



“Artistry in BLOOM”

American Peony Society

Annual Convention

**Hosted by the Wisconsin Peony Society, Ltd.
June 11, 12, 13, 14, 15**

The American Peony Society’s 2025 Annual Convention will be a unique celebration of peonies, art, music, and food, crowned with the national flower show and exhibition. The event- which will be held in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin - has been developed in collaboration with the Wisconsin Arts & Peony Festival, the Beaver Dam Chamber of Commerce, and the State of Wisconsin.

The city offers a unique and diverse experience for attending members, with a small “home-

town” atmosphere and many arts and entertainment experiences. Beaver Dam has embraced “the peony” as a focal point for its annual Wisconsin Arts and Peony Festival. Enjoy the festival and share our love and knowledge of peonies with the public.

Educational Seminars and the Exhibition and Flower Show will be held within walk-

ing distance (less than a mile) of the hotel at the beautiful and modern Beaver Dam High School (BDHS).



Accommodations & Location

Comfort Inn and Suites
815 Park Ave, Beaver Dam, WI 53916
(920) 887-7171

We have reserved a block of rooms at the Comfort Inn and Suites, the site of convention registration and our hospitality suite. The APS member rate is \$109.00 per weekday night/\$144 per weekend night and includes hot breakfasts. The hotel is conveniently located off US 151 and within walking distance of the High School and downtown events. Call to make reservations and mention you are an APS member attending the convention.

Note: Beaver Dam has a variety of restaurants, supper clubs, sports bars and bistros.



Fun-filled Experiences for Foodies, Music-Lovers and Art Enthusiasts

The "Wisconsin Arts and Peony Festival" is a peony happening, drawing thousands of visitors. Just down the street from our hotel, the Festival features peony activities, an art market, hands-on art/craft experiences, live entertainment and music, art exhibits, and food. APS members are encouraged to attend the festival and its many opportunities during the convention's free time. Find the full list of events at Schedule at a Glance <https://visitbeaverdam.com/wisconsin-arts-peony-festival-beaver-dam-wi/>



Enjoy beer, wine, cheese, music, and more? The wildly popular “Taste of Wisconsin” takes place in Beaver Dam on Saturday, June 14th. Ticket-holders receive a souvenir tasting glass and program with an unlimited sampling of Wisconsin beers, wine and cheeses.



(Tickets can be purchased online at: <https://tasteofwisconsin.net>)

Garden Tours and Attractions

Ovans Peony Farm. Ovans Peony Farm, Wisconsin’s largest cut flower operation, has been hosting the annual Wisconsin Arts & Peony Festival in partnership with the Beaver Dam Chamber of Commerce.

The farm features more than 1,600 peonies and hundreds of varieties. Peonies are planted in long, manicured grass lanes, allowing visitors to stroll, taking in the beauty and fragrance of each plant. Meet with hybridizers and talk hybridizing, see how to preserve peonies in resin, take part in the grafting demo (out of season), and enjoy other infor-





mal gatherings. Lunch is provided in the beautiful Ovans Peony Farm setting.

Wisconsin Heritage Peony Garden. This winding river walk features historic, rare and beautiful peonies. The garden is in its infancy (3rd year), and has been selected as an American Peony Society Reference Garden. It offers a rare opportunity to enjoy APS Gold Medal winners, APS Award of Landscape Merit peonies, and the work of Wisconsin hybridizers Roger Anderson, Nate Bremer, and Scott Parker.

Gardens at Oak Lawn Cheese Factory. This gorgeous garden is the product of over 50 years of work by gardener Larry Conrad. The gardens have a variety of woody and herbaceous peonies (which may not be in bloom during our visit), a beautiful conifer and magnolia collection, and other unique trees. Conrad grows large collections of primulas, and a wide range of unusual perennials. The property features many impressive rock gardens





with unusual plants. Well-kept pathways throughout allow visitors to view private sections within the garden. Conrad's home, a century+ old converted Cheese Factory, is the perfect centerpiece for the eclectic, manicured gardens.

EAA Adventure Museum. A tour bonus ! Visitors around the world flock to the EAA Aviation Museum in Oshkosh, one of the world's finest aviation attractions. Enjoy the collection of more than 200 historic airplanes along with galleries and displays, including the Eagle Hangar which pays tribute to World War II aviation and the heroes who served.



Sisson Peony Gardens. Sisson Peony Gardens, the site in which Wilbur Sisson and Jesse Phillips conducted their historic peony business, is listed in the "National Historic Places". A number of Lactiflora Group peonies were developed and registered from the Sisson Pe-



ony Gardens and are sought after collector plants. Today the gardens feature a number of Sisson introductions and numerous cultivars from other hybridizers. The gardens are well kept and maintained by the local historical society.

Tour on Your Own. Wisconsin has wonderful gardens and attractions for members who would like to travel beyond Beaver Dam, from eco-tours in the nearby Horicon Marsh to Botanical Gardens to private Wisconsin peony gardens, including the Roger Anderson Intersectional Collection at the Hoard Historical Museum in nearby Fort Atkinson, also an APS Peony Reference Garden. A list of optional sites will be provided on the Convention web site.

Exhibition and Flower Show, Demos & Public Seminars



The Exhibition and Flower Show, run by David and Linette Sorrentino, will be the featured highlight of the APS convention this year. The festival's large audience offers an excellent opportunity to promote our peony exhibition and provide public education – an integral part of our mission. Beaver Dam High School's spacious atrium serves as an outstanding venue for the Exhibition and Flower show. A large cooler trailer will be available to store blooms for the show. We will also be sponsoring a "Chop Box with Flowers" presentation to attract new peony enthusiasts.

Members, please get ready to bring your blooms and show the many attendees the myriads of varieties we grow – they WILL BE INTERESTED!

Demos and Hands-on Learning

This year the APS is offering our members a number of fun, informal peony activities.

- Exhibiting Peonies
- Grafting Demonstration (out of season, but techniques can be applied in season)
- Informal Discussions and Demonstrations
- Preserving Peonies in Resin

Seminars & Workshops (Open to members and the public)

A partial list of presentation topics include:

- Genomic Research and Updates
- Peony Diseases and Management
- Dividing Peonies
- Peonies 101
- Growing Peonies from Seed
- Problematic Peonies and Better Choices
- Garden Pollinators
- Chop Box (Floral arrangement experience)

SEE the APS website for the full up-to-date Convention Schedule. There's much more to enjoy!

REGISTER ONLINE FOR THE APS 2025 CONVENTION NOW

Registration and information will be posted online at <https://americanpeonysociety.org/news-events/annual-convention/2025-convention/> as of November 30, 2024.



Did You Know: Judging on Merit

Bloom size isn't everything in flower shows. Flower Show and Exhibition Judges Chase Krug, Jordan Kabat, and Cory Tischman get up close and personal with 2024 entries, examining overall form, symmetry, tidiness, freshness, freedom from blemishes, and a host of other characteristics.
