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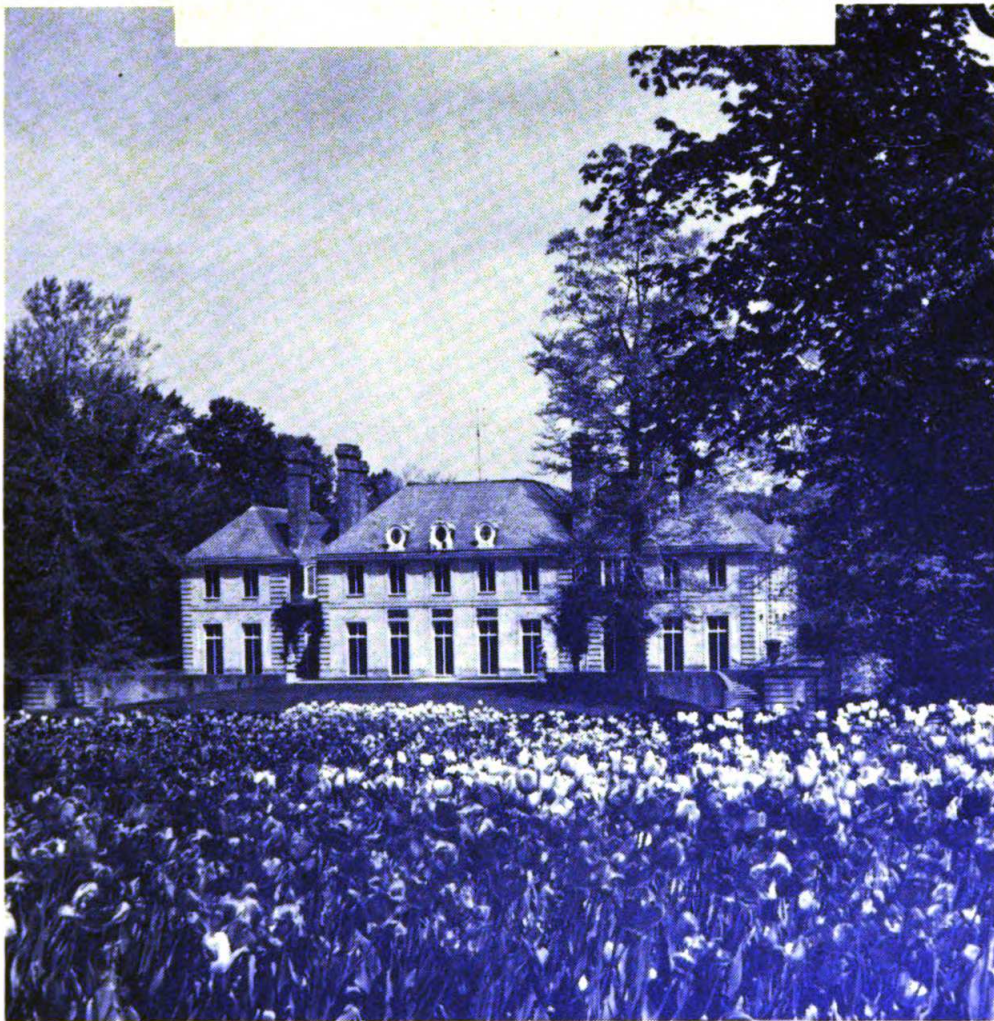
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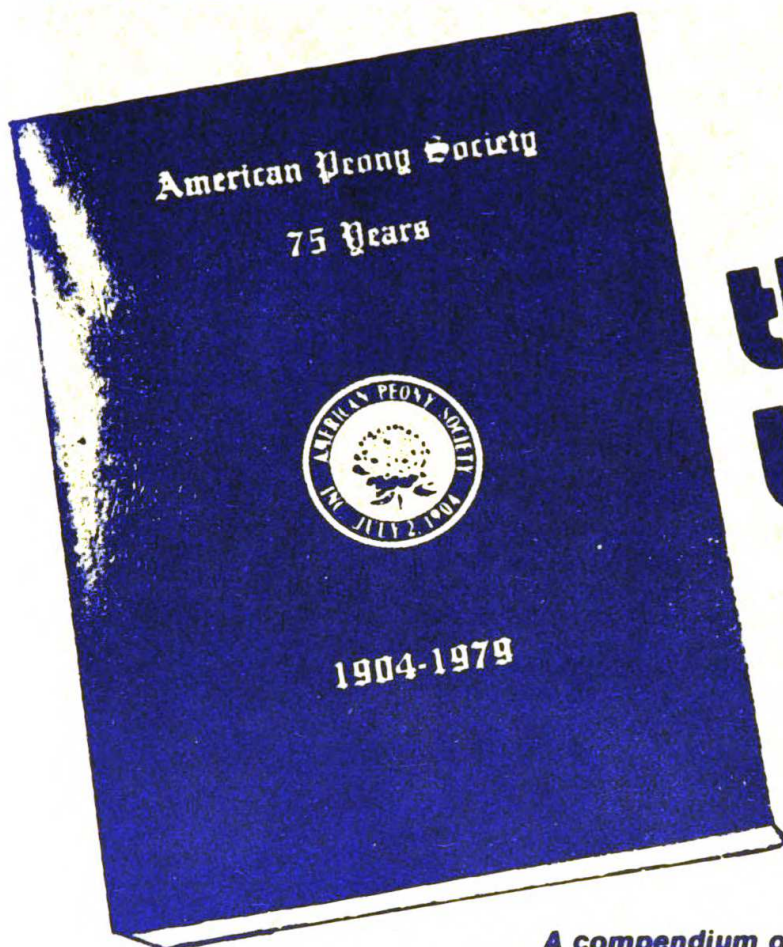
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The American Peony Society Bulletin



SPECIAL CHARTER EDITION



the best of 75 years

Compiled and edited
by Greta M. Kessenich

*A compendium of authoritative articles
gleaned from 75 years of American Peony Society bulletins*



Those of you who pursue the study of the peony with diligence know that there are very few books on the market dealing with the peony in depth. The Best of 75 Years is destined to be a landmark edition for decades to come. It touches on subjects dealing with peony culture, history, exhibitions, peony ratings, nomenclature and new propagation techniques written by botanists, growers and hybridizers since the founding of the Society in 1904.

Bylines such as Saunders, Auten, Peyton, Wister, Gayle appear throughout supported by such contemporaries as Krekler, Wild, Hollingsworth, Lienau, Karrels and scores of others ... all ex-

cerpted intact from the American Peony Society's rare, near intact set of bulletins issued since 1904.

Every copy sold will be registered in your name as a charter subscriber.

Vinyl cover, 8½ x 11, 226 pages, price \$15

**Order your copy now:
American Peony Society
250 Interlachen Road
Hopkins, MN 55343**

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

250 Interlachen Road (612) 938-4706 Hopkins, Minn. 55343

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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 or member family	\$ 2.50
Single Triennial	20.00	Life	150.00
Family Annual	10.00	Commercial membership	25.00
Family Triennial	27.50		

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



March 1984 — No. 249

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

I have appointed Robert F. Schmidt of Brecksville, Ohio for Director to complete the term of Clarence Lienau.

* * * * *

Winter! Day after day after day of record-breaking low temperatures. The earliest and longest lasting snow cover in Kansas in December in 30 years. Wind chill so low that touches of frostbite reach through layers of clothes.

Then suddenly over New Years, the temperature shoots upward. The snow cover goes and the temperature reaches the sixties.

Winter does return, but it is only a few weeks until the peonies come through the ground and produce their miracle. The blooms so hard to imagine in the winter chill, will be there in many forms and colors.

Again, our beautiful example of the renewal of life will have taken place.

Edward Lee Michau

P.S. — Join us at Mansfield, Ohio for this year's show and meeting.

*Bulletin cover—Garden scene, Kingwood Center,
Mansfield, Ohio*

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS, MR. KREKLER

George A. Hernandez

William H. Krekler recently celebrated his 85th birthday. As a tribute to a dedicated peony enthusiast and as a birthday gift, I would like to offer a brief description of a few of my favorite Krekler varieties. This is no easy task as Mr. Krekler has introduced and registered over 200 peony cultivars during his remarkable life-long association with the paeonia. Many of this master breeder's cultivars remain popular today, while others are just being discovered by the general public.

Some of my favorite Krekler peonies are:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Cora Stubbs | —Pink, 32", Mid-season. Creamy centered, touched with lavender, outer petals are raspberry pink. 5" flower held on sturdy stems, lots of foliage, heavy flowering, well scented; an eye catcher in any garden! |
| Dutch Dwarf | —Wine pink, 18", Early season. A lovely miniature, very compact, with heavy foliage, 2" blooms, very fragrant; one of the best of the dwarf varieties I have seen. |
| Eliza Lundy | —Bright red, 17", Mid-season. These bright red bomb-type flowers are lightly scented. The light green foliage is of the hybrid type. The size of the bush is in proportion to the flower, which makes this a very interesting and versatile addition to the garden. |
| Karen Gray | —Deep cherry pink, 22", Mid-season. A heavily scented single with an off-yellow center, dark glossy foliage, nicely-shaped bush; a good vigorous growing plant. |
| Tom Eckhardt | —Light red, 32", Late-season. Light red, single outer petals contrast with the golden burst of color in the center. Lots of side buds, an unusually broad bush with dark green foliage. A welcome burst of color for the yard or garden. |
| Robin Hood | —White, 34", Late-season. A large double white with bomb-type blooms. The centers of these showy blooms rise at least 3½" as the bloom appears. A medium-green foliage, the leaves are smooth, the stems are straight; a nice landscape specimen. |

Thank you, Mr. Krekler, for your many contributions to the development and popularity of the peony. The world is a much more beautiful place because of your efforts and love for the King of Perennials. Happy Birthday and many returns!

SOME REASONS FOR GROWING PEONIES

Anthony De Blasi, West Newfield, Maine

As far as peonies are concerned—and some bulbs planted in the fall—spring is not a time to dig and plant, but to relax and enjoy. This reversal of usual planting procedure is a bonus to morale and muscle at this season. Watching the red shoots of peonies fan out into mounds of leaf and bud makes the sowing of beans or the planting of an azalea go easier. And if you're watched by a robin or Spring Azure, as you till or plant your garden, all the better.

In contrast to tulips, hyacinths, and other spring bulbs, which tend to lose momentum and even disappear after a few years, peonies persist and increase where they are happy and not totally neglected. Were we in the market for slogans, we might adopt "Peonies for Permanence." Personally, I don't grow peonies because they are permanent, or even because they are easy to grow, but because they are great performers—they are beautiful, and they give spring its climax. No gardener needs a better excuse than that.

