

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE COLLEGE

# AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

## Bulletin

MARCH, 1963 - NO. 168

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George W. Peyton, Editor — Rapidan, Virginia

## AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

### OFFICERS

President: Louis Smirnow, 85 Linden Lane, Brookville, Long Island, New York.

Vice-President: Frank L. Howell, Lake Lenape, Rt. 1, Box 485, Newton, New Jersey.

Treasurer: W. A. Alexander, 145 Eberly Avenue, Bowling Green, Ohio.

Secretary and Editor, George W. Peyton, Box No. 1, Rapidan, Virginia.

### DIRECTORS

W. A. Alexander, 145 Eberly Avenue, Bowling Green, Ohio. (1963)

Laurence D. Baker, Kendallville, Indiana. (1963)

Myron D. Bigger, 1147 Oakland Ave., Topeka, Kansas. (1965)

Pharon B. Denlinger, 5362 Free Pike, Dayton 26, Ohio. (1965)

Frank L. Howell, Lake Lenape, Route 1, Box 485, Newton, New Jersey, (1965)

Marvin C. Karrels, 3272 South 46th Street, Milwaukee 19, Wisconsin. (1965)

Clarence O. Lienau, 25804 Joy Road, Detroit 39, Michigan. (1965)

Frank E. Moots, 1127 West Broadway, Newton, Kansas. (1964)

Myles A. Neilson, 1875 West Ryan Avenue, St. Paul 13, Minn. (1965)

George W. Peyton, Box No. 1, Rapidan, Virginia. (1964)

Miss Silvia Saunders, Clinton, New York. (1965)

Louis Smirnow, 85 Linden Lane, Brookville, Long Island, N.Y. (1964)

Charles H. Stewart, 1532 Claymore Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. (1965)

Dr. J. Franklin Styer, Concordville, Pennsylvania. (1963)

Dr. Harold E. Tinnappel, Route 1, State Route 105, Pemberville, Ohio. (1964)

Allen J. Wild, Sarcoxie, Missouri. (1963)

Harold E. Wolfe, 24 South 86th St., Belleville, Illinois. (1964)

### DISTRICT V

President: Theo. K. Mysyk, Box 525, Hebron, Illinois.

Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. R. Hallett Shumway, 2021 Clinton Street, Rockford Illinois.

### OBJECTIVES

The Articles of Incorporation state: Sec. 2. That the particular objects for which the corporation is to be formed are as follows: To increase the general interest in the cultivation and use of the peony; to improve the standard of excellence of the flower; to improve the methods of its cultivation and method; of placing it upon the market; to increase its use as a decorative flower; to bring about a more thorough understanding between those interested in its culture; to properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties and kinds of peonies; to stimulate the growing and introduction of improved seedlings and crosses of such flower; and to promote any of the general objects herein specified by holding or causing to be held examinations, and awarding or causing or procuring to be awarded, prizes therefor, or in any other manner.

### MEMBERSHIP

The By-Laws state: All reputable persons, professional or amateur, who are interested in the peony, its propagation, culture, sale and development, are eligible to membership.

The annual dues are now \$5.00 a year. The year begins with January 1 and runs the calendar year. Applicants for membership should send a check or money order for five dollars payable to AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY to the Secretary. If cash is sent, the letter should be registered. The Society will not be responsible for any cash remittances made otherwise. Membership fee is \$5.00, \$3.00 of which is for a subscription to the American Peony Society Bulletin for one year. Subscription to the Bulletin to non-members, \$5.00 for one year.

### THE BULLETIN

The Bulletin is issued quarterly. Back numbers when available, will be charged at prices which will be furnished by the Editor. Current year back numbers will be fifty cents each to members.

### DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION

This department was formed "to properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties and kinds of peonies." Those who desire to register a new variety, and all new varieties should be registered to avoid duplication of names, should apply to George W. Peyton, Chairman, Nomenclature Committee. Registration fee is \$2.00 for each variety registered.



# AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



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MARCH, 1963 — NO. 168

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## *President's Message*

It is most encouraging to have the cooperation of the members of the Board of Directors, as is evidenced by Walter Alexander, Clarence Lienau and Pharon Denlinger, who were most instrumental in making arrangements for our National Show at Kingwood Center in June. At great loss of time and expense, they travelled to Kingwood Center for this purpose. Our sincere thanks to them.

During the last few months, letters were received from every member of the Board, with suggestions and offers to assist in the progress of the Society. This interest augurs well for the future of our Society. It seems to me, the contribution of articles to our Bulletin is most desired by our members. This has been expressed in several letters. Some of the topics to be discussed should be:

1. Contributions by members from every section of the country, listing varieties of herbaceous, hybrids and tree peonies which do well in their locality.
2. Details of those peonies which have stronger stems, varieties which are more floriferous than others, etc.
3. List of unusual varieties with descriptions.
4. Contributions from commercial growers concerning matters of

interest, to those who are interested in commercial cut-flower growth. This has been a weak section of our Society and articles from any of such stalwarts as Messrs. Styer, Baker, Wild, Klehm, Moots and others would be greatly appreciated.

In addition, I would like to see a section of our bulletin devoted to questions and answers on any subject pertaining to all peony types. If you have any questions, please forward them to our Secretary, who will direct the questions to members of a panel, consisting of specialists in herbaceous, hybrids, species, and tree peonies.

You should make every effort to visit the show and attend the annual meeting of members at Kingwood Center. The many peonies growing there will be of great interest as will the thousands of other plants and flowers. We look forward to a grand and glorious gathering and shall look for you there.

Now, a sad note. We learned with great sorrow of the passing of that beloved and courageous lady, Mrs. Lois Q. Gayle, who died recently after a long illness. The heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences of every member of the Society is extended to Roy Gayle, her husband, and to all the mem-

bers of the family.

Before closing, may I again ask that you try to get a new member. Every new member just makes us that much stronger. Here's wishing you an enjoyable peony season.

Cordially yours,

LOUIS SMIRNOW  
President

### MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

During the past few years many suggestions have been advanced for the improvement and growth of our society but nothing—yes, nothing—will give us greater growth than a determination by each and every one of us to add a new member or two to our Society.

This morning I received a letter from our Secretary, the beloved George W. Peyton and I quote:

"What we need more than anything else now is more members. If our members do not try to get new ones to take the place of the fast dwindling ranks of the old ones we shall soon be out of members. We are also saddled with many back bulletins and some 3000 Handbooks which move very slowly. Few of the members try to push them at all and as they are now going the supply will last a lifetime. As a matter of fact, they contain in a small space as much as any of these larger books do on how to handle peonies; in fact, some of the text in these larger books has been taken almost *verbatim* from the Handbook. Yet we cannot get a handful to join the Society largely through the inertia of our members who do little towards promoting it. Look what other Societies do."

These comments speak for themselves. We offer our members four bulletins a year, each one of great interest to all Peony fanciers, there just are no better bulletins. Furthermore, the facilities of our Society are available to each mem-

ber to help with their Peony problems. Our Secretary is constantly bombarded with questions of wide variety. Our Peony shows always attract crowds and great interest.

It is my hope that all of us will give this serious problem serious consideration and do something about it now. As for myself, I have authorized the Secretary to send a Handbook of the Peony to every new member at my expense and for every three new members obtained by a member I will send a tree peony to that member. This offer holds during the year of 1963.

Let us all do something about this now.

Louis Smirnow

### NEW MEMBERS

Roy Cline, Edgar, Nebraska  
Mrs. Theodore Czaban, 850 Oregon Avenue, Schenectady 9, N.Y.  
M. W. Gracey, Route 2, Blackstone, Virginia  
Mrs. G. G. Hohensee 6331 Fairfax, Lincoln 5, Nebraska  
Carl H. Klehm, 2 East Algonquin Road, Arlington Heights, Ill.  
Roy G. Klehm, 2 East Algonquin Road, Arlington Heights, Ill.  
Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania  
Kenneth W. Raynor, Route 2, South Street, Marcellus, N.Y.  
William Thomson, Eden Garden, Eden Road, Springdale, Conn.

### TENTH INTERNATIONAL AZALEA FESTIVAL

Norfolk, Virginia  
April 15-21

This festival is centered in the over 100-acre Garden-By-The-Sea in Norfolk, Virginia, where there will be a quarter of a million azaleas and large plantings of camellias and other flowering shrubs and trees in bloom at this time.

## PHOTOGRAPHING THE PEONY

*Mrs. Virginia P. Conklin  
Stroudsburg, Penna.*

The High excellence of the pictures in the recently published "The Peonies" whets the appetite for more. Mr. Peyton is asking for them for each issue of the BULLETIN and, with a flower as photogenic as the one we have, it's a wonder that good pictures are so hard come-by. The whole business of peony growing needs them and, with another blooming season just around the bend, now is the time to think about getting them.

When it comes to selling peonies, we are handicapped by our short season. In late May and June potential customers are wrapped up in commencement programs and weddings and it isn't always easy to lure them into our gardens when the plants are really putting on a show. We can take our flowers into the schools and churches to meet the people as arrangements, but it is not the ideal approach for anyone who has plants to sell. Given a first rate photograph, however, and you can sell your peonies 365 days in the year, Blue Law Sundays and all. You can sell them clear around the world and even into outer space (if necessary). The problem is to get the photographs and have them adequately reproduced.

