

PAEONIA

Volume 17, No.3

September, 1986

Editors: Chris and Lois Laning
553 West F Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI.

Suggested yearly contribution:
\$2.50 in the U.S. and Canada
\$4.00 in Europe and Australia.

TABLE of CONTENTS:

Letter from Toby Fourie, R.S.A. page 1
Information from Bill Seidl . . .
- along with letter from S. Itoh, . . . page 2
Letter from Rev. J. Syrový page 6
Letter from Dorothy Hamilton page 7
Letter from Herman Krupke, Sweden page 8
Letter from Art MacDonald, CA page 9
Letter from John Cote Jr., CT page 10

9 Peacehaven Turnbull St.
Empangeni, Republic South Africa, 3880

March, 1986

Hello There,

You wonderful folk keep me supplied faithfully with your newsletter and it's not That I have ignored you or forgotten you at all.

We had an extra addition to our family last year, now 9 months old -- Nicolas -- I've enclosed a photograph. As you can see, Riaan (Mr. Paeony!) is almost 3 years old (on 19th March) and our lives have very little time for writing letters. Sorry about the 2 past Christmasses -- no cards -- I was too busy with our charity, preparing the senior citizens luncheon, also being Father Christmas for 2 handicapped schools, the African Hospital children, and a school hostel. We only sent letters and cards off last month. So I hope you folk won't take it amiss and this will possibly reach you by Easter.

We have had scathing hot weather, also very humid. My brother does not report about the small plants which we got to germinate but I will see him at Easter. I still have some seed in our refrigerator.

Imagine my surprise in December last year '85 when a local florist received some peony blooms in an order from Europe. They must have been hot house. I was fortunate to buy 10 blooms. We were thrilled even though they lasted only a few days.

Happy Easter to you both and thanks again for your letters. I will need some more seed this year.

Regards,

Toby, Anne, Riann and Nicolas Fourie

Chris: This is a copy of a letter forwarded by Greta asking me to respond, esp. to ques. #3. I did that today, giving Mr. Itoh Reath's address and also your own as possible sources, at least of seed if not plants. Also gave him T & M's address; their current catalog lists *P. delavayi* and *P. lutea ludlowii* seed. I assume "explanatory diagram" means "parentage charts" and said little is known about parentage of the Saunders hybrid trees, that the Daphnis hybrids' parentages are in various Bulletins (253, 224), and the 10-year nomenclature update.

- Bill Seidl

American Peony Society
250 Interlachen Rd.
Hopkins, Minnesota 55343

Ogoso 2-chome, 12-9
Yokkaichi 510 Japan

17th February, 1986

Further information about the tree peony

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for sending me the membership card and your receipt mentioning my questionnaires. I also read the interesting instruction sheet on the tree peony.

As I told you in my former letter, I plan to complete an explanatory diagrams of the existing Japanese tree peony and to try their morphological classification. In order to do that further information about the tree peony is necessary, such as an explanatory diagrams of the European tree peonies, and the four species or those related to them as closely as possible.

I would like to complete this work, but your assistance and advice are absolutely necessary. Would you kindly tell me it so far as you know?

1. Are there any explanatory diagrams of the European and lutea hybrids tree peonies? If there are, how can I get it?
2. Is it still possible to get Sir Frederick Stern's "A Study of the Genus Paeonia"? I once inquired Maruzen, a biggest bookdealer in Japan, the reply was impossible to get it.
3. Who has now the four species of the genus tree peony? Is it obtainable the peony species, the four or partly?

Thanking you for your kind assistance in advance and looking forward to getting your helpful information about it.

Yours Faithfully,

S. Itoh

ANALYSIS OF THE SAUNDERS TREE HYBRIDS (F₁'s) USED AS SEED PARENTS IN THE DAPHNIS HYBRIDS

The analysis consists mostly of the following tabulation of the numbered seedling plants resulting from the use of the listed cultivars as seed parents. This was compiled from duplicates of hand-written copies made by Peter Hughes of the Daphnis hybridizing records.