But there are other reasons. One I like is that they are practical. They make a self-renewing low border or hedge, with no trimming or pruning necessary. If they are herbaceous peonies, such a border is "erased" during the winter. In the north, between December and March, children can forget about the hedge and run sleds over them.

In May and June, you can have armloads of stunning cut flowers to bring to friends, folks in hospitals, nursing homes, or church.

Another reason is that they bring people who love peonies together, either at shows, in gardens, or in articles like these, to share their discoveries, their delights, or their disappointments.

For the poetic or artistic soul, the peony brings inspiration of form, movement, and color, with especially rich insights into the relationships between these elements and human nature.

For the scientifically oriented, the peony brings a challenge to break down its resistance to change, so that it may be more effectively modeled according to the ever-more-demanding roles given to perennials in our gardens, and deliver the results faster through tissue culture.

Regardless of one's bent or occupation, peonies offer reason enough for beginner, experienced grower, nurseryman, or hobbyist to set their roots in the ground in the autumn—when there is no competition with spring chores—confident that these plants will answer our demands without petering out or taking over.

This is not to say that our expectations will always be fulfilled. There will be seasons that will test the plants beyond their endurance; flowers will sometimes broil in sizzling heat, rot in excess rain, or the plants may be set back by some cultural imbalance or conditions beyond one's control. No plant in my experience scores 100% on fulfillment of promise, but in my estimation peonies get the highest score.

THE 81ST ANNUAL MEETING 79TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

June 15, 16, and 17, 1984

**Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio
U.S. Highway 42, South of Highway U.S. 30**

For the benefit of those wishing to attend the Convention, Mansfield, Ohio is located on U.S. Highway 42, about halfway between Cleveland and Columbus. It lies just west on Interstate 71 and just south of U.S. 30. By air, Mansfield is served by U.S. Air Airlines, with connections to other major airlines at Cleveland or Columbus.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, June 15

Center opens at 8:00 A.M. — prepare show entries. Work area will be opened as needed Friday evening.

8:00 p.m. — Board of Directors meeting

Saturday, June 16

1:00 p.m. — Exhibition open to the public. Closes at 5:00 p.m.

7:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. — Set up and enter exhibits

8:00 a.m. — Registration

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. — Judging

1:30 p.m. — Luncheon at the main house, assembly room

3:00 p.m. — Seminar, Kingwood Hall — See Chris Laning

5:30 p.m. — Cocktails

7:00 p.m. — Buffet banquet, assembly room, Kingwood Hall

— Welcome address, Mr. Jerry Stites, Director, Kingwood Center

— Annual meeting

— Root auction

Sunday, June 17

9:00 a.m. — Board of Directors meeting, Kingwood

10:00 a.m. — Show opens to the public

5:00 p.m. — Show closes to the public

Saturday luncheon and banquet including all incidentals — \$15.00.

Send reservations directly to:

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

250 Interlachen Road, Hopkins, Minnesota 55343

There will be a peony root auction following the banquet and business meeting. Over the years, many roots have been made available for this event. They are donated—sometimes there may be a treasured old peony or a classic new—always there are various types and varieties—a prize for any garden.

The proceeds from the auction are contributed to the APS treasury.

MOTEL

Quality Inn Park Place, 191 Park Ave. W., Mansfield, Ohio.

(Phone: (419) 522-3662, ext. 115)

Marilyn Weirick, Sales Manager

A block of rooms have been reserved for the American Peony Society and they will be held until two weeks before your arrival date of June 15.

This is the same week as the Miss Ohio Pageant and all hotels will be filled.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY!

\$31.00 per single — \$36.00 double; the third person in a room, no charge; \$5.00 for the fourth person.

There is a 6% sales tax and 2% county bed tax on each room.

RULES FOR SPECIMEN EXHIBITS

1. All entries must be completed and in place by 11:30 a.m. on opening day.
2. All entries must have been grown by exhibitors.
3. Entry tags supplied by the Society must be filled out completely as to class, variety, and name and address of exhibitor. In addition, each variety must be identified with a small wood or plastic tag with the variety name legibly printed thereon. Entry tags may be obtained in advance from the secretary of the American Peony Society. The exhibitor or his agent shall be responsible for proper completion of the entry tags.
4. Stems should be approximately 12" long (tree peonies excepted.)
5. Exhibitors are limited to one entry each in classes 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 201, and 301. In all other classes up to two entries of each variety are permitted; however, any number of different varieties may be entered.
6. The show committee may combine or divide classes if the number of entries warrants it.
7. Correct varietal labeling is mandatory in the Open and the Amateur classes. It is recommended in the Novice classes, but no entry shall be disqualified for failure to identify.
8. Standard containers will be furnished by the show committee and must be in all classes.
9. The American Peony Society Handbook will govern bloom types and color.
10. Anemone types such as Gay Paree shall be shown as Japanese.
11. Awards need not be given to unworthy exhibits.
12. Flowers are to remain as placed on the show tables by the exhibitor, moved only when necessary, and then the exhibits must be kept in the same position.
13. The decision of the judges is final—NOTE: See Page 12,

Division VI — COURT OF HONOR CANDIDATE CLASS

DIVISION 1. Open to all Exhibitors.

- Class** **101** American Peony Society Award
Twenty-five varieties, any color or type.
One bloom each in separate containers.
- 102** American Peony Society Award
Fifteen varieties, herbaceous only, any type or
color
One bloom each in separate containers.
- 103** American Peony Society Award
Ten varieties, herbaceous hybrid only, any type
or color
One bloom each in separate containers.
- 104** American Peony Society Award
Ten varieties, Tree peonies only, any type or color
One bloom each in separate containers.
- 105** Five varieties, Japanese Type lactiflora only, any
color
One bloom each in separate containers.
- 106** Five varieties, single type lactiflora only, any color
One bloom each in separate containers.

Three Blooms, one variety lactiflora only, in one container.

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Class | 117 Semi-double red |
| 110 Double white | 118 Bomb any color |
| 111 Double blush | 119 Japanese white or blush |
| 112 Double light pink | 120 Japanese pink |
| 113 Double dark pink | 121 Japanese red |
| 114 Double red | 122 Single white or blush |
| 115 Semi-double white or
blush | 123 Single pink |
| 116 Semi-double pink | 124 Single red |

One Bloom Lactiflora Only

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Class | 138 Bomb white or blush |
| 130 Double white | 139 Bomb pink |
| 131 Double blush | 140 Bomb red |
| 132 Double light pink | 141 Japanese white or blush |
| 133 Double dark pink | 142 Japanese pink |
| 134 Double red | 143 Japanese red |
| 135 Semi-double white or
blush | 144 Single white or blush |
| 136 Semi-double pink | 145 Single pink |
| 137 Semi-double red | 146 Single red |

Three blooms, one variety Herbaceous Hybrids or Species in one container.

Class

- | | | | |
|-----|--|------|------------------------|
| 150 | Double or semi-double white, blush or yellow | | |
| 151 | Double or semi-double coral | 155 | Single yellow |
| 152 | Double or semi-double pink | 156 | Single white or blush |
| 153 | Double or semi-double red | 157 | Single coral |
| | | 158 | Single pink |
| 154 | Japanese, any color | 159 | Single red |
| | | 159A | Itoh, hybrid any color |

One bloom Herbaceous Hybrid or Species

Class

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|-------|------------------------|
| 160 | Double or semi-double yellow | | |
| 161 | Double or semi-double white or blush | | |
| 162 | Double or semi-double coral | | |
| 163 | Double or semi-double pink | | |
| 164 | Double or semi-double red | | |
| 165 | Japanese, any color | | |
| 166 | Single yellow | 169 | Single pink |
| 167 | Single white or blush | 169A. | Single red |
| 168 | Single coral | 169B. | Itoh hybrid, any color |

Three blooms, one variety, tree peonies only, in one container.

Class

- | | | | | | |
|------|--|------|-------------|------|--------|
| 170a | Japanese (Moutan) White, Single | 170b | semi-double | 170c | double |
| 171a | Japanese (Moutan) Pink, Single | 171b | semi-double | 171c | double |
| 172a | Japanese (Moutan) Red, single | 172b | semi-double | 172c | double |
| 173a | Japanese (Moutan) Violet single
(Really purple lavenders) | 173b | semi-double | 173c | double |
| 174a | Japanese (Moutan) Maroon single | 174b | semi-double | 174c | double |
| 175a | Lutea Hybrid, white to cream, single | 175b | semi-double | 175c | double |
| 176a | Lutea Hybrid, yellow, single | 176b | semi-double | 176c | double |
| 177a | Lutea Hybrid, blend, single | 177b | semi-double | 177c | double |
| 178a | Lutea Hybrid, pink, single | 178b | semi-double | 178c | double |
| 179a | Lutea Hybrid, red, single | 179b | semi-double | 179c | double |
| 180a | Lutea Hybrid, dark red, single | 180b | semi-double | 180c | double |

One bloom tree peony only.

Class

185a	Japanese (Moutan) white, single	185b	semi-double	185c	double
186a	Japanese (Moutan) pink, single	186b	semi-double	186c	double
187a	Japanese (Moutan) red, single	187b	semi-double	187c	double
188a	Japanese (Moutan) violet, single	188b	semi-double	188c	double
189a	Japanese (Moutan) maroon, single	189b	semi-double	189c	double
190a	Lutea Hybrid, white to cream, single	190b	semi-double	190c	double
191a	Lutea Hybrid, yellow, single	191b	semi-double	191c	double
192a	Lutea Hybrid, blend, single	192b	semi-double	192c	double
193a	Lutea Hybrid, pink, single	193b	semi-double	193c	double
194a	Lutea Hybrid, red, single	194b	semi-double	194c	double
195a	Lutea Hybrid, dark red, single	195b	semi-double	195c	double

DIVISION II AMATEUR: Open to exhibitors who raise peonies chiefly for pleasure, sell plants or cut flowers only casually, and do not grow more than 200 plants.

Class 201 American Peony Society Award
Ten varieties, any type or color
One bloom each in separate containers.

Three blooms, one variety lactiflora only, unless otherwise stated, in one container.

Class 205 Double white or blush

206	Double pink	210	Japanese any color
207	Double red	211	Single any color
208	Semi-double any color	212	Hybrid any color
209	Bomb any color	213	Tree any type or color

One bloom lactiflora unless stated otherwise.

Class	220	Double white	225	Semi-double any color
	221	Double blush	226	Bomb any color
	222	Double light pink	227	Japanese any color
	223	Double dark pink	228	Single any color
	224	Double red		

- 229 Hybrid any type or color
230 Tree, any type or color

DIVISION III NOVICE: Open to all amateur gardeners who exhibit peonies only at local shows.

- Class 301 American Peony Society Award**
Five varieties any type or color in separate containers.