### **The Commercial Photographer**

After many trials, the commercial photographers have, as a group, proved unsatisfactory. There may be individual exceptions to this rule, but, as a rule, it holds. The reasons are several. In the first place, the man behind the camera simply does not see the peony as we do. As far as he is concerned it is just another

flower in a world where flowers don't amount to much. Why waste good film on it? If he must, he will try to please you, but you find yourself struggling against a whole set of conventions by which he takes his pictures. If he is expert at portraits, he is used to working indoors with artificial lights, some of them so harsh that, without elaborate make-up, even his human subjects are unrecognizable. These men belong to what the late Will Tillotson used to call the "passport picture school of photography". Even out of doors, in broad sunlight, they don't feel that they can operate without flash bulbs. These tend to lighten all the shadows which give modeling to the flower. You couldn't flatten it out more if you went over it with a steam roller. And they wash out the color. All that is left is the general contour, the worst features exaggerated, the best distorted.

Other commercial picture-takers specialize in action. They excel at capturing dramatic moments in sporting events, and, unless you toss your peony over a high fence squarely at them, they don't see anything in it worth photographing.

Neither of these artists will feel it incumbent upon him to get to your garden when the peonies are in their prime. They will call at their convenience and if flowers and lighting are not ideal that is your tough luck. To get out of their dilemma, they both resort to the same device. They call in the nearest pretty girl pose her coyly so that she reduces the peony to the status of a mere accessory, and shoot the works. It is no use protesting. They are simply blind to the picture value of an exquisite

flower in its own right. They cannot understand that it doesn't need any extraneous human or inanimate bricabrac to justify its existence on film. To capture that—you must do it yourself.

### Camera

You need a single lens reflex camera. It is the only one that permits closeups without parallax or blurring of outlines. You can get pictures of whole plants and borders with other instruments, but the most effective pictures are those that get the individual flower in precise detail. When you think of all the lovely peonies the money would buy, the price seems high. What you pay for is a lens, and the sky is pretty near the limit. You also get an arrangement that permits you to see in your view finder exactly what you will get in your finished picture. Some of these instruments come with automatic devices that adjust shutter speed and lens opening for you, but you can get a far wider range of effects if you adjust these yourself. If you are a woman and afraid of all complicated mechanisms, you can console yourself with the thought that people with no more talent or brains than you possess are getting a lot of fun out of these cameras every day. The best approach is to set aside a sum for experimenting until you get the hang of your instrument and discover what it will do for you. As the Frenchman observed, "No omelet was ever made without breaking eggs," and if you only take pictures enough, using the full range of your various knobs, plus the commonsense with which God endowed you, you will be rewarded with at least a few passable pictures. If you are canny enough to take note of how you achieved them—

well, you are on your way to becoming an expert.

A satisfactory single lens reflex camera, made in Japan, can be bought by mail from Sears Roebuck for something in the neighborhood of \$85. It uses 35 mm. film in black and white, color film and color slides. Sears supplies all of these and you can have them processed (developed and printed) by mail, too. The slide service is excellent; the film service, less so but adequate. If you like, you can get the necessary equipment and do the developing printing and enlarging yourself.

The last word in cameras is, of course, the Polaroid, still very expensive, \$148 for the single lens reflex, but your film is developed in the camera itself. In one minute exactly, you can see what you have got in the way of a picture and can snap again and again until you get what you want. The Polaroid handles black and white film but no slides. Color film has been introduced in Florida this past winter and should be available throughout the United States this spring.

### Films and Slides

When it comes to buying film you must make up your mind as to whether you are going to work indoors or out. The same film is not adapted to use in both situations. Each roll comes with instructions for setting the camera controls so that you will obtain the best results. It is a good idea to read these directions carefully whenever you load your camera. They are "subject to change without notice" as film is developed with ever greater sensitivity.

There is a steady demand for good pictures in black and white for publication in magazines, catalogues and our own BULLET-

IN. They are much cheaper to reproduce than any colored ones. Colored film and slides can be reduced to black and white, but the process is expensive and slow and it is well worth while to take extra shots, if necessary, and get your best subjects in both colored and uncolored forms if possible.

Advertising, on the other hand, fairly screams for color. Color prints are very handy. You can show them to anybody, anywhere. But the best of them cannot compare with the brilliance of the color slide when it comes to capturing the finer nuances of hue and light in your flower. You are handicapped when you try to show them by the necessity of using a small viewer or throwing them on a screen. The APS is fortunate in the possession of a collection of 200 slides. It can surely use more. The ideal would be a complete file of all known, named varieties. There is no better way to sell our own introductions to visiting buyers from other countries than to show them topnotch slides of plants at their peak of perfection. You can study them as long as you please at your leisure as you cannot, with the best will in the world, when the plants are in the field.

### Light

The best light for your purpose is daylight, without the benefit of any winks or flashes or artificial auxiliaries except when you work indoors. But there is all the difference in the world in how you use it. Film manufacturers do their best to discourage you from taking pictures except in the period between two hours after sunrise and two hours before sunset but that is a rule at least as well honored in the breach as in the observance. The idea seems to be that the nearer you get to

high noon, the better your results will be. But the sun at midday is so strong that it can wash the color right out of a flower and the shadows lose a lot of their value. So, where is your modeling? If the day is hot, the flower may be limp. It is far lovelier in the early morning when the sun first strikes it and the bees haven't yet mused up the pollen. If the dew is still on it—so much the better! And the long shadows point up every delicate curve and contour of the petals. The light is particularly nice after a shower late in the day, too, and if it has been gentle, the blooms are refreshed and you can get exquisite portraits. Reds come out much redder at these hours of the day and those elusive blues are not quite so likely to show up as gray.

Working indoors you will have to use artificial light, of course, and filters, for the lights alone will distort the colors. Spots, winks, flash bulbs and reflectors will all be requisitioned to get the effect you want. Do experiment and take a number of exposures, whether in doors or out, with different lens openings and shutter speeds. And keep records.

### Tripod

While you are learning how to use your camera and when you take time exposures a tripod is very handy if not an absolute "must". As you become adept, you will probably discard it, for most work, because it is clumsy and takes precious time while you adjust it. Try as you may, it limits, too, the angles from which you can shoot at your subject. Unless you are very shaky indeed, the film you use today will be so sensitive that the shutter speed will be too quick to register your tremors in a blurred picture. For time exposures, where the light is

very dim, unless the camera rests on some firm foundation, a tripod is necessary.

### Background

A light flower is lost against a light background and a dark one may not show up clearly at all if it is surrounded by dark foliage. Every landscape has features that simply do not belong in your picture, however admirable they may be in their own right. You need a screen or a curtain that can provide the necessary contrast easily and effectively. A piece of plywood may serve or a strip of material. It should be simple, without a lively pattern to tease the eye and distract from the subject. A plain bath towel in a desirable shade can be most effective. In a good light it takes on a velvety lustre and the texture is soft — just strong enough to define a petal precisely. Natural stone or brick walls, weathered wood all provide ideal settings for jewel tones and airy graces. Imagination and good taste should have free play here.

### Composing

There are cross wires provided in your viewfinder that will help you to center your subject precisely in the middle of your picture. That is one safe and sure way to photograph anything. As you mature, however, you may feel that it leads to monotony and you will find that you can suggest much by placing your most interesting detail off center. The Oriental artist points out that, in doing so, he leaves his bird room to fly. Your flower will have room to grow. It takes time and patience to arrive at the perfection of balance and proportion that makes asymmetry so fascinating. But don't be afraid to experiment and keep on trying.

### Final Suggestions

Well in advance of first bloom

on your peonies be sure that your camera is in perfect working order. (The worst trouble I have with mine is a failure of the sprockets to engage the film properly. When this happens your film never unwinds as you take your pictures. There is a little rod on one spindle that tells you if all is well. Remember to watch it. If it isn't functioning, take the camera indoors. Open it and adjust the film perforations to the sprockets. Then work the advance lever until you are sure it is functioning as it should. You waste some film but that can't be helped.)

Lay in an ample stock of film—about three times as much as you think you are likely to use. You'll use it. There are several makes of color film on the market and some are better for certain purposes than others. Try them all until you know which suits you best.

Then, to paraphrase the old poem,

Focus your pictures while  
you may

For time is still a-flying.

The bud that bloomed but  
yesterday

Tomorrow will be dying.

The right light, perfection of bloom simply do not stand still — any more than time and tide — for your convenience. Drop everything and register them at the precise moment when they are at their best—or give up altogether. Study your flowers carefully, from all angles until you are sure that you have found the one that brings out their best features to the best advantage. (Remember how fussy John Barrymore used to be about having his profile photographed from the better side only?) There will be flowers that refuse to pose for you from any angle and you will want to

twist and prop them into position. More often than not you will not be able to make them behave. You can dismiss them as individuals and respect their wishes or you can cut them (if you need a picture desperately), lay them down on a flat surface, soften their outlines with a little of their own or borrowed foliage, and shoot straight down at them. With careful lighting, you will get what you need.

The dainty repetition of your subject's pattern in shadows on a background is always effective and pleasing. And so are arrangements that suggest rhythm and motion.

And there is nothing like a touch of blue to enhance the values of all the other colors in a composition. You can work it in by using other flowers such as delphinium, forget-me-nots, nigella, for instance, by using a blue backdrop or by including a bit of the sky. (For this you may have to lie on your stomach or stand on your head. If, by so doing, you sacrifice the best angle on your subject, it isn't worth while.)

Finally, try, do try, not to step on other precious plant material in your enthusiastic efforts to immortalize your peonies. Innocent bystanders have rights, too.

Quite apart from the pictures you get — and you will cherish them — you are going to see peonies as you have never seen them before — and your whole life will be the richer for that experience.

#### WANTED

We have an inquiry for Bulletin No. 1 and for the Manual (PEONIES) published in 1928, edited by James Boyd.

