



2024 APS Convention

“Minnesota’s Peony Pioneers”

Hilton Bloomington
Bloomington, Minnesota

June 5-9, 2024



Hilton Bloomington

3900 American Blvd West
Bloomington, MN

\$129.00 / night
Includes daily breakfast



The Minnesota Peony Society is proud to host the 2024 American Peony Society Convention and to share our rich pioneering history in hybridizing peonies.

The last time the APS Convention was held in Minnesota was 2008.



Minnesota has a long history with the peony. Of the current 7342 registered peonies, almost 450 were registered by 16 Minnesota hybridizers. O.F and A.M. Brand started registering peonies in 1907 and today there are still a few active peony growers. The 2024 APS convention is showcasing the work of these peony pioneers. Many of the varieties introduced are still in commercial production as well as many new introductions and the 2024 APS Convention will be a premier peony event to meet and see these wonderful plants and flowers in person.



Some of Minnesota's early pioneers in hybridizing peonies.

Oliver F. and A.M. Brand Nursery Faribault, MN was the first nursery in Minnesota started in 1868! 144 peonies.

Alonzo B. Franklin – Minneapolis, MN 91 peonies.

Robert W. (Bob) Tischler – Faribault, MN 39 peonies.

Eugene Lins – Cologne, MN Bred 33 peonies.

C.A. Pfeiffer – Pfeiffer Nursery – Winona, MN 17 peonies.

Roy Pehrson – LaFayette, MN 12 peonies.

GARDEN TOURS



SWENSON GARDENS



SWENSON GARDENS

The journey into peonies for Keith and Becky Swenson began two generations ago with their grandparents' love of all flowers. Becky's grandmother was the first president of the Ely, MN gardening club and Keith's grandparents were avid gardeners in NW Wisconsin. That love helped form Swenson Gardens in 2002. What started out as cultivating a 2-acre plot of land in Delano, MN, blossomed into the purchase of a 40-acre farm near Howard Lake, MN in 2008.

This generational peony affair exploded in 1998 after meeting Roger F Anderson. Keith and Roger developed a friendship and mentor relationship. In 2013, Swenson Gardens purchased his last generation of intersectional hybrid, herbaceous, Lactiflora and tree peony seedlings.

Fast forward to 2023, Swenson Gardens is now considered the world's largest chemical-free peony grower and hybridizer of new peonies. Keith and their long-time employee Dan Zabel, are often seen tip toeing through the peonies hybridizing Roger's seedlings as well as their generations of seedlings. Becky is involved in the day to day business of customer service, social media sites and providing peony presentations to regional garden clubs.











STEVENS GARDENS



JILL STEVENS GARDENS

Jill Stevens has been in love with peonies since childhood. When she moved to her current location in 1993 her backyard was a vacant lot. Jill decided that if she planted peonies around the border, people would respect her yard. Now it is filled with over 1200 varieties of peonies. She enjoys caring for her peonies and keeping meticulous records of their progress. Orange Glory is the name of her favorite peony. She is passionate about showing and sharing her peonies.