Three blooms one variety lactiflora, unless otherwise stated, in one container.

- Class 305 Double any color**
306 Semi-double, any color 308 Single, any color
307 Japanese, any color 309 Hybrid, any color

One bloom lactiflora, unless otherwise stated.

- Class 315 Double white or blush**
316 Double pink 320 Japanese any color
317 Double red 321 Single any color
318 Semi-double any color 322 Hybrid any color
319 Bomb any color 323 Tree any color

DIVISION IV: Seedlings and New Varieties.

- Class 401 Seedlings.**
Three blooms, one variety in one container, not currently introduced.
Variety must have been divided at least once.
Must be shown under name or seedling number.
- 402 New Varieties:**
Three blooms, one variety in one container. Limited to varieties named and registered with the American Peony Society and introduced no earlier than five years prior to show date.
Awards given in the two preceding classes may be Certificates of Merit or Honorable Mention at the discretion of the judges, but no ribbon awards. Varieties having won either award in previous competition may not be shown again in that class, except that varieties shown in class 401 may be shown again in class 402 regardless of awards.
- 403 Seedlings:**
One bloom. This class is for display only.
No awards will be given and any seedling entered in class 401 is ineligible.

DIVISION V: Special Entries.

- Class 501 Commercial Exhibit.**

Collection by commercial grower of 25 to 50 varieties in separate containers. A placard approximately 9" x 14" may be furnished by the exhibitor to identify his display.

502 Visitor from greatest distance.

Five different varieties any type. Mileage verified on entry tag.

503 Multiple bloom.

Single stalk not disbudded. Must show at least three open blooms.

Class 504—505 North Dakota Memorial Award

One bloom each separate container, any color, only named varieties. One entry per individual family.

Class 504—Tree peonies, Lutea and Japanese. Herbaceous hybrid, double and single.

Class 505—Lactiflora, Double, semi-double, single, Japanese.

These two classes are not considered for Class VI.

DIVISION VI: Court of Honor Candidate Class

Court of Honor blooms will be selected from this Division. Entries are limited to two bloom in each class. Exhibitors are urged to enter their best blooms in this Division.

Judges may select two blooms from the floor in addition to placements, for consideration of Grand Champion on the Court of Honor.

One bloom Lactiflora

Class 601 Double white

602 Double blush

603 Double light pink

604 Double dark pink

605 Double red

606 Bomb any color

607 Semi-double any color

608 Japanese any color

609 Single any color

One bloom Hybrid or Species

Class 610 Double any color

611 Semi-double any color

612 Single any color

613 Japanese any color

One bloom Tree

Class 614 Lutea any type or color

615 European any type or color

616 Japanese any type or color

Grand Champion

The best flower in the show will be selected from all named entries in the show.

DIVISION SEVEN — ARTISTIC CLASSES

Section A — HOME IS WHERE THE PEONIES GROW

1. NEW ENGLAND HERITAGE - featuring early American collectibles
2. SOUTHERN CHARM - a mass design
3. OCEAN SHORES - a design incorporating sea shells
4. SOUTHWEST INFLUENCE - a design stressing texture
5. FAST MOVING WEST - in an abstract manner
6. NORTHWESTERN WILDERNESS - a design incorporating wood
7. MOUNTAIN SPLENDOR - a creative design
8. AMERICA'S HEARTLAND — THE MIDWEST - an exhibitional table segment to depict a country picnic; off-white niche will be provided; 40" h. x 32" w. x 30" maximum depth; all cloths must have an 8" drop; appointments and decorative units should be in proportion to the space allowed; an exhibition table segment is not related to the actual service of food; no flatware should be used.

ARTISTIC DIVISION RULES

1. An exhibitor may make only one entry per class. All must be the work of the exhibitor.
2. Peonies should be featured in all arrangements. Peonies need not be grown by the exhibitor, and some will be available from the committee.
3. Accessories and/or bases may be used in all classes.
4. No artificial flowers or foliage are permitted.
5. A minimum of treated plant material is permissible.
6. Entries must be placed from 1 to 5 p.m., Friday, June 15, and from 8 to 11 a.m., Saturday, June 16, in the Kingwood Meeting Hall.
7. While the show management will exercise due caution in safeguarding exhibits, it cannot assume responsibility for injury or loss.
8. Personally owned properties must be claimed immediately after the show closes at 5 p.m. on Sunday.
9. Reservations are requested for class 8 only. Contact the Kingwood Center receptionist (900 Park Avenue West, Mansfield, Ohio 44906, or 419/522-0211) by June 11.

Sally Glauer, Chairperson
Kingwood Center
900 Park Avenue West
Mansfield, Ohio 44906

MULTIPLE BLOOM ON A SINGLE STEM

James Mason

Bulletin #16 — (now Class 503)

Fanny Crosby turned out in harmonious colors, strong stems (on side buds), fragrance and charm to win the blue ribbon in class 19b (now Class 503) at the National Peony Show in Milwaukee—(1949).

The side buds developed into five blooms measuring 3 inches to 3½ inches across. We cut the stem low to give balance and height to this spray of beauty. This single specimen reminded me of a bursting sky rocket, minus the noise.

The entry I made contained side buds only, the main or terminal bud having been removed a month earlier. The specimen was refrigerated a week or more.

Those who grow super specimens of peonies should aim for this class next year. The schedule should say simply, "Multiple bloom on a single stem." You can prepare this class in no better way than to remove the terminal bud at the time you would normally disbud the plant.

I feel sure it was not intended that this class should be won with a single bloom surrounded by green buds. When a few of the top-notch peony flowers, commercial and amateur, begin to enter Multiple bloom or a single stem, some very interesting classes will be seen.

A BEAUTIFUL SPRING GARDEN TO VISIT

Wilson W. Stampe, Davenport, Iowa

105 peonies, 250 lilacs and over 20,000 spring-flowering bulbs constitute the "Stampe Lilac Garden" in Duck Creek Park, Davenport, Iowa. It is a project of the Davenport Horticultural Society, started in 1979.

Although still in its infancy, the earlier plantings are nearly at their peak. The peonies have had at least two growing seasons; 1984 will be their third—some are older. Any garden enthusiast would enjoy a visit anytime from April 20 to June 15.

The Peony collection represents a fairly wide selection of doubles, semi-doubles, hybrids and tree peonies. In general, our aim was to include proven peony varieties for garden display and to extend the bloom season by inclusion of early, mid-season and late types. Klehm, Interstate, and Brand Nurseries were most helpful in making our selections.

Although the garden is open at all times, we will have two special events in 1984: a Lilac Festival on May 6 or 13 (depending on Mother Nature), and a peony walk is scheduled for the afternoon of May 27.

We would love to have any members of the American Peony Society visit us this spring. Criticisms and suggestions welcome!

PEONY SEEDS and a new peony display garden

By Elly Sherrill

513 Laurel Circle, Bellevue, Nebraska 68005

Early in the fall, I sent \$3.00 to Chris Laning in Michigan requesting some seed for my garden club locally—The Fontenelle Nature and Garden Club. He very generously mailed me a quantity more than the club could use—not all the members in the club had room to experiment.

I happened to read an ad requesting seed from the United States in one of my many magazines I receive each month.

I forwarded the following: Chris Laning

1. Vista x Archangel
2. Quad F₃ x Moonrise
3. Serenada
4. Quad F₃ x Silver Dawn F₃
5. Tetraploids from pink and yellow clones
6. Sanctus x Silver Dawn F₃

to Sutton manor, Winchester, Hampshire, United Kingdom. This manor was previously owned by none other than J. Paul Getty of oil fame. A few years ago, a wealthy low-profile Texan by the name of Seeger purchased the estate. Since that time he has commissioned Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe to take over the landscaping of the grounds and incorporate sculpture of great works, and make new gardens. Mr. Seeger is spending \$5,000 a day to make this estate one of the most admired restored museums in the world. The manor house has an art collection to rival any in the Kingdom, and now, their horticultural staff has a nice selection of new introductions to grow of Mr. Lanings. When mature enough, the seedlings will be planted on the grounds of Sutton Manor.

I have been selected to design 3 flower gardens for Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha, Nebraska. I have chosen a rose garden, a foliage garden (non-flowering), and a perennial flower garden of flowers, and dwarf flowering shrubs. This month, letters will be sent to Peony growers all over the United States asking for donations for the perennial garden. I am very optimistic about the results I hope to achieve. Omaha is a peony city, just not an organized group of admirers. This planting will start in early spring and take 2 months to plant.

The 3 gardens are nestled among a new landscaped area now called the Sculpture Garden. It can be seen from Dodge Street, a main artery in and out of the business district of Omaha. Across the street from the museum sits Internorth Corp. Hdqtrs. One of the 20th-century abstract sculptures has been placed in the garden by Internorth, chairman of the board.

This garden is going to be written up for the American Rose Socie-

ty magazine for their March issue. I have asked Roy Klehm to pot up a **Dawn Pink** (Sass) for a personal donation of mine to plant in the perennial garden. The Sass brothers lived on the outskirts of Omaha, and this name is recognized by older citizens in the community.

Any person who would like to send a donation to the garden as a memoriam may send a cash donation to me, or they may forward a potted peony to arrive here the end of April to:

Joslyn Art Museum

Attn: Elly Sherrill, Garden Designer
2200 Dodge Street Omaha, NE 68102

There may be members who grew up in this area, and now reside somewhere else, or who can no longer perform the physical joys of gardening. The bulletin can inform them of my interest and membership in the Society, and my opportunity to create a garden that will incorporate many varieties of peonies. It is my hope that as the garden matures certain flowers will be cut and brought indoors and used in the small restaurant used by the members of the museum for various functions. Ultimately, flower shows will also be staged in the Floral Court to identify floral arrangement as an art form.

The replies so far from growers of the rose industry is: 110.

TREE PEONY TOPICS *Louis Smirnow*

At the invitation of George Dooley, a landscape architect, I went to Massachusetts and Connecticut to see how he planted peonies among his other plants. In one garden, he planted tree peonies among azaleas and rhododendrons, each three feet apart. When I saw them all in bloom, it was a beautiful sight. They all bloomed at the same time. In another garden, he planted peonies near the iris and that, too, was very beautiful.

At one time, people were afraid to plant peonies near other flowers; now landscape architects are using both tree and herbaceous more freely. They should be kept away from trees, at least not too close.

When starting a garden, I suggest planting both herbaceous and tree peonies, as this will give a longer blooming season. The tree peonies bloom early followed by the herbaceous.

When planting peonies, place a handful of lime in the hole mixed with the soil, followed by two handfuls of superphosphate, or 5-10-5, in the same hole. Peonies will do well with these mixtures.

