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The American Peony Society Bulletin



In Appreciation

It was our pleasure to hold the 75th annual meeting of the American Peony Society at beautiful Kingwood. Our deep gratitude to all those that made our convention so pleasant. The charm and beauty of Kingwood hall with its spacious rooms, and picturesque stairway expressed a silent welcome when entering, as many pedestals of artistic arrangements of peonies showing professional art greeted all the members.

In the show room, which is made available for thousands of visitors, banks of peonies were displayed in a graduated effect, while artistic arrangements filled the width of the room.

The physical arrangements made the display of peonies so attractive and beautiful. The Court of Honor was magnificent again. It was the planning in the use of irregular height pedestals which made each peony that was awarded the rosette, show its exquisite beauty.

For all the planning and work entailed for our Convention and in the arranging for an exhibition of this magnitude, we thank you.





ROSELETTE'S CHILD F2
5-15-78

Many early hybrid peonies have large leaflets, often reminiscent of the Macro Hybrids.

The large leaves borne by this seedling of ROSELETTE'S CHILD show an interesting downward curve that is quite unique.



DEMETRA, Lutea Hybrid Tree Peony gave 24 blossoms in the 5th year from transplanting.



FIRELIGHT, quadruple Hybrid



Peonia SUFFRUTICOSA
Seedling of ROCKS VARIETY, closeup photo showing large purple flares.

Photographs, Don Hollingsworth, 5831 North Colrain Ave., Kansas City, Missouri.

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

250 Interlachen Road

(612) 938-4706

Hopkins, Minn. 55343

President Dr. Carl H. Klehm
Vice President Ted R. Mysyk

Secretary-Treasurer Greta M. Kessenich
Bulletin Editor Greta M. Kessenich

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Detroit, Mich. 48239
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Vulcan, Mich 49892
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Johnsonville, New York 12094

Terms Expiring 1979

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250 Interlachen Road
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West Allis, Wisconsin 53227
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Topeka, Kansas 66616
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P.O. Box 482
Woodstock Illinois 60098
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DEPT. OF REGISTRATION

The department was formed to properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties and kinds of peonies. All new varieties should be registered to avoid duplication of names.

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

OBJECTIVES

The Articles of Incorporation state: Section (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 methods of its cultivation and methods 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 kind of the general objects herein specified by holding or causing to be held exhibitions, and awarding or causing or procuring to be awarded, prizes therefor or in any other manner.

The AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY BULLETIN is the official Society publication. It is mailed postpaid quarterly to all members in good standing.

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 for membership. Dues are as follows:

Single Annual	\$ 7.50	Junior of member family	2.50
Single Triennial	20.00	Junior non-member family	3.50
Family Annual	10.00	Life	150.00
Family Triennial	27.50	Commercial membership	25.00

Family membership, any two related members in same household — One Bulletin.

Junior membership, any age through completion of High School — Separate Bulletin.

For those who wish to further support the Society, the following special memberships are available.

Contributing	\$ 25.00	Supporting	\$100.00
Sustaining	50.00	Patron	250.00



AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



September 1978 — No. 227

TABLE OF CONTENTS

In Appreciation	1
Photographs of interest	2
Officers and Board of Directors	3
Table of Contents	4
From Your President	5
Bouquets of Experience — Anthony J. DeBlasi	6
Botrytis in Peonies	7
Botrytis and Benlate — The Late Walter A. Alexander	8
Itoh Hybrid Stem Buds Used As Scions — Don Hollingsworth	9
Peony Culture — William H. Krekler, Reprint	10-11
Peonies, Herbaceous and Trees in California — A. R. MacDonald	12-13
Fall Planting 1978	13-14
New Reports of the Ludlow Peony Flowering in North America — Don Hollingsworth	14-15
Registration	16-18
Reduce Peony Shipping Losses By Using Careful Methods in Packing — Don Hollingsworth	18-19
Tree Peony Topics — Louis Smirnow	19-21
73rd Annual American Peony Society Exhibition, Kingwood Center ...	21-27
Seed Program — Chris Laning	27
Peonies and People — Charlotte E. Sindt	28
Office of the Secretary Report 1977-1978	29-30
Board of Directors Meeting June 9	30
Board of Directors Meeting June 11	31
American Peony Society Annual Meeting	31-32
What Would You Do? — R. W. Tischler	32-33
Horticulturist Re-discovered — Clare Sheppard from Vermont Leaf	34-36
Lure of the Peony — Rev. C. S. Harrison, Published in the 50th Year of the Society	36-38
Description of Seedlings — Chris Laning	38
Wanted — Names of Fragrant Peonies	38
Financial Statement 1977-1978	39
My Experiences with Tree Peonies	40-41
Gift of Colored Slides — From Gene Wild	42
Colored Slides Collection	42
American Peony Society Books	43-44
Advertisers	45-47
Amy Smith and Moonstones	48



FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends:

I wish to thank our past President, Joe Glocka, for his excellent job, as well as our able Secretary, Greta Kessenich, for the good job that she performs.

The National Peony Show at the Kingwood Arboretum this year was a great success. It was a pleasure viewing all the nice peonies that were on exhibit, as well as meeting with the Lienaus, Karrels, Sindts, Ewings, and Kreichbaums — also all the other peony people.

On behalf of the society I wish to thank Kingwood Arboretum Director, Frederick Roberts, and his staff for an excellent job. The show was very well received by the public in my estimation and will be another boost for peonies in that part of the country.

I would like to extend a personal invitation to the National Peony Convention in 1979 which will be held in Champaign-Urbana on May 24, 25 and 26, 1979. Our fields have fully recovered from the hail and should be in great shape for next year. There are approximately 80 acres of peonies in view. Our family will do our utmost to make this show a great success.

I think our society should fully back the proposed garden by Mrs. Cornell at Cornell University. Please send in your selections of named varieties you wish to donate for this garden, of Garden Quality Peonies to Greta Kessenich.

Sincerely,
Chuck Klehm

BOUQUETS OF EXPERIENCE

Anthony J. De Blasi

RFD 198A E., Wakefield, N. H. 03830

Like the climax of a moving symphony the peony bursts into beauty each spring. Its rhythms pulsate with the creative energy that molds notes into great music. Its floral unfolding leaps out of the world of common experience and leads the heart to the secret fountain where springs music and poetry. Here stirring melodies, haunting harmonies and thrilling modulations seem to wind their magic way into the fabric and formation of each resonant petal.

My mixed metaphors are inspired by what sometimes occurs in dreams. There the senses often commingle into a friendly confusion that makes it quite easy and natural to "taste" colors or "feel" sounds. The mind rejects such notions as nonsense, yet there is value in poetic license when it comes to jiggling words into yielding more than they were designed to give. When we try to describe an extraordinary experience, matter-of-fact wording is not enough. Our language doesn't seem to fit even a buttercup without some stretching.

I can hardly contain myself from concluding that if one could "hear" a peony, it would sound like the cascading eloquence of a Rachmaninoff passage or the melancholy sweetness of a strain by Delius. Or it might be like the most musical line in a poem by Poe, or perhaps the most intensely lyrical expression by Shelley. (Is there any doubt that the peony is Romantic?)

The beauty of the peony or of an inspired artist's articulation penetrates the crust of ordinary experience and drifts into an ethereal region where—oddly—we feel at home. While there are no words to name it or describe it, we all know this elevated feeling in which the spirit seems to draw a deep breath and relax in an atmosphere of homecoming. Philosophers have called it the *esthetic experience*. But what is this nameless "place" that we seem attracted to and which we "visit" at each glance of a beautiful flower, scene, painting—sound of an exciting musical passage—reading of a precious piece of literature?

The question is a bold one, to be sure. Having dared to ask it, dare I answer it? If I tried I probably would not manage it, for I have tread on ground where question-and-answer reasoning is out of place. In a quatrain that I composed as a boy,

"I asked a lily what might be
Life's mystery all wrapped in mist—
The lily gently stood there
Silently pouring sweet scent."

As one might interpret that: Don't ask—enjoy, enjoy!

Suffice it to say that these esthetic experiences fill a deep, human need. In the mind's restless Odyssey through oceans of experience, it comes to pause, now and then, at a natural or humanly-created object

of beauty—a whirlpool in the stream of consciousness—a “prism” through which the energy of the universe seems clearly focused and arrayed. And the event puts us at ease and in step with the Divine.

One need not be a gardener to recognize that flowers are such “prisms.” The peony happens to be an especially pure and perfect one.

Some young people, raised perhaps in an atmosphere that stifles beauty, have sought their esthetic experiences by way of drugs. But there is no need for such forcible means of taking “trips.” As a matter of fact, aside from the dangers in hallucinogens and other unnatural vehicles for “expanding” the mind, such experiences are dull compared to the rapture and the ecstasy of a healthfully and naturally perceived great work of art, music, poetry, or natural wonder. To the receptive soul, unjaded by the excesses of modern living, an arrangement of peonies in an appropriate setting is a richer experience than one is likely to get from a heady wine or a psychedelic ride.

Today people aged 3 to 90 are busy transforming unused plots of soil or sections of lawn into vegetable gardens, in the 20th-century's gradual turn-around toward more natural living. In these new gardens, if one will set aside a few square feet in an out-of-the-way portion of the plot to plant a peony he or she will have set the stage for an annual bouquet of experiences that will feed the soul, while the rest of the garden feeds the body. Give it a chance to take hold and that peony will continue to spout fountains of glorious poetry to future generations.

COLD, DAMP, RAINY WEATHER IN THE SPRING BREEDS BOTRYTIS IN PEONIES.

Botrytis blight can be detected long before buds have set and blasted. Shortly after the early spears poke through the ground, the initial pair of leaves will turn black and drop off. If infection is not severe the plants may continue to grow, apparently quite normally until the bloom buds just begin to form. At that time some greyish mold-like filaments may appear just under the buds, or on the underside of the leaves; there may be some cankerous lesions appearing on the stems. In the last stages before expected bloom, the stem will darken and shrivel just under the bud, and the buds will turn brown and fail to open. When broken open the buds will often contain thread-like mycelia of the *Botrytus* fungus.

Spray with Bordeaux. While Bordeaux is effective, it leaves a lot to be desired as the ideal fungicide. First, the commonly sold dry mixtures are not more than half effective, often less so if carried over from season to season, or if exposed to moisture in the interim. Concentration is also fairly critical, although peonies are fairly tolerant to a variance in strength or concentration of application.

Many effective fungicides are now available and just as effective in combatting Botrytis. Most of the carbamates, under trade or

generic names, such as Fermate and Zineb are good. These can either be used as a dust (preferable as a soil surface treatment) or a spray, starting as soon as leaves begin to unfold. As far as is known, these products do not build up a soil toxicity and are generally safe on all types of plants. Newer fungicides include Captan, Phaltan, and Benlate.

BOTRYTIS AND BENALTE

Taken from an article written by the late W.A. Alexander, one of the great peony men of our time.

Botrytis is devastating. There seems to be more than one form of the disease. The form that plagues me cuts down the young shoots soon after they emerge, and they rot clear down to the crown of the plant. It strikes a few mature stalks and terminal buds, but that phase is minor. The fruiting bodies of the fungus appear as a grayish-brown mold. In addition to the few dead stalks, there will be some "leaners," stalks in which the disease was arrested before it completely girdled the stem near the ground, leaving it weakened and leaning, but still green and healthy appearing. Most of my lactiflora varieties are either immune or highly resistant to the disease. Even so, the loss of only a few stalks might be hard for the backyard gardener with only a few plants to take.

With hybrids it is a different story. Many of them, about half of my varieties, are very susceptible. I have lost some completely and others have been reduced to three or four stalks per clump. And it gets worse by the year. Many of the lobata hybrids are extremely susceptible. I remember seeing big, fine clumps of several of the Saunders lobatas in the garden of the late Dr. Harold Tinapple that had dwindled to three or four stalks. Culprit: botrytis. The only way to save such severely infected plants is to dig them, cut away all diseased tissue, disinfect and replant in clean soil.