Age of Gold	1		The Saunders plants F ₂ A and F ₂ B were also used as seed parents, 31 and 18 times respectively. The Daphnis named cultivars, ' Tria ', ' Artemis ', and ' Gauguin ' (all F ₁ 's) are each listed once as seed parents. The accompanying pollen parents are tabulated as follows:																		
Amber Moon	4	(Terpsichore)																			
Arcadia	2																				
Black Panther	1																				
Black Pirate	2																				
Chinese Dragon	4																				
Coronal	3																				
Corsair	5																				
Countess	1																				
Falcon	2																				
Golden Bowl	3																				
Golden Hind	4	(Helios)																			
Goldfinch	10																				
Gold Sovereign	1																				
Harvest	3																				
Lombard	1																				
Marchioness	7																				
Princess	1																				
Red Cloud	3																				
Red Currant	1																				
Red Jade	1																				
Roman Gold	1																				
Segovia	3	(Phaedra)																			
Stardust	14																				
Summer Night	1																				
Thunderbolt	2	(Hephestos)																			
Vesuvian	1																				
Wings of the Morning	8	(Aurora)																			
Moush Mixed *	8																				
Total	98		<table border="0" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>F₂A</td> <td>.....</td> <td>49</td> </tr> <tr> <td>F₂B</td> <td>.....</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Suffruticosa cvs.</td> <td>.....</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Open, Self, or Label Lost (?)</td> <td>·</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"D" seedling</td> <td>.....</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>.....</td> <td>98</td> </tr> </table> <p>The names in parentheses are the five (so far) named introductions from these crosses. The pollen parents for these five are either F₂A or F₂B except, possibly, for 'Hephestos'. See APS Bulletin #253, pg 11. There F₂A is listed as the pollen parent. Peter's copy of the records reads: 'Thunderbolt' x ?. He believes the quality and size of the flower must come from a suffruticosa pollen parent. Also, its seedling number, D240, puts it well past the time-period when Daphnis was using F₂A & B as pollinators for Saunders cultivars.</p>	F ₂ A	49	F ₂ B	20	Suffruticosa cvs.	22	Open, Self, or Label Lost (?)	·	6	"D" seedling	1	Total	98
F ₂ A	49																			
F ₂ B	20																			
Suffruticosa cvs.	22																			
Open, Self, or Label Lost (?)	·	6																			
"D" seedling	1																			
Total	98																			

* I've forgotten Peter's explanation of the meaning of this word. Since the eight entries are preceded and followed by more Saunders cultivars, I assume it's a mixture of them. Perhaps an acronym for "**M**any **O**pen-pollinated **U**nabeled **S**aunders **H**ybrids."

Saunders Tree Hybrids (F1) L:S = 50:50	POLLEN PARENTS						"D" Seedling (D79)
	Total	F2A	F2B	Self, Open, Label Lost	Suffruticosa		
					Companion of Serenity	Other	
Age of Gold	1		1				
Amber Moon	4	4 ¹					
Arcadia	2		2				
Black Panther	1	1					
Black Pirate	2	1					1
Chinese Dragon	4	2	1			1	
Coronal	3	1	1		1		
Corsair	5				5		
Countess	1			1			
Falcon	2	2					
Golden Bowl	3	1	1		1		
Golden Hind	4	2	2 ²				
Goldfinch	10	8			2		
Gold Sovereign	1		1				
Harvest	3		1			2	
Lombard	1		1				
Marchioness	7	2	5				
Princess	1	1					
Red Cloud	3	2				1	
Red Currant	1			1			
Red Jade	1				1		
Roman Gold	1	1					
Segovia	3	2	1 ³				
Stardust	14	6	1	1	3	3	
Summer Night	1			1			
Thunderbolt	2			2 ⁴			
Vesuvian	1				1		
Wings of the Morning	8	5 ⁵	2			1	
<i>MOUSH Mixed</i>	8	8 ⁶					
TOTAL.	98	49	20	6	14	8	1

Named varieties resulting from above crosses:

- 1 = '**Terpsichore**'
- 2 = '**Helios**'
- 3 = '**Phaedra**'
- 4 = '**Hephestos**'
- 5 = '**Aurora**'

6 = '**Thermopylea**'; seed parent of '**Prometheus**' (not mentioned in Bulletin #253, pg. 11).

* Mixed Saunders F₁'s; another of the pollen parents could be F₂B.