Beginners complain about ants on the herbaceous peonies when they are in bud. The reason for the gathering of ants is due to the fact that buds secrete a sweet juice which attracts them. The ants will disappear as soon as the buds open into a flower.

Recently a lady from Ohio phoned me and stated that she saw tree peonies 10-12 feet in height in two or three arboretums. It was her impression that tree peonies grew only four or five feet in height.

Tree peonies grown from seed will be taller than grafted tree peonies.

ANYONE CAN RAISE FINE SEEDLINGS

By Don Hollingsworth

Unique and gorgeous new peonies that most anyone would be proud to introduce are within the reach of most peony fanciers—in their own gardens. While those of us who write about peony breeding tend to emphasize the findings on how to deal with the difficult, some very productive methods are relatively simple and within the reach of persons whose interests are more casual. In the next few paragraphs, I want to call attention to some comparatively spectacular results of using readily available garden varieties as parents.

In the most recent, previous issue of this Bulletin (December 1983), our editor published pictures of wedding arrangements using peonies, some of which are my seedlings of known parentage. The illustrations are in black and white so I will provide color details. The flower form is best seen in the pictures. Each of the seedlings which I will discuss have a Chinese peony as one parent, and a hybrid as the other, all of the parents being named varieties, available in the trade for many years. Anyone who is inclined to raise seedlings from these or similar crosses should be able to do so without unusual expense or difficulty in obtaining parent plants.

For example, do you grow **LADY ALEXANDRA DUFF** and **CLAIR DE LUNE**? These are the parents of #685, the large double at center front in the upper picture on page 11. What the black and white illustration cannot show is also the chief reason **CLAIR DE LUNE** should be crossed often on the more double forms of Chinese peonies. The 685 color is yellow—pale, but nevertheless it has the finest double form I have seen or heard of in any yellow peony—and the color undoubtedly comes from **CLAIR**. Number 685 is one of only two raised from the cross. The other was a full double blush white. To obtain this kind of doubleness, my observations indicate, one must use a double flowered parent. My seedlings of **CLAIR** from Japanese flowered varieties have so far been singles. However, I expect to eventually obtain Japanese, anemone and bomb forms because **CLAIR** has the bomb **MONS. JULES ELIE** as its pod parent.

A big-centered Japanese form flower is #688, seedling of **DAWN PINK** and the white early hybrid, **ECHO**. Number 688 has heavily substonced, milky pink guard petals and heavy, vanilla ice cream staminodes. It is pictured in the left photo on page 10, best portrayed at the lower right of the arrangement.

Both 685 and 688 were made by saving pollen of the early flowering hybrid parent and using it to pollinate the later flowering Chinese type parent. In each case, both parents have sterling qualities of plant and flower, which is precisely why they are introduced varieties. They are obviously able to pass along these qualities to some of their progeny.

The cross of any hybrid which itself has a Chinese peony as a

parent back to another Chinese peony tends to result in seedlings which have plant habit and flowers that are very much of Chinese type. However, if the hybrid parent has some distinctive quality—color, substance, form—this can carry through to the progeny and distinguish them from the typical run of Chinese peony seedlings. Some persons may disparage the making of such crosses, saying the seedlings will look too much like Chinese peonies. Well, what I say about that is, there's room for all points of view!

One more cross illustrated in the December Bulletin is the Itoh Hybrids. The flowers are in the bottom photo on page 11. Center front is #205 and to the left is the sister seedling #206. These are comparatively strong yellow in color, 206 having somewhat lighter, silvery yellow petal tips. These have the very double Lutea Hybrid ALICE HARDING as pollen parent and an unidentified blush anemone form Chinese peony as the pod parent. The latter is a type that is often seen around very old houseplaces and is believed to be an introduced variety that dates back many years.

The Itoh cross is workable in conjunction with an exhibition collection, the same as the crosses described earlier. However, it requires more diligence, on the average, as the cross seems to "take" under limited conditions. There is some evidence to support the idea it takes on very hot days, which usually occurs later in the flowering season. While ALICE HARDING flowers late for its type, there are likely to be two weeks or more of Chinese peony season afterwards. Since pollen production is low in this very double flower, it is easy to use up the supply before the best chance for hot days arrives. Therefore, I feel it is a good plan to use the pollen sparingly until there is a forecast of unseasonal heat.

Other Lutea Hybrid varieties also produce some fertile pollen and are effective in making the Itoh cross. However, it is only among ALICE HARDING seedlings that we have seen a high percentage producing good quality flowers.

A few words on making crosses are in order. Since one is working with pollen which has a lower fertility, in general, it is especially important to exclude insects and airborne peony pollen from the flowers one is using. One essential step is to remove any pollen-bearing anthers from the flower which is to be pollinated—also stamens in some of the Japanese form varieties, as they sometimes shed pollen—before any pollen has released, as this pollen is capable of contaminating your cross. The other step is to bag or wrap the flower for a few days afterwards to exclude bees. An alternative is to simply strip off all flower parts except the carpels, so that there is nothing left to attract the bees. Even these should be covered if there are pollen bearing peony flowers in the vicinity.

Pollen is collected by pulling out the anthers when the flower first opens, before there has been a chance for insects to reach them. On

single and semi-double flowers, which have abundant anthers, it may be best to cut buds and take them indoors to open or, take the anthers from unopened flowers, i.e., manually force them.

Prepare pollen for storing by drying it—the drier the better. Gentle warming can be used, as from a 60-watt bulb hung 10-12 inches away, or a shelf near a heat source, as a water heater. Also, a dessicant product such as Flower Dri (silica gel) in the bottom of a sealable container can be used to create a low humidity chamber for drying the pollen.

Well-dried peony pollen will remain effective for a surprising length of time, if kept from re-humidification. Good pollens (high original fertility) retained usable viability from one year to the next when I stored the packets over a dessicant in tightly closed jars kept in the freezer compartment of a household refrigerator. For use within a few weeks time, I usually hold current season pollen on a warm shelf, as related earlier.

The crosses are made by applying the chosen pollen to the soft edge of the stigmas of the chosen flower. The stigmas are the uppermost structure of the carpels (pistils, pods) at the center of the flower. Note that the receptive edge is sometimes curled under. In semi-double flowers of the Chinese peonies, the best quality stigmas and carpels may be found on side buds. Thus, the project may be helped by leaving some of the stems not dis-budded. Also, look for the occasional carpel which may be found in the more double flower forms.

While you may never produce very many seeds by these techniques, you will be using the finest quality parent stock available. With only an occasional seedling, one may still produce the finest of its kind.

For additional ready references on techniques of hybridizing and on varieties that have been successfully used in crossing, it is helpful to have a copy of the book, *The Best of 75 Years*, obtainable from the American Peony Society.

See page 130 of the book, *75 Years*, "Hybridizing is Easy" By Edward Lee Michau.

Tour "Palaces and Gardens of India" March 29-April 17

You will see New Delhi, Kashmir, gorgeous scenery of Srinagar, on to Nepals, the ancient kingdom by the Himalayas between India and Tibet. There is much more including Taj Mahal, and on to Bombay.

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The Horticultural Society of New York, Eileen Gaden, Tour Coordinator, 128 West 58th Street, New York, N.Y. 10019.

— A TRIBUTE TO CLARENCE LIENAU —

Clarence was a remarkable man. Besides being genuine, down-to-earth and decent, he was one of the world's foremost authorities on peonies and their culture. Even with all his knowledge and experience, it was never beneath him to talk to a beginning amateur who showed just a little bit of interest at one of the Local or National Peony Shows. I am sure that if any unsuspecting neighbor or friend dropped into his yard or growing grounds, Clarence would talk to him with his boundless enthusiasm, energy, and good nature, about his favorite subject.

Even when I was a young boy, maybe five or six years old, I knew Clarence. When he visited my father, he always took the time to talk to the young children with a friendly voice and kindly smile. I remember my father telling me that Clarence grew some of the best peony flowers in the country, and that if we were able to get our new varieties into Clarence's gardens that Clarence would be the best advertisement for these varieties that we could ever hope to have.

Later on, when I became involved with the Peony Society, and before the years when Greta Kessenich became Editor and Secretary-Treasurer, Clarence never did give up his enthusiasm, hope, and encouragement, for the peony nor for the Society. Those were hard years, but with the strong and encouraging leadership that Clarence always gave, the Peony Society did survive to be enjoyed as the fine functioning, viable friendly plant society it now is.

It is hard to verbally describe how good a man Clarence was, and what a friend he was to me personally and to my family. It is also difficult to realize that he will not be at the next convention, or at the next 5th District Meeting, but I feel that the people he left behind will aspire to his leadership, enthusiasm and qualities, and hopefully enjoy, and experience, the wonderful gifts of nature, horticulture, and especially the beautiful flower we all enjoy—the peony.

—Roy Klehm

* * * *

The Society has lost a real member: Clarence Lienau.

—Dan Pennell

* * * *

We were saddened to read about the passing of Mr. Lienau. He shared our table at the banquet in Milwaukee. I have added 65 new peony varieties to our collection, many of which were recommended by Mr. Lienau in past Bulletins.

—Tom Richards, Boyceville, Wisconsin

— 20 —

CLARENCE LIENAU

In the passing of Clarence Lienau, the American Peony Society has lost a staunch supporter and a premier exhibitor. He gave freely of his time and effort to the welfare of the A.P.S. I personally feel a severe loss.

For 40 years, Clarence and I have made these annual pilgrimages to our National and Regional shows and meetings. In 38 of these, we appeared on the opposite side of the show tables. His passing will leave a big void on these tables. Clarence was not only motivated by the competitive urge, he loved to see peonies set up in show form and perfection. His name will go down in the history of our Peony exhibitors as one of the greats.

“Some day, I hope with you to stand
Before the throne, at God’s right hand,
And say to you, at journey’s end,
‘Praise God, You’ve been to me a friend.
Thank God for you.’ ”

—Marvin Karrels

* * * *

IN MEMORY OF CLARENCE LIENAU

Clarence Lienau was our “counselor” in the peony-growing business! He took us under his wing and nurtured our interest, and shared his experience and expertise in peonies without reservation. He taught us how to prepare the soil, suggested the varieties we should buy and look for, and recommended growing practices that have helped us reach where we are now. When we wished somebody would do something about a problem, Clarence Lienau was there to advise us. When we wanted first-hand information, he was the first to lend us his time and experience. When we needed counseling, he kindly gave his opinion and reason behind it. When we wanted to find some peony stock, Clarence Lienau sent us a wealth of choice roots so we could get started. He was a gracious host when we visited in Detroit and it was a privilege to have him as a guest in our home. The conversation during the day and evening hours always centered on peonies. He tried to interest us in exhibiting peonies and perhaps we shall make this venture some day . . . in honor of Clarence Lienau. His enthusiasm for exhibiting and winning at peony shows was infectious. We shall miss his winning personality in the American Peony Society!