I have tried all manner of things to control botrytis: all the common fungicides such as Bordeaux mixture, Fermate, Captan, Phaltan, have removed soil from over and around the plants and filled in with clean sand; and I always cut and burn tops. Nothing seemed to help one bit. Then two years ago I got hold of a small sample of Benlate. I did not know how to use it, when or the strength; and I had no time to find out, if I was to use it that season. So I took a chance, used a tablespoon to the gallon of water and poured one to two cups per clump over the emerging shoots, repeating in ten days, that time pouring it on the foliage if any leaves had developed. I had enough material for only a few plants, so naturally chose the worst infected ones. The results were almost spectacular, near 100 percent prevention. Untreated plants were again badly infected.

Last spring I treated more plants, as many as my supply of material permitted. I was advised to increase the amount to two

tablespoons per gallon. Again the results were near 100 percent positive, although it was a bad year for botrytis, much cold, damp weather which are the conditions under which it thrives. Even lactifloras had quite a little of the infection. To sum up my experience with Benlate: I am completely sold on it, and will use it regularly on my hybrids from now on, barring the unforeseen.

ITOH HYBRID STEM BUDS USED AS SCIONS.

By Don Hollingsworth.

Bud graft of Itoh Hybrid, using a bud from the semi herbaceous stem that is lost over winter in these hybrids. The bud only, no stem tissue, was shaped and inserted in a root of Alice Harding, Lutea Hybrid. A bud of the root cultivar is developing in the picture.

Photo taken in the spring as stored grafts were unpacked and planted in pots.



The Itoh Hybrid peonies look like their Lutea Hybrid tree peony parents in many respects. For example, they often produce vegetative buds in the leaf axials and at the end of above-ground stems as is characteristic of the tree peonies. However, the Itoh stems are herbaceous like those of their Chinese peony parent. Grower reports indicate that no amount of winter protection has been successful in keeping the Itoh Hybrid stems alive over winter. Thus the above-ground buds are lost.

In the past, I have attempted to make scions of the above-ground Itoh stems and graft them on nurse roots as is commonly done with tree peonies. The scions always failed. On the other hand, I had good success in grafting scions made from underground buds, using methods similar to those described by David Reath in this Bulletin (June 1978) for grafting herbaceous peonies. Consistent with these results, there is a clearly visible difference in the stem's appearance between its persistent underground part and its herbaceous above-ground part, comparable to that seen in the Chinese peonies.

In the fall of 1977 I tried a slightly different technique of grafting Itoh stem buds, with limited success. Instead of using part of the stem as when making a conventional scion, only the bud was used. The lower half of the bud was shaped into a wedge by making two opposite cuts. A cleft to receive the bud was prepared in the nurse root by making a cut close enough to the outer curve to give a flap a little wider than the cut surfaces of the bud. The cut was made deeply so that the flap would be long enough to help hold the bud firmly when bound.

The binding was done with the same plastic tie material as used for scion grafts, which is about one-half inch wide. This proved to be

clumsy to work with, especially with the smaller buds. I believe rubber binding strips, waxed cord or rattan binding would be of more suitable width for drawing the nurse root flap tightly against the wedge of the bud and against its top to keep the bud from sliding upward.

About 30 of the bud grafts were made, of which one survived and is growing. The grafts were packed moist for the winter (kept warm for a few weeks, then cold, to reduce bud dormancy). In March the grafts were unpacked and the survivors planted in containers.

At potting time the accompanying photo illustration was made. Note the good growth of new roots, which, I believe, usually indicates that a good graft union has formed. The nurse root in this case is Lutea Hybrid "Alice Harding" and it has formed a bud of its own, seen on the left side in the photo. (This self bud may also have influenced the good growth of new roots.)

Use of the stem buds of the Itoh Hybrid peonies without a portion of the stem shows promise as a technique for converting them to good use. However, additional trials must be made in attempt to refine the technique, before it can be advocated as an efficient method.

PEONY CULTURE

by William H. Krekler, Sommerville, Ohio Bulletin 207

In Ohio, after the frost kills the top of the peony in September, we think is the best time to transplant herbaceous peonies. We have always planted from August first until the soil froze hard, about Thanksgiving time, but the September plantings were always the best. Their buds were fully developed then and they still had time to make roots before the ground froze.

In California, there is no frost to kill the tops, so they should be cut to the ground in autumn to force a rest period. It is advisable to plant peonies on the north side of buildings, in that area. It is not so hot and the soil will not dry out so quickly. Water frequently.

Root divisions may be kept over winter in cold storage for spring sales. They should have plenty of roots because they can make few, if any, before hot weather comes. Spring planting avoids the frost heaving problem. Getting soil replaced over heaved plants before they start to dry is a messy, wet task. Older established plants seldom heave, unless in a very wet place.

In new plantings, a mulch will help avoid heaving. A mulch is not to keep a new plant warm but only to keep the soil frozen. It keeps the sunshine from contacting the soil and thus thawing it.

Every time the soil thaws and then freezes that night it pulls up the plant, little by little. Do not let it thaw.

Grass clippings, leaves and fine mulches pack down and cut off air, which may cause mold, rot and hold too much moisture.

Coarse mulches as corn stalks, evergreen boughs, excelsior, a thin layer of straw, will shade the soil yet will permit air to the surface.

Never use hay as the seed will grow and you will have a meadow to hoe out later.

A low growing winter grass got started in our rows, which was too low to do damage and it helped to keep the soil frozen and from washing. The peonies that I have sold in Alaska always did well, if they were properly mulched.

After a peony clump has been washed clean and diseased parts (if any) cut out, cut roots back to about six inches in length.

When digging, why try to get long roots, as they will be cut off later. Most generally, you can cut at least one division off the side of the clump. The remainder of the clump can usually be cut in two or perhaps three nearly equal parts.

Use a sharp butcher or small hunting knife, but do not cut until you have carefully figured where to cut, so you will have an equal number of buds on each part. Now with a good, sharp peeling or pocket knife make remaining divisions, providing any can be made with buds on each one. Always cut away from your holding hand. Should your knife hit an unseen soft rotten place and suddenly zip through, your hand would not be in its path. My hand has many scars attesting to my being in too much of a hurry. Always cover the thumb of your hand that holds the knife, with a thumb guard, easily obtained from cutting a finger or thumb out of a tough old leather glove. Always use, as you cut toward it, in trimming a division.

Peony divisions may be kept in bushel baskets containing barely moist old sawdust until ready to ship. Fresh new sawdust will heat and be too hot. Sawdust too wet, will rot roots. Never put sawdust in a trench or hole with peony roots as this may cause them to dry. It may be put on top of the soil as a light mulch. I use sawdust an inch or so deep on seeds that I have sprinkled on top of a bed. Place seeds about one inch apart. This sawdust helps prevent soil drying, and weed seeds from sprouting. (Keep seedlings weeded and transplant in two years, in rows.)

Hybrid peonies are divided about the same as lactifloras, also Hybrid seedlings take longer to attain flowering size than lactifloras.

Every variety is marked with a one by four inch heavy plastic vinyl label, on which the name is written with a common soft lead pencil. It is then varnished (not shellac) over the pencil marks, so later the soil can be rubbed off the label with thumb without smudging the pencil marks. These tags are pinned to the ground, in the row with a galvanized nine inch long gutter nail that has a rather big head. My Gravely mower can cut off peony tops in autumn and pass above these labels without harming them. These labels last for many years. Always keep a record book in case some mischievous youngster pulls up your nail stake. Zeneb, with a poison for thrip makes a good peony spray.

Plant peonies that you will cut to be your guests or for graves, in

an inconspicuous place. Cutters should carry blooms high above their bush, so you may have a complete harvest without cutting leaves. Never cut over half of the flowers of a peony plant. For landscaping with peonies, select a peony with flowers that are low on the bush but not nestled down among the leaves. We should use more dwarf varieties (as Dutch Dwarf) for edging walks and beds, on graves, and spotted here and there in low evergreen foundation beds. Peonies make a lovely hedge, when planted about two feet apart. A real show place is a wide border of peonies, with blooming date from first to last of season, with some bulbs, daylillies, phlox and mums intermingled.

Plant this wide irregular bed in front of a background of better shrubs, with a wide sod walkway between so roots and shade of the bushes will not harm the peonies. This border of peonies should average about four feet apart. Some better bushes are — rhododendrons, hardy azaleas, clethra, Ilex, prunus triloba, persian lilac, some viburnums, with an occasional hemlock, canoe birch clump or dogwood tree.

For beginners some dependable reasonably priced varieties of peonies are — (red) **Tempest**, **Montezuma**, **Red Charm** (blush and rose) **Westerner**, **Flame**, **Mrs. F. D. ROOSEVELT** and **Dawn Pink** (Near White) **Miss America**, **Myrtle Gentry** and **Do Tell**.

Plant and enjoy more peonies.

Peonies, Herbaceous and Trees in California.

A.R. MacDonald, San Ramon, California.

The rain was more than we expected this last winter in California. Most of the weather came out of the south, so it was warm air and so much cloud cover that we did not have the usual amount of frost. In a normal year we do have frost almost every night from November until May.

I live in the San Ramon Valley, approximately 40 miles from San Francisco. There is a range of foothills between the valley and San Francisco Bay. About three and one-half miles to the north-west lies Crow Canyon, which is a pass through the foothills that allows the wind to come up in the afternoon. Normally this allows cool air to enter the valley and it helps clear the skies so heat can escape, and generally cool nights are enjoyed.

Tree peonies do best in partial shade but as yet I am undecided about sun or partial shade for the herbaceous. It gets very hot here in the summer during the day; nights are generally cool, from 50-60° F.

Blooming season is from March through June. This year **Rushlight** came through the ground in January but with all the rain, it was ruined.

Red Glory bloomed March 1 and since then many other have bloomed. All the tree peonies seem to be on normal behavior but the herbaceous are really upset. With little or no chill factor, it looks like

about so-so. Out of the 50% that are going to bloom only 35 of these will be above normal. Some of these will be outstanding.

Feeding program takes place in July using rock phosphate and potash. A heavy mulch of rice hulls and horse manure is also used. Generally, some urea is mixed with the rice hulls. The mulch keeps the soil cooler when the temperatures soar. It also keeps weeds at a minimum and they are easier to pull.

By all standards, my peonies are planted much too close together. They seem to do as well as those planted with more room. I have been pleased with the results so I will not change that aspect of growing peonies. My wife cuts the blooms and takes them to school to pass around. We give flowers to any and all that ask for them.

There is a good possibility that this fall, I will be the proud owner of a start of **Oliver F. Brand** (Brand 1928). I mention this only because I would like to see something set up so that hard-to-find, rare species and old varieties could be found.

FALL PLANTING 1978

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, was designated to be the home for the correction of the peony nomenclature 75 years ago. Land was donated for this cause and one of the members, Mr. Coit, was in charge of this very difficult and exacting project. As a result, the American Peony Society does have a corrected nomenclature. Now, these many years later, The American Peony Society can return with thanks, a gift of named varieties, both herbaceous and trees. (P. 46 Bulletin 226.)

A walk-through garden has been designed. Peonies not only will be in group plantings but also with compatible flowering perennials interplanted along the borders extending the color and charm of the garden through the growing season. The Board of Directors were in accord that such a planting be made and that members of the American Peony Society be asked to contribute a root or roots for this garden. We do not forget the past, so let the present gift be an expression of remembrance.

Send the names of your peony varieties you will contribute to this office, marked for Cornell University. Send your gift of peonies to —

Richard M. Lewis, Director
Cornell Plantations
100 Judd Falls Road
Ithaca, New York 14853.

Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina, is in the process of relocating their variety trial gardens (2½ acres). Last year approximately 45,000 people visited the gardens. Their peony collection is not adequate for this new location.

When the Articles of Incorporation of the American Peony Society

were written in 1903 one of the particular objectives for which the corporation was formed was to increase the general interest in the cultivation and use of the peony and to promote this flower.

To be invited to have a large planting at Clemson is complimentary. A gift of peony roots from members of the Society would fulfill one of our objectives. It would mean a show case for many thousand visitors and would not diminish our individual gardens. This gift would be noted on a plaque by the collection. Both Clemson and Cornell Universities could be supplied at the same time.

