



# American Peony Society

## Reports

### Speakers Bureau

#### **Lois Girton**

**Zoom Seminars:** We again held a series of seminars over the winter months (January - April). Nate Bremer hosted and Nick Maycher and I co-hosted these. All were held on the mornings of the first Saturday of the month. Participants included some from Europe, China, and New Zealand as well as Canada and the USA so these are a benefit we can easily offer to our international members. Actual attendance was generally around 75% of those who registered.

January 7 - Peony Legacy - Lois Girton - 78 Registrations

February 4 -History of Linwood - Holly Watson - 65 Registrations

March 4 - Seedling Selection - Nate Bremer - 76 Registrations

April 1 - Registering Peonies - Jordan Kabat - 50 Registrations

#### **Garden Club Requests for Speakers:**

Sheryl receives these and forwards them to me. We are not always able to locate a nearby speaker. Carol Bradford of Syracuse, NY is giving a talk to the Federated Garden Clubs Federated Garden Clubs of New York State District 6 Spring Luncheon on Weds, April 26th. She has done quite a bit of research on NY peony history in preparation for her presentation. I provided her with APS brochures for the occasion.

It might be helpful to have some prepared presentations that potential speakers could modify to use for garden clubs. Not everyone would need to develop their own program and we might be more successful in finding a speaker.

#### **Scheduled Speakers for the New York Convention:**

Quite a line up! Thank you all!

<b>Wednesday, May 31</b>	
ALM Judges Training Part I	Cory Tableman and Jill Stevens
Exhibiting Peonies	David Sorrentino
<b>Friday, June 2</b>	

ALM Judges Training Part II (in the garden)	Cory Tableman and Jill Stevens
<b>Saturday, June 3</b>	
Growing Peonies as Cut Flowers	Brandie Orchard
Saunders Herbaceous Peony DNA Research at Hamilton College	Dr. Wei-Jen Chang, Biology, HC
Peony Viruses	Dr. Nastya Vlasava
Saunders Archives and Best Practices in Preserving APS Material	Jeremy Katz, Archivist, HC
<b>Sunday, June 4</b>	
Commercial Members Meeting	Piet Wierstra
Rescue and Preservation of Woody Peony Cultivars	Nate Bremer
Peony Basics	Jill Stevens
Peony Photography	Nick Maycher

### **2023 Award of Landscape Merit (ALM) Report**

Award of Landscape Merit peonies are recognized for their excellence of plant habit in the landscape. Potential winners are observed over several years by judges in various climates and conditions.

After a hiatus, The ALM program was revitalized in 2022. To keep it simple, the contestants were limited to five. These included Athena, Cardinal's Robe, Gardenia, May Lilac, and The Fawn. Of the candidates, May Lilac received cumulative scores high enough to qualify for the 2023 designation.

The score cards were streamlined to make it easier to complete. In 2023 the Scorecards will be tweaked based on feedback and experience. Five additional new contenders will be added to list. These candidates determined are the following: Royal Tot, Mandarin's Coat, Amalia Olson, Shawnee Chief, and Blushing Princess. These will be evaluated over three years with the new scorecards unless there are sufficient number/representative scorecards from previous judging and scorecards.

Live training to be an ALM judge will be given at the Convention in New York and consist of two phases. A presentation will take place Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at The Crowne Plaza and practical application will take place at Lyndaker Farms, Salisbury Center, NY on Friday, June 2, 2023.

Direct your questions and feedback to Cory Tischman at [cdtischman@gmail.com](mailto:cdtischman@gmail.com) or Jill Stevens at [kittykatz99@hotmail.com](mailto:kittykatz99@hotmail.com).

## **Mentorship Committee**

Since our last Annual Meeting the Mentorship committee has fielded eight inquiries for mentorships.

Three resulted in referrals to solutions other than a Subject Matter Expert pairing.

One referral was to Kim Bremmer suggesting an article on the medicinal use of Peonies.

One referral was to the Southern Peony Society on local selection of cultivars.

One referral was completed on bag growing of woody peonies in NZ by information offered by Liz Best and Don Hollingsworth.

Three resulted in pairings with willing APS Members.

All three on growing for the cut flower business.

One request was withdrawn.

One request is pending for guidance on establishing a U-Pick garden and business.

Respectfully submitted,

Kent Tretheway

APS Director/Mentorship Chair

## **Website**

The APS website has seen large amounts of traffic from all over the world. The most visited pages are found within the “Peony Registry”, which is used extensively to research various cultivars. An average of 15,000 unique users have been recorded over the last 12 months.

The Peony Registry inserted more than 500 new images in 2022-2023 and over 300 new registration were placed. Additionally, APS member, JJ. Jordan optimized the database making it much easier to find cultivars through searches – Thanks JJ.

A new seed purchasing page was added and has been a large success. Purchasing seeds has become much easier for members and they are making heavy use of it, keeping our seed program chair busy!

Numerous other additions have been incorporated into the website and it continues to grow. Further work is being done to make navigation easier, but this will take time and probably the removal of some content.

