



Upcoming Events— Mark Your Calendars

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Special points of interest:

- Photos from previous American Peony Society's Juried Shows.

We established some dates, during our recent MAPS business meeting so members can mark their calendars .

Spring is within sight and we have a window of opportunity to check out peony varieties growing in our areas that we might want to add to our list of “must haves”.

There will be a collaboration between the Scott Arboretum and MAPS to tour the tree peonies on the Swarthmore College Campus. The **tour**, led by Jeff Jabco, will be held on May 7th at 5:00pm followed by a reception hosted by MAPS.

Eleanor Tickner, MAPS President, will host a **tour** of early blooming peonies on April

30th at 5:00pm.. The tour will show the plants that she lectured on at the February General Membership meeting. (some really beautiful single petal peonies!)

We are planning ahead and 2013 is the year of the Scott Arboretum **plant sale** on September 20-22, 2013. We have permission to set up a tent and sell peonies during the event. This is our largest fundraiser and a great time to add to your collection. There will be every type of peony imaginable. You have an opportunity to assist with the sale by volunteering. Bring your checkbook because there is great selection of plants in the arboretum sale and in our sales area.. The

event is open to the public on the 22nd. (if you are not a member of the Scott Arboretum)

We will have a **membership meeting** on October 27th at Eleanor's home. At this time we will have a sale of the left over peonies from our fundraiser. Gives you a chance to pick up a few plants at prices you will not find in a mail order catalogue.

Stay tuned for other events as more are being planned.



Tree Peony in bloom, 2011

Quiz Time

1. **Question:** When was the first coral peony registered?
2. **Question:** What red peony was carried West by early U.S. settlers?

(answers on page 2)

APS

What an opportunity! APS is holding their annual meeting at Longwood Gardens on June 1-2, 2013..

They have their business meeting with speakers and their peony show with judging. The peony show will be open to the general public

with admission to Longwood Gardens. You will not want to miss some of the top growers and specialist showing off their prized blooms.

Some of the photos in this newsletter are from previous APS Shows. Wetting your appetite for this peony show!!!!





Photos
at APS Peony Judging

Quiz Answers

- Question:** When was the first coral peony registered? **Answer:** Coral Charm in 1964 by Wisconsin
- Question:** What red peony was carried West by early U.S. settlers. **Answer:** Paeonia tenuifolia, the single form bloom fernleaf peony was carried in wet rags for good fortune and medicinal purposes.

Summer Bargain Bins

The search begins in July through October for the sale on perennials. Most retail nurseries have an annual clearance sale to move plants. They do not want to hold the plants over for another season so they reduce the prices typically 50% or more.

The hunt is on to find the clearance area in the back of the display area, under a bench, or in an unrelated area.

A bargain is only a bargain if the price is reduced and the plant is healthy. Look for a plant with multiple stems that are still green in color when purchasing in the summer. It is not important that the plant flowered while at the nursery. It is helpful if the plant still has identification so you will know the color and height of the plant.

Shriveled stems, multiple bent

stems, plants that have fallen out of the pot and repotted, or dried up pots should be avoided.

Give the plant sun and water to maintain health until it is transplanted. Plant the bargain peony in autumn for best results. Next spring you can smile with satisfaction. Blooms will start anywhere from the first year until the third year after planting depending on the plant's health.

Do you have a recommendation?



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

Each year the executive committee spends time looking for peonies to bring to the Mid-Atlantic region. We share a plant list with the membership and place a select number of plants for sale.

Are you looking for a specific type of peony either by variety,

color, price point or other category? We would like to hear from you. The executive committee will take your suggestion under advisement.

Our prices are usually better than retail nurseries both in size (number of eyes) and price because we buy in bulk. We

also have a secret weapon. Eleanor, your president, has made some great connections with growers and has come up with some great finds over the years.

Send your suggestions to any of the officers.