Being an active organization many projects have been accomplished, and let us complete this 75th anniversary year by supplying roots in which to plant two horticultural gardens located at great universities.

Send the name of the varieties to this office, marked for Clemson, and your gift of peonies to—

Alton J. Pertuit, Associate Prof.
of Horticulture
Department of Horticulture
Clemson University
Clemson, South Carolina 29631

NEW REPORTS OF THE LUDLOW PEONY FLOWERING IN NORTH AMERICA

by Don Hollingsworth

The Ludlow peony (*Paeonia lutea* var. *Ludlowii*), long a trial to the patience of North American peony growers, has yielded slightly. New reports of flowering have now come from Connecticut and Missouri, both locations being in plant hardiness Zone 6 (USDA System). Heretofore, flowering had been reported only from the much milder climate of the Seattle and Vancouver Island areas (Zone 8).



Paeonia lutea var. *Ludlowii* flowered in Missouri in 1978.

Wintered in a cold frame.

Mrs. William B. Weaver of Greenwich, Connecticut, wrote to me last May that "Silvia Saunders thought you would be interested to

know that *Ludlowii* is blooming for me (three blooms) this year. It had one bloom in '76. Color is superb, . . . a real singing yellow." Indeed I am interested to know, for Ludlow has also received a share of my labors, since 1959. In addition, I had flowers of it for the first time this year.

No further information is available at this time about Mrs. Weaver's plant and any special care that may have been given over winter. I hope that we may have an account of such information in due time. My Ludlow plant had special winter protection and now is an appropriate time to make this information available to others who may be working with this peony.

My two oldest plants of Ludlow (8 years) have received fair to good winter protection over several seasons. However, these have not yet produced flowers. A 5-year-old plant which had received really good winter protection for the first time, paid off this spring. It had been dug last fall and replanted in a 5-gallon container. Laid on its side in a 2-foot deep cold frame with sawdust filled in around the container and the whole frame wrapped with microfoam and plastic, all of the woody stems survived the winter. In previous years with a rose cone for protection just the lower wood survived.

Only the terminal buds (of last year's growth) produced flowers. This is consistent with previous reports of Ludlow flowering habit and the habit of those which I have seen in flower at the University of Washington Arboretum in Seattle.

The other Ludlow peonies that have received winter protection here are planted about 18 inches from the east wall of the house. Last year they received a 5-foot high temporary enclosure of salvaged storm sash against the house wall. This was then wrapped in microfoam and plastic. All terminal buds survived but there was no flowering. I speculate that the difference between these and the other plant, with respect to flowering, is that these have not yet grown beyond the juvenile phase of development. This is surprising in that the several species and hybrids of peony which I have grown from seed reach flowering maturity, when they are vigorous growers, in from 2 to 5 years. These Ludlow peonies are tall and vigorous growers; the stems of the 8-year-olds are barely going to fit under the 5-foot high enclosure next year.

As has been previously written (this Bulletin, No. 220), the Ludlow peony appears to be adapted to climates where winter extremes of temperature seldom go below 15° F. Temperature apparatus in each enclosure described here was never found to read below the upper teens. Thus, either of the contrivances I used for winter protection seems adequate to meet the supposed temperature requirements, even in a season of greater than average severity.

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Once we can locate plants of the Ludlow peony that have greater than average cold tolerance, as perhaps is represented by Mrs. Weaver's plant, it may be possible through their seed-grown descendants to extend this tolerance to meet even more severe temperature ranges. Another possibility is to interbreed this botanical variety with the other Lutea peonies which are both lower growing and able to flower on shoots which grow from underground buds in the current season. This might enable us to develop a seed-grown strain possessing desirable traits of each parent species. The cross has been made here this year and the developing pods look very promising regarding the high fertility of the cross.

At last, the Ludlow peony is yielding a bit to persistent study and efforts to learn and meet its requirements. This should enable us to use it more easily in future breeding programs.

REGISTRATIONS

Hybrids of William H. Krekler, 4030 West Elkton Road, Somerville, Ohio 45064. Ten earliest good new 1978 hybrids. May 1978

ARTIC LIGHTS (K 108) 23 inches, upright deep pink single.

FIELD MARSHALL (K 101) 29 inch sturdy upright single red.

HOT STUFF (K 702) 20 inch, big single red flowers.

QUALITY FOLK (K 703) 11 inch, big single deep wine pink flowers.

TRIUMPH (K 106) 22 inch, bit crinkled single red.

UNIVERSAL JOY (K 701) 20 inch purplish single.

UPPER CRUST (K 704) 23 inch, wide single near white.

VETERAN (K 705) 29 inch, big upright dense bush, floppy purple-red single.

XETARE (K 100) 15 inch, cute scarlet single.

YUM YUM (K 130) 12 inch, dwarf single red.

1978 hybrids blooming immediately after the 10 earliest hybrids. May 1978

CHUM (K 742) 34 inch, upright, broad deep pink

ERIC (K 731) 29 inch, sturdy, huge orange red.

GOOD NEIGHBOR (K 708) 27 inch, tan centered red.

HIGH MARK (K 709) 30 inch, big carmen red.

HIGH N MIGHTY (K 752) 36 inch, different twisty red.

INCA IDOL (K 736) 28 inch, upright, big wavy red.

INGOT (K 741) 23 inch, huge open red, wide.

INNISWOOD (K 721) 29 inch, sturdy, cut leaf, big red.

MAY MAGIC (K 749) 30 inch, bright scarlet red.

QUAKER MAID (K 737) 28 inch, wide flat deep pink.

QUINCY (K 728) 21 inch, rather big orange red.

SHAWNEE LAD (K 748) 22 inch, red bowl full of gold.
ULYSSES (K 733) 24 inch, broad bush, large red.
UNCLE BOB (K 754) 25 inch, near semi, purple-red.
XENIA TOWN (K 730) 22 inch dense cut leaf bush, red.
XERXES (K 726) 23 inch, wide wine red flower.
YALE (K 739) 20 inch, deep red big flowers.
YANKEE (K 716) 35 inch, upright, very sturdy red.
ZIPETY DO DA (K 725) 21 inch, bright purple-red.

Later hybrids. William H. Krekler, 4030 West Elkton Road, Somerville, Ohio. May 1978

ALL MY LOVE (K 792) 33 inch, gay sturdy clear light pink.
ARISTOCRAT (K 794) 31 inch, double red with gold edging.
BARON (K 125) 27 inch, cutter type, single red.
BEHOLD (K 784) 26 inch, different flat flecked rose double.
CARVER (K 781) 39 inch, double row deep red petals.
DAN DEE (K 725) 22 inch generous orange red single.
ETERNAL FLAME (K 763) 22 inch light carmen single cup.
GLOBETROTTER (K 118) 29 inches, upright, big single red.
HI SHO YO (K 783) 27 inch, odd color of red, single.
HI STRUTTER (K 767) 36 inch sturdy, upright red cup.
KINGWOOD IMP (K 128) 17 inch very different Jap. type red.
LORD OF SPRING. Tree. 29 inch, generous rose single.
MAY TREAT (K 779) 36 inch, late big pale pink single.
MY GOODNESS (K 123) 12 inch, neat dark red single.
MY OWN (K 793) 34 inch cutter sturdy, single red.
ODD BALL (K 110) 29 inch, nodding big double pink.
RED SPRITE (K 131) 28 inch, gay upright single red.
SWEET PRINCE (K 785) 21 inch, big red single cup.
PARADE LEADER (K 775) 35 inch, big single red, cutter.
PARAMOUNT (K 776) 34 inch, big single light pink.

Latest of new 1978 hybrids

GLORY BE (K 823) 28 inch landscape type. Light pink, single.
HIS GRACE (K 791) 25 inch nice bush, single red, upright.
LANDMARK (K 105) 36 inch, cutter type, big light red single.
LITTLE JOHN (K 806) 13 inch fair sized single red flowers, dwarf.
MAY JOY (K 810) 23 inch double rows light salmon petals.
SINKIST (K 117) 29 inch, nice big gay single red. Cutter.

First of new 1978 albifloras. — Krekler

ABALONE PEARL (K 759) 32 inch, earliest, huge flesh single, nice.
BEACON (K 837) 41 inch, sturdy waxy deep red double.
HIGH BOY (K 787) 44 inch early flat semi-double pure white.
JACK FROST (K 838) 36 inch, double near white. Stamens peep.
MYRA (K 828) 39 inch, lasting silvery baby pink double.
REBEL (K 846) 29 inch, gay purple-wine Jap. Big cream center.
BIG MAMA BEAR (K 545) 37 inch huge upright double pink.
DEMON (K 845) 29 inch, shocking dark wine red Japanese.

FULL MEASURE (K 849) 39 inch, open dull wine red double.
LUCIFER (K 815) 35 inch, big semi-double wine red flowers.
NODDING ACQUAINTANCE (K 816) 42 inch, double silvered pink.
SNOWSTORM (K 847) 29 inch drooping elegant double white.
DIVINE GIFT (K 858) 34 inch, upright dense double pink.
DOUBLE TALK (K 868) 36 inch, glowing near white double.
FAIRVIEW (K 856) 36 inch, big semi-double white, cutter.
LORD OF JUNE (K 866) Big light pink Japanese. Cream Center.

REDUCE PEONY SHIPPING LOSSES BY USING CAREFUL METHODS IN PACKING

by Don Hollingsworth

Rough handling at transfer points during shipping is more prevalent now that mechanic package handling has become commonplace. Some types of peonies are especially vulnerable to root breakage. When packaging is not shock resistant, unfortunate and unnecessary loss of storage roots is likely to occur.

I often receive parcels containing peony roots that are broken. This is not to say that all shippers are sending broken peonies. Some use consistently effective techniques. However, breakage always leads to disappointment and a relatively costly plant is sometimes involved. For example, the herbaceous nurse roots of tree peony grafts tend to take on a branched structure. The root branches break off easily, especially when the roots are crisp with moisture. Another peony group that is relatively costly and break easily includes the species and hybrids of officinalis-lobata-peregrina lineage. These storage roots often taper to a thin neck at the top and break easily where they attach to the crown.

The risk of shipping breakage can be generally controlled by leaving no open spaces in the container. One way this can be done is by filling the spaces with crushed newspapers. The newsprint is light in weight, contributing little to shipping cost, and normally costs nothing.

Another technique that gives shock resistance is to leave the roots slightly wilted, so that they are not brittle in texture. Roots that are shipped slightly soft should be enclosed in a tight plastic bag with a barely moist packing material so that 100 per cent humidity is maintained. I think it best that the roots not quite touch the plastic, being held apart by the packing material.

For packing material, either sphagnum, saw dust or newspaper, if clean, all seem to give good results. The material should be barely damp so that it neither contributes wetness (liquid water) nor draws additional moisture from the roots. Newspaper may be dampened by spraying lightly with a bottle sprayer.

Packed in this way—barely moist packing and slightly wilted roots in a tight plastic bag—I believe peonies can be in shipment for several days and will remain in almost exactly the same condition at the end as when they started.

Placing crushed newspaper to fill all of the voids remaining after the plastic bag is put in the carton is the key to a shock resistant package. However, the carton must be stout and in good condition. A salvaged carton, as most of us end up using, can be perfectly satisfactory. Good insurance for its survival may be added in the form of stout cord binding and renewal of any taped closures.

Both the United States Parcel Service and United Parcel Service make packaging suggestions available free of charge. It's a good idea to review such suggestions from time to time. The major parcel shippers know what it takes for a package to survive their handling procedures. That makes it a good idea to pay attention to what they have to say on this subject!

TREE PEONY TOPICS

Louis Smirnow, Brookville, L.I., N.Y.

I have been asked by several people from all parts of the country which varieties should be considered to establish a peony garden.

If you plan to have a larger peony collection consider the following twenty peonies, eight tree peonies, eight herbaceous, and four hybrids. These will give you a longer full blooming period and this applies to all sections of the country.

