

Beaver Dam Convention Report

Submitted by Nate Bremer 2/3/2025

Comprehensive information about this year's convention may be found on the APS website at:

<https://americanpeonysociety.org/member-portal/pages/2025-convention-details/>

Lodging: Comfort Inn and Suites B.D.; Hospitality Room, Launch point for tours, Lodging

Welcome: Benvenuto's Restaurant

Flower Show and Seminars: Beaver Dam High School

Beaver Dam Country Club: Banquet, Auction, Annual General Membership Meeting, Awards

Check-in: Comfort Inn and Suites B.D. Hospitality Room, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Benvenutos 5:30 to 7:00. There after in Hospitality Room on Wednesday. Thursday, 6:30 a.m. prior to loading tour buses.

What's completed?

- Overview article. Bulletin & Website
- The schedule is finalized. See Website
- Lodging information. See Website
- See website to Register. Registrations are being taken via the website. \$275 early bird (to April 1); \$305 (after April 1) 40 members are registered as of 2/1/2025. Two registrants are making use of last year's cancellation funds. Gary Chastagner is paid for by APS. Michelle Ovans will be attending the Banquet/Auction only. And... there are some other variations on attendance.
- Tours held Thursday and are arranged for. Buses are reserved. Lunch is ordered. See website for details.
- Friday's visit to Ovan's Peony Farm is arranged and transportation is secured. We'll be eating lunch there. Some APS demos and functions may still need to be arranged.
- All registrants will be sent a Tour Waiver and must fill this out prior to attending a tour.
- Seminar presenters/speakers are confirmed. See website for seminar descriptions, bios and other schedules.
- David and Linette have completed the Show Schedule. See Website.
- Nate has audio visual equipment and will bring to convention (projection screen, projector, computer, portable microphone).
- Nate is the registrar and recording registration. He'll also have registration packets available for attendees starting 3:00 p.m. at Country Inn and Suites.

What remains to be done?

- Complete a volunteer schedule (see volunteer schedule needs .doc)
- Welcome meal still needs to be finalized for menu, but arrangements have been made with Benvenuto's Restaurant (restaurant next to hotel).

- Cooler needs to be finalized and delivered to Beaver Dam HS on Wednesday, June 11.
- Additional “gardens and attractions” document for the area still needs to be completed. Michelle and I are working on this.
- We need someone to oversee water/snacks on the buses (Rita Thomas?).
- Annual General Membership Meeting at Country Club will need to be organized (Lois).
- Auction will need to be organized by committee.
- Scott Parker has volunteered to take care of ordering name tags/lanyards for convention.
- Produce/print documents for public consumption (show information table). Include such things as: Growing Peonies from Seed, Herbaceous Peonies, Woody Peonies, Gold Medal Peonies, Recommended Peonies for Beginners, etc... NOTE: Instead of printing hundreds of pages for distribution (waste of paper/trees) we elected to produce a laminated document for each article/informational piece with a QR code for interested people to scan. These will be placed on the information table at the show and can be used as references for members answering questions (members don't need to have answers, only know where to find it).

What are some things we see as needed?

- Volunteers for the flower show and hospitality room. Perhaps other assorted tasks.
- **Bring flowers for the show if you are attending – spread the word. We do not know if Carol Adelman will be attending and she often brings a large number of flowers for the show. We'll need many other flowers from others. We want to put on a good sized show since expected public viewing should be large.**
- Ride Board for members traveling from Comfort Inn and Suites to Flower Show and Beaver Dam Country Club.
- Promote the idea of volunteerism by members at all functions of the convention. Members are responsible for cleanup during all segments of the convention (keep buses clean, pickup after travel meals, loading/unloading buses-drinks/snacks etc..., helping to setup flower show/seminars etc..., cleanup hospitality room). **WE ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS AND THERE SHOULD BE NO EXPECTATION THAT SOMEONE ELSE WILL SERVE ANY OTHER MEMBER.**

Problems?

Attention Directors: Please register and secure lodging asap. Lodging is especially important since rooms will likely become unavailable in spring.

Michelle Ovans will be busy with her business at her flower farm during much of the convention, thus we'll all need to jump in and help where we can. This will not likely cause any issues due to plans well under way.