travel to numerous hybridizer gardens each year to evaluate seedlings and seek fresh ideas or potential plants to bring into his program. This speaks to one of Tim's greatest attributes: he is an active student of hybridizing, always willing to consider new perspectives.

Tim is the owner of Iowa Peony Farm, located in Glenwood, Iowa, which serves as a test/propagation garden for numerous peony seedlings. According to Tim, most of his seedlings end up on the compost heap: they simply don't meet his critical criteria for advancement! This willingness to "cull the merely good" in the pursuit of the excellent indicates to his meticulous selection for distribution.

Other hybridizers are keenly interested in Tim's work, and many now use his cultivars in their own breeding programs.

Tim enjoys traveling with his wife, Arlene to a wide range of destinations, although Arlene may not enjoy the peony travels as much as he does!