F₂A and F₂B by all accounts, are not very high quality plants. Prof Saunders did not consider them worth introducing but recognized their potential breeding value. A plant of F₂A (sent by Roy Pehrson) grows in my garden and its flowers seldom merit a second look. It's a sparse bloomer with light yellow, rather small single flowers. Sure, it's a fertile F₂ but so are Reath's '**Golden Era**' and A198 and both are far superior. I mention this because F₂A and F₂B were pollinators for most of the crosses described (69 of 98 or 70%) but only four (five, if you count '**Hephestos**') were considered good enough to introduce. This low number is understandable when one considers the quality of the pollen parents. The record indicates no great effort was made to use better pollen parents (as they became available) with the Saunders tree hybrids; instead, other breeding strategies were pursued. So a gap remains to be filled by crosses between the Saunders tree hybrids with '**Golden Era**' and other improved F₂'s, F₃'s, etc. Who knows what undreamed-of color combinations and patterns still lie trapped within the genes of these F₁'s, waiting to be unlocked by the hybridizer's key? Perhaps a variety such as '**Coronal**' can mother a whole new race of sharply defined picoteed beauties.

An interesting group of seedlings must be the 22 from the Saunders tree hybrids crossed by suffruticosa cultivars. If these are true hybrids I would expect some worthy plants here, being 75% suffruticosa. The pollen parents represent 5 varieties: '**Companion of Serenity**' (used 14 times), J8 (twice), J10 (thrice), J23 (twice), and a red seedling (once). I do not know the Gratwick cultivar identification code for these, but '**Shintenchi**' with its fine flower and superior foliage, ought to be high on the list of pollinators for anyone attempting similar crosses.

Note: My description of F₂A may be off the mark as it is based on memory rather than field notes.

Vining, Iowa

February 20, 1986

Dear Chris:

On one of the last issues of Paeonia 1985, you wrote, "Are you still living?" so I thought I'd better write and send in my dues for 1986 to let you know that I still am! I also don't want to miss a single issue of Paeonia 1986.

It's been a terrible cold winter as well you know, with sub-zero temperatures, snow, rain and sleet all over the U.S. How fortunate we are that we don't live in California.

Before writing this I reread some of the past issues of Paeonia and find that we've all had the same problems for the past few years. We've had severe drought last April and May and then again in August. After that heavy cold rains and then sub-freezing temperatures.

Then many of us had cold wind and rain and a sudden freeze when plants were ready to bloom. I've had to fight to save every bloom that I've enjoyed the last couple of springs by covering plants with sheets of plastic. However, it was well worth it.

My Itohs bloom for me every year as I mulch them heavily with sawdust. I read that some have lost their Itohs over winter. As reported by others, Rock's T.P. seems to be the hardiest. It hasn't given much bloom, but we enjoy everyone.

Luckily we've had more snow than ever this winter and everything is covered with snowdrifts. Anyhow, we are looking forward to spring and no doubt will be disappointed with some plants and others will reward us with something to enjoy. We hope, we hope, we hope! That's life for you, especially as we get older!

Sincerely,

Rev. Joeseoph Syrov

p.s. I remember as a kid (so long ago) that one of the first things I read was "Kalamazoo direct to you" on my grandmother's kitchen stove!

Hayes, No. 1 R.D.
Queenstown, New Zealand
12th October, 1985

Dear Chris:

Have just received the latest copy of "Paeonia" and as usual we have both found the articles very interesting. It does make us realize just how little we know, but we are enjoying the challenge of finding out.

The seed we received from you a year ago has, I'm afraid, had anything but orthodox treatment, but we are pleased with what we have been able to plant out so far. We reckon we must have had 60-70% germination, as so far we have lined out approximately 600 seedlings.