These proven varieties establish quickly and survive climatic disadvantages. All have strong stems and flowers held high.

White — Tamasudare — Huge white double.

Godaishu — Large semi-double white.

Pink — Howdai — Exciting rose red, giant-double.

Hanakiso — Huge deep pink, semi-double.

Red — Higurashi — Startling huge light red-double.

Howki — Charming double of deepest red, free bloomer.

Purple — Rimpow — Sensational double brilliant purple, yellow center.

Yellow — Age of Gold — Full-double, light yellow, fragrant, herbaceous.

White — Ann Cousins — Famous immense double beauty.

Isani Gidui — Exquisite Japanese type with yellow center..

Pink — Moonstone — Best in its class, full-double blush beauty.

Nick Shaylor — Immense double, red flecked.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt — Several shades of pink, gorgeous double, east grower.

Red — Philippe Revoire — Many consider it the best red double. Fragrant.

Kansas — Spectacular tall light red double. Easy grower.
Herbaceous hybrids.

Red Charm — Double, brilliant ruby red; some consider it the best peony in existence.

Paula Fay — Radiant pink, semi-double, brilliant, very popular.

Carina — Winner at many shows. Gorgeous semi-double, scarlet crimson.

White Innocence — Tallest of all. Late bloomer, pure white single, artistic delight.

In selecting peonies so that you may have a longer blooming period, the first peonies to bloom are the Japanese tree peonies which bloom the same time as the herbaceous hybrids, then the Lutea tree peonies bloom about 7 to 10 days later followed by the herbaceous peonies.

You may want to consider some of the Lutea tree peonies.

Black Pirate — Immense, deep maroon single, lustrous black flares.

Renown — Famous semi-double beauty of light copper red, yellow overtones.

Golden Isles — Brilliant yellow double, black flares unique, very fragrant.

Harvest — Color of ripe grain, petals edged rose, semi-double, gorgeous center.

This season, I saw in full bloom the following varieties which should be in all gardens. These were difficult to obtain in recent years but are now available. Their beauty is superior to so many of similar colors now seen in most gardens.

Kagura Jishi — Exquisite rich pink rose, red center, immense double.

Shin Kagura — Intense bright rose, ruffled petals, huge double, free grower.

Teikan — Brilliant red double, exquisite yellow center, immense double.

Sakura Jishi — Lustrous light pink, huge double, great Japanese favorite.

Seidai — Appealing white, deep rose base, sensational beauty.

Bijou De Chusan — Large double European variety—pure white, some white petals tipped green.

Reine Elizabeth — Bright rose salmon double, best of European varieties.

Mme. Louis Henry — Prof. Henry's famous beauty, cup shaped semi-double, buff shaded salmon.

Souvenir De Doucher — European large double. Deep violet.

Jitsu Getsu Nishiki — Bright scarlet double, white edges.

Shima Daidin — Enormous, glistening double, brightest light purple.

Hatsu Hinode — Brilliant salmon semi-double.

Hyakkasen — Semi-double brightest red.

Kamada Nishiki — Lilac purple double white stripes at edges.

In the new Tree Peony booklet there are suggested varieties to be selected for your garden. I would also like to add:

Whites — **Hakuo Jishi** — Single to semi-double

Otome No Mai — Double beauty

Pink — **Yachiyo Jishi** — Pale pink huge double

Yachiyo Tsubaki — Brilliant coral pink large double

Red — **Higurashi** — Light red, huge double

Hinode Sekai — Brilliant red, full-double

Maroon — **Hatsu Garashu** — Huge double glistening maroon

Purple — **Rimpow** — Immense purple with yellow center

73rd ANNUAL AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY EXHIBITION

Kingwood Center — Mansfield, Ohio

June 9, 10, and 11th, 1978

GRAND CHAMPION AND BEST OF SHOW —

PRINCESS MARGARET — W.G. Sindt

****Best Double White — LE CYGNE — Lienau Peony Gardens**

Best Double Blush — MORMA VOLZ — W.G. Sindt

Best Double Light Pink — MOONSTONE — John Kreichbaum

****Best Double Dark Pink — PRINCESS MARGARET — W.G. Sindt**

Best Double Red — MAESTRO — Lienau Peony Gardens

****Best Semi-Double White — MISS AMERICA — Ted Mysyk**

Best Semi-Double Pink — LIEBSCHEN — Marvin Karrels

Best Semi-Double Red — HARRY L. SMITH — Lienau Peony Gardens

Best White Bomb — CHARLEYS WHITE — Klehm Nursery

****Best Pink Bomb — MONS. JULES ELIE — Joe Glocka**

Best Red Bomb — RUTH CLAY — John Kreichbaum

****Best Japanese White — BU-TE — John Kreichbaum**

Best Japanese Pink — ROSE VALLEY — Lienau Peony Gardens

Best Japanese Red — NIPPON BRILLIANT — John Kreichbaum

****Best Single White — PICO — W.G. Sindt**

Best Single Pink — SEA SHELL — Lienau Peony Gardens

Best Single Red — FLORENCE BRUSS — W.G. Sindt

**Best Hybrid Yellow, White or Blush — GARDEN PEACE — Lienau Peony
Gardens**

****Best Hybrid Pink — CYTHERIA — Lienau Peony Gardens**

Best Hybrid Red — FIREBELLE — Lienau Peony Gardens

Best Tree White — STOLEN HEAVEN — John Simkins

Best Tree Pink — SHINTENCHI — Klehm Nursery

Best Tree Red — KRONAS — John Simkins

Best Tree Yellow — GOLDEN ISLES — Marvin Karrels

****Best Tree Violet — KAWODA FUJI — Chris Laning**

Best Tree Blend — GAUGIN — Marvin Karrels

Best Tree Maroon — KOKAMON — Dr. Henry Landis

****Denotes the best of that type.**

Artistic Arrangements

Linda Applegate — Grand Champion

J. Neighbarger — Reserve Champion

— 21 —

DIVISION 1. OPEN TO ALL EXHIBITORS

Class 101 — Twenty-five varieties, any color or type.

1st won by Lienau Peony Gardens.

GARDEN GLORY, GAY PAREE, HELEN MATTHEWS, SYLVER, WEATHER BALL 90, GARDEN PEACE, PETER BRAND, JEANNE d'ARC, LOVELY ROAS, REINE HORTENSE, WHITE CAP, JUNE ROSE, AVE MARIA, MAESTRO, HIGHLIGHT, LA LORRAINE, LE CYGNE, MARTHA MAINS, WESTHILL REWARD, SPOTLIGHT, RAY PEYTON, HAWAII, CYTHERIA, EDWARD STEICHEN.

2nd won by Marvin Karrels.

AVELYN, LE CYGNE, HERITAGE, DIANA PARKS, NORMA VOLZ, SALMON GLORY, FRIENDSHIP, ATHENA, BRAVURA, WALTER MAINS, RED CHARM, GARDENIA, ROSE GLORY, WHITE CAP, FIRE BELLE, AGE OF GOLD, GAUGIN, BLACK MONARCH, PRINCESS MARGARET, PRAIRIE MOON, CLAIR DE LUNE, PAULA FAY, EDWARD AUTEN, FIRELIGHT, COMMANCHE.

3rd won by Joe Glocka.

CHOCOLATE SOLDIER, HONEY GOLD, CAROL, ANGEL CHEEKS, WHITE CAP, MONS. JULES ELIE, RED CHARM, FIRE BELLE, FRIENDSHIP, ROSE GLORY, EDWARD STEICHEN, FIRST LADY, WALTER MAINS, CATHEDRAL, POWDER PUFF, FESTIVA MAXIMA, MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, IMPERIAL RED, SCARLET O'HARA, DOROTHY J. KANSAS, FLORENCE NICHOLLS, ROSADA, HERITAGE, THERESA.

Class 102 — Fifteen varieties, herbaceous only. Any type or color. One bloom in separate container.

1st won by Marvin C. Karrels.

EDWARD AUTEN, NORMA VOLZ, WHITE CAP, SALMON GLORY, FRIENDSHIP, OFFICINALIS, PRINCESS MARGARET, PAULA FAY, AVE MARIA, EDWARD STEICHEN, HARI AI NIN, DIANA PARKS, CLAIRE de LUNE.

2nd won by Joe Glocka.

WHITE CAP, RED CHARM, LOREN FRANKLIN, MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, FESTIVA MAXIMA, WESTHILL, MONS. JULES ELIE, BUCCANEER, FIREBELLE, IMPERIAL RED, ILLINI BELLE, LADDIE, CHOCOLATE SOLDIER, CATHEDRAL, ROSE GLORY.

Class 103 — Ten varieties, herbaceous hybrid only, any type or color.

1st won by W.G. Sindt.

TOPEKA CORAL, FLAME, ROSELETTE, MAHOGANY, WALTER MAINS, RED CHARM, NADIA, CLAIRE de LUNE, CARINA, PRAIRIE MOON.

2nd won by Marvin Karrels.

FRIENDSHIP, BLACK MONARCH, DIANA PARKS, OFFICINALIS, CYTHERIA, WALTER MAINS, EDWARD STEICHEN, ATHENA, SALMON GLORY.

Class 104 — Ten varieties, Tree peonies only. Any type or color.

1st won by John Simkins, Oakville, Ontario.

FUJI NO ACKABMA, FUJI NO MORI, BLACK DOUGLAS, NISHIKI, GUARDIAN OF THE MONASTERY, BLACK PIRATE, HANA KISOI, GITSU-GITSU, RUBY QUEES, DAKAGURA.

2nd won by Henry Landis, Ontario, Canada.
 MINUME, ARTEMUS, GESSAKI, ANYA NO HIKKI, MONOYAMA,
 KINMASA, ANYA NO HIKARA, EIGHT-E-77, MME. LOUIS
 HENRY, SAKURA GASANE.

Class 105 — Five varieties, Japanese type. Lactiflora only, any color.

1st won by W.G. Sindt.
 GAIL TISCHLER, WHITE CAP, FARIBO GOLD, BU-TE, TERRY
 GRUDEM.

2nd won by Lienau Peony Gardens.
 NEON, WESTERNER, GAY PAREE, BU-TE, RAY PEYTON.

Class 106 — Five varieties single type lactiflora only. Any color.

1st won by W.G. Sindt
 PICO, SEASHELL, FLORENCE BRUSS, KRINKLED WHITE,
 TOPEKA GARNET.

2nd won by Lienau Peony Gardens.
 IMPERIAL RED, SEA SHELL, PICO, DAWN PINK,
 L'ETINCELANTE.