Website Manager,

Nate Bremer

## Membership

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR APS BOARD MEETING

MAY 10, 2023

Submitted by Linette Sorrentino, APS Director and Membership Chair

**Current total memberships: 1085** (includes Individual, Life, Commercial & Institution) **(1253** with dual memberships)

Australia	10	Denmark	3	Japan	1	Russian Federation	0	Ukraine	2
Austria	2	Estonia	1	Latvia	4	South Africa	1	United Kingdom	3
Belgium	5	Finland	3	Lithuania	1	Spain	1	United States	926
Canada	66	France	1	Netherlands	10	Sweden	9		
Chile	1	Germany	11	New Zealand	6	Switzerland	3		
China	5	Italy	6	Poland	3	Taiwan	1		

**Current Commercial memberships: 90** (69 in the USA and 21 in other countries)

Australia	1	China	0	Germany	0	New Zealand	1	Sweden	0
Austria	0	Denmark	0	Italy	1	Poland	0	Switzerland	0
Belgium	1	Estonia	1	Japan	0	Russian Federation	0	Ukraine	0
Canada	9	Finland	0	Latvia	2	South Africa	0	United Kingdom	0
Chile	0	France	0	Netherlands	5	Spain	0	United States	69

**Current Individual memberships (paying): 897**

Australia	6	China	3	Italy	5	Poland	2	Switzerland	1
Austria	1	Denmark	3	Latvia	2	Russian Federation	0	Taiwan	1
Belgium	2	Finland	3	Lithuania	1	South Africa	1	Ukraine	2
Canada	50	France	1	Netherlands	4	Spain	0	United Kingdom	3
Chile	1	Germany	3	New Zealand	4	Sweden	8	United States	790

**Current Institution memberships: 9**

Australia	0	China	0	Germany	1	New Zealand	0	Sweden	0
Austria	0	Denmark	0	Italy	0	Poland	1	Switzerland	0
Belgium	0	Estonia	0	Japan	0	Russian Federation	0	Ukraine	0
Canada	1	Finland	0	Latvia	0	South Africa	0	United Kingdom	0
Chile	0	France	0	Netherlands	0	Spain	0	United States	6

**Current Life memberships: 89**

Australia	3	China	2	Germany	7	New Zealand	1	Sweden	1
Austria	1	Denmark	0	Italy	0	Poland	0	Switzerland	2
Belgium	2	Estonia	0	Japan	1	Russian Federation	0	Ukraine	0
Canada	6	Finland	0	Latvia	0	South Africa	0	United Kingdom	0
Chile	0	France	0	Netherlands	1	Spain	1	United States	61

**Current paid memberships' expiration year:**

YEAR	#	YEAR	#	YEAR	#	#	
2031	1	2026	45			996	paying
2030	1	2025	131			89	life
2029	1	2024	101				
2028	7	2023	671				
2027	38			Total	996	1,085	

# MEMBERSHIP RECAP FOR APS BOARD MEETING

MAY 11, 2023

Submitted by Linette Sorrentino, APS Director and Membership Chair

- Current **total** memberships: **1085 (1253** including dual memberships)
  - includes Individual, Life, Commercial & Institution
- Current **Individual Paying** memberships: **996**
  - **173** new Individual memberships since 1/1/2023
  - **412** renewal memberships since 1/1/2023
  - **968** – 11/4/2021 membership
  - **775** – 11/5/2020 membership
  - **607** – 11/14/2019 membership
  - **529** – 10/29/2018 membership
- Current **Commercial** memberships: **90**
  - there are **11** new commercial memberships since 1/1/2023
- Current **Institution** memberships: **9**
- Current **Life** memberships: **89**
- Current **Online Only** memberships: **209**
- **Memberships that will lapse** on 12/31/2023: **671**
- **Lapsed** memberships by year:

Year	Lapsed Members
2022	178
2021	217
2020	124
2019	120
2018	100
2017	112
2016	149
2015	103

Members in **25** countries other than the USA

- Most members in other countries is Canada with **66** members
- USA members in **49** states (states with more than 25 members)
  - most members in a state is New York with 86 members followed by Washington with 66 members

State	Members	State	Members	State	Members
New York	86	Oregon	35	Indiana	27
Washington	66	Illinois	34	North Carolina	27
Minnesota	65	Virginia	31	Ohio	26
Wisconsin	52	California	30		
Michigan	48	Iowa	30		
Pennsylvania	37	Massachusetts	30		

- "How did you hear about us?" was added to the website membership page around May 3, 2020

How did you hear about us?	Number
Online Search	718
Other	308
Social Media	244
Through a friend	192
Through an Event	51
Use of Peony Registry	102

Submitted by Linette Sorrentino, Membership Chair

## Awards Committee

The winner of the 2023 Gold Medal Peony Is 'Gay Paree'. Look for the official announcement in the Spring Bulletin and on social media.

The awards committee conferred and has picked their nomination for 2024 Gold Medal winner, it will be announced next year.

The awards committee has also chosen four personal award recipients this year and will announce the winners at the AGM in Syracuse, NY on June 3rd.

Submitted by Steve Smith, Awards Committee Chair  
May 30, 2023

No other reporting committees. 5/24/2023.