Anyone having copies of these which they are willing to dispose of, please communicate with the Secretary before sending.

#### DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION

The following cultivars (varieties), whose names have been approved by the Nomenclature Committee, are presented for registration.

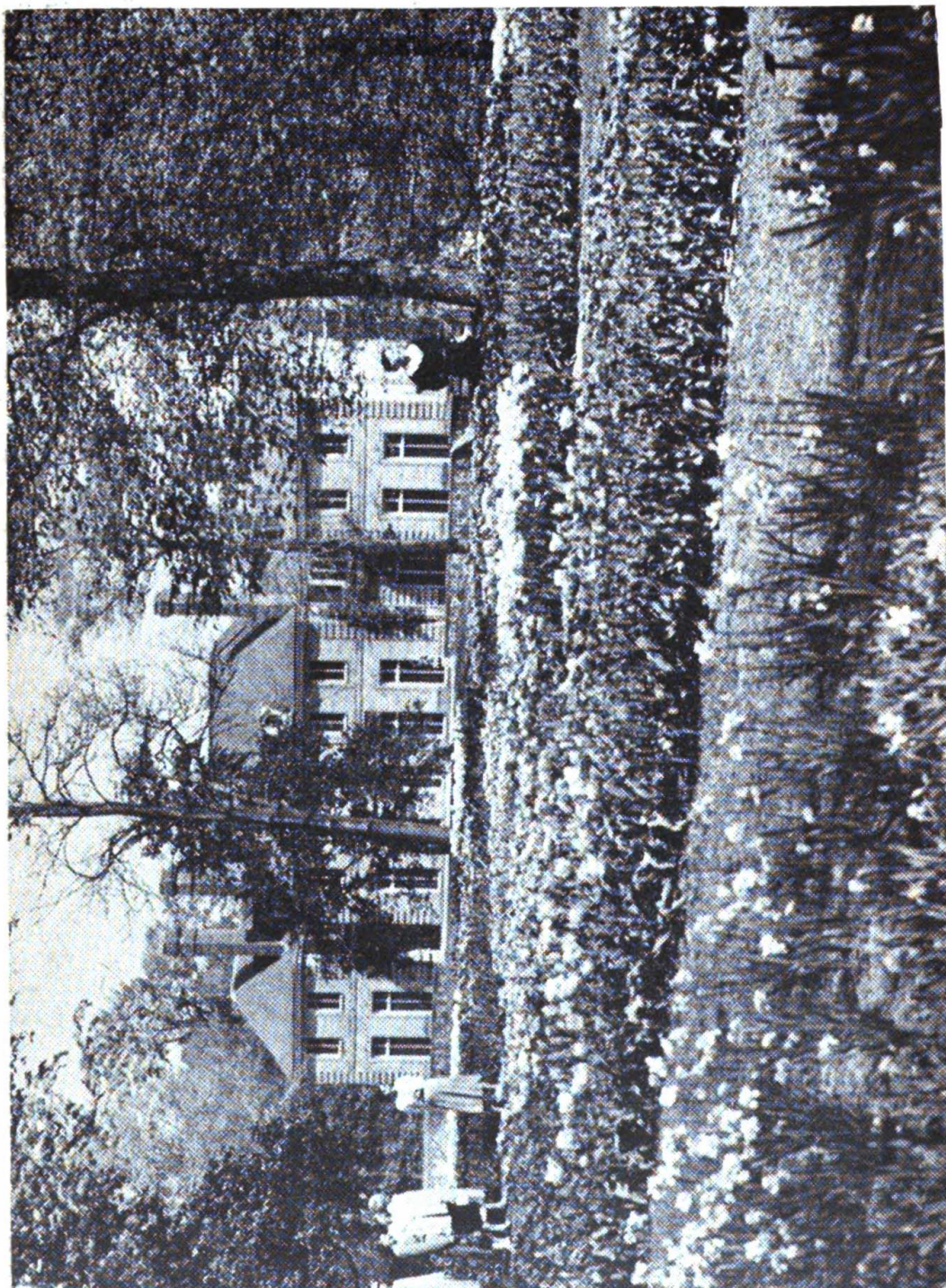
By CHARLES KLEHM AND SON NURSERY, Algonquin and Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois, originators, owners and growers,

**BOWL OF CREAM** (Klehm, 1963). D. Time of bloom not given. W. No seedling number nor parentage given. Full double rose type, long lasting flowers, large size bloom; clean glistening cream white, having hidden golden stamens, which tend to light up the center of the bloom; robust grower, outstanding green foliage; especially adaptable for landscape planting; 9½ inch flowers, 31 in. tall. Patent applied for.

By GILBERT H. WILD & SON, INC., Sarcxie, Missouri, originators, owners and growers.

**RUTH COBBS** (Wild, 1963). D. LM. Deep pink. No seedling number nor parentage given. A huge deep pink that is most beautiful. The flowers are built up about three inches and are slightly flat on top. The few stamens are hidden among the evenly spaced petals, which are edged in silver and deepening in color towards the base. The stems are stiff and it has good green foliage.

**SWAMP ANGEL** (Wild, 1963). Jap. M. Dark red. No seedling number nor parentage given. A large dark red Jap of garnet lake color. The entire blossom is one shade. The petalodes are sharply cut and the center is very full. This is a very beautiful flower, measuring eight inches in diameter and holds well. The stems are stiff and strong and the foliage clean.



**KINGWOOD CENTER — MANSFIELD, OHIO**

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***The 60th Annual Meeting***  
*and*  
***The 58th Annual Exhibition***  
*of the*  
**AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY**  
***June 7-8-9, 1963***

**KINGWOOD CENTER — 900 PARK AVENUE, WEST — MANSFIELD, OHIO**

**KINGWOOD CENTER**

**PERSONNEL**

**Raymond C. Allen, Ph.D., Director**  
**Andrew R. Knauer, B.S., Horticulturist.**  
**Mildred F. Petit, M.S., Librarian.**  
**S. David McKelvey, Naturalist**  
**Charlotte M. Devers, Activities**

**AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY**

**Show Committee:**

**W. A. Alexander, 145 Eberly Avenue, Bowling Green, Ohio, Chairman**  
**Clarence O. Lienau, Detroit, Michigan**  
**Pharon C. Denlinger, Dayton, Ohio**  
**Dr. Harold E. Tinnappel, Pembroville, Ohio.**

It is with a great deal of pleasure that we are able to announce that the above events will be held at Kingwood Center, beginning Friday evening June 7 and continuing until Sunday evening, June 9, 1963 under the sponsorship of the Center.

It is fortunate that we are able to hold this meeting at Kingwood at a time when the peony planting should be at its best, if the weather co-operates. Due to its location, which is within a few hours journey from places where the earliest peonies should be in bloom and the latest not yet out of bloom, we are hoping that we shall have all classes well filled.

In addition to the peonies the Center has large collections of many other flowers and the native woods are filled with the flora and fauna indigent to this neighborhood.

We herewith present as much information as space would allow. It is urged that every member, who can possibly do so, attend.

**Kingwood Center, Mansfield, O.**

**By Andrew R. Knauer**

Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio, is to be the site for the 60th Annual Meeting and 58th Annual Show of the American Peony Society, June 7, 8 and 9, 1963. The peony garden established in 1954 with the generous help of the society is becoming a real attraction to all visitors. In 1962 the bloom was excellent and this year prospects are certainly great for an even finer display. Members will all enjoy seeing the results of the societies' efforts.

Since many of the members are not familiar with Kingwood a few facts relative to its history, objectives and current development may be of interest.

Kingwood Center was originally the estate of the late Charles Kelley King, an Ohio industrialist. It consists of forty-seven acres of land on the western edge of the city of Mansfield together with a large French provincial style mansion and various out buildings. This

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property was left in the care of a board of trustees who also regulate the trust fund set up by Mr. King for the development and maintenance of a horticultural center which was to have as its primary function garden education. This institution was also to serve as a cultural center for the benefit of the people of Mansfield. Kingwood has no connection whatever with any branch of the local, state or federal government.

At present, the gardens, buildings and parking facilities cover about one third of the total area with much of the remaining portion being wooded. Seasonal floral displays are designed to promote a year 'round interest in gardening. At the same time specialized plant collections and test gardens serve the interest of the more advanced plant enthusiast. Tulip, daffodil, iris, daylily, rose, peony, gladiolus, dahlia and chrysanthemum collections are the most important. Mixed perennial and annual gardens complete the outdoor herbaceous plant displays. The woody plant collection endeavors to display the "new" and best trees and shrubs for the area and some special collections are undertaken. However, it does not attempt to be comprehensive because of the limited land area and the fact that there are several arboretums with excellent collections in Ohio.

The greenhouses continue the displays throughout the winter months and contain limited collections of special plant groups which are constantly being changed and revised. Effort is made to assure a constantly changing and colorful display of floral crops.

A nature trail containing a good collection of wild flowers and a modest collection of both native and exotic bird species is an additional feature on the grounds.

The educational program at-

tempts to integrate the various features, facilities and activities in a way which creates interest in horticulture. For instance, every school child visiting a month-long exhibit of school art held at Kingwood by the local school system visits the greenhouses and nature exhibits. On the adult level a home landscape course is given and detailed plans are prepared by the individual home owners with the aid of the staff. Pruning demonstration and propagation workshops are regularly held. Lectures, workshops and other activities are regularly scheduled as part of the nature program.

Meetings of a horticultural nature on local, regional and national levels are held at Kingwood and in addition other types of organizations in the cultural field use the Center's facilities. In 1960 Kingwood Center received the Distinguished Service Award of The Horticultural Society of New York.