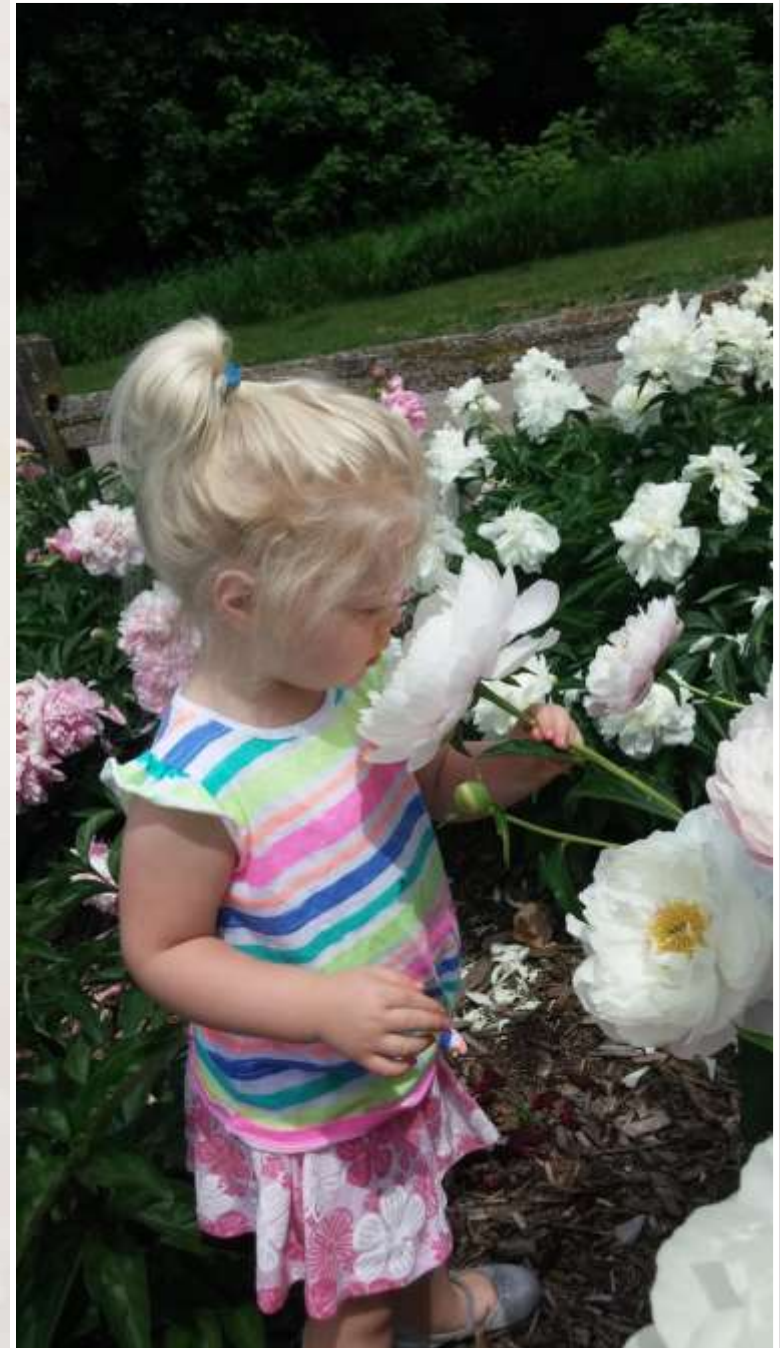
She is a Master Gardener, Former Master Gardener State Advisory Board Member, current American Peony Society Board Director, current Minnesota Peony Society Vice President, APS Award of Landscape Merit judge and co-chair, APS auction Co-chair, and field editor for The APS Bulletin. Her garden has appeared on Pioneer Public Television's Prairie Yard and Garden program on 2 occasions. Her peonies have been featured in print in The Senior Perspective, The APS Bulletin, Local Newspapers, Minnesota Farm Guide, and The Northern Gardener.











SORRENTINO GARDENS



DAVID & LINETTE SORRENTINO GARDENS

Located just outside Chaska, MN on several acres, David and Linette have been collecting and growing peonies since the early 1990's. Linette's love for gardening began in her youth when she so proudly would help in her grandparent's lake cabin gardens.

In 1994 they discovered commercial growers with named varieties and the collecting began in earnest. There are now about 750 plants that include over 475 varieties as well as along with tree peony grafts and seedlings. The collection includes many Minnesota breed plants and new hybrids selected for breeding, cut flowers and just general enjoyment. The peonies are located in gardens that are landscaped throughout the property. Their first APS exhibition was in the mid 90's when fellow Minnesotan's, Gus and Char Sindt, Floyd and Eloise Kimball and Ben Gowen were still active members. This led to many years of showing peonies at the MPS shows and also the APS exhibitions, running peony auctions and now currently organizing the APS Convention Exhibitions.