THREE BLOOMS, ONE VARIETY, LACTIFLORA ONLY, IN ONE CON- TAINER

Class 110 1. Lienau Peony Gardens — Le CYGNE
 2. W.G. Sindt — GARDENIA
 3. Roy Klehms — ELSA SASS
 H. M. Roy Klehms — CHEDDAR CHEESE

Class 111 1. Marvin Karrels — NORMA VOLZ
 2. W.G. Sindt — NORMA VOLZ
 3. Lienau Peony Gardens — La LORRAINE

Class 112 1. John Kreichbaum — MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
 2. Art Landen — DINNER PLATE
 3. Chuck Klehm — SUSIE Q

Class 113 1. Clarence Lienau — MAMMOTH ROSE
 2. W.G. Sindt — PRINCESS MARGARET
 3. John Kreichbaum — MARTHA BULLOCK

Class 114 1. Lienau Peony Gardens — HIGHLIGHT
 2. Theo. Mysyk — KANSAS
 3. Clarence Lienau — KANSAS
 H. M. D. Pennell — KANSAS

Class 115 1. Clarence Lienau — MISS AMERICA
 2. John Kreichbaum — MISS AMERICA
 3. Clarence Lienau — AVA MARIA
 H. M. Roy Klehm — MISS AMERICA

Class 116 1. Clarence Lienau — LIBERTY BELL
 2. none — 3. none

Class 117 1. Clarence Lienau — HARRY L. SMITH
 2. John Kreichbaum — MIGHTY MO
 3. none

Class 118 1. W.G. Sindt — EASTERN STAR
 2. Clarence Lienau — ANGEL CHEEKS
 3. Clarence Lienau — SNOW MOUNTAIN
 H. M. Clarence Lienau — TOP BRASS

Class 119 1. W.G. Sindt — FARIBO GOLD
 2. Art Landen — HONEY GOLD
 3. John Kreichbaum — BU-TE

Class 120 1. Clarence Lienau — ROSE VALLEY
 2. John Kreichbaum — MONTEREY
 3. Chuck Klehm — DAINTY BESS

- Class 121** 1. John Kreichbaum — AZTEC
 2. John Kreichbaum — MIDNIGHT SUN
 3. W.G. Sindt — WHITE CAP
- Class 122** 1. John Kreichbaum — PICO
 2. W.G. Sindt — PICO
 3. W.G. Sindt — SPELLBINDER
- Class 123** 1. Clarence Lienau — SEA SHELL
 2. Clarence Lienau — SEA SHELL
 3. Clarence Lienau — DAWN PINK
- Class 124** 1. W.G. Sindt — FLORENCE BRUSS
 2. Clarence Lienau — PRESIDENT LINCOLN
 3. Joe Glocka — PRESIDENT LINCOLN

ONE BLOOM LACTIFLORA ONLY

- Class 130** 1. Clarence Lienau — LE CYGNE
 2. W.G. Sindt — GARDENIA
 3. Clarence Lienau — SYLVER
- Class 131** 1. John Kreichbaum — ALICE HARDING
 2. John Kreichbaum — MARY NICHOLLS
 3. John Kreichbaum — NICK SHAYLOR
 H. M. W.G. Sindt — NORMA VOLZ
- Class 132** 1. John Kreichbaum — MOONSTONE
 2. Klehms — SUSIE Q
 3. Klehms — ANGEL CHEEKS
- Class 133** 1. W.G. Sindt — PRINCESS MARGARET
 2. Clarence Lienau — JUNE ROSE
 3. John Kreichbaum — THE FAWN
 H. M. John Kreichbaum — VIVID ROSE
- Class 134** 1. John Kreichbaum — RUTH CLAY
 2. Clarence Lienau — BONANZA
 3. W.G. Sindt — DOUGLAS BRAND
- Class 135** 1. Theo. Mysyk — MISS AMERICA
 2. Marvin Karrels — AVA MARIA
 3. Clarence Lienau — MINNIE SHAYLOR
- Class 136** 1. Marvin Karrels — LIEBSCHEN
 2. John Kreichbaum — LADY ALEXANDER DUFF
 3. Clarence Lienau — LIBERTY BELL
- Class 137** 1. Clarence Lienau — CHIPPEWA
 2. none 3. none
- Class 138** 1. W.G. Sindt — EASTERN STAR
 2. W.G. Sindt — EASTERN STAR
 3. none
- Class 139** 1. Clarence Lienau — RASPBERRY SUNDAE
 2. Clarence Lienau — RASPBERRY SUNDAE
 3. none
- Class 140** 1. Clarence Lienau — BIG BEN
 2. Art Landen — AUTEN 1816
 3. Clarence Lienau — DAVID HARUM
- Class 141** 1. John Kreichbaum — FAIRBANKS
 2. John Kreichbaum — BU-TE
 3. John Kreichbaum — BU-TE
 H. M. W.G. Sindt — FARIBO GOLD
- Class 142** 1. Clarence Lienau — GAY PAREE
 2. John Kreichbaum — PRAIRIE AFIRF
 3. Roy Klehm — DO-TELL
 H. M. W.G. Sindt — GAY PAREE

- Class 143** 1. Marvin Karrels — **TRAFFORD BIGGER**
 2. Clarence Lienau — **COMMANCHE**
 3. Marvin Karrels — **HARI AI NIN**
- Class 144** 1. W.G. Sindt — **PICO**
 2. W.G. Sindt — **PICO**
 3. W.G. Sindt — **SPELLBINDER**
- Class 145** 1. Clarence Lienau — **SEA SHELL**
 2. Roy Klehm — **CORAL SUPREME**
 3. Roy Klehm — **CORAL SUNSET**
- Class 146** 1. W.G. Sindt — **FLORENCE BRUSS**
 2. W.G. Sindt — **FLORENCE BRUSS**
 3. W.G. Sindt — **TOPEKA GARNET**

THREE BLOOMS ONE VARIETY HERBACEOUS HYBRIDS OR SPECIES IN ONE CONTAINER

- Class 150** 1. W.G. Sindt — **PRAIRIE MOON**
 2. Marvin Karrels — **ATHENA**
 3. John Kreichbaum — **WINGED VICTORY**
 H. M. Marvin Karrels — **PRAIRIE MOON**
- Class 151** 1. Clarence Lienau — **CYTHERIA**
 2. Art Landen — **SUPREME**
 3. W.G. Sindt — **PAULA FAY**
 H. M. W.G. Sindt — **NADIA**
- Class 152** 1. Marvin Karrels — **WALTER MAINS**
 2. Marvin Karrels — **DIANA PARKS**
 3. Clarence Lienau — **CONVOY**
 H. M. Klehms — **BUCKEYE BELL**
- Class 153** 1. Chris Laning — **MOONRISE**
 2. W.G. Sindt — **CLAIRE de LUNE**
 3. Marvin Karrels — **CLAIRE de LUNE**
 H. M. Joe Glocka — **RUSHLIGHT**

THREE BLOOMS, ONE VARIETY, TREE PEONIES, IN ONE CONTAINER

- Class 170 B** 1. Lienau Peony Gardens — **YASSO-OKI-NO**
 2. John Simkins — **YUKI GASANE**
 3. John Simkins — **T. SUPAHAKU**
- Class 171 B** 1. John Simkins — **WISTER 230**
 2. John Simkins — **YACHIYO-TSBAKI**
 3. none
- Class 173** 1. Chuck Klehm — **SHINTENCHI**
 2-3 none
- Class 177 B** 1. John Simkins — **GAUGUIN**
 2. Dr. Landis — **MYSTERY**
 3. none
- Class 176 C** 1. Marvin Karrels — **AGE OF GOLD**
 2. Marvin Karrels — **ALICE HARDING**
 3. Dr. Landis — **AGE OF GOLD**

ONE BLOOM TREE PEONY ONLY

- Class 185 A** 1. John Simkins — **YUKI GASANE**
- Class 185 B** 1. John Simkins — **FUJI NO AREAMO**
 2. John Simkins — **HANA KISOI**
 3. Roy Klehm — **YASHO NOMIE**
- Class 185 C** 1. John Simkins — **STOLEN HEAVEN**
 2. John Kreichbaum — **GESSEKAI**
 3. none

- Class 186 B 1. Marvin Karrels — YAE ZAKURA
2. Dr. Landis — TAMA MIDORI
3. John Simkins — BUGAKUDEN
- Class 186 C 1. John Simkins — WISTER #58
2. John Simkins — WISTER 199
3. John Simkins — CHUYGI PINK
- Class 187 A 1. John Simkins — GITSO GETSO MISHIKI
2. John Simkins — HIGORASHI
- Class 187 B 1. John Simkins — SHIGYOKU
2. Dr. Landis — TSURUHA
3. John Simkins — GUMPO
- Class 188 B 1. Chris Laning — KAMADA FUJI
2. Dr. Landis — GUARDIAN OF THE MONASTERY
3. Chris Laning — KAMADA FUJI
- Class 189 A 1. John Simkins — MEUNSAI
2. John Simkins — RIMPO
- Class 191 A 1. W.G. Sindt — ROMAN GOLD
- Class 191 B 1. Chuck Klehm — GOLDEN HIND
2. Marvin Karrels — GOLDEN HIND
- Class 191 C 1. Marvin Karrels — GOLDEN ISLES
2. W.G. Sindt — AGE OF GOLD
3. W.G. Sindt — HIGH NOON
- Class 192 B 1. Marvin Karrels — GAUGUIN
2. Roy Klehm — MARCHIONESS
3. John Simkins — GAUGUIN
- Class 192 C 1. Roy Klehm — HOLIDAY
3. Roy Klehm — RIGHT ROYAL
- Class 195 A 1. Roy Klehm — CHINESE DRAGON
2. Roy Klehm — BLACK PIRATE
- Class 195 B 1. John Simkins — KRONAS
2. Roy Klehm — KRONAS
- Class 195 C 1. Roy Klehm — BLACK PANTHER
2. Roy Klehm — BLACK PANTHER

DIVISION II. AMATEUR

- Class 227 1. Charles Applegate — GAY PAREE
- Class 229 1. Charles Applegate — DIANA PARKS
2. Charles Applegate — ELLEN COWLEY

DIVISION III. NOVICE

- Class 301 1. Paul Thurman — MARTHA BULLOCK
- Class 305 1. R.F. Schmidt — MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
- Class 308 1. R.F. Schmidt — SEA SHELL
- Class 315 1. Paul Thurman — AVE MARIA
2. Paul Thurman — FLORENCE NICHOLLS
3. Charles Harman — unknown
- Class 316 1. Paul Thurman — MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
2. Chas. Harman — unknown
- Class 317 1. Paul Thurman — KANSAS
2. Paul Thurman — BURMA
- Class 318 1. R.F. Schmidt — MISS AMERICA
2. R.F. Schmidt — ZUZU
- Class 319 1. R.F. Schmidt — RED CHARM
- Class 320 1. R.F. Schmidt — AKASHIGATA
2. R.F. Schmidt — IMPERIAL RED
3. R.F. Schmidt — ANGELUS

- Class 322** 1. R.F. Schmidt — CYTHERIA
 2. R.F. Schmidt — PRAIRIE MOON
Class 323 1. R.F. Schmidt — SOUVENIR De MAXIME CORNU
 2. Paul Thurman — GOLDEN ISLE
 3. R.F. Schmidt — THUNDERBOLT
 H. M. R.F. Schmidt — SILVER SAILS

DIVISION V. SPECIAL ENTRIES

- Class 502** Visitor from greatest distance
 1. Edward Michau — 925 miles, Derby, Kansas
 MINUET, MARTHA BULLOCK, HIFALUTIN, M-17-70,
 BRIGHT KNIGHT
 2. John Simkins — 350 miles, Ontario, Canada
 BOCKSTOCE L 62, MT. RAKKLI, IMC CHOW KOW,
 BOCKSTOCE 1 16, FUJI KABONA
Class 503 Multiple Bloom
 1. Roy Klehm — SARAH BERNHARDT
 2. Paul Thurman — WHITE WATER

ARTISTIC DIVISION

21 entries

- Class A — ASPIRATION**
 1. Linda Applegate — Perrysville, Ohio GRAND CHAMPION
 2. Jo Neighbarger — Mt. Vernon, Ohio
 3. Mrs. Marie E. Harman — Marion, Ohio
Class C — COMPANIONSHIP
 1. Joe Neighbarger — RESERVE CHAMPION
 2. Linda Applegate
Class E — SIMPLICITY
 1. Betty McKinney — Shelby, Ohio
 2. Linda Applegate
 3. J. Neighbarger
 H.M. Mrs. Marie E. Harmon
Class F — MEMORIES
 1. Betty McKinney — Shelby, Ohio
 2.
 3. Linda Applegate — Perrysville, Ohio
 H.M. Mrs. Raymond Bolen — Ashland, Ohio
Class G — REFLECTIONS
 1. Linda Applegate
 2. Mrs. Marie E. Harmon
 3. Mrs. Raymond Bolen — Ashland, Ohio
Class H
 1.
 2. Mrs. William A. Stahl — Mansfield, Ohio

NOTICE.

Please send me seeds for our "seed distribution" project. A big selection is always desirable.

Peony seed sowers, from my plants there will be a goodly number number of kinds and crosses — seeds in abundance! Ask for them early so you can still sow them this year.

Chris Laning, 553 West F. Ave.,
 Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

— 27 —

PEONIES AND PEOPLE

Charlotte E. Sindt

June 9-10-11, 1978 — dates of beauty, of peonies, of people — at the idyllic setting of Kingwood Center! This year was really no different from others of the national exhibition, and yet it was, for this marked the 75th year of the organization, a year of celebration for the American Peony Society. The flowers, the Center, the people all contributed to making those three days of 1978 very special.

