

November 2011

Volume 1, Issue 1

**A Brand New  
Membership Benefit**



## *Dig and Divide Event Draws a Crowd*

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### Special points of interest:

- Highlights from the Dig and Divide event
- Survey to meet members needs
- Allen Rodger peony reaches Mid-Atlantic gardens this autumn
- Dig the first edition of the MAPS newsletter!

Associated with  
the American Peony Society:  
[www.americanpeonysociety.org](http://www.americanpeonysociety.org)

The Mid Atlantic Peony Society held their second “Dig and Divide” workshop and first auction on October 9th at the Wister Center on the campus of Swarthmore College through the generosity of the Scott Arboretum. Thirty-three people attended the event which has been the most highly attended meeting since the organization has been formed.

Jeff Jabco and Eleanor Tickner demonstrated how to dig , divide and plant all three types of peonies. The demonstration was held outside in sunny, 80 degree weather. The feedback from participants was that the information was very helpful for novices as they had bought

peonies at the plant sale and wanted to “get it right”. Other members of the audience benefited from hearing from the experts on how to handle intersectionals which are becoming more available for our home gardens.

The event moved back indoors for some seasonal apple cider, cheese spread and an array of desserts. Fall favorites including apple cake and peanut butter cookies were some of the options. Gerri and Bernie made sure that tasty treats provided lots of choices for guests and members.

The auction was held once the audience had a chance to check out the offerings. There were

tree, intersectionals and herbaceous peonies that had been donated by MAPS members and the Scott Arboretum. There were some rare tree peonies not available in the commercial trade on the auction block. The fundraiser pulled in several hundred dollars and members left with winners to place in their gardens.



Tree Peony in bloom,  
spring 2011

## *Survey*

The executive committee wants to make sure they are meeting the needs of the members. A survey has been developed and was sent out to those who participated in the “Dig and Divide” to find out what drew them to the event.

We appreciated the feedback we have received so far and our email is always open for suggestions and recommendations.

The executive committee is looking forward to next spring’s blooming season for

garden tour suggestions and what autumn options the group should get involved in.

Let us hear from you!!

President– Eleanor Tickner

Vice President– Jeff Jabco

Secretary– Gerri Eunson

Treasurer– Bernie Miller



Festiva Maxima



Abalone Pearl



Bowl of Beauty



Allan Rodgers



Paula Fay



Tree Peony in bloom, Bernie Miller's garden, Spring 2011

## *Major Fall Fundraiser at Scott Arboretum*

Every two years the Scott Arboretum sponsors a fall fundraiser and brings in hundreds of hard to find and excellent varieties of plants to plant in the Delaware Valley. They have been wonderful to work with and allow MAPS to participate in the sale and set up a tent for the three day event.

In return for their generosity we donate peonies to their collection that help with their educational mission and com-

pliments our mission. We have used their collection on multiple occasions for tours and lectures on the growing habits and varieties.

This past September was the third time we held a fundraiser and it was a huge success. We thank the members of MAPS that help volunteer to man the tent for the sale. We had our most successful fundraiser to date. Big hits this year were the tree peonies and intersection-

als. They sold extremely well on Friday evening at the Arboretum's "Friends of the Plant Sale" Event..

There were many great varieties of peonies to select from. Photos on this page are some of the varieties we offered.

The funds generated will help MAPS bring in speakers from outside the membership to help increase our knowledge and skill levels on peonies.

## *New Kid on the Block*

MAPS provides us with opportunities to acquire some of the latest varieties being developed. This year was no exception.

The plant highlighted is called "Allan Rodgers". Eleanor shared with us that this plant was registered in 2008 but took until this year for the plant to be available to the buying public.

Allen Rodgers is 90 years old. He was for many decades the owner of Caprice Farms in Sherwood, one of Oregon's first peony specialists and author of one of the most popular and authoritative books on the subject, obtained much of his original stock from the Marx Nursery in Boring, OR.

This namesake is a beautiful

double white flowering herbaceous peony. Many of us can look forward to comparing the flowers in the upcoming years.

Has anyone had the opportunity to see this flower in person? Share your comments with the editor and we will include them in a future edition of the newsletter.

## *MAPS launches it's first newsletter*

We are piloting another method of getting information into the hands of our members. We are planning on producing newsletters that are a quick read but informative.

We invite members to contribute original articles on peonies. Photos are also being accepted for use as eye candy and to

create another teachable moment.

The editor loves critics because they will be drafted to help out :)

We are planning an edition with a focus on using peonies as cut flowers including handling and care tips.

We hope you consider this an additional benefit for being a member of MAPS.

The newsletter will be sent out as a list serve and will be archived on the MAPS website .

Sit back , read and enjoy!

(Send articles electronically to [Bernie@midatlanticpeony.org](mailto:Bernie@midatlanticpeony.org))