#### **General Information**

*Place:* Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio

*Dates:* June 7, 8 and 9 (Friday, Saturday and Sunday)

*Location:* Mansfield is located in north central Ohio, about half way between Columbus and Cleveland. Kingwood Center is 1½ miles west from the center of the city at 900 Park Avenue West, on the west edge of the city.

Show, luncheon, educational and business meetings will be held at Kingwood Center. The banquet on Saturday evening will be held at the Loff Restaurant.

*Highways:* Mansfield is served by U.S. Route 30 East and West and Interstate 71 North and South. From the Ohio Turnpike leave at Interchange No. 7 at Milan and take State Route 13 due South to Mansfield. Route 30 divides west of Mansfield into 30-S and 30-N.

The Route to Kingwood Center is from Route 30-S. All roads are clearly marked with green directional signs pointing the way to Kingwood.

**Railroads:** Mansfield is on the main line Pennsylvania, New York to Chicago, The New York Central, Cleveland to Cincinnati, comes to Galion, 12 miles west. The Erie Railroad also has service from New York and Chicago.

**Busses:** The City is served by Greyhound and Lake Shore bus lines.

**Airlines:** Lake Central Airlines serves Mansfield and connects with major airlines at Cleveland, Columbus, Pittsburg, Dayton and Cincinnati.

**Shipping Instructions for Flowers:** Arrangements will be made to take care of prepaid shipments of flowers for the show by Railway, Air or Bus Express. When flowers are shipped, however, notice should be sent Kingwood Center with instructions. Any flowers received will be unpacked, placed in water and refrigerated unless otherwise specified. Flowers will be entered for persons not able to attend the show provided specific instructions are given and the specimens are carefully labeled with name and entry class. Address any and all shipments to Kingwood Center, 900 Park Avenue West, Mansfield, Ohio.

**Show Entries:** Exhibitors should be cautioned to allow plenty of time to complete their entries before 11:00 A.M. (Eastern Standard T.) on Saturday. Kingwood Center, being a public service institution, must adhere rigidly to the opening time as stated in publicity and publications.

**Entry Tags:** Anyone wishing entry tags in advance of the show, may request any specified number from Kingwood Center.

**Hotel:** Mansfield Leland Hotel,

300 rooms, many air conditioned; dining room, coffee shop, cocktail lounge and usual facilities of first class hotel. Located at Park Ave. West and Walnut Street in the center of the city and about 1½ miles east from Kingwood Center. Bus and taxi service available between Kingwood Center and hotel. Single \$6.50 to \$10; double \$9 to \$13.50.

#### MOTELS

(Arranged in order of their distance from Kingwood Center. The prices are single, double, twin, in that order.)

##### *WEST of Mansfield*

**JEWELL MOTEL** (1 mile) \$6-\$7, \$7-\$8, \$9-\$10; 1346 W. 4th St. Road (east of Rt. 30 by-pass) 18 units, tiled shower baths, radio, air conditioned, TV; PI 7-4356

**LINCOLN PLAZA MOTEL** (1 mile) \$5.50, \$6.50-\$7, \$8-\$10; 1367 W. 5th Street Road (¼-mile east of Rt. 30 by-pass), 14 units, tiled shower baths, TV, family accommodations, PI 7-5176

**BEL-AIRE MOTEL** (2 miles) \$6.50, \$8, \$10, 1985 W. 4th Street Road, 20 units, air conditioned, radio, TV, LA 2-3121

**MANSFIELD TERRACE Motel** (2 miles) \$6-\$7, \$7-\$9, \$8-\$10, 2165 W. 4th Street Road (Rt. 30N), 10 units, air conditioned, TV, LA 5-1120

##### *NORTH of Mansfield*

**THE HOLIDAY INN (Motel)** (6 mi.) \$8, \$8-\$10, \$10-\$12, Mansfield Expressway Rt. 30 (880 Laver Road) one mile west of Rt. 71. 105 units, TV, swimming pools, restaurant, JU 9-2200

**IMPALA MOTEL** (5 miles) \$6.50; \$8-\$10; \$10-\$12. Corner Stewart Road and Rt. 30 Expressway. 10 units, all modern with air conditioning, television and shower baths. No restaurant on premises but one adjacent to motel. (589-3215)

**BLUE BELL MOTEL** (4 miles) \$6-\$7.50; \$10-\$12; \$10-\$11. 1460

Ashland Road, Rt. 42, 3 miles west of Interstate 71. 28 units, tiled shower baths, TV, swimming pool, air conditioned, PY 3-6406

**THOMPSON'S MOTEL** (5 mi.) \$5-\$6, \$7, \$9, 2037 Ashland Road (Rt. 42) 12 units, TV, radio, air conditioned, playground for children, PY 3-4366

*SOUTH of Mansfield*

**MOTOR MOTEL & HOTEL** (4 miles) \$6.50-\$7.50, \$8.50, \$10.50; 1400 Lexington Ave. (Rt. 42) 44 units, tiled shower baths, TV, air conditioned. Breakfast served. LA-2-0011

**42 MOTEL** (5 mi.) \$6.50, \$7.50, \$9; 2444 Lexington Ave. (Rt. 42) 20 units, radio, TV, swimming pool, air conditioned. Breakfast served. SK 6-4376

**APPLE GROVE MOTEL** (5 mi.) 2443 Lexington Ave. Road (Rt. 42) 3 miles west of Rt. 13 and 71 interchange, 11 units back from the highway. Air conditioning available. TU 4-1428

**RECOMMENDED  
RESTAURANTS**

For Groups Desiring  
Served Luncheons

*Reservations should be made in advance direct with restaurant.*

**THE LOFF**, 1049 West 4th St. Road (about two blocks from Kingwood Center)

**L-K**, 879 Park Ave. West (across street from Kingwood; can accommodate only small groups.)

**MANSFIELD-LELAND Hotel**, 27 Park Ave., West (downtown)

*On the Northeastern side  
of Mansfield*

**GASLIGHT**, Emma Lane (Rt. 30 Expressway)

**THE HOLIDAY INN (Motel)**, on the Mansfield Expressway, Rt. 30, about one mile west of Rt. 71

*On the Southern Edge  
Of Mansfield on Rt. 42*

**HOLIDAY MANOR**, 1550 Park Ave. Road, West

**HOWARD JOHNSON'S**, 1402 Lexington Ave.

**TIFFIN AND TOFFEE HOUSE**  
1120 Lexington Ave. Road

**... P R O G R A M ...**

Friday, June 7, 1963

12:00 Noon (EST) through 11 A.M., (EST) Saturday: Prepare and place entries in the show. (Show management will be on duty until 11 p.m. Friday to help place entries)

8:00 p.m. (EST) Friday: Meeting of the Board of Directors, Officers & Show Committee in the Conference Room, Kingwood Hall.

Saturday, June 8, 1963

7:00 a.m. to 11 a.m. (EST), complete entries in the show. *Closing time for entries will be strictly adhered to.*

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (EST), Buffet Luncheon served at Kingwood Hall. Reservations will be required. See registration form.

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (EST), Show will be judged. All judges are requested to assemble immediately after entries close at 11:00 for orientation. (Judges will be served luncheon after completion of judging.) Exhibit Hall will be closed to everyone during the judging except judges and clerks. Clerks will be provided by the show management.

1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. (EST)—The show will be open to Society Members and other exhibitors.

2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (EST)—Show open to the public. (Scheduled opening time to the public will be strictly adhered to.)

2:00 p.m.—Visit peony collection in Kingwood gardens.

3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (EST)—

**ADVANCE REGISTRATION**

**60th Annual American Peony Society Meeting**

**JUNE 7, 8 and 9, 1968**

**Kingwood Center**

**Mansfield, Ohio**

***Return to Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio, P.O. Box 1186***

**To assist in making arrangements, advance registrations for the meetings will be required. Please return this card before June 1, 1968. If you plan to attend the luncheon and/or banquet, please make checks payable to Kingwood Center. Registration is required regardless of**

**whether you attend either or both meals.**

**I plan to attend the Luncheon, Saturday**

**..... number of persons at \$2.50 ea.**

**I plan to attend the Banquet, Saturday Evening**

**..... number of persons at \$3.85 ea.  
(\$6.35 per person for both)**

**AMOUNT ENCLOSED .....**

**Name .....**

**Address .....**

**Others in my party:**

**Name..... Address.....**

**Name..... Address.....**

**Name..... Address.....**

**Name..... Address.....**

**Receipts in the form of luncheon and/or banquet tickets will be forwarded to those enclosing prepayment as noted. All registrants will receive lapel tags with their name upon arrival at Kingwood Center.**



Peony Auction—to be held in the main assembly room at Kingwood Hall. Certificates for peony roots will be awarded the highest bidder. (Roots to be mailed at the proper planting time.) All profits from auction to be used by and for operation of American Peony Society.

4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (EST)—Visit plant collections and other features in the gardens at Kingwood.

6:30 p.m. — Annual Banquet at the Loff Restaurant located  $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile from Kingwood. Reservation will be required. See registration form. Mr. Harold E. Wolfe will be featured speaker following the banquet. His subject will be Peony Breeding.

The 60th Annual Meeting will be held immediately after the banquet.

Sunday, June 9, 1963

ALL DAY — Visit gardens and other features on Kingwood grounds.

10:30 a.m., (EST)—The second Board of Directors Meeting of the American Peony Society will be held in the Conference Room at Kingwood Hall.

3:30 p.m. (EST)—Panel Discussion on Peony culture, varieties and showing. Moderator: Mr. Walter Alexander, Joycelyn Gardens, Bowling Green, Ohio. Kingwood Hall Assembly Room. Open to the public.

