

Edition 2019  
January



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## *MAKE IT and Take IT Event*

For the second year we are going to have a **“Make It and Take It”** event for MAPS members. This event is free for MAPS members and \$20.00 for guests. Guest can join MAPS on that day for \$10.00.

Sunday, February 10th from 1:30– 4:00 you are welcome to come to Bernie’s home at 1730 Walnut Hill Blvd., Media, PA and try your hands at some peony themed activities.

New this year will be the opportunity to make plant labels. You can bring a plant stake and the name of the

peony variety (s) and we will let you print out a plant label for that plant ( a limit of 6 labels per person). We will have plant stakes for sale if you don’t have any in your inventory. Several members have label printers and will bring them to the event.

Other activities will include the option of painting a roofing slate either free-handed or with stencils provided. Paint, slate and brushes will be available (no cost).

Make a notecard using peony photos provided. (no cost)

Rubberstamp a notecard with an assortment of stamps, stamp pads and colored pencils. (no cost)

We will have tables set up as work stations with all of the supplies and light refreshments for those participating.

The feedback from last year was that it was fun to get together off season and the bonus was having some great garden related items to take home.

As always there will be some snacks to help you keep your energy up.

Contact Jeff or Marge if interested in serving on the Executive Board. Their contact information is as follows:

Jeff Jabco  
[jjabco1@swarthmore.edu](mailto:jjabco1@swarthmore.edu)

Marge Firn  
[mfirn@comcast.net](mailto:mfirn@comcast.net)

## *Renewal of Membership Time*

Those of you that did not renew your membership at our lecture and sale in the autumn should send in your renewal now so you don’t miss opportunities to experience some great peonies.

We will be announcing shortly our activities for the spring including garden tours and our first peony judging event.

Membership is still a bargain at \$10.00 per person. Send

checks written out to **MAPS**

Bernie Miller  
1730 Walnut Hill Blvd.  
Media, PA 19063.

Welcome and Happy New Years 2019!



## *Winter Storage of Roots*

Peony roots tolerate freezing, but do not require being frozen. What they require is being kept cold enough to restrain new growth until they are properly planted. During late summer, autumn and early winter their natural dormancy trait keeps them from growing anew in autumn, but that safety factor expires over time and eventually runs out before spring. So long as the dormancy restraint does not run out before onset of winter temperatures, growth is prevented until soil commences to warm seasonally. Peonies already planted are kept from growing new shoots until late winter or spring as the soil temperature rises to around forty degrees. When peony divisions are stored over winter to be planted in spring, they usually need to be kept cold artificially to prevent initiation of growth until they have been planted. Where I grow peonies we have sometimes been unable to work the soil for planting until late April, which is four to six weeks after the established peony plants will have commenced growth.

A cold storage facility which will hold the temp to mid thirties or lower gives the best service. However an ordinary household refrigerator on lowest setting may serve, but the frost free feature of modern models is a disadvantage in that it dehydrates. Protect against this by holding the roots in moist peat enclosed in a plastic bag. The roots need oxygen so it is a good idea to open the gags weekly and shake up the contents so as to change the air inside. A cold storage unit that does not dry the contest would be better, if use of some space in one is available. If roots do get soft from drying, soak in water several hours to overnight to rehydrate before planting.

Spring planted peonies are at a disadvantage for taking up moisture due to the lack of new roots before the shoots grow. They will make better gains the first season if they are kept evenly moist by supplemental irrigation when needed so long as the leaflets stay green.

Don Hollingsworth

## *Save the Date on your Calendar*

May 21st is the first confirmed and scheduled peony plant tour for 2019. Since meeting Eleanor Tickner and joining MAPS Bernie Miller has planted herbaceous, Itoh and Tree Ponies. Reviewing his photos for the past three years the optimum week looks like the third full week in May for his largest collection which are herbaceous peonies.

Bernie has peonies that have been passed down from his uncle and parents as well as well known varieties bought at MAPS events.

He has many (not all) of the peonies labeled so you can bring your notebooks and cameras to make note of varieties you want to put on your wish list.

Just to wet your appetite some of the varieties that

are mature and blooming include Joker, Festiva Maxima, Red Charm, The Fawn, First Out, Bright Eyes, Albert Niva, Charlies White, Serene Pastel, Shirley Temple, and Cora Stubbs just to name a few.

The gardens will be open at 4:30 pm until dark.

You are welcome to bring a friend along.



We are going to theme this event with the Far East. As you know the Asian countries consider the peony to be the queen of flowers.

The rain date will be May 22nd and that notification would be sent to your email if the weather forecast was showing showers.

Refreshments will be served.

Address: 1730 Walnut Hill Blvd., Media, PA 19063