The show itself was spectacular as only a peony show can be, with the gorgeous colors of the lactiflora stealing the show, from the whites and blushes to the light and dark shades of pinks and reds. In addition there were the exotic colors of the hybrids and the tree peonies, yellow, orange, cherry red, violet, purple. It was interesting to hear visitors exclaim about such colors and forms: "I've never seen a peony like that!"

A newcomer to a national show is always amazed at the beauty left in the work room when the exhibitors have taken their lovelies to the exhibition hall. This was true again this year but there was an added attraction, for at the doorway of the exhibition hall was a large display of peonies placed there by the Klehms, more than they could exhibit.

The impressive Main Hall at Kingwood Center was certainly decorated for the occasion. Peonies were arranged artistically and in profusion wherever one looked by members of the Staff. Visitors at the Hall were indeed made welcome with the many courtesies extended — and especially with the exquisite floral arrangements.

Membership is not just a word in our American Peony Society, for it comes alive at these national conventions as the people arrive to show and to share. There is great excitement in preparing to exhibit, for as one sorts and classifies willing and not-so-willing peonies, other exhibitors arrive with whom pleasantries are exchanged. Time must be allotted to dash off here or there to greet another member newly arrived. The warmth of these encounters is what puts meaning into an affiliation with our Society. It was my delightful privilege to sit beside Dorothy J. Knapp of Carmel, Indiana, a long-time member for whom her father named a flower, there because of the 75th anniversary. Within our membership are people who are employed in many diverse ways when they are not in their peony fields, although for a few peonies are their business. We have newspaper people, accountants, quality control experts, railroad engineers, doctors, scientists, business executives, insurance people, farmers, retirees — all with one absorbing interest, the peony. That is the important thing!

1978 is in truth a year of celebration for the American Peony Society, a society made substantive because of people with a love for a flower. The exhibition was exciting, seeing the beautiful peonies and the personalities involved in their growth, an unbeatable combination. I love the flower and — dare I say — even more the people! May it ever be so.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Over a year's time, many letters are received from firms advertising various commodities or presenting some specialty. One letter received should be shared with you. It came from the Stephen Fossler Company. The following is a quote.

"Your company belongs to a very special and select group. Many companies have come and gone since you started business. But few have stayed in business as long as yours. Statistics show that most companies fold before they are two years old. Not many reach the age of five. Only the well-managed companies survive today.

"Obviously then, you have every right to be proud of the age your company has reached. It makes good business sense to let your friends know about it. As your years have accumulated, your reputation for reliability, service and integrity has grown with them."

The above tells you that our 75th year is just something special. We could not write or publish the number of pages in the Bulletin that it would take to tell you about all the great peony men of the past and the equally great of the present. There have been many that added their effort and support to make this Society as we see it today.

Just who are the many? Those people are you. You are the staunch, loyal and steadfast people that make this organization. Without you, there would be no Society. You are the strong, firm and steady people that send in your membership dues every year and purchase the books that pay the expenses that are incurred in maintaining this organization. You are so important and we would add, "You are the greatest!"

Statements for membership dues were sent out in November for the following year, 1978. The response was good. Second notices, serving as reminders of dues past were mailed April 1.

It was of special pleasure that we could offer two very fine books to you at a minimal price for Christmas and as an anniversary special. These two books, as a package, give you the ultimate in peony growing.

The International Commission for Horticulture Nomenclature will meet in Sidney, Australia, in August, 1978. As International Authority for Paeonia, we were requested to report our activities and publication from 1974-1978.

We have published a book on the tree peony this year. Up to this time, we have had to read only the good articles in the Bulletin as they appeared from time to time. Now they have been compiled in concise form, which we believe will aid the grower for the information desired without any research. The price asked for the book will only help defray the expense of printing and postage.

Postage is increasing every year. Even though the Bulletin is sent out to the membership under a permit number, regular correspondence

has increased each month. Many books were mailed; extra Bulletins and various requested material added to the increase. There is no special rate in mailing to all foreign countries.

We ask that you continue to notify this office of any change of address or change in your box number or zip code. Your Bulletin will not be delivered if any part of your address is incorrect. We are notified at a cost, with information that your Bulletin was not delivered, which adds to the postage.

As we begin another Society year, the Bulletin is our ever-growing concern. It should reflect your interest, and we look forward to the coming issues with material from you. There is much to be said about peonies. There may be some reiteration and that is good, as new members are put on our membership rolls every month. Remember when you were first a member and any information was so very important.

This has been a good year.

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING JUNE 9, 1978

Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Peony Society was called to order by President Joe Glocka at 8:30 P.M.

The Directors in attendance were: Marvin Karrels, Wisconsin; Clarence Lienau, Michigan; Irvin Ewing, Michigan; Chris Laning, Michigan; Theo. Mysyk, Illinois; W.G. Sindt, Minnesota; Charlotte Sindt, Minnesota; Marjorie Cornell, New York; Edward Michau, Kansas; and Greta Kessenich, Minnesota, Secretary.

The minutes of the 1977 meetings were dispensed as all had been previously read.

The Board of Directors acting as the nominating committee presented the following names for a three year term as Directors.

Irvin Ewing, John Simkins, W.G. Sindt, Allen J. Wild, Frank Howell, Chris Laning. The list of nominees to be read to the membership at the annual meeting by Greta Kessenich, Secretary.

Mr. Marvin Karrels was appointed to audit the books of the treasurer for 1978. The financial report was passed to all the Directors. The Treasurer gave a summary of the report as to income and expenses.

The new publication "Basic Planting and Growing Guide of Tree Peonies" was given to the members present.

A general discussion of future business followed.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

June 11, 1978

Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Joe Glocka. Directors present were: Marvin Karrels, Clarence Lienau, Irvin Ewing, Carl H. Klehm, W.G. Sindt, Charlotte Sindt, Chris Laning, John Simkins, Edward Michau, Marjorie Cornell and Greta Kessenich, Secretary.

The first order of business was to elect a President and Vice President for the following year. By unanimous vote, Dr. Carl H. Klehm was elected President and Theo. Mysyk, Vice President, Greta Kessenich again assuming the office of Secretary and Treasurer, by appointment.

Future sites of the American Peony Society convention were approved by the Board of Directors.

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. May 24-25-26, 1979

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. June 12-15, 1980

Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio. June 1981

Tentative, Hamilton, Ontario. Canada. 1982

Mrs. Marjorie Cornell presented the architectural drawings of plans for a walk-through, designed for Cornell Plantations, Ithaca, New York. For this project, it was voted unanimously that the American Peony Society contribute enough peonies to complete such a planting and it be known as the American Peony Society Gardens.

Edward Michau gave a report on the number of members that had responded on the study of the blooming dates of peonies.

A lengthy discussion on the present show schedule followed. The Court of Honor is to be rewritten by the Committee, eliminating the length of time presently taken for judging.

A motion was made by John Simkins and seconded by Dr. Carl H. Klehm that important informative material in past Bulletins be preserved in book form.

Meeting adjourned.

Secretary, Greta M. Kessenich

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

ANNUAL MEETING

Kingwood Center, June 10, 1978

The annual meeting of the American Peony Society and banquet was held at Kingwood Hall, Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio.

The buffet banquet was served at 7:00 P.M. in the main drawing room at Kingwood Hall with the invocation by Mr. Chris Laning.

After the dinner, the guests were welcomed by President Joe Glocka. A special introduction was given Mr. and Mrs. C. Graham Jones from England. The members were then called upon to introduce themselves, also giving the name of their states.

Mr. Fred Roberts, Director of Kingwood, welcomed the American Peony Society and gave a background history of beautiful Kingwood.

The Secretary's report and the Treasurer's report had been passed to all members. Mr. Marvin Karrels reported that the books of the Treasurer had been audited and were in order. The financial report was unanimously accepted.

Greta Kessenich read the names of the nominees for the Board of Directors for a three year term. They are as follows: Irvin Ewing, John E. Simkins, W.G. Sindt, Allen J. Wild, Frank Howell, and Chris Laning. There were no nominations from the floor. All nominees were unanimously elected.

The new publication "An Introduction to Tree Peonies, Basic Planting and Growing Guide," completed this year, was introduced to the members by Greta. The book will sell for \$1.00 which will defray the cost of mailing and printing.

The Court of Honor recipients were read by the Secretary. Awards were presented. Mr. W.G. Sindt received the Farr Medal for the Grand Champion peony, *Princess Margaret*. Awards were also presented to those receiving the Best in their color class, Best collection of herbaceous, tree peonies, Best bloom for Amateur, Best bloom for Novice and Grand Champion Arrangement.

The business meeting was adjourned and the peony root auction followed.

All peony roots donated were in demand.

Mr. Clarence Lienau was the auctioneer. We all thank you, Mr. Lienau.

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

R. W. Tischler, Brand Peony Farms, Faribault, Minnesota

Wouldn't you wonder just what varieties of peonies you would plant if you had the pick of hundreds of plants at your disposal?

In the fall of 1977, I decided to landscape my home. The area around my house does not have the proper planting conditions but peonies are planted in different environments.

Along the drive wall, I planted the following:

Douglas Brand — a champion double red.

Seedling Bob Tischler — a dark red semi-double hybrid — as yet unknown qualities.

Tish — A dark red Japanese, one of my newer seedlings.

Alexander Woolcott — beautiful red hybrid.

— 32 —

Buckeye Belle — Dark red semi-double hybrid.

Red Charm — Outstanding red double hybrid.

Illini Chief — Orange-red hybrid.

Ludovica — rose-pink hybrid.

Cardinals Robe — Scarlet red hybrid.

On the eastern slope, plantings were made of:

Myra MacRae — Excellent pink double.

Archie Tischler — white double, pink tinge.

Paul Bunyan — large rose pink double.

Myrtle Tischler — large deep pink double.

Moonstone — Attractive blush double.

Blush — beautiful pink double.

Mary E. Nicholls — nicely formed white double.

Florence Ellis — Medium pink double.

Mattie La Fuze — Very large double white.

Elsa Sass — Excellent cream double white.

Nancy E. Nicholls — Large blush double.

Douglas Brand — Champion double red.

Age of Gold — tree peony.

The planting in front of the house in somewhat high shade consists of:

Lotus Queen — pretty white Japanese.

Gay Paree — Attractive lovely pink Japanese.

Gypsy Queen — Bright deep rose Japanese.

Kay Tischler — Showy bright pink Japanese.

Claire De Lune — pale yellow white single.

Break O'Day — Dark pink Japanese.

Faribo Gold — Large white Japanese, yellow center.

Tish — a dark red Japanese.

Gail Tischler — Attractive pink Japanese.

Pico — excellent white single.

Gypsy Rose — Deep rose pink Japanese.

Patricia Hanratty — Large pink Japanese.

Henri Potin — Pink Japanese.

Miss America — beautiful white semi-double.

A circle of ten plants of **Helen Matthews**, a beautiful red semi-double hybrid has been planted in another spacious area.

Along the west of my home, a large planting of **Tenuifolia Flora Plena**.

This planting consists of peonies I have liked and enjoyed over the years. More choice peonies will be planted in time.

Peonies Outdoors and In by Arno and Irene Nehrling (1960) 288 pages containing information in all phases on the herbaceous and tree peony. Society members \$4.95.

Send check or money order for the above literature to American Peony Society, 250 Interlachen Road, Hopkins, Minnesota 55343.

Back Bulletins, \$1.00 each to members. Non-members \$2.00.

The following article was written by Clare Sheppard, Vice President of the Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont.

It was published in their paper, the VERMONT LEAF.

HORTICULTURIST REDISCOVERED

a tribute to MARY E.G. FREEBORN of Proctor

By Clare Sheppard

PICO, KILLINGTON, CHAMPLAIN — Mary Freeborn named three of the peonies she hybridized here in Vermont. In the midst of a fifty-acre wildflower preserve in Proctor, where both peaks looked down into her garden, she bred peonies, crossed and nurtured, developing new improvements, twenty of which she named and registered with the American Peony Society from 1929 to 1953.