8:00 p.m. (EST) — Show closes. All ribbons and awards will be mailed to exhibitors, therefore all entry tags, etc., are requested to be left in place. Special awards may be removed after 8 p.m. as long as sufficient notification is given the show management.

Cooperation of all exhibitors in correctly and completely filling out entry tags and leaving ribbons in place will facilitate a complete and detailed report of the show which will be compiled for the Society by the Kingwood staff. (See p. 29.)

### 58th Annual Show

Kingwood Center Exhibit Hall  
Mansfield, Ohio

Entries Close Saturday,  
June 8, 1963, 11:00 a.m., EST

Show Open to the Public  
Saturday, June 8: 2 to 9 p.m. EST  
Sunday, June 9, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

### RULES

1. All entries must be completed by 11:00 A.M. (Eastern Standard Time) Saturday, June 8th.

2. All entries except those in Division IV must have been grown by the exhibitor.

3. Entry tags supplied by the show management must be filled out completely as to class, variety, name and address of the exhibitor. It is essential that *both the upper and lower portions of the entry tag* be filled out. (The lower part of the entry tag will be the official record of the entry.) This must be done before placing the entry in the designated exhibit space. In addition all blooms must have a small wooden label wired securely to the stem with the variety name printed on both sides. In "Collection Classes" each individual specimen requires only the wooden label but one specimen must carry an entry tag completely filled out except for variety. Fully completing entry tags is the responsibility of the exhibitor or a person delegated by him. Entry tags may be obtained on request from Kingwood Center in advance of the show.

4. More than one entry may be made in a class provided each entry is of a different variety, or varie-

ties in the case of collections.

5. Where there are three or more entries of the same variety in a class the show management will create separate variety classes.

6. In classes 8, 41, 42, 43, 72, 73 and 74 the show management will create subclasses where there are three or more Herbaceous Hybrids either of the same variety or type.

7. In Divisions I, II and III Herbaceous Hybrids are restricted to those classes specified for them with the exception of class 18 or as noted in the class description.

8. All entries in the show must be correctly named except those in Section D and in the Arrangement Division IV. Entries in Section D are not eligible for awards other than class ribbons.

9. All containers for Divisions I, II, and III will be furnished by the show management.

10. All one bloom entries will be placed in a standard container. Collections of three and five blooms will be entered in special containers. Collections of more than five blooms shall be entered with each flower in a separate container.

11. The American Peony Society's manual will govern the classification of bloom types and color.

12. Only one first, one second, and one third place ribbons may be awarded in any one class but more than one honorable mention may be awarded at the discretion of the judges.

13. Ribbons and awards may be withheld at the discretion of the judges and their decisions will be final.

14. In the Arrangement Division IV no artificial plant material may be used.

15. The management reserves the right to move any entries if necessary and will exercise utmost care over all exhibits but cannot be responsible for any loss or damage.

16. Only the judges and person-

nel necessary for the conduct of the show will be permitted in the exhibition hall during the judging.

17. Exhibitors will be permitted to place entries on the evening of Friday, June 7th at any time from 12:00 Noon through 11:00 a.m., (EST) June 8th.

18. The show will close at 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 9, 1963. No trophies or entries may be removed before that time without special consent of the management. Ribbons and awards will be mailed to all winners. Specimens will be removed by the show management.

### AWARDS

The Court of Honor shall consist of the following award winners:

A. The American Peony Society's Gold Medal—To be awarded to the best collection in Class 88.

B. The American Peony Society's Silver Medals—To be awarded to the best collections in Class 57 and Class 89. Two to be awarded.

C. The American Peony Society's Bronze Medals—To the best collections in Class 18, Class 19 and Class 58. Also to be awarded to the best arrangement in Division IV. Four to be awarded.

D. The Charles F. Wassenberg Trophy shall be awarded to the best peony flower of the show.

E. The B. H. Farr Memorial Medal—For the best double *lactiflora* shown.

F. Bronze Medals—To be awarded respectively to the best Semi-double, Japanese, Single, Herbaceous Hybrid and Tree Peony blooms shown in any of the named classes. Five to be awarded.

G. Seedling Awards. The Seedling Committee may award Certificates of Honorable Mention, First Class Certificates, Bronze, Silver or Gold Medals to any entries in Section K which they judge to merit them.

H. The Myron D. Bigger Plaque

will be awarded to the best and most distinctive peony in Class 92.

I. The Kingwood Bowl. Sweepstakes Award to be awarded to the exhibitor who wins the greatest number of blue ribbons. In case of a tie red ribbons will be counted.

J. Special Award, to best entry in Class 90.

K. Special Rosette will be awarded to all invitational arrangements.

L. Certificates for peony roots will be awarded to all blue ribbon winners in Divisions I and IV.

M. The James Boyd Memorial Medal, donated by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, on a year to year basis, will be awarded to the exhibitor having the outstanding exhibit, collection, or display in the opinion of the judges appointed to award this medal.

#### SCHEDULE

##### DIVISION I - Novice

Open to persons who grow less than fifty varieties, have not exhibited in more than five national peony shows and do not sell peony plants or blooms.

##### Section A. One Bloom

###### Class 1. Double white or flesh

2. Double light pink
3. Double dark pink
4. Double red
5. Semi-double, any color
6. Japanese, any color
7. Single, any color
8. Herbaceous Hybrid, any color or type
9. Tree Peony, any color or type

##### Section B. Collections—3 blooms, one or more varieties

10. Double white or flesh
11. Double light and dark pink
12. Double red
13. Semi-double, any color
14. Japanese, any color
15. Single, any color
16. Herbaceous Hybrid, any color or type
17. Tree Peony, any color or type

##### Section C. Special Collections

18. Bronze Medal Class—One bloom each of 5 different varieties, any colors or types

19. Novice Challenge Class—one bloom each of 5 different double varieties

##### Section D. One Bloom—not identified (entries in this section are not eligible for awards higher than class ribbons)

20. Double white or flesh
21. Double light and dark pink
22. Double red
23. Semi-double, any color
24. Japanese, any color
25. Single, any color
26. Herbaceous Hybrid, any color or type
27. Tree Peony, any color or type

##### DIVISION II - Amateur

Open to anyone who does not sell peony plants or blooms as a main source of income.

##### Section E. One Bloom

28. Double white or flesh
29. Double light pink
30. Double dark pink
31. Double red
32. Semi-double white or flesh
33. Semi-double pink
34. Semi-double red
35. Japanese white or flesh
36. Japanese pink
37. Japanese red
38. Single white or flesh
39. Single pink
40. Single red
41. Herbaceous Hybrid white, flesh or yellow, any type
42. Herbaceous Hybrid pink, any type
43. Herbaceous Hybrid red, any type
44. Tree Peony white or flesh, any type
45. Tree Peony yellow, any type
46. Tree Peony pink, any type
47. Tree Peony red, any type

##### Section F. Collections—One bloom

each of three different varieties

- 48. Double white or flesh
- 49. Double light pink
- 50. Double dark pink
- 51. Double red
- 52. Semi-double, any color
- 53. Japanese, any color
- 54. Single, any color
- 55. Herbaceous Hybrid, any color or type
- 56. Tree Peony, any color or type

#### Section G. Special Collections

- 57. Silver Medal Class—one bloom each of 15 different varieties, but not more than six may be Japanese and/or single types. Herbaceous Hybrids and Tree Peonies not permitted.
- 58. Amateur Challenge Class—One bloom each of five different double varieties.

#### DIVISION III

Open to anyone; novice, amateur and commercial grower alike.

#### Section H. One Bloom

- 59. Double white or flesh
- 60. Double light pink
- 61. Double dark pink
- 62. Double red
- 63. Semi-double white or flesh
- 64. Semi-double pink
- 65. Semi-double red
- 66. Japanese white or flesh
- 67. Japanese pink
- 68. Japanese red
- 69. Single white or flesh
- 70. Single pink
- 71. Single red
- 72. Herbaceous Hybrid white, flesh or yellow, any type
- 73. Herbaceous Hybrid pink, any type
- 74. Herbaceous Hybrid red, any type
- 75. Tree Peony, white or flesh, any type
- 76. Tree Peony yellow, any type
- 77. Tree Peony pink, any type

78. Tree Peony red, any type  
Section I. Collections—One bloom each of 5 different varieties

- 79. Double white or flesh
- 80. Double light pink
- 81. Double dark pink
- 82. Double red
- 83. Semi-double, any color
- 84. Japanese, any color
- 85. Single, any color
- 86. Herbaceous Hybrid, any color or type
- 87. Tree Peony, any color or type

#### Section J. Special Collections

- 88. Gold Medal Class—One bloom each of 25 different varieties, but not more than ten may be Japanese and/or single types. Herbaceous Hybrids and Tree Peonies are not permitted.
- 89. Silver Medal Class—One blooms each of 5 different double varieties.
- 90. Visitors Class—One bloom each of 5 different varieties, any color or type. Herbaceous Hybrids permitted. Not open to exhibitors from State of Ohio.

#### Section K. Seedlings and Recent Introductions

- 91. A. Seedlings. Three blooms of one variety that has not been offered for sale. It must be identified by number, code or name and must have been successfully propagated vegetatively. Each exhibitor is limited to 5 varieties.
- B. Recent Introductions. 3 blooms of one variety of recent origin which has been named, registered and propagated and must not have been offered for sale to the

public for more than six years. Each exhibitor is limited to 5 varieties.