We, the Busse’s, shall miss our mentor, counselor, and friend, Clarence Lienau.

—Norm & Ainie Busse

Editor's note:

Mr. Takahiro Somei is regarded as the foremost authority on the culture and all aspects of the tree peony.

According to an article written by Dr. Landis Q.C. of Canada, Mr. Somei's garden contains over 4,000 tree peonies, about 400 varieties.

Bulletin #226 shows the picture of a 95-year-old tree peony in his collection.

TREE PEONIES IN JAPAN

***Tree Peonies Month by Month
by Kaneo Mega & Takahiro Somei, Japan
(translated by Ron Ringdahl, Seattle, WA)***

APRIL

By the first part of this month, the tree peony is in full bud. By the end of the month, development of new growth pretty much comes to a halt and leaves are fully opened. During this one month, almost all growth is realized. Early-blooming varieties begin to bloom during the latter part of the month.

For the tree peony, this is that one time of year of coming into maturity. Nutrients are important, but it is also necessary to sufficiently provide as much water as the plants can absorb.

From one point of view, it is possible to say that as long as the flower buds have formed, somehow or other they will bloom, regardless of how they are treated. However, if conditions are unwholesome during the period of most rapid growth, this is going to have a negative effect on the later maturation of the plant and will influence the blooming of the next year's flowers.

I. Care of Garden Plantings

1. Mature Plants (3 + year-old grafts)

A. Exposure: It is best to provide as much sun exposure as possible. Other garden plants close at hand can be pruned back, but it should be contrived such that the direct rays of the sun will be avoided while the plant is in bloom.

B. Supports: As the flower buds begin to open and flower petals begin to peek out, supports, such as bamboo shafts, should be provided.

C. Mulch: There is no longer a need to protect the plants from cold. Therefore, if the plants have been mulched, this can now be removed.

D. Watering: Normally watering will not be necessary. If, however, the ground is particularly dry, they should be thoroughly watered during morning hours.

E. Fertilizer: Not applied this month.

F. Planting, Transplanting: As a rule this is not done. However, if a plant with flower buds is obtained, it should be planted as in March.

G. Pruning, Etc.:

Disbudding: By this time, it is possible to tell the difference between new growth which has flowers and those that do not. Unwanted stems can be removed from the base as early as possible.

Suckers: There are cases where suckers will appear around the base of the plant. These should be removed before they develop too much. This can be done by removing the soil from around the roots of the plant and cutting or otherwise removing them at their bases.

2. Immature Plants (1-2 year-old grafts)

If clear weather continues for a period of a week or more, these plants should be watered. If it is found that the mulch has thinned out, this should be supplemented. In addition, they should not be dis-budded. Otherwise, their care follows that of mature plants.

II. Potted Plants

1. Mature Plants (3 + year-old grafts)

A. Supports: Same as for garden plants.

B. Location: Potted tree peonies should be placed in a sunny location. When the flower buds, having enlarged, prepare to bloom, the plants should be placed in a location, such as under the eaves or inside, where they will be neither rained upon nor be in line with the direct rays of the sun. Placing them inside is also probably best for places where the wind is particularly strong, such as the verandas of high-rise apartment buildings. Any movement of location should be done after the buds have begun to open but before they are completely in bloom. If they are placed in a dark location too early, the color of the flowers may not attain their potential fullness. Again, if they are moved after completely open, petals may be lost as a result.

C. Watering: As a general rule, the plants should be watered every other day. It is especially important that they not be allowed to become dry after the flowers begin to open. With an insufficiency of water, there is a tendency for flower size to be decreased, thereby losing the splendor of the tree peony. It might also be added that water should not be sprinkled directly on the flowers.

D. Fertilizer: If fertilizer was not applied in March, this should be done as soon as possible.

E. Planting, Transplanting: Not done this month.

F. Pruning, Etc.:

Dis-budding and removal of suckers: same as for garden plantings.

2. Immature Plants (1-2 year-old grafts)

Dis-budding is not done. Otherwise care of immature plants is the same as for mature ones.

III. Propagation

1. Grafting: Not done

A. Care of the previous year's grafts

Garden Plantings: grafts that take will begin developing buds and stems will begin to push out. If buds do not show development by this month, then the graft can be considered a failure. Care should be taken so that newly developed shoots of grafts which have been covered by inverted pots or similar objects do not become bent over or obstructed in their growth by these covers. The pots or other such covers can be removed from over the grafts when it is ascertained that growth has extended as far as the hole in the bottom of the pot. In the case of grafts which have been protected by a tube, such as a section of large-diameter bamboo, with a pot shard or other covering over the top, the newly-developing shoots will push this top covering off as it grows, at which time the tube can simply be removed from the plant.

At this time, a one-time application of liquid fertilizer (e.g., 8-6-6) at a ratio of 500:1 can be applied in place of one watering. **Potted Plants:** They should be watered when dry. If they have been covered by inverted pots, they should be examined from time to time for development of shoots. When shoots have begun to develop, the care of these plants is the same as garden planted grafts.

2. Seed Sowing: not done this month.

IV. Prevention and Remedy of Disease

At about the time that flower buds become noticeable, a 1500:1 solution of Benlate should be applied twice every other week, care being taken to thoroughly drench the backs of the leaves and around the branches.

V. Notes for Especially Cold Areas

There are probably no more fears of freezing. Mulch can be removed and potted plants that had been buried can be dug up and placed in a sunny location. Otherwise care of plants in these areas is the same as for warmer climates.

MAY

Though there are early-blooming and late-blooming varieties, from early May until late into the month, this is the period sung about by the poets, the twenty days from first flush of bloom until the scattering of the petals. The plants are now entering the period of full maturity, or, to put it another way, this is the time when the development of the following year's flowers is initiated.

Nutrients absorbed by the roots are necessary, but in particular this is more a time when ample sunlight is necessary to produce nutrients in the leaves. From this time on through autumn the plants attain fullness through nutrients provided by both the roots and the leaves.

When flowering is over, seed formation takes place. Seed production is somewhat detrimental to the nutrition of the seed-bearing parent. One might say that this is a time of competition between the next generation, i.e., the seed, and the present generation, i.e., the plant. In the midst of this, buds begin to form at the axils of the leaves. In the fall, these buds may become flower buds. However, though one cannot definitely say that if seed formation is allowed to take place in the spring, then flower buds will not develop, in order to facilitate production of next year's flower buds with greater certainty, the "next generation" must be sacrificed, thereby allowing full nutrition to the plant.

I. Care of Garden Plantings

1. Mature Plants (3+ year-old grafts)

A. Rain Protection: When flowers are about to bloom, the flowers will last longer if some form of rain protection is provided. An oiled-paper umbrella is aesthetically pleasing and elegant, but care must be taken to prevent it from being blown over in the wind.

B. Supports: Same as in April. Supports can be removed after flowering is completed. After removal, the holes that they have left in the soil can be left as is, in order to help drainage and ventilation.

C. Watering: Not normally required. If dry, plants can be thoroughly watered during the morning hours.

D. Fertilizer: In cases where, for example, leaf color is not good or where growth and development are unsatisfactory due to soil conditions, it might be advantageous to try using a different chemical fertilizer (e.g., 3-10-10). Since tree peonies are best grown in places of good drainage, nutrients are easily washed away, and, in case of volcanic soil, there is a tendency for phosphates to be retained in the soil, thereby bringing about a possible insufficiency of these to the plant.

E. Planting, Transplanting: Not done this month.

F. Pruning, Etc.: Flowers should be removed from the plant as soon as the petals fall.

Suckers: Sometimes suckers appear at the base of the plant during this month. These should be removed as indicated in April.

2. Immature Plants (1-2 year-old grafts)

Any mulch should be removed by now. Otherwise, care of immature plants is the same as that for mature plants.

II. Potted Plants

1. Mature Plants (3+ year-old grafts)

A. Supports: Same as for garden plantings

B. Location: Same as in April. After flowers have been removed, move the plants to a location of good exposure to the sun.

C. Watering: Once every morning is the general rule. It is especially important that the plant not dry out while in bloom. They should be watered sufficiently so that quantities of water can be seen flowing out through the bottom of the pot, care being taken not to water the flower petals themselves.

D. Fertilizer: After blooming is over, fertilizing is done as in March.

E. Planting, Transplanting: Not done this month.

F. Pruning, Etc.: As soon as flowering is over, flowers should be cut off at their base and removed.

Suckers: Same as for garden plantings.

2. Immature Plants (1-2 year-old grafts)

Care of these plants is the same as for mature plants.

III. Propagation

1. Grafting: Not done this month.

A. Care of the Previous Year's Grafts

Garden Plantings: If clear weather prevails for a week or longer, the plants should be watered. Also, they can be fertilized with a chemical fertilizer (e.g., 8-8-8) at a rate of about one-half handful per plant.

Potted Plants: If by this month no activity of the buds is evident, the graft can be considered a failure. The covering can be removed from the pot and the scions examined. If any are withered, they can be removed and disposed of. At this time, be careful not to disturb in any way other grafts in the same pot that have taken.

Those that have taken can be given an application of chemical fertilizer, following the example of garden-planted grafts above.

Any suckers that appear should be removed.

In the case of these grafts which have not taken, the root itself is still alive and therefore can be replanted separately in the garden or in pots to be re-used the fall of the present or following year for new grafts.

2. Seed Sowing: Not done this month.

IV. Prevention and Remedy of Disease

The occurrence of disease and harmful insects becomes more prevalent and for the purpose of prevention, a 500:1 solution of Dithane or a 1500:1 solution of Benlate should be applied once after flowers are removed and a second time a week later, especially applying it sufficiently to the underside of the leaves and on the branches.

V. Notes for Especially Cold Areas

Same as for other areas.

Hybridizing (both herbaceous and tree peonies)

Purpose: Varietal improvement is the purpose. However, cross-breeding does not necessarily mean that improved varieties are going to be produced. To put it in a few words, there is but a meager chance that an improved variety is going to be produced. What is necessary for this goal is great amounts of space, long years, a systematic method, outstanding parent plants, and a large measure of luck.

Method: If one leaves cross-breeding completely up to coincidence, then there is no need to hybridize. One can simply use seeds that have been naturally pollinated.

If the purpose is to produce even a slightly better variety, first attention must be given to the selection of parent plants. Since there are no data indicating what kind of offspring will be produced from a combination of what parent plants, one must rely on his own ideas. And especially in the case of tree peony varieties, all of which are already the products of complex cross-breeding, it is difficult to say what will be produced.