The peonies are more well-known than she is. Records show this amazing amateur horticulturist was a native of Connecticut, born in July 1874. She was educated at Vermont Academy, Cornell, and the Women's Medical College of New York. She earned her doctorate, worked in research laboratories in New York City, and also taught bacteriology and chemistry. It is only a guess that her vocation led to an interest in genetics.

In a 1943 APS Bulletin article on herbaceous hybrids, when the experimenting was fairly new, Mrs. Freeborn was the only woman cited for pioneering work in the field of cross-breeding peony species. With the addition of a different species into the genetic pool, it was possible to expand the season to bloom, habit of plant, and shape and color of flower. Although pollination is a brush-stroke, if it takes, it is at least four years, often more, until a seedling blooms the first time and then another four to five years of trial for consistency of performance. APS records comment that although Mrs. Freeborn made many crosses and grew many experimental cultivars. She gave most of them away to other hybridizers and never sold or grew for the market herself.

Mrs. Freeborn was active in APS conventions, showing her new seedlings until 1952. Her last introduction, John Stark (a single deep crimson), was registered in 1953. She died in February 1964. George W. Peyton, at that time APS secretary and editor of the Bulletin, paid his friend and contemporary this tribute in a few words, "Mrs. Freeborn was truly a noble and lovely woman . . ."

Greta Kessenich, the present APS secretary and editor, wrote for this article, "Mrs. Freeborn made notable contributions to the peony world. After all these years, her peony Pico continues to be grown and continually is on the Court of Honor at the National shows." Pico was introduced in 1934. In 1964 Mr. Peyton wrote, "... it has won so often that we shall not attempt to give its record here." He goes on, "This has taken first in its class in nearly every show in which it has

appeared and is now generally recognized as the finest of all white singles. It is a tall plant and has the largest leaves of any lactiflora we know of."

The variety **Champlain** is also a tall single but is a blush color. **Killington** is listed as a strong growing floriferous double whose white petals grow in whorls with the fragrance of a tea rose.

Apparently there were very few singles and Japanese cultivars on the market until about 1930.

Although Mrs. Freeborn had imported species peony seeds from Japan, possibly in the early 1930s, some of her most successful cultivars were crosses from two old favorites — the "piny" of colonial days (**Officinalis rubra Plena**) and **Mme. Jules Dessert**, a 1909 lactiflora variety, double white described as "splendid habit, very floriferous." She also used the double crimson **Eugene Bigot** (1894). Japanese parents were the red **Nippon Beauty** introduced in 1927 and old rose pink **Tamate Boku**. These crosses are herbaceous hybrids, the most famous of which is **Angelo Cobb Freeborn**. This 1943 introduction is still listed in most peony catalogs.

Ms. Kessenich continues, "The hybrid **Angelo Cobb Freeborn** is the only peony of its kind. A beautiful coral full double peony, unique in form . . . I have always exhibited this beautiful flower at the National shows and it is such a favorite."

Mrs. Freeborn, through her fascinating hobby, left us a heritage we have been unaware of. Only a few of her cultivars are still grown for the market. Some have been lost. Perhaps some are growing near by, as peonies sometimes do, planted long ago by a friend, waiting to be rediscovered as a remembrance of this Vermont gardener.

The APS, this year celebrating its 75th anniversary, was very helpful supplying the information for this article. From the APS master list of approximately 4,000 named cultivars, following are 20 Vermonters, 10 lactiflora and 10 herbaceous hybrids:

lactiflora

- 1929 — **Mrs. Julia E. Goodwin** double, deep pink
- 1931 — **Marygold** jap, late, rose pink
- 1931 — **Miriam Marsh** jap, midseason, blush
- 1934 — **Killington** double, late, white, fragrant
- 1934 — **Pico** single, early, white
- 1941 — **Red Harmony** single, midseason, deep crimson
- 1945 — **William H. Park** jap, midseason, white
- 1947 — **Emily D. Proctor** jap, early, old rose
- 1950 — **Champlain** single, early, blush
- 1953 — **John Stark** single, early, deep crimson herbaceous
- 1941 — **Red Signal** gigantic, tall, single, lustrous red
- 1943 — **Angelo Cobb Freeborn** double, early, coral red
- 1943 — **Crimson Bomb** double, early, crimson
- 1943 — **Garden Sentinel** double, early, brilliant pink
- 1943 — **Hardy Giant** double, early, very large, pink

- 1943 — **Pink Pompon** double, early, clear pink
- 1945 — **Copy Cat** double, early, brilliant, blood red
- 1945 — **Sunfast** double, early, bright red
- 1947 — **Ginny** immense, red, lustrous petals, beautiful Japanese type
- 1951 — **Arbutus Pink** single, early, light pink, dwarf

Rev. C.S. Harrison, York, Nebraska, died at age 87 Feb. 23, 1919.

He was a charter member of the Society and later in 1912 was made an honorary member.

He published several manuals on peonies, of which some chapters have been published in recent past Bulletins. He did so much through his writings to create a widespread interest in the flower. The following article was published in the Bulletin, in the fiftieth year of the Society.

"By his writings you will know him" — A GREAT peony man.

LURE OF THE PEONY

Sent in by Lawrence E. Craig

Salix, Iowa

From an old price list of Morningside Nurseries, Sioux City, Iowa, I find the following:

"The 'Lure of the peony' will overtake you, if you will only plant them, as it has many a garden lover and particularly Mr. C. S. Harrison, a pioneer horticulturist of Nebraska, who wrote the following to some of his flower friends.

" 'IF YOU should receive the announcement that you were to have a visit from thousands and thousands of the best dressed and most beautiful visitors that ever came to earth you would naturally feel like taking a vacation and enjoying such delightful companionship. I am a busy man, but there is no resisting the lure of all this bewitching loveliness.

'They have come, the advance guard, the great masses of dazzling splendor; the rear guard, strong, full orb'd, and stately, will shortly bring up the last of the procession.

'Who am I that I should have this army? An old man laid aside from professional work, broken in health, yet I secured a somber piece of weedy ground, planted those unsightly roots gathered from various portions of Europe and America, and so secured this harvest of delight. Why should I be so highly honored and treated like a god? Thousands of the most gorgeous are putting themselves on dress parade. They vie with each other to see which can make the most alluring and winsome appearance. Such a trousseau no bride ever wore.

'Whence came all these tints of woven splendor which go into this rich carpet of gems, the wonder of the world, where rubies, emeralds, sapphires and diamonds, yea, all the unfading flowers of earth's under garden, are mingled in a fabric which shimmers, flashes and blazes in the sunshine? But that gem of gems costs millions. It is made of dead flowers which cannot breathe and which give out no fragrance. My

garden of gems is alive. Its beauty does not last as long, but it is mine, and while it lasts I am a millionaire. These acres are my bouquet.

‘Whence did they derive these rich perfumes? The mingling of the rose and the violet, the pond lily and the heliotrope, the hinting of cinnamon and the spices. Up from the masses there rise viewless clouds of incense which float above and wander away in the distant air, then sweep earthward so that you wade in billows of aroma.

‘Whence came all this rich coloring—as if the tints had been taken from the sunsets and the mantles from the stars, all woven by deft and unseen fingers into these forms of entrancing loveliness?

‘Reverently I stand in this imperial presence. Instinctively I say, “How precious are Thy thoughts unto me, O GOD; how great is the sum of them.” All these radiant forms are the revelation of the love of the Father, interpreters of His thoughts, profits of our own resplendent future.

‘My garden teaches this lesson. How much the Great Florist would do for His children if they would only give Him a chance. This was His opportunity and He took it. His oldest daughter, good Mother Nature, was on hand to work with me and evolve the plans of God. How much she would do for us if we would only help. What possibilities all around us; Above us divine ideals waiting for a chance to alight and glorify the earth.

‘Come around to these rows. These plants are mine. I grew them from seed. See this one with lovely soft velvety petals of pink; see that one of purest white; look at that one robed in dazzling red with heart of gold. How happy and cheerful they look. They are mine. My eyes first saw them. And back in the unknown are other masses of undiscovered loveliness waiting your beck and mine. Sometimes it seems as if they would break open the gates and flood us with a glory yet unseen.

‘Who would live in desolation when he might live in fairyland, where Nature and all her unseen forces will work day and night to lavish on him her choicest treasures? Plant in masses. Match God’s great out-of-doors with abundance. Don’t be stingy when a little will bring so much. Open all gates and let the beauty of an earthly Elysium settle around you.

‘If you have only a small city lot, beautify that and give a kind
P r o v -
idence a chance to smile on you through the countenances of your flowers.

‘Get peonies, the most gorgeous flowers on earth; plant in masses, and have a splendid carpet of loveliness fit for the touch of angels’ feet. Don’t be stingy with the front yard. A fine house in a neglected yard is like a thousand dollar picture in a ten-cent frame. Plant abundance and do not depend on two or three flowers to glorify a whole lawn. Beauty is wealth; raise a crop of it and be rich. Let us get a combination and fix up the home so it will be a blessed memory in after years. The home is

not a kennel, a stable, a sty or a barn. It is a dwelling place for immortals, who stand on the borders of the eternal beauty, where the stars are planted in the vast flower gardens of the Father.

'If you have beautiful grounds, adorn them with abundance of flowers. You will have your children associated with the most charming companions, and they will have their influence. Your boys will not be boors, but gentlemen; your girls will have lives molded by the pure and the beautiful.' "

SEEDLINGS OF CHRIS LANING

Exhibited at the National show, Mansfield, Ohio

P. C. BEST YELLOW — a full double pale yellow with red flares. It does have pollen and sets seed!

P. C. SECOND BEST YELLOW — full double very similar to P. C. Best Yellow except that it doesn't have the flares. This one also sets seed and has pollen.

MACROPHYLLA X GOOD CHEER — a full double red flower with magnificent carpels. Its color is almost exactly the same as Red Red Rose. The bud is very very long and upon opening, petals are of great size. Because of the parentage, this bloom is surely an unexpected surprise!

QUAD F3 X MOONRISE — a very large single of peach pink color. There are a number of plants of this description in this group so while beautiful, it didn't impress me too much; however, Marvin Karrels asked to have a piece of the root so, respecting his judgment, this one will also be prized by me.

LACTIFLORA RED STRIPE — a ridiculous, small, white bloom with red stripes. Mrs. Katherine Brown is swapping her "EUGENE SCREWBALL" for a piece of it. Think I'll call mine "ODD BALL." Maybe we'll give "LOIS KELSEY" a bit of competition.

ROY'S BEST YELLOW was shown again. It is a plant, or rather a flower that sets the standard for yellow herbaceous blooms. While not a deep yellow, it is a giant step in the right direction.

John Simkins had a very lovely suffruticosa (T.P.) in Group 403.

No report on the many other seedlings exhibited.

Wanted — Names of fragrant peonies

Gardens have been and are continually being established for the blind. All flowers planted in such a garden must have fragrance.

In helping with such a project, names of peonies are requested for this particular kind of planting.

We would like the names of varieties that are of a pleasing fragrance to you. Does Philippe Revoire head the list? A few minutes of your time spent in writing the name or names of fragrant peonies on a card and mailing it to this office will help in such a worthwhile cause, not only for the present but also for future information. The list will be published in the December Bulletin.