92. The Myron D. Bigger Plaque. Offered by Myron D. Bigger of Topeka, Kans., to the originator of the best and most distinctive new peony shown under the following conditions:

1. A specific entry must be made in this class. The number of entries by any one exhibitor is limited to five.
2. Not less than three (3) blooms of each variety entered must be shown.
3. Any new variety, named or unnamed, any type, color, species, hybrid herbaceous or tree, may be shown.
4. The varieties shown must have distinctiveness as compared to existing varieties.
5. No variety that has been offered for sale for more than three years prior to the date of this show, may be entered.
6. No variety that has won this award in any previous year, may be entered.
7. If an unnamed seedling wins this class, it must be given a name and the name of the winning variety must be approved and registered with the American Peony Society. No award will be confirmed until this provision has been met.
8. The award shall be made by the Standing Seedling Committee of the American Peony Society.
9. A photograph in black and white must be furnished free of charge for reproduction in the American Peony Society Bulletin. It will be sent to Mr. Bigger when the engraving is completed. Size preferably 4"x5".

#### DIVISION IV - Arrangements

93. The Peony Garden—Mass arrangement using peonies as the dominant flower. Accessories permitted. A traditional interpretation.

94. Peonies and Line—A line-mass arrangement using peonies as a focal point. Any color. No accessories. A free form interpretation.

95. Old Fashioned Elegance—Peonies and other flowers and/or foliage. Accessories permitted.

96. Red and Black—Red peonies in a black container. Other material may be used but only peony flowers

permitted. An abstract interpretation.

97. White Cloud—Mass arrangement in double white peony bloom. Other white flowers permitted.

98. Japanese Simplicity—Single or Japanese type blooms in the Japanese style. Accessories permitted.

99. Pink Parfait—All pink flowers. Peonies to predominate. Accessories not permitted.

100. Chinese Splendor—Tree Peonies in the Chinese style. Accessories permitted.

### ANNUAL PEONY SHOW

#### Takoma Horticultural Club Takoma Park, Maryland

This show will be held at the Takoma Park Junior High School, Piney Branch Rd., June 1-2, 1963.

This should be an excellent show this year and we hope that all who can attend will do so.

Also this will be an excellent opportunity to visit our planting in the National Arboretum, which should be in excellent shape this year. This planting is just across the Bladensburg Road from the office of the American Horticultural Society, which is 1600 N.E. U.S. 50 passes by it.

### OTHER SHOWS

As we go to press, we have no definite data regarding the other shows, usually held.

It seems rather unlikely that the annual show of the Minnesota Peony and Iris Society will be held this year, due to remodeling of the Northwestern National Bank, in which it is generally held.

Whether the show of the Duluth Peony Society will be resumed this year we also do not know.

The usual shows in Grand Forks, North Dakota, and Superior, Wisconsin, will doubtless be held. We hope to have definite news in our June Bulletin.

# TREE PEONIES

Leo J. Armatys - Central City, Nebraska

Premonitory symptoms of cultural renaissance include some of general interest to gardeners and of special interest to peony growers. Even before arrangements were made to bring the *Mona Lisa* to Washington, tree peonies were planted in the Southeast triangle of the White House garden. The saga of the tree peony is unfolding.

## THE STRONGEST GROWERS

Someone else will have to write this promised article, or it will have to wait until my garden comes of age. Much of it is still on paper. My intentions were good. I was set to lead off with SATIN ROUGE, Lemoine's *lutea* hybrid. Its underground buds take off in early spring like big white woolly worms, brush aside the rockiest soil, and produce heavy stems with wide internodal spacing.

I planned to cite the pink Japanese SUIGAN as one of several that will upstage others in a tree peony grouping if not trimmed occasionally. I would have mentioned the purple species MOUTAN. It reaches 3 feet fast, then tends to add width and stems rather than more height. It is sometimes confused with the great KAMADA-FUJI, to which it bears not the slightest resemblance. One sure test—if your plant has several dozen blooms early in May the first year or two after planting it could not be KAMADA-FUJI, but it could very well be the species MOUTAN.

There are compelling reasons—all of which involve the newer cultivars—for postponing the article about strong growers. The six-footer *lutea* var. *ludlowii* is just getting started in my garden. All I know about *P. suffruticosa* var. J. F. ROCK is what I've read about it. Sir Frederick Stern's plant reached 9 feet in height, 10 feet wide, in 20 years. Mine was planted last fall, a tiny plant with just the tip of its nose above surface. And, from out of the West (West-

ern New York, that is) comes word of an amazingly strong grower, of Japanese ancestry, that retains good form and with flowers in eye-catching proportion. I hesitate to mention its name lest the supply be exhausted before I get around to ordering it.

## BONA FIDE COMPANIONS

Bulletin No. 165 mentioned some logical plants to occupy space with Moutan in Midwestern gardens. I neglected to mention three primeval contemporaries of the tree peony (1) Magnolia, (2) Ginkgo Biloba and (3) Metasequoia Glyptostroboidea, the Dawn Redwood.

Magnolia blossoms are cut down by late frosts in this area 2 years out of 3, but that third year balances the ledger. Ginkgo Biloba is the world's oldest tree. It is the only one with motile sperm cells. They "swim" from anthers on staminate "flowers", through rain and dew, to pistillate flowers borne on separate trees. Dawn Redwood, rediscovered in China in 1944, is again growing throughout the temperate zone.

In common with Moutan, these three trees possess a phenomenal life force. Like other stalwarts of the plant kingdom, they are self-sufficient when established. They have outlived their natural enemies. Plant them within a stone's throw of your tree peonies and enjoy the mantle of serenity that these ancient denizens of our planet can bring to your garden.

## STATISTICS

A year ago January last, Flower Grower, the Home Garden Maga-

zine, announced a Best Plant contest. Twenty-nine entries have been published thus far (June-62 thru March-63). Tree peonies lead all entries with two winners, nosing out the Rosaceae family represented by one climber and a musk rose. *Albiflora* hasn't yet scored. Members growing the herbaceous hybrids are missing an opportunity to win \$10 plus the privilege of publicizing one of the choicest of plants.

Women submitted 82.76% of the published entries. Exactly 40% of the male winners nominated tree peonies. We make no attempt to read any significance into these figures, but are pleased with Moutan's showing against all comers.

#### THE BANDWAGON

Last fall a big mail-order house and a dime store chain were added to the growing list of firms offering tree peonies. Another of our largest nurseries may join the ranks within three years—and with a bang.

Perhaps we should help these newcomers by permitting them to make mention of our approbation of worthy cultivars offered. In return, their literature could recommend membership in the American Peony Society.

#### COMING SOON

Recommended varieties, in profile.

Background on the White House tree peonies.

A prize contest—details in June.

And more—about tree peonies.

#### EDITORIALLY SPEAKING

In the introduction to THE PEONIES appears the statement, "... herbaceous peonies are among the few really dependable and truly long-lived hardy perennials." No argument there. But that statement is prefaced, almost subliminally, by the incredible phrase, "In contrast to the unpredictable tree peonies . . . ." If the editors were

not aware of Moutan's longevity, they should have made discreet inquiry. Once it survives an early era of indecision, it can be expected to thrive with minimal attention. To seekers after the ultimate predictability in flowering plants, we suggest those "life-like" creations of cloth, plastic, wire and paint.

But back to THE PEONIES. It is one of the biggest garden book bargains since Doubleday published *The American Flower Garden* in 1909. Its authoritative technical information should be of keen interest to hybridist and specialist alike. It will be just as interesting and even more helpful to backyard gardeners, who will find a wealth of practical information about the genus *Paeonia*. The chapter on genetics and techniques in peony breeding is particularly good. The book is comprehensive in scope. It is well indexed. It is adequately illustrated and documented.

And it is something else. It is perhaps the last book in which *albiflora* will receive top billing over tree peonies and hybrids involving the herbaceous species. I am not suggesting that the time has come to relegate *albiflora* to utility roles. I am convinced, however, that the future of the genus is in the garden. It will be judged by performance in the garden. It is there that Moutan and the herbaceous hybrids are forging ahead.

#### Utica To Choose Official Flower

A letter from Mrs. Jay C. Springer, Vice-president of Phippen Hill Garden Club gives the information that Utica, New York, plans a campaign to choose an official flower for that city. The choice will be between the daylily, chrysanthemum, iris and peony.

She asked if we could use a write-up of this event. We replied that we could, but have had no further information.

## TREE PEONY TOPICS

by Louis Smirnow

Brookville, Long Island, N.Y.

Another listing by Oberlin which is in error is Tatio-shishi which should be Yachiyo-jishi. The former is listed as a white, while the latter is flesh colored. Actually the correct color is light blush, almost white.

It seems to me there is no other flower which is less choosy about soil than is the peony, especially the Tree peony. While acid soil is not recommended our land is in the center of oak and dogwood trees. Rhododendrons and azaleas thrive here and yet our peonies do very well, year in and year out. Tree peonies will do well in almost any soil. You are urged to use bone meal freely mixed with your soil at time of planting.

Two or three year old plants are still preferable for starting a collection of tree peonies. This past season, I saw many two year old plants with a bloom or two on each. After two or three years, they will overtake specimen plants, many of which suffer a severe setback when moved.

For a long season of bloom, I recommend Tama-fuyo, very early; Uba-tama, mid-season along with many others; then the *luteas* starting with L'Esperance and ending with Mme. Louis Henry and Aurore, last to bloom. For longest flowers, Kami-kaze, Gessekai, Hakuo-jishi, Hana-kisoi, Reine Elizabeth and *luteas*, Souvenir de Maxime Cornu, Chromatella—to mention a few.