Assuming both parent plants have been selected, the first step is removal of the stamens from the seed parent. In more detail, first the petals and then the stamens are removed from the flower between the time when the bloom begins to open and before it is fully open and the anthers release their pollen. After this, the flower is covered with a small bag. (For this purpose, parchment paper is good. If not available, translucent xerographic paper is also suitable. The bag should be large enough to allow the flower ample space within, perhaps 2" x 4." A number of small holes can be made in the bag with a needle.) These steps are taken to prevent its becoming pollinated, either by itself or by other unwanted pollen.

A small bag is also used to cover the flower of the pollen parent in order to strictly prevent the mixture of other pollen with its own.

When pollen has been released from the anthers of the pollen parent, it is applied to the pistil of the seed parent. The entire stamen can be removed and the anther directly rubbed onto the stigma of the seed parent; or a brush or other instrument can be used to transfer the pollen to the pistil. It is best to perform this operation after about 10:00 A.M. in order to give the pollen time to mature.

After pollenization is completed, the small bag is again replaced over the flower of the seed parent.

Once the ovary begins to swell and it is ascertained that seed formation is taking place, the bag can be removed. Of course, a record should be kept of the varietal names of both parents and the date of pollenization.

From now until the seeds are completely formed, fungal-type diseases and insects will frequently be found to occur. Insects are one thing, but in the case of disease, if thorough preventative measures are not taken, the seeds, though pollinated, will commonly wither on the branch without developing at all.

If the seed formation process goes smoothly, the seeds should mature by about the middle of August.

Additional Observations: After the pollen and seed parents have been decided upon and when making the cross, the opposite cross (i.e., making the pollen parent the seed parent and vice versa) should also be performed. Also, the same cross with the same pollen and seed parents should be made with as many flowers as possible.

There are in addition many other aspects of cross-breeding. While numerous varieties of flowering shrub species have resulted from bud-sports, in the case of tree peonies, this cannot be counted on, hybridization being the main source of such varieties. One thing that can be said is that full-scale attempts at varietal improvement through hybridization require specialized study of plant breeding. Without it one may as well seek Divine aid.

JUNE

With June begins the season most disliked by the tree peony, that of high temperature and high humidity. Though moisture is necessary for the growth of the plant, the roots rot easily when the soil is continually damp. Though the effects may not be externally visible, it is possible that such damage is beginning to take place.

Axillary buds at the leaf axils are beginning to develop. They have not yet clearly taken the form of flower buds, but the flower buds are entering their incipient formative stage. There are differences in the way that buds on the upper part (extremity) of a branch and those on the lower part develop. Specifically, those on the lower part, near the base of the branch, begin to form earlier, while those on the upper part develop quicker. By June, the buds on the upper part of the branch are larger than those at the base of the branch.

I. Care of Garden Plantings

1. Mature Plants (3+ year-old grafts)

A. Drainage: In areas of heavy summer rainfall, thought must be given to providing means of drainage. If water tends to collect around the plants, shallow ditches can be scooped out to allow the water to flow away.

B. Watering: As necessary.

C. Fertilizer: Not applied this month.

D. Planting, Transplanting: Not done.

E. Pruning, Etc.:

Removal of axillary buds: Axillary buds are formed at the axils of leaves. Leaving two or three buds at the base area of new growth, the others above these should be removed. This can easily be performed with a narrow-bladed knife, or the buds can also simply be crushed. Care should be taken not to injure the leaf stems.

By removing these buds from the terminal end of the branches, flower buds will form in a lower position. If flowers are

allowed to bloom without any dis-budding, they will appear the next spring at a higher location on the branch. If left for several years, the flower-bearing branches will finally lengthen to such an extent that they will collapse. If, at such a time, branches are pruned back, flower buds will also be removed, thereby losing a season's flowering.

One exception to this is non-flowering new growth which has grown out around the bottom of the plant. These will, lacking other negative conditions, form flower buds at their extremities and therefore these buds should be left as is.

Also, if you anticipate grafting in the fall, you must be sure to leave a sufficient number of buds for that operation.

2. Immature Plants (1-2 year-old grafts)

Care of these plants is the same as for mature plants.

II. Care of Potted Plants

1. Mature Plants (3+ year-old grafts)

A. Mulch: Potted plants which are in a location allowing them to be rained upon can be mulched with a layer of green moss to keep the surface of the soil from overly hardening.

B. Location: The best location is one with good exposure to the sun and one which is airy. During times of heavy rainfall, the pots should not be placed directly on the ground but should be raised up on a row of bricks or similar objects. It is essential that water not be allowed to collect in or around the bottom of the potted plants.

C. Watering: In times of variable rainfall, instead of automatically thinking in terms of once every so many days, the potted plants should be watered when the surface of the soil has begun to get noticeably dry without concern for how much time has passed.

D. Fertilizer: Not applied this month.

E. Planting, Transplanting: Not done this month.

F. Pruning, Etc.:

Removal of axillary buds: Same as for garden plantings.

2. Immature Plants (1-2 year-old grafts)

Care of these plants is the same as for mature plants.

III. Propagation

1. Grafting: Not done this month.

A. Care of the previous year's grafts

Garden Plantings: Same as for mature grafts except that there is no dis-budding.

Potted Plants: Same as for mature grafts except that there is no dis-budding.

2. Seed Sowing: Not done this month.

IV. Prevention and Remedy of Disease

As the weather becomes hotter, occurrence of disease becomes more prominent. Preventative measures should be taken by applying a solution of Dithane (500:1 ratio) or Benlate (1500:1), care being taken to drench the backs of leaves and branches thoroughly.

V. Notes for Especially Cold Areas

Same as for other areas.



REGISTRATIONS

MRS. BEN GILBERTSON (Ben Gilbertson, Kindred, North Dakota) — Feb. 4, 1984.

Tree peony. Seed parent, **Hakuo-Jishi**/pollen parent, **Alice Harding**.

First bloomed 1070. Ball form, stamens and pollen, good amount of bloom, no fragrance

Typically tree peony type, woody stems, early to late season of bloom, vigorous, tree peony foliage.

Bloom like its pollen parent except that it holds up its flower at 90° to the stem or facing out and away from the stem. Regular tree peony root.

PINK ROSETTE (Ben Gilbertson, Kindred, North Dakota) — Feb. 4, 1984.

Seedling #8122. Parentage, seedling 5908 x parent unknown.

No record of when it first bloomed.

Rose pink, double lactiflora, flat form, no stamens, seeds or pollen. Reliable, good substance, good bloom. 30" height. Early to midseason, vigorous grower, medium green foliage. Petals placed so as to form a rosette. Fast increaser.

SIOUX CHIEF (Ben Gilbertson, Kindred, North Dakota) — Feb. 4, 1984.

Seedling #6001. Parentage unknown. Single lactiflora, medium bright red, flat form. It has pollen, seeds, stamens, reliable and good substance—no fragrance.

Stiff straight stems, 30" height, midseason bloom, bright green foliage.

Of the thousands of seedlings that I have grown, this one warrants registration.

COLOR SLIDE COLLECTION

The American Peony Society maintains several groups of excellent sets of peony slides 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.

Return slides promptly. Return postage, including insurance, must be paid by the renter. Insurance \$50.00. Rental fee, \$7.50.

Send request and check to Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary, 250 Interlachen Road, Hopkins, Minnesota 55343.

LETTERS — 1983 Season

The summer of 1983 was the third consecutive season that the peonies did not do well.

There was no snow last winter and no rain during April and May. There was a heavy frost the night of April 15. The next morning, the peonies were all drooping and bent over to the ground. The garden was a dismal sight. They revived during the day.

The weather continued to be cool, but some blooms appeared. Following June 13, the days brought substantial moisture—about 2 inches. This gave the plants a real boost.

June 21st was a much warmer day. The blooms burst out everywhere. Four days later, there began a period of strong winds from the south, with heat in the 90s. Many of the flowers wilted—they simply lacked substance from the poor growing conditions.

There was much more botrytis this year than formerly. The hybrids suffered the most. This problem was present during the dry conditions before the rain came. So, evidently, wet weather is not necessary for this difficulty to prevail.

—Rev. Floyd J. Miller, Fergus Falls, Minn.

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Six years ago when we first started developing Peony Park, we announced the construction of the first building to our friends and business associates by delivering “Peonies from Peony Park” (a bud vase with two blossoms on long stems and our business card attached with a brown ribbon).

Each year since then, we have spent two weeks in late May and early June sharing our peonies with friends and business associates, and the friends of our residents. This year, we delivered over fifty vases.

Among my “inherited” peonies (those peonies that have been in my family for over sixty years), people always enjoy *Festiva Maxima*.

Among my “purchased” peonies (peonies I have acquired by purchasing roots), I had many compliments on *Red Charm*, *Henry Bockstock*, *Matilda Lewis* and *Kansas*.

In fact, I believe I was responsible for one person starting to plant peonies in his yard.

“Peonies from Peony Park” has become an enjoyable thing to do—it has reminded many people of the flower, and it has introduced this special flower to others.

—Alicia Jackson (Mrs. Howard E.), Cedar Rapids, Iowa

As a beginner in growing peonies, and greatly influenced by the American Peony Society in my choice of peonies, I bought the following: DOUGLAS BRAND, MARY BRAND, WALTER MAINS, WESTERNER, A.B. FRANKLIN, MRS. A.M. BRAND, RED CHARM, CYTHEREA, R.W. AUTEN, CORAL SUNSET, MISS AMERICA and MAY MUSIC—Tree peonies: AGE OF GOLD and HANA KISOI. That is all the space I have for growing this beautiful flower.

—John R. Kolanko, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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This is my first letter to the Society—my third year as a peony addict, with 115 varieties. My special thanks goes to the Nurseries of Klehms, New Peony Farm, and R.W. Tischler (former owner of Brands), for their courteous service and excellent roots. Every plant I received from these Nurseries were of the highest quality. Last season, I had 12 plants with nice foliage but no bloom. I had planted them the previous fall. This Sept. I dug them up and found these plants too deep. The top of the plant was 8" underground, surprising to me that a root would sink that deep. Now, allowance is given for root settling.

I dug up a renegade plant that bloomed for me (2 blooms) and transplanted it—a red, which looks like a small rose and fragrant; fragile with a velvety sheen. I call it dainty rose, for the lack of another name. Of all my beautiful peonies, this one is my pet; even small, it is a pretty flower.

—M. H. Thomas, Ovant, Oklahoma

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The peony in Missouri was good, but not the best. We had ample moisture, but some bushes had bloom on one-half the bush and not on the other.

Especially beautiful was HATSU HINODE, planted in the fall of 1977, and blooming in 1983 for the first time. The three blooms were huge and very full. I guess it was worth waiting for. After my commenting last year that I had never had a tree peony bloom in the summer or fall, HESPERUS made a liar out of me by putting on a burst of new growth in mid-summer, and blooming in August. Of course, with our August heat, the bloom didn't amount to much, but it did bloom.

