

2018 Alaska Peony Conference

Alaska Peony Growers Association Annual Winter Conference

Saturday Break-out Sessions

7:30-8:00 am - On-Site Registration /
Information Desk Open

8:00-8:15 am - Welcome and Announcements
8:20-8:35 am - Farm

Bureau information

8:40-9:40 am - Keynote: Kelly Perry, Team
Flower.

What a Florist wants.

Kelly Perry is a floral designer and educator from the mountains of North Carolina. She grew her design business, Philosophy Flowers, from a small weekly floral subscription to a wedding business featured with major outlets like Martha Stewart Weddings, Brides and the Knot. Today her primary work is with Team Flower, an educational and networking

9:40-9:45 am - Short Break

9:45-10:30 am - Break-Out Session 1 (Howard Rock Rooms A-B-C)

Plant Nutrition studies update

Mingchu Zang from UAF is sharing the latest information on plant nutritional needs and findings for peony flower production in the Alaskan environment. Peony plant nutrition in a timely and proper application is very important.

[WELCOME](#)

Standard & sizing in peonies

Ron Illingworth from North Pole Peonies in North Pole Alaska, will be going over the latest regarding uniformity in USDA established sizing and grade standards on flowers in relation to what is acceptable and what is expected to come from AK-grown Peony production and how to ensure your stems meet these standards.

[THE CONFERENCE](#)

[TRAVEL & HOTEL](#)

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Post Harvest process

Peony growing is one step, post harvest steps are just as important to succeed in providing quality long lasting flowers to the market place. Rita Jo Shoultz from Alaska Perfect Peonies in Homer has studied, implemented & perfected all of this. She can teach you the steps.

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10:35-11:25 pm - Break-Out Session 2 (Howard Rock Rooms A-B-C)

Peony prices

During his travels Wes Brightman from Howling Downs

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

We all deal with financial needs as

Plant Pathology

Dr. Gary Chastagner Ph.D. Professor of Plant Pathology at WSU

you know that there are 3-4 pricing steps that the world-wide market deals with?

FSA will discuss programs that may be of assistance to peony growers.

affecting your peony crop. How to identify them, what to do with it in Crop protection.

11:30-12:15 pm - Break-Out Session 3 (Howard Rock Rooms A-B-C)

Farm data and Stem cost

What is the real cost of growing peony stems. How do you calculate stem cost, stem sell price, and how do you make a profit margin. are you really are a cost effective grower? Rita Jo Shoultz has been doing this for many years. Her expertise is in valuable to all Alaska Peony growers big or small.

Right Risk.

The agricultural economist [Jeff Tranel](#) will provide an insight to the many resources that can help growers estimate the true costs and returns for peony growers in Alaska. He will solicit input from session participants in order to illustrate some of the tools & develop a sample enterprise budget for peonies.

A bug study, what do you host?

Dr. Beverly Gerdeman from WSU will go through the different bugs that you might have on your plants. How do you identify them, who do you do with them. Are they beneficial, a nuisance or a hazard. And what to do next with these little buggers.

12:15-1:30 pm - Lunch Break & Committee Meetings

1:30-2:20 pm - Keynote: Steve Catando, DVFloral (Howard Rock B+C).

What a wholesale Distributor wants, when procuring cut flowers.

value for his company customers and grower suppliers as well. We will learn exactly what the wholesale floral distributors are looking for when procuring American Grown cutflowers.

2:25-3:20 pm - Break-Out Session 4 (Howard Rock Rooms A-B-C)

Weed Control

Gino Graziano, CES Weeds , is having the latest on weed management & control. What works what does not, and what weeds do you have in your field.

Coop Presentations:

Different Coops will introduce and Peony Markets will introduce their organizations to you regarding to what they do best.

Selling to International Markets

Susan Benz, representative from USDA will talk about the 2017 Census of US Agriculture and specifically specialty crops.

3:25-4:20 pm - Break-Out Session 5 (Howard Rock Rooms A-B-C)

Natural Resources (DNR)

Erik Johnson from Alaska state government Department of Natural Resources is spring

Estate Planning for farmers etc.

Rusty Rumley from National Agricultural Law Center is covering Estate Planning and all the thoughts and

Starting with proper roots.

Jack de Vroomen will discuss just about everything regarding starting with good roots and how to prosper with them.

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4:45-5:30 pm - Round Tables with All Speakers
from Today

5:30-6:00 pm - Closing and Farewell.

- **The last APGA Conference online sign up day is January 24th, 2018 .**