The *lutea*, La Lorraine is a most under-rated flower. It is a symmetrical light yellow full double blooming profusely on a low growing plant. Its particular beauty is the bright red shadings hidden in the center of the flower. If you grow this variety, please look at it carefully, A professor at Colum-

bia University considers it the best of the full double *luteas*. My own opinion is that Alice Harding still is best in its class.

Another variety seldom mentioned is Jitsu-getsu-nishiki. It blooms late in the season and is noteworthy because of its striking bright red flowers, edged in white.

Some other relatively unknown Japanese varieties of great beauty are Fuyoren, an almost single light purple; Impu-mon, a very large bright scarlet; Maihime, free blooming scarlet pink of good size; Shogun, huge deep red shaded maroon, satiny petals; Suisho-haku, a gorgeous white with incurved petals.

Remember to plant tree peonies a minimum of two inches up to four inches below the union of the graft and understock. Four inches is more desirable to encourage new growth from the roots.

Very little is mentioned about the Tree Peony species. Try the *potanini* varieties color alba, lutea and rosea. The foliage is different with smaller leaves. They bloom early in the season. I cannot refrain from again mentioning the species *suffruticosa*, Rock's Variety indeed an artistic delight, extremely rare. There is still another called *potanini trollioides*, a bright yellow trollius like flower of refinement.

Invest in tree peonies for increasing beauty. Your dividends annually will be increasing flowers—most beautiful in all horticulture.

## TREE PEONY NOTES

By Anthony J. DeBlasi

Floral Park, New York

The unforgettable winter we have just experienced was matched in infamy by one unforgettable day last year, May 19, when the mercury soared to an unforgivable 99 degrees, surpassing by 3 degrees the record established

here in 1939. This was hotter than the hottest day of the summer before and the summer after!

It was a brief broil and ordinarily we would have chalked it up as another freakish turn of the weather, except that it occurred just as the Japanese tree peonies began to bloom! The blossoms of such dark-hued beauties as Ubata-ma (maroon) and Tennyo-no-hagorami (wine-purple), whose rich petals had spread open that morning, were by midday a hopeless mess.

The delicate edges of the enormous Hodai (rose) curled up from the baking action, resulting in a strange quilled look. Some of the lighter colored varieties took the heat more heroically. Kamada-fuji (lavender) steamed patiently, holding its intricate cluster of artistic petals as firmly as a piece of sculpture. Haku-un-kaku, a stately, classically-formed white, seemed as fresh after the ordeal as it did when it opened!

No doubt, the fact that I had watered the plants thoroughly the day before was in no small measure responsible for this remarkable performance. I have put it down in my notebook as SOP that each plant is to be well soaked the day before its flowers are to open. Another must is the warning that if the day is to be excessively warm, I shall pick the dark colored peonies in the morning and enjoy them indoors, although we should not have to worry about such absurd weather for another 20 years!

The blossoms of the Japanese tree peonies seem to be at their best during the forenoon hours, say between 9 and 11. At this time the blooms are open widest and exude a certain aura of liveliness that must be seen to be appreciated.

For the benefit of those who

have recently planted tree peonies for the first time, here are a few remarks to allay some qualms that may arise in your observation of these plants. If you are wondering what happened to your lutea hybrids, since their buds have turned brown and look quite dead, while the Japanese tree peonies show a life color in the bud all winter and may even be starting to swell, fear not. It is normal for luteas to look brown and dead during the winter, and they do not show signs of life until spring is definitely in the air. Getting started later than the Japanese accounts for their blooming later, a fortunate habit, for it would be almost unbearable to have both the lutea and suffruticosa hybrids blooming simultaneously! Such a delightful disaster would also eclipse the blooming period of tree peonies from 3 weeks to about 12 days!

Another possible cause for alarm might be the sudden appearance, after blooming, of a deep brown color creeping up the stem of the current season's growth on Japanese hybrids. This is merely a sign that the stem is maturing into wood and the unnatural shade of brown will gradually lighten to a normal coloration as the season progresses.

Perhaps, after great care in planting, you discover to your dismay, one summer day, that your plant has suddenly wilted, as though from lack of water (though it has rained or you have watered regularly). If the root of this plant was a good one to begin with, chances are it did not get a sufficient chance to establish itself and the plant has simply "retired" underground. If you cannot wait until next spring to see if a new stem will arise from the root dig very carefully during

## REQUEST FOR HELP

A letter has come from our good Canadian member, Mr. Ralph H. Giff, 189 Cecil Street, Sarnia, Ontario, Canada, which reads in part: "To make a long story short, buds develop each Spring (on my tree peony, Reine Elizabeth) and reach maturity during the growing season. However when the next Spring comes around, while they start to expand, they stop about half way and, very slowly, wither into a dry rot. Plant pathologists at both our Provincial and Dominion Agricultural Colleges are at a loss as to the cause. They have carefully examined the buds, leaves, stems above and below ground level, roots

the fall around the base of the plant, exposing the crown to view. You will probably notice at least one very lively eye ready to shoot up next spring.

If tree peonies must be planted where there might be wind damage, it would be wise—at time of planting—to set a heavy stake into the planting hole, along with the roots, centering the stake as nearly as possible. As new stems develop and the plant becomes bushy, the stems may be individually tied to this stake, thereby minimizing the tendency to be whipped by the wind. For permanent results, use an aluminum pipe for a stake. In any event, do not attempt to tie a stem that has not stopped growing and begun to harden.

If you live near oak trees, the chances are you have a squirrel population. They love to poke around in soft soil for places to bury their acorns and could too easily damage your plants unless you guard against them. The Department of Agriculture recommends the repellents ZIP or Thiram. I prefer to ring the bases of my plants with a thin wire net-

and soil, but still no solution.

"Strange to say, Souvenir de Maxime Cornu and Alice Harding, both rubbing shoulders with Reine Elizabeth, are not affected.

We hope some of our tree peony experts have a solution to Mr. Giff's problem and will write him direct and also send us the recommended remedy.

If I may add a personal note: Many years ago (about 35, I think) I imported from France about 30 or 40 varieties of tree peonies. Most of them were the so-called European doubles. But among them were plants of the several yellow tree peonies then known. After growing most of these in as many as four locations and always with the same results, which were quite similar to the trouble Mr. Giff is having, I gave up and when I last moved, I left most of these behind. Several neighbors moved some of the plants and they have had the same troubles.

However, the yellows did as they should and also one or two of the others have also done well, especially the pure white semi-double. Beatrix, also Eclairer, has done fairly well; and the white double, Yeso-okina, has usually bloomed. But the last is not European in origin and Eclairer is semi-double.

A similar complaint has been received from Miss Carolyn H. Protz-

ting (the hexagonal variety is unobtrusive), kept in place with a couple of small stakes. Six to 8 inches high is sufficient to give the squirrels your message. Other expedients might be: stopping the cultivation program from mid-summer on, to remove the attraction of loose soil; or covering the soil with a very coarse mulch.

A happy and prosperous 1963 to all and may this be the best Peony Year yet!

man, Box 205, Niles, Michigan. Her letter reads:

"I would like to get some data regarding the cultivation of tree peonies.

"We have one plant that produces close to 100 buds every Spring, but the buds always blight and wither. Because it has a real sentimental attachment for our family, I am anxious to take proper care of it.

"If you can tell me where I can acquire any helpful information, I would appreciate it."

### THE HENRY FRANCIS duPONT AWARD

Among the awards announced by Mr. Oliver Wolcott, President of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, presented annually to individuals, commercial firms or garden institutions that have contributed outstandingly to the advancement of horticulture is that of *The George Robert White Medal of Honor* "to Henry Francis duPont. Winterthur, Delaware, owner and developer of the Henry Francis duPont Museum and its associated gardens and arboretum. For these grounds he has selected ornamental plants for display in formal plantings and has developed native woodland areas into gardens with great taste and beauty, exhibiting the best of arts of horticulture. As a devoted enthusiast in the field of horticulture he has contributed generously of his knowledge and skill to aid America's arboreta, botanical gardens, and horticultural societies." So reads the citation as given in the March issue of *Horticulture*. We congratulate Mr. duPont on this well deserved honor.

Winterthur Gardens contain a large collection of peonies and is especially rich in the originations of Dr. A. P. Saunders.

### MRS. ROY G. GAYLE

For many years, those of us who have attended our annual meetings have usually had the pleasure of greeting that gracious lady from Rockford, Illinois, Mrs. Gayle.

The following item from a Rockford paper, tells of her recent death:

"Mrs. Lois Q. Gayle, 6930 West State Street, died Monday, January 21, 1963, in Rockford Memorial Hospital, where she had been admitted on Christmas Day. She was the daughter of Sanford L. and Anabel Adams Quisenberry, of Lincoln, Illinois. The founder of her family in America settled in Virginia in 1653. Her maternal great-grandfather, Capt. John Adams, was killed in the Stillman Valley massacre during the Blackhawk war.

"She has resided in Rockford for the past 35 years. She graduated from Monticello College, Alton, Illinois, and was active in the Rockford Woman's Club, the League of Women Voters, the American Association of University Women, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the Second Congregational Church.

"Her survivors include: her stepmother, Mrs. Ollie B. Quisenberry; three brothers, Ross, Weldon, and Wayne Quisenberry, all of Logan County, Illinois; her immediate family consists of her husband, Roy Gayle; a son, George W. Gayle, and three daughters, Mrs. Anabel A. Nyman, Mrs. Joyce Ramer and Mrs. Marylee Hyer; and six grandchildren.

Her patience in enduring suffering, her cheerful disposition, and her indomitable courage should be an inspiration to us all.