In the hybrid category, CORAL CHARM, planted in 1979, was one of the most beautiful things in the garden. I had been disappointed with it before, but this year it was super. LOIS ARLEEN, CYTHEREA, and RED CHARM always seem to be good. I can't decide whether I like RED CHARM or DIANA PARKS best.

NORMA VOLZ was exceptional this year and showed red petals in the center for the first time since it was planted in 1978. DINNER PLATE is one that never fails and always puts on an exceptional show. In the red class, LOWELL THOMAS was one of the nicest.

—Olin Frazier, Warrensburg, Missouri

The 1983 growing season was a good one in Cobleskill, New York. The only disquieting aspect was an attack of root rot caused by a fungus. I rogued LONGFELLOW and treated HANSINA BRAND and SARAH BERNHARD, both of which showed some symptoms of the same conditions. Spring of 1984 will quickly reveal whether the cure attempted was effective or whether I should have rogued those two. The last two varieties I value more than LONGFELLOW. I shall replace those two in due time if I lose them. April and May of '83 were comparatively wet here, and this may have contributed to my problem.

Best in plantings here in '83: Hybrids—BURMA RUBY, PAULA FAY with CORAL CHARM real close.

Lactifloras: White—MOTHERS CHOICE, ELSA SASS, ANN COUSINS, BOWL OF CREAM and single PICO.

Blush—FLORENCE NICHOLS, MOONSTONE.

Light pink—PILLOW TALK, THERESE.

Dark pink—PRINCESS MARGARET, TONDELEYO, PAUL BUNYON.

Medium pink—DOLORODELL (overall, the best), ENSIGN MORIARITY, DINNER PLATE.

Reds—PAUL WILD (excellent), TEMPEST, HIGHLIGHT.

—L. J. Wiley, New York

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For about the fifth year in a row, peonies here (St. Louis) came up in time for a late freeze to catch them. They were from 2-12 inches high. Some are terminally discouraged . . . mice have been a problem, but not as much so as weeds . . . solid rain all spring (every weekend, anyhow!) in record amounts, does little good for our heavy clay soils, or weeding. (Do you think we should encourage the mice so the tunnels would help the drainage?!)

Some of the peonies looked flourishing and bloomed beautifully in spite of it all—RUSHLIGHT, MINNIE SHAYLOR, and tree peony NISSHOW, especially. More have diminished than grown in size. No hybridizing done this year. As my peony beds are not large, I watered this summer, but stress was apparent.

I'm hoping for more normal weather next year—that usually seems to be quite enough stress!

—Nyla Tompkins, Webster Groves, Missouri

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We are outgrowing our city lot. When something new is planted, something old is dug up. The lawn is receding to make room for peonies and iris; the strawberry patch shrinks as the lily bed quickly increases. Even the vegetable plot is in jeopardy. Our eight-year-old says there is no place to play ball but I am afraid gardening might be an incurable malady.

—Alvin Sevald, Minneapolis

Since 1978, I have been growing peonies and planted ten new ones in 1982. All my plants came from Wilds of Sarcoxie, Missouri—very strong roots.

We had a cold, wet spring and all of them did very well. **Kansas** and **Red Charm** bloomed this year. **Ann Cousins** has always been a healthy plant, with huge blooms, with **Mary Nicholls** following. **Armistice** is my favorite pink with **Celebration** a close second. One bed is interplanted with iris, blooming with the peonies, and **Red Emperor** tulips, **King Alfred** and **Mount Hood** Daffodils with blue **Hyacinth**. The new bed is interplanted with **Trumpet Lilies**, and **Oriental Poppies**. Also have several rose bushes.

—Julia L. Percival, Long Lane, Missouri

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I ordered the double fern leaf peony and this year it only had one bloom, and it is the most beautiful red I have ever seen. The single fern is pretty and have had it for a long time but it does not compare to the double.

My planting consists of 400 plants, all the varieties available to me. **Red Charm** is a pretty red. Now since Mr. Tischler is back in business, I will plant more in my garden.

—Pearl E. Jones, Dayton, Ohio

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Really a poor peony season. Lots of winter kill—too warm, and not enough snow. Got rid of the weaklings, mostly named hybrids. I had cut back for a few years but planted four quarts of seed again this fall.

—W. H. Keup, Mohall, North Dakota

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From a modest start five years ago with seven peonies, we now have 32, most of which were selected from lists of articles written by the experts or growers in the Bulletin. A few are personal choices for one reason or another.

Our one aim was, and is, to have a long flowering season. Last spring, we enjoyed our peonies for six weeks, starting with the flower of the tree peony, **YAE ZAKURA**, a beautiful cherry pink, and ending with the lovely white, **ELSA SASS**. In between was a succession of changing forms and colors which we, the family and friends, enjoyed immensely.

I was pleasantly surprised with flowers on seedlings **RIVIDA** and **KRINKLED WHITE**, seeds from Chris Laning, and planted in 1980. I did not expect flowers until next year. All of the seedlings did not respond at the same rate of growth.

—Wilma Zapka, So. Deerfield, Massachusetts

Our 1983 bloom was the best peony blooming year we have ever had, I do believe. It was a shorter season because of hot humid weather in late June. ANGELO COBB FREEBORN probably stole the show this year, although FLAME, ALEXANDER WOOLCOTT and CYTHEREA were real beauties. All glowed like neon signs. In the white, MOONSTONE was exceptional in size and form. Japs, DO TELL and CHARM, were at their best. In the double reds, RED CHARM never fails and is our best seller every year. Its all-over performance in our garden cannot be surpassed. Almost all the divisions I planted last fall bloomed this year.

—Sharol Longaker of Andersons Iris and Peony Gardens,
Forest Lake, Minnesota

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Enclosing triennial membership. I'll be 82 this Christmas and I'm sure I'll be around for my next triennial. Dave Hall said "So long as one has unbloomed seedlings around, one just tends to stick around." I do not have seedlings but I still have some peonies.

—William Bringe, West Bend, Wisconsin

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I have decided to become a life member as peonies will be a permanent interest for me. It was a wet, cold, rainy spring. It was such a disappointment to me when CHERRY HILL was flattened by a late frost. It was more precocious than any other poeny this spring having sent up stalks that were six inches high when all others were barely through the ground. If we could only have some old fashioned wooden bushel baskets to put over peonies when a late frost is predicted, but I don't think they make them anymore. My biggest "show off" last spring was DETROIT, a large red bomb that bloomed so much it almost looked from a distance as if there were flowers blooming on top of other flowers. The summer was scorching hot from late June through late September—also very dry. I had so many other plants to water such as: Mums, Phlox, etc., that wilt so easily that I did not get to the peonies as often as I should. They formed seed pods but most of them had no seeds.

I visited a lady whose husband had died. He grew many tree peonies and had created offsets by bending down a branch of each plant, thus causing it to root. I bought and dug up some of these offsets, planted them, hoping they will make it through the winter. Most of them are small but even though they look like a stick, each one has a bud.

—Judith Stika, Pittsburg, Kansas

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I am trying to grow a few seeds and am having trouble with moles. They eat the seeds; also have rabbits chewing plants. Have used moth balls near the seeds in the ground. Hope for success in 1984.

—Richard Banziger, Earlton, N.Y.

A busy fall—planted new lactifloras from David Reath, bedded in yearlings and 2-year-old seedlings from Chris Laning. Started another batch of seeds and planted our last year's seeds in a bed that had responded well and germinated over 80%.

Planted beds for two friends with divisions from Clarence Lienau. Also started a new bed, here at home, from a local farmer who has 100 old plants, some over 50 years.

A nice snow cover now, so expecting great things in the spring. Just have to cut some cedar tops to make a windbreak—snow catchers for the tree peonies.

Keep up the wonderful work you are doing. If I were close by, I would give you a hand when needed.

—John Leddick, Montague, Michigan

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This was a bad year—lack of water. The following were noteworthy: Dinner Plate, and Vivid Rose. I liked the amount of flowering produced by Vivid Rose, and the keeping qualities. —Dan Pennell, Ohio

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AGE OF GOLD was a huge bouquet and gorgeous. There were too many blooms to count. COUNTESS was lovely also, if not so spectacular. Its unusual colors made it interesting. NADIA attracted attention; was covered with cherry colored blooms.

—Mrs. Robert W. Parks, E. Greenbush, New York

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I grow many peonies, perhaps 20 lactiflora varieties. My favorite is Minnie Shaylor—also quite a number of herbaceous hybrids, 33 Jap trees, in six or seven varieties, and a large number of lutea hybrids. Most of them look pretty ratty just now—the hybrids, both kinds, are only about a year here and all the lactifloras were reset in the fall of 1982. I have some tree and herbaceous seedlings, but some years yet, for them to bloom. Too many plants for an oversized city lot, but I really enjoy them.

—G. D. Whitsett, Columbus, Ohio

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I have been trying to develop a hardy tree peony for Manitoba, using an un-named variety from the F. L. Skinner Nursery, here in Dauphin, but for three years only herbaceous growth every year and no flowers. It doesn't develop woody stock that survives the winter.

I do not know the degree of success that F. L. Skinner had with his because there is no record. I would like to find a source of tree peony seeds that might produce plants of a hybrid that would survive the late spring freeze and our -40° C.

—Virginia Furutani, St. Germain P.O., Manitoba, Canada ROG 2AO

My peonies were so beautiful this year. CORAL CHARM was fantastic, planted in 1981, and bloomed in 1982. CHEDDAR CHEESE, MISS AMERICA, PAULA FAY, BURMA RUBY, FLAME, PICO, LAURA MAGNUSON and CARDINALS ROBE were beautiful, as well as WHITE CAP with the many side buds. If I had to choose one peony of the many varieties I grow, it would be RED CHARM. I have twenty-seven tree peonies and almost all of them bloomed this year. Now I am anxiously awaiting to see the bloom on SOUVENIR DE MAXIME CORNU, planted in 1982.

This fall, I planted that very pretty CYTHEREA and four tree peonies.

At present, all the peonies are sleeping under a blanket of snow, and I'm waiting for spring, and all those beautiful blossoms.

Does anyone know of a quilt pattern of the peony flower? I would like to purchase one but haven't been able to locate a pattern. Perhaps someone in the Society with artistic ability could design one.

—Ada Young, Mitchellville, Maryland

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Our season of peony bloom was three weeks late this year, then due to a late freeze peonies Tom Eckhardt, First Lady, Red Charm, Felix Crousse did not bloom. Then a church meeting made it necessary to be away when the others did bloom. This fall, we planted 32 new varieties from several nurseries, including Douglas Brand from the New Peony Farm. We look forward to spring and the bloom of the peony.