**MINNESOTA
LANDSCAPE
ARBORETUM**



Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum features 1,200 acres of beautiful public gardens designed to inspire ideas for visitors' own backyards. With 32 display and specialty gardens, 48 plant collections and more than 5,000 plant species and varieties, the Arboretum has become one of the premier horticultural field laboratories and public display areas in the country. From its interactive displays of Minnesota's natural environment to the scores of plant labels designed to allow visitors to replicate favorite gardens at home, the Arboretum is a kinetic wellspring of education, research and inspiration.



Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Tour

Tour lead by Brandon M. Miller, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of Horticultural Science and
Curator of Plant Collections

Lang Peony Walk - The Arboretum has three species of peony, 191 cultivars and a total of 240 specimens. This collection has been on the grounds of the Arboretum for decades.

Brandon will also talk about the new peony test plot which holds close to 500 peonies.

Lang Peony Walk

The initial acquisition was nineteen cultivars obtained from Sylvia Saunders of Clinton, NY. The remaining peonies were collected from Minnesota nurseries. You will find peonies from hybridizers like Lins, Brand, Tischler and Franklin. Lins had a farm in nearby Cologne, MN where there is currently a collection of most of his introductions. The Arboretum also has an impressive archive in its library of old Brand catalogs and other documents from the Minnesota growers.

Another prominent grower was Tischler. In 1956 the Tischler brothers purchased the Brand nursery, which lasted until the late 1970s. Bob Tischler then started Tischler Peony Garden, introducing around 40 named cultivars. The Arboretum acquired some of these varieties over the years. Many of the Tischler varieties also found their way into local nurseries like the former Country Side Gardens in Delano and Harvey Buchite of the former Hidden Springs Nursery. The connection to Minnesota hybridizers continues to be an important emphasis.





Mark your calendars

Don't forget about the peony exhibition. The show will be at The Hilton and will feature cut flowers from around the country. APS expects a large showing from the Midwest gardeners this convention. The exhibition is a great way to become involved in APS and you get to meet other peony enthusiasts. Seminars will include talks about Hybridizing, a Commercial Growers meeting, Photographing Peonies, Peonies 101, and other topics on raising fine peonies. Convention attendees will also enjoy a Welcome Dinner, Auction and Banquet as well as meals on the tour days.

Minnesota Peony Society and the American Peony Society encourages you to plan on coming this June, you will be immersed in peony heaven.



CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

- APS Peony Exhibition of Cut Flowers, Artistic Designs
- Educational Seminars
- Live Auction (mostly fall root delivery)
- Garden Tours both commercial and private
- Open Garden tours
- Special exhibitions and flower arranging contest
- Daily Hospitality Suite
- Meals: Daily breakfast (for registered hotel guests), Welcome dinner, Thursday and Friday lunches and the Saturday evening banquet are all included with your paid convention fee.



2008 APS Convention in Bloomington

Peony Artistic Designs





ARTISTIC DESIGN
GRAND CHAMPION

2022 Grand Champion Design

2022 APS Grand
Champion Design

Denese Erickson
of Minnesota

APS, MPS &
Floralia member!

Volunteer Opportunity

MPS volunteers will be essential to help make the 2024 APS Convention an event to remember. We will have a variety of volunteer opportunities. Responsibilities can include anything from exhibition set-up and tear-down to clerking, hospitality room, manning the membership table, bus captains, checking in attendees, welcome bags, etc. Shifts can be as short as a couple hours or as long as you like.

This event is a great way to meet other peony enthusiasts from around the USA and other countries.



Volunteer signup sheets are available at the back of the room.

For more information:

American Peony Society Website

<https://americanpeonysociety.org>

Minnesota Peony Website

<https://mnpeony.org>



THANK YOU!