Our sincere sympathy is extended her family and host of friends. A great and noble woman has gone to her reward.

## FASCINATION

J. Paul Miller

*Grandview, Washington*

The spring of 1951 saw the initial planting of what we hoped would eventually develop into something of a test garden! devoted primarily to the Japanese type of herbaceous peonies. Stacks of catalogues were scrutinized and each variety designated as a "Jap" was recorded. From this list we frequently attempted to obtain our stock directly from the originator, otherwise from a commercial grower.

After these sources were apparently exhausted we began bothering our amiable Mr. Peyton for specimens we had been unable to obtain. Let us assure you that no one has the patience of Mr. Peyton. He must have spent many hours and much postage locating specimen plants for us and affording us much appreciated council and advice.

By 1955 we had some 230 varieties in the category that we were most interested in. However we were still constantly encountering names in the literature that we did not have on our growing list. So the planting continued to grow, but more slowly.

We had anticipated duplications (different suppliers, different names) for identical plants, but we had not anticipated the degree of inconsistency nor instability of the plants themselves. We did, of course, expect the plants to react occasionally to the change in environment, but by this time I am sure that we had begun to realize that we had gotten into something more than we had bargained for.

This might be as good a time as any to make it clear that we are confident that our suppliers made a conscientious effort to deliver varieties true to the name

they had. However, duplicates, or what we thought might be duplicates, were appearing with disconcerting frequency. We could not always be sure that they were duplicates, however, because we were soon to discover that descriptions that we had recorded the previous season, when compared with the current blossoms would sometimes lead one to believe that surely a mistake had been made and a different plant described. As a further example of variability or instability we have taken as many as four blooms from a single plant—then asked friends to match them to plants blooming in the garden. No one matched them to the original plant and all thought that they had different varieties. Some of these plants do not settle down for years if they ever do.

So far as we can determine there are at present some sixty varieties registered that we do not have; a number of which apparently are not in commerce or have been dropped from the active lists. Conversely we have some 133 varieties that presumably were not registered. It is possible of course, that some of these are actually the same as the registered varieties but under a different name.

At one time we had hoped that we would eventually have confidence in our stock and be able to say that it was true to name. "NUTS!"

Perhaps, except for fools like me, names are not too important. We try to convince our visitors that the blooms are God-made; the names Man-made and that the beauty of the bloom and the character of the plant are the important things, but it would be less concerning if we could depend upon the nomenclature. Despite the great handicaps and the un-

limited amount of work required, a committee on nomenclature and the practice of registration are most essential.

If those interested in the introduction and distribution of new varieties could afford more recognition to the registered varieties (as is done with patented varieties of other plants) at least it might help to avoid the multiple use of the same name; furthermore, if the requirements for registration could be established at a high enough standard to encourage some degree of uniqueness, dependability, and worthiness of priority, then perhaps it would be worth the effort. We recognize the time and the effort it requires to prove a variety; we also recognize that this is exactly what the American Peony Society officers have been striving for. The Society and its officers need workers and help if the situation is to improve.

Even with the number of specialized varieties we have in our garden, the records we have kept, the time we devote to the study of the plants, we are most reluctant to make comments or to put into writing our opinions regarding any variety. This is probably not the correct attitude but we never feel quite sure of ourselves. We feel that some varieties are much more susceptible to disease than others; some are much more suitable for cut flowers; some of the growth characteristics are more desirable; some are good multipliers, some are not; and the list can go on and on; but always in the back of our mind is the thought that in a different location, even in our own garden, or with different treatment, or under different environment, the results would not be the same.

Although the characteristics

that determine the type appear to be reasonably well defined, trade practices tend to confuse the chaotic, and the breeders and botanists join in the melee. The apparent indiscriminate use of the terms, Jap - anemone - semi-double - hybrid, etc., should perhaps be discouraged.

As a result of these complications, when visitors are desirous of obtaining certain specimens they view in our garden, about the most we are willing to commit ourselves is to state that we purchased the plant under the specific name, on a given date, from a specific supplier.

Perhaps from the above you would think that we are discouraged with the idea of a test garden. Nothing could be further from the fact. We have only begun, and if we had more time, more space, and more money we would expand the operation immediately. We probably have not come up with a single important answer, but nothing could be more fascinating than the very unexpected results that occur each spring when the peonies begin to bloom.

When designed, our record forms were thought to be adequate and perhaps they are, but now we wish we had been more precise and methodical in recording the data. A standardized record form that could be readily exchanged between interested growers and universally interpreted by any committee, might encourage more test gardens and encourage cooperation by growers who now just do not feel qualified to pass judgement.

Personally we would like to work on the genetics of the peony species in an effort to determine, where possible, the dominant and recessive characteristics. Recognizing the problems of

linkage and other complications the task appears endless, but each bit of knowledge gained and added to that of record can contribute to reaching objectives in the future.

Of course a person should devote an entire lifetime to such an undertaking and live to be a thousand if he expects to accomplish very much, but at that it would be a wonderful life.

### NOTES

In a recent letter Mr. L. W. Kephart, Takoma Park, Maryland, had this to say about a subject that has been discussed lately:

"One comment that I might be permitted to make, is that the apparent decline in public interest in peonies, may be due to the confusion caused by the large number of new varieties. Most of these, in my limited experience, are little better for GARDEN purposes, than the best of the old varieties, at least in the whites and light pinks. The dark pinks and reds are another story. They were always the weak groups and some of the new ones are definitely superior. The difficulty is that there are so many new ones and the claims for each are so importunate, that the ordinary gardener, with limited purse and space, cannot make an intelligent choice, and loses interest. The purpose of a symposium, of course, is to aid that choice, but I am not sure that it does. *Le Cygne*, for instance, is still rated No. 1 by many growers, but you know how useless it is in this area.

For myself, I like to visit large plantings in my own neighborhood and make my selection from what I learn there. That is why I think that official test gardens in each of the principal peony areas, is one of surest ways to reawaken public interest and confidence in this most gorgeous of all flowers.

I suspect that the same objection to the proliferation of new varieties applies, or soon will apply, to some of the other flowers, *Glad-iolus*, *dahlia*, *daylily* and *African violet* are so beset with new and "better" varieties each year that I, for one, have lost interest in trying to keep up. *Roses* are an exception. For some reason, people will still go all-out for the new ones even though they know from experience that only a very few of them will be really superior.

Peonies suffer more than the others from this for the very reason that makes them desirable—they last for 40 years and are a permanent investment. As a closing argument, may I say that last year, the best and second best peonies in my garden were—so help me—*Festiva Maxima* and *Sarah Bernhardt*. One had 62 elegant blossoms and the other 57, and both are on plants planted in 1923.

### THE LOUISIANA ROSE FESTIVAL

"The Rose—International Queen of Flowers" will be the theme of the second Louisiana Festival of Roses which will be held in Hodges Gardens. Many, Louisiana, May 4-5, 1963.

The sponsors are the Louisiana Garden Club Federation composed of over 300 clubs and 10,500 members with the A. J. and Nona Trigg Hodges Foundation as co-sponsors.

Hodges Gardens contains one of the finest rose plantings in this country of both old, historical and modern roses. It also contains large collections of many other plants and is beautifully situated and maintained.

Since this garden is located somewhat south of Montgomery, Alabama, it may be difficult to grow peonies there. We hope any of our members who may visit it will explore the possibility of this.

## NOTES

A note in the Garden Writers Bulletin for March, 1963, tells us that Mr. Arno H. Nehring has asked that he be relieved of his duties as executive secretary of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, but will continue as director of exhibitions. This is his 30th year with this Society. Mr. Carlton B. Lees, now director of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, will succeed Mr. Nehring on June 1.

It is also noted that Mr. and Mrs. Nehring have collaborated in a new book, "Propagating House Plants for Amateur and Commercial Use" published by the Hearstside Press, Inc., of New York.

## THIRTIETH ANNUAL HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK IN VIRGINIA

April 20-27, 1963

This state-wide event is sponsored by the Garden Club of Virginia and the proceeds are used to restore historic homes that are not privately owned.

More than 200 homes will be open to visitors this year. Many of them date from Colonial times and a few are modern. The gardens will be filled with blooming spring flowers and shrubs.

Full information may be obtained from Room 3, Messanine, Hotel Jefferson, Richmond 19, Virginia.

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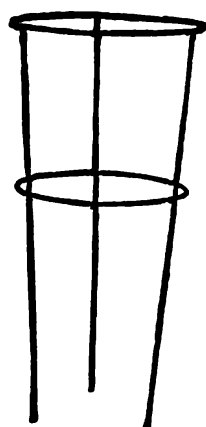
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## THE ANNUAL PEONY SHOW OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

May 11-12, 1963

The Peony Unit of the Oklahoma Council of Garden Clubs will hold their annual show in a new air-conditioned building for two days on the above dates.

Its theme will be "Peonies, Peace and Patriotism".

Their awards dinner will be held on Saturday evening, May 11.

This Unit celebrated their twenty-first birthday on February 11th when they had their annual Anniversary Tea, honoring their former presidents.

### I G A 63

This International Show will open on April 26 and continue until October 13, 1963 in Hamburg, West Germany.

There will be many special shows held between these dates. See Bulletin for June, 1962, No. 165, for full details.

So far we know of no member who expects to attend from this country except our former President Mr. Clarence Lienau who hopes to go there soon after our annual meeting at Kingwood Center. However, doubtless others will go and we hope we shall have full reports from them of their trips.

We hope as many of our members will attend this show as can do so.

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Section	Class		
<u>A</u>	<u>1</u>		
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