Upon receipt we put all the seed in the fridge while we wondered what to do with it. We couldn't find any articles on seed sowing in the southern hemisphere with fresh seed coming from the northern hemisphere. So after only a few days, Bruce sowed some of each variety in flats 2" deep x 24" x 15". Then after a few more days we thought we'd just plant the balance direct in the garden. A section was sprayed for weeds, and the seed sown at the beginning of October, 1984. By early January, 1985, I couldn't resist having "a poke" and found a lot of seed putting down a root. Then we really upset everything by deciding we would sell the property we have, move on to a new 10 acre block, where we would really have enough room to grow as many plants as we like. So at the end of January we scooped up as much seed as we could find, potted a lot into individual 3/4 pint pots, and the balance into large flats. Come September we found that it had made no difference which way they had been treated -- the germination seemed to be the same. Seed that was left behind in the garden we lifted and transplanted, as we did with trays and pots -- all have an easily handled leaf stem and mainly a good long root -- the poorest being in the flats which we put down to lack of depth for the root to go down in. Some appeared sort of calloused at the roots. However, a month later the seedlings are growing beautifully with very few deaths amongst them. As the balance in the trays develop to an easily handled stage, we line them out. All newly planted seedlings we keep covered with shade cloth until they are well established.

To date the lactiflora mix and '**Roy Pehrson's Best Yellow**' (is this herbaceous?) have been the slowest to germinate. Quad F2 x '**Moonrise**', '**Serenade**' F3, tetraploid peach-pink white, Dr. Reath's tetraploid mix, Reath's 26, 27, 28, Quad F3 x '**Silver Dawn**' F3, '**Vista**' and '**Archangel**', have given some lovely strong plants. I suppose it is early days yet to know what percentage we will get to grow on, but at present it all looks very promising. Then, of course, we have to wait a few seasons to see what we get in the quality of the flowers.

The tubers we received from Roy Klehm last November are looking really great and we should get flowers from most of them this season. Out of a consignment of 300 plants, including 27 tree peonies, we appear to have lost only 1 tree peony, '**Black Pirate**', so feel we couldn't do much better than that. We have another consignment at present going through customs and which we hope to plant this week.

We have a very deep black soil -- originally swamp land that has been drained -- for most of the peonies, but one block of older plants that we have obtained from private gardens round about are on a more gravelly soil and needing lots of humus. Our ground freezes to a depth of about 4 inches for maybe six or seven weeks in midwinter and I suppose our summer temperatures will be up to about 90°F, so we have a pretty temperate climate. Incidentally, to the best of my knowledge, we would be the most southern growers in the world -- being slightly more south than the Elworthys in _____. I say this only as a matter of interest, not as a boast.

All in all, we feel poised for an exciting period with all the plants showing a lot of buds -- I'd think maybe another 2-3 weeks before they're really flowering. The only plants in bloom at present being mlokosewitschii.

We will be forever grateful for the help we were given in Mansfield by members of the A.P.S. -- some day we may get back -- we would understand so much more now. We hope any members coming to N.Z. would look us up. Sorry this is such a long-winded letter, but perhaps some of it may be of interest to your readers.

Would you be able to send us some more seed -- we would love some tree peony (suffruticosa) seed. Have enclosed money -- let us know if it's not enough.

Kind regards,

Dorothy Hamilton

* * * * *

A LETTER FROM HERMANN KRUPKE, HOV 1037, S-52030, Ljung, Sweden

Dear Chris:

Many thanks for the seeds, asking for my vocation. I must say it is mostly all-round so far.

Since I worked with a little plant shop it was of interest to give more variation in peonies to customers. So it began about ten years ago. I got aware the numerous amounts of varieties and saw an occasion to spread peony news from the U.S.A.

Growing news from seeds is most interesting. I also feel as you do; all of them look beautiful. However, good flowers always should have good fragrance, so even the best peonies.

There is also on my mind to start a peony club in this country.

A visit at the Botanik Garden in Gothensburg rendered these peony seeds to you. I hope you find them useful.

Best Wishes,

Hermann

29 Dec., 1985
San Ramon, CA 94583

Dear Chris:

I know I haven't sent you a contribution in years. I really enjoy Paeonia, most of it is over my head. However, I do enjoy reading and looking up some of the things I understand.

The seedlings you sent me 3 or 4 years ago are really coming along fine – I expect to get some nice blooms along about March. My season here in the San Ramon Valley starts in the earlier part of Feb. – if the weather is mild. Probably in March this year, as we've had a very cold winter the past two months. Most of my herbaceous are early to mid – I do have some lates but generally don't get much out of them. Sometimes if the weather stays cool, I'll have a few hang on till June 6 or 7 – not often.