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

June 1, 1977 — June 1, 1978

Balance on hand June 1, 1977 \$10325.32

Receipts:

Membership dues \$3754.65

Advertising 335.00

Rent:color slides 67.50

A.P.S. Auction 302.81

Registration, Nomenclature 310.00

Contributions 250.00

Convention — Milwaukee 560.62

Publications:

Bulletins \$76.15

Handbooks 589.58

“The Peonies” 188.50

“Peonies Outdoors and In” 14.85

History of Peonies and Their

Originations 290.00

Total Receipts \$1159.08

Interest on Savings 698.01

Total Receipts \$7437.67

\$17762.99

Disbursements:

Publications:

Four Bulletins, June, Sept., Dec., Mar. \$2412.20

American Peony Society postage 743.00

Office supplies 331.39

Research — (Culture of Paeonia) 700.00

Books — “The Peonies” 253.40

Exhibitions 153.52

Printing 425.00

Telephone 12.53

Bank checks 3.35

Convention — Milwaukee 678.40

Total Disbursements \$5712.79

Balance June 1, 1978 12050.20

\$17762.99

Excess receipts over disbursements for the year — \$1724.88

Savings Account \$11220.23

Checking Account 829.97

\$12050.20

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary-Treasurer

— 39 —

My Experiences With Tree Peonies

by *Edward Auten, Jr., Repeat.*

While my work with herbaceous peonies covered a period of over fifty years, during which I grew thirty acres and introduced 275 of my originations, my interest and work with tree peonies was always minor. Reading in the society bulletins all the articles on tree peonies, I have seen very little in them about actual cultural practices, and am inspired to tell my story.

In Peoria I had a very good friend who ran a lunch counter and was a very active and broadminded amateur gardener. Somewhere near 1920 he bought from B. H. Farr, a root of the *Lutea Hybrid* full double hybrid *Souvenir de Maxine Cornu*, which he was told was the first root of that variety sold in the U.S.

It prospered, and in 1927 when the national peony show was held in Peoria it was a large plant and attracted much interest from the big amateurs and peony men. One dealer virtually offered him \$500 for the plant but it was not then for sale. It got so big I kept asking the owner why he did not divide it, and he said he was afraid to try it.

I told him if he would dig it I would be willing to risk dividing it for him. He took me up on the offer, so one day I arrived there and found an enormous clump with very long roots, lying safely on top of the ground. The long lateral roots were soft, so I took a knife and started to work. But I soon asked for a saw. With a key-hole saw I sawed it up into ten usable divisions.

He was quite delighted and said if they lived he would give me one. That came in due time, and I grew it until it was large enough to divide. So I cut mine up into seven nice divisions.

They all grew well, but one mid-summer day about two years later, one of my most faithful helpers, running out of work when I was out of town, and wanting to earn his pay, mowed a weed patch and cut off all seven peonies. His distress when he learned what he had done was worse than mine.

Three or four survived, and I grew these on, but not at full speed. I gave some away to relatives or friends, and now have two.

Souvenir de Maxime Cornu is a magnificent full double, yellow with orange or reddish flushings. The blooms hang under the foliage, and I often see criticism of varieties because their blooms do hang hidden. This does not worry me any; I cut a bloom with a 6 inch stem, bring it indoors and enjoy it longer than if I had left it on the plant.

I have yet to lose a tree peony from below zero temperatures. The woody stems may freeze to the ground but new ones always come up the same year and many of them also bloom then.

We are about 200 miles north of St. Louis. Last winter we had temperatures down to 15 or 17 below zero. None of my 10 plants were killed completely. But some had been killed back the year before and

did not bloom either year. But I got some good bloom this year on some of the new stems.

I had a present from a grower of about 4 varieties that were then on their own roots, that all did well. Among these were two more Lutea hybrids, **L'Esperance** and **Surprise**. They were good but not as good as **Souvenir de Maxime Cornu**.

A very experienced grower and importer told me he considered it the best of all tree peonies. **L'Esperance** I liked better than **Surprise**, a very fine plant, landscape value, but not a heavy bloomer.

Now it just happens that I am so constituted that I get extremely selective when it comes to color. Tree peonies get great praise, most of it merited, but to anyone who is like me in being very color sensitive, I would suggest that it would probably save them many disappointments if they bought only after seeing tree peonies in bloom. I would surely prefer to do that.

I have Prof. Saunders' **Black Pirate**, a delavayi hybrid or species. It is a fine peony in every way. Very dark red, single or semi-double. A fine plant, strong grower, it or others of Prof. Saunders dark reds with delavayi blood in them are worth-while. But personally I like the shade of red in some of my officinalis-Lactiflora hybrids, herbaceous, better than these red tree varieties, and they are easier to obtain and grow.

I also had two pure yellow double Lutea varieties given me, and these were still on Lactiflora understock; the full double **Alice Harding**. This I have read is the same as a variety offered under a Japanese name. Have had these several years, but almost no growth of the yellow upper section of the graft. Only about 6 or 7 inches tall, I have had as many as 13 blooms on one plant, the other one was accidentally cut off with a scythe, with only about 2 inches of the variety left. It has since bloomed twice, one bloom first year, then three next year. This year it loafed as did the **Alice Harding** and it might have been our May 10th freeze.

I don't believe these tree peonies ever need spraying. They got almost no fertilizer in this fine Illinois soil. But some years when not worn out with regular work we would surround each clump with 2 or 3 foot chicken wire and cover the plants completely with old tree leaves. This primarily was done to delay the early leafing out and budding, which is often killed back, here. It also is a protection against zero killing of the woody stems. We leave the cover on until past the regular time for removing other plant covers. The all-yellow double Luteas are very fine and very much worth-while.

* * * * *

We have come a long way in the growing, culture and knowledge of tree peonies since this article was written in 1966 by the great plant breeder, the late Edward Auten, Jr.

This year a booklet "An Introduction to Tree Peonies," which is a basic planting and growing guide has been published. Price: \$1.00

— 41 —

Blooming Sequence Study Status

Edward Lee Michau

124 replies from 32 states, District of Columbia and 6 other countries as of July 14, 1978.

This is a very gratifying response. My thanks to you.

Blooming dates of varieties may be the same when reported from different areas, thereby establishing its location in the sequence.

It will take some time to reduce this data. A report will be in the Bulletin at a future date.

COLORED SLIDES

Thirty-seven new colored slides of peonies have been added to the slide library. A gift from Gene Wild, Gilbert H. Wild and Son, Inc., Sarcoxie, Missouri. Our thanks to Gene Wild for the following:

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MUSIC MAN	JAN VAN LEEUWEN	NICK SHAYLOR
FEATHER TOP	FLORENCE NICHOLLS	PEPPERMINT
BO PEEP	DEER CREEK	GARDEN GLORY
PHILIPPE REVOIRE	WRINKLED AND CRINKLES	LOTTIE DAWSON REA
EMMA KLEHM	MOON OF NIPPON	GUIDON
BETTER TIMES	PINK CAMEO	RUTH COBB
COMANCHE	WESTERNER	OPAL HAMILTON
JESSIE GIST	DO TELL	JUNE BRILLIANT
MARY E. NICHOLLS	PAINTED DESERT	GENE WILD
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		ALPINE AIRE

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Color Slide Collection: The American Peony Society maintains several groups of excellent sets of peony sides for rental. Each set contains 80 slides. A complete set can be requested of all tree peonies, herbaceous hybrids or lactifloras or a combination of these three types.

Slides should be ordered three weeks in advance of date to be shown. Return slides promptly. Return postage, including insurance must be paid by the renter. Insurance \$50.00. A charge of \$2.00 is made for every missing slide. Count slides when received and again before sealing for return. A duplicate of any slide is not accepted, when returned. Rental fee, \$7.50.

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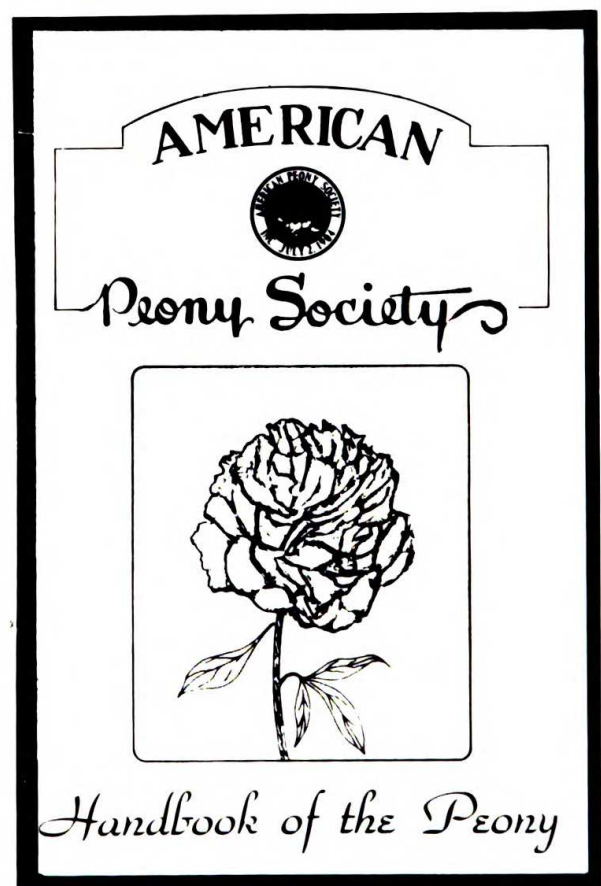
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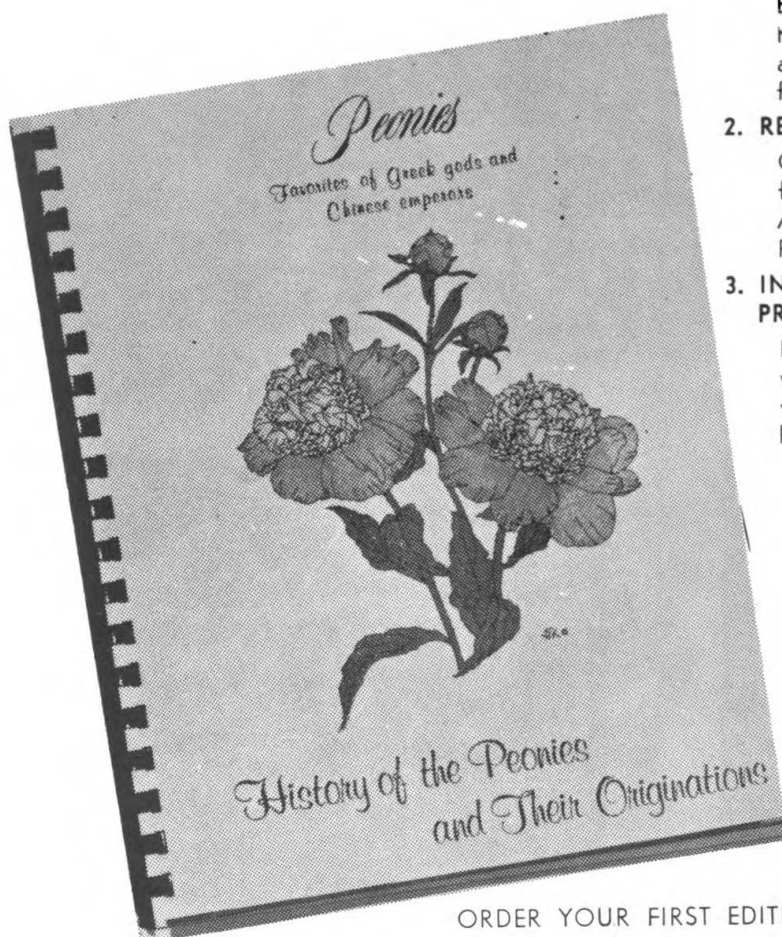
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Amy Smith, age 3½ years old, with a bloom of MOONSTONE from her grandparents' garden, Ted and Irene Mysyk. Mr. Mysyk is our newly elected Vice-President. MOONSTONE was the Grand Champion in their garden this year. All their peonies grew straight and tall. SCARLET O'HARA, 52 inches. KANSAS and several others were 50 inches. PRINCESS MARGARET, DINNERPLATE, MISS AMERICA, WALTER MAINS and RED CHARM were outstanding.



In order to produce good flowers one must have strong plants, and to grow healthy plants the following rules must be observed:

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2. Full sun.
3. Away from trees and shrubs.
4. Good cultivation.

Peonies should be cultivated at least once a week until they begin to bloom and in dry weather should be given a thorough soaking about once a week. When the plants are four years old or older, a little feeding is beneficial, but it must be remembered to use moderation.

Don't ruin a fine plant by heavy feeding.



*A stroll through the parking lot at Convention time.
Kingwood Center, June 11, 1978.*

Photo—Edward Lee Michau