Tree peonies do much better here than the herbaceous. Of course Red charm is an early and it being my favorite, I have 14 plants. It is without a doubt, to me, the "best" – 2nd best to me is Deer Creek – 12 of these. Some years it's so beautiful you can't believe it.

I'm just a novice and really don't have the expertise of you real peony growers, but I don't think anyone has more fun than I do.

I started collecting seeds several years ago, set up a cold frame, 4ft x 12ft on the ground with plastic covers. I then put in 6 bags of milled sphagnum moss, threw the seeds in and covered them. I have them in there a year and then take them out and plant them in my baby garden – I don't get too many, but time will tell. I also put in more seed every year, so I figure in two years more I should have something to look at new every spring.

When I first started raising peonies I didn't know lates wouldn't do well here. I think I bought every late peony offered. There were so many I'd like to have. I spent two winters in Korea, and as much as I like peonies, I'll be damned if I move to a climate any colder than this – so I can raise a few late bloomers.

Tree peonies do very well to excellent here.

Argosy
Souvenir de Maxime Cornu (both rampant growers)
High Noon (reblooms in Sept. if weather's okay)
Chinese Dragon
Golden Van.
Shim Diagin
Shii Kag. (sp?) (these 4 very good)
Fuji no Akebono – Show – 10 years no bloom, Maybe next spring, I hope!

Best Regards,

Big Art (MacDonald)

May 21, 1986

Mr. Chris Laning, 553 West F. Ave.
Kalamazoo Mich. 49007

Box 802, RFD 2
Brooklyn, CT 06234

Dear Chris: While re-reading the Sept, issue of the peony Society Bulletin on page 20 I happened to really understand what you are trying to tell the members about SEEDS etc.

You have a vital and viable program underway, which should enhance all seedling beds of peony fanciers. For my part, I have had odd luck at different times and years to get the seeds to germinate.

Some are finally sprouting through the ground this spring after four years in the bed. Others of the same culture and year are at least 2 & three years showing growth. By that I mean that some seeds planted in 81-82 are finally sprouting above ground for the first time. Others are now in their third year and doing well.

Of course the harvest of 84 was over 400 seeds but unfortunately very few came up in the prepared, seed bed. Either birds, field mouse or else got to them during the winter as I have had a big disappointment that year.

Last year (85) was good but less seeds and, they are showing signs of life this spring. What I am leading up to is simply this ---

I desire to help you and the society out AS MUCH AS I can and would like to furnish seeds to your seed pool. The trouble is that I must be harvesting at the wrong time as witness my germinating problems. Some seeds are HARD COVERED while others are very SOFT ---- I have deliberately picked IMMATURE SEEDS (still green) and got good results from planting them in germinating ---- Other in the same plant I left to maturity and they did not germinate

SO TO GIVE YOU VIABLE SEEDS COULD YOU PLEASE INSTRUCT ME / TELL ME WHEN TO PICK THE SEEDS & SEND TO YOU, SO AS TO NOT WASTE OUR TIME AND THE MEMBERS. It would be foolish to send you seeds that will not sprout for my inexperience and lack of knowledge as to the proper time for picking --- etc.

If you could find a few minutes from your overbusy schedule to help out it would be appreciated and I will send you seeds for your project ---

As for myself I have over 100 seedlings above ground and if I live long enough will see whatever it is or what Nature has ordained ---

To my great surprise I have 4 plants growing from the TREE peonies seeds that I planted 2 years ago --- That should be interesting to wait for as I have only 2 TREE PEONY PLANTS and ONE DID NOT FLOWER AS YET --- too young

*****SO, EITHER IT IS SELF POLLINATED OR SELF CROSSED FROM THE HERBACEOUS. I SUSPECT THAT THAT SEED YEAR IS EITHER 83-84, FAVORING 84 personally.

DOES THAT SOUND INTERESTING TO YOU AND IS YOUR CURIOSITY PIQUED????

If the tree peony did cross naturally with my herbaceous planting, that avenues could be opened --- to hybridizers and experts like yourself ---

Does that result have possibilities if it flowers???

Chris. I have gotten away from the real reason for this letter so will close at once and await your guidance as to the seeds and when to pick them and at what stage or ripeness.

Thank You for listening to my ramblings

Sincerely

John F. Cote Jr.

I like your articles very much.