—Harold Toms, Tazewell, Virginia

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We had one of the worst gardening seasons that I can remember in 1983—hot and too dry, except for a flood on July 1, which drowned most of the vegetable garden—no beans in my freezer, but plenty of okra!

Thank you for all the effort and time that you put into the A.P.S. I really appreciate the fine publication you put out. The articles are very informative. Taking advantage of the free peony seed offer is a big plus. Some of my seedlings are two years old, and the anticipation of whether any of them will surprise me keeps me looking toward next spring.

—Frank R. Fassl, Naperville, Illinois

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My peonies were so late in blooming this year—fortunately I had a few early ones for Memorial Day. In a week or ten days, the later ones were beautiful. This fall, the foliage was lovely.

—Agnes Cooper Miller, Friend, Nebraska

The most striking peonies in the garden this year were **White Cap** (so fine in every way!)—**Carol**, just dazzling in brilliant orange-red—**Vivid Rose** (well-named!)—**Toro-No-Maki**, a solid mass of bloom on first year planting!—**Santa Fe**, so lovely in pink and white (and again, so many blooms, even on first-year plants!)—**Angelo Cobb Freeborn**, bright coral double; a beacon in the border.

Highlight and **Matilda Lewis** just about equal in darkness and quality of bloom. **Raspberry Sundae** and **Peppermint** both tops for that 'different' peony! For fragrance, this is such an intangible thing as each person seems to have different ideas about which is or isn't fragrant.

Mandaleen, most pronounced (in my garden), **Mons Jules Elie**, **Vivid Rose**, **Sarah Bernhardt** (all pinks!), all have pronounced fragrance. **Big Ben**, **David Harum**, slight. **White Sands**, delightful spice-like; **LaPerle**, rose fragrance; **Matilda Lewis** and **Toro-No-Maki**, slightly fragrant.

For exceptional bloom and vigor, **Red Charm**, **Big Ben** and **Prairie Moon** would have to be rated tops. In every location, they perform like champions, growing well and blooming like mad. No peony border would be complete without **Big Ben** and **Red Charm**.

—Mrs. Anna Walrad, Edgewood Gardens, Warrenton, Virginia

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This year the single white **STARDUST** was our garden standout. It bloomed later than usual because of our very cold spring. The side buds were so abundant that the entire top of the plant was covered with crisp white petals. A beautiful sight next to pink oriental poppies and light blue Siberian Iris.

Also our three-year-old tree peony **AGE OF GOLD** bloomed for the first time with 10 perfect blooms.

Does anyone know where **LADY ALEXANDRA DUFF**, mentioned in the last Bulletin, is currently available?

—Tom Richards, Route 1, Boyceville, Wisconsin 54725

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I hope that 1984 will be better than 1983. We had a cold winter and a very wet spring—one of the hottest and driest summers on record also. It was amazing to see the endurance of the peony. The blooming season was short as the very heavy rains beat down the bloom. The buds were brought into the house and the flowers were lovely and fragrant as they opened. **Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt** was fragrant; **Red Carpet** most beautiful, and **Sitka** and **Westerner** were lovely.

Thank you for the wonderful job you are doing.

—Eileen Wright, Machipongo, Virginia

This fall, I divided about 16 plants into approximately 300 divisions, all two and three eyes. These particular peonies were not producing as they should as they had been growing in this one place for several years. Two clumps of **KANSAS** were divided into fifty divisions. My new plant of **DOUGLAS BRAND** did not bloom this year.

Out of nine special peony seedlings—all blooming this year—I selected one that has great possibilities. It is a pink-cream bomb type double, resembling Klehms, **CHEDDAR CHEESE** with the color of **MOONSTONE**. I must try, in some way, to get it on a National Show seedling table.

Peonies are my favorite flower in comparison to iris, gladiolus, daylilies, and the lily.

Enjoyed talking to you at your garden and at the shows.

—Jim Paulson, Coon Rapids, Minnesota

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This was a productive year for me in peony breeding. Many interesting crosses were harvested and most all have been planted. I did get three seeds on **RED CHARM** x **LANINGS 'BEST YELLOW'**, double hybrid seedling. The one seed resulting from this cross in 1982 has not germinated yet. I have come to the conclusion that **RED CHARM** will most likely set seed on a bloom of a newly-set, small division, rather than on an established clump. Even then, it is mathematically improbable.

I highly recommend the red hybrid, **AMERICA**. Its red has great carrying power in the garden and its waved petals make it appear more double, even though it is a single. Also most impressive was **KREKLERS, ELIZA LUNDY**, a red double hybrid about 2/3 the clump size of **RED CHARM**.

Many visitors apparently have not known tree peonies and their gorgeous blooms. I had one novel peony seedling in bloom for the first time—#3291, a flat flared, two row, double ruffled petaled, light rose blend, with one-and-one-half-inch center of gold stamens.

What surprised me most was the ruffling and the fact that the bloom lasted and lasted. The petals were still on when I harvested my seed cross. I dug it out of the seed bed and now have two divisions.

I would like to participate in a Round Robin program on peony breeding. I would even direct one, if enough interest.

To date, I have not finished removing all my peony tops—now they are under snow!

—Steve Varner, N. State St. Rd., Monticello, Illinois 61856

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I thank you sincerely for the pleasure your Bulletins have afforded me this past year.

—Mrs. V. Tolomeo, Port Angeles, Washington

This was the first year that I got to see our peonies bloom. It was so wet here in North Carolina, so I am not sure how well they did. I thought they were beautiful. **GLOWING CANDLES** was so prolific and lovely to look at but has a most unpleasant odor.

My husband's favorites were **DO TELL**, **RED CHARM**, and the tree peony, **HATSU HINODE**. I thought **HIGH NOON** and **BANQUET** were marvelous. The 'gratis' peony, **ELSA SASS**, did not want to bloom. Perhaps it is too late for us. I planted a red bed for my husband, with **KANSAS**, **ROBERT W. AUTEN**, **JUNE BRILLIANT**, **PAUL M. WILD**, and **DAVID HARUM**. Also planted tree peonies **HANA KISOI**, **TRIA**, **GESSEKAI**, **HANA DAIJIN** and **SHUGYOKU DEN**.

I am not where I can see the large peony shows but I hope to get to Washington, D.C. Arboretum, and Winterthur in Wilmington, Delaware this spring, to see what these exquisite flowers should really look like. Thanks for all your help.

—Lisbeth Gupton, North Carolina

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We have come to expect something different every year in the garden as the flowers have bloomed in so many different ways in the past. This year, on the average, the blooms were just a trifle smaller but the colors were more intense and glowing. There were two plants that were so exceptional—**MISS AMERICA** had blooms 11½ inches across—and **POSTILION**, the size, coloring and texture have never been equaled for me.

—Marion DeReamer, Merrillville, Indiana

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PADDOCKS OF PEONIES — FIT FOR EXPORT

Timauru Herald, Timauru, New Zealand

Submitted by Roy Klehm via Peter Elworthy, Craigmere Farming Co. LTD

They date from 1500 years before Christ, when they grew high in the Tibetan mountains. During medieval times they were grown for their roots, which had mysterious medicinal properties—the flowers were not then important. And today you can find two paddocks of them—1300 plants, a silent cloud—in a valley near the Pareora River.

What are they? Peonies.

Peter and Fiona Elworthy, of Maungati, in 1980 decided to spread their business into horticulture. Three years and a Rural Bank export incentive loan later, the first crop of their peonies is being harvested for the export market.

On Friday an experimental shipment of 80 blooms was sent to Christchurch. And on Saturday they were dispatched to Canada and Australia. The flowers will begin to bloom within 24 hours of being bought and put in a vase, and they will continue to bloom for up to three weeks.

"We've had a look at the markets and will probably send experimental shipments to Japan, and possibly Bonn as well," Mr. Elworthy said. "They'll pay a lot of money for cut flowers over there. For example, in Brussels, where there are standing orders for the embassies."

The land and climatic conditions around Craigmores Farm are ideal for the peonies—a good water supply, free-draining soil, and proximity to the road.

The Elworthys expect to know of the success, or otherwise, of their venture within three years. During this time they plan to test their peony technology, transporting and markets.

"Quite apart from everything else, it's wonderful being in the business of producing such beautiful things," Mr. Elworthy said.

Mr. Ron Cunningham is the manager of the peony patch. He and his wife, Doreen, operate the Craigmores guest house (a recent foray of the farmers into tourism—Ron has been called the maitre d' in gumboots).

"We can't be selfish with such beauty," says he of the peony project.

He tells fascinating things about the plants. Some have been known to flower for 50 years; he has a plant, the "King of England," that produced 23 blooms this season; the Japanese like their peonies in the bud, with a 20-inch stem; you can hold the buds in the chiller for up to six weeks.

"Let me tell you how they were named," he begins.

"In Greek mythology there was a man called Paeon, and he cured wounds inflicted on Pluto by Hercules. Hercules' physician therefore feared for his position because of Paeon's healing powers—he was jealous.

"But Pluto, who hadn't forgotten Paeon's kindness, changed him into a flower because of the threat on his life."

Then I said: "So that's how peony roses became peony roses."

And the gardener and Fiona Elworthy replied: "Never call them peony roses. They're just peonies."

Chiffon Parfait, Red Charm, Scarlet O'Hara, Princess Margaret, Prairie Moon, Miss America, Mr. Ed, Pillow Talk, Charlies' White, Sarah Bernhardt, Mons Jules Elie, Armistice, Do Tell — all beautiful and all just peonies even when the blooms grow to over eight inches across.

Mr. Cunningham uses insecticides and fungicides on them, but no weedkillers. He has hand-hoed around the 1300 plants.

The process of holding the flowers in the bud is being tested—inside the cooler, the temperature ranges from one-to-five degrees celsius and a fan keeps the air circulating and cool.

They are cold to touch. Are they still alive?

"Very much so," replies Mr. Cunningham.

The peonies—there are 1000 buds in the cooler—are wrapped in plastic that has hundreds of holes in it, put in boxes and sent off to the exporters in Christchurch.

Ice-packs, similar to those in chilli-bins, are inside the boxes.

Once the flowers are cut, they must be put in the cooler—fast.

"The cooler will hold them at the age they are cut at," he says. "But if it is a hot day and if it takes you an hour to get them from the garden to the cooler, it will take a week off their lives.

"They do like extremes, that's one of their unusual features. It doesn't even matter if the little shoots are frozen hard."

If the peony market takes off, the Elworthys plan to specialize in cut flowers for export. And acres of flat land on Craigmore Farm would be used for many other horticultural crops, Mr. Elworthy says.

Breeding of peonies is a possibility—700 of the Elworthy plants were bought from nurseries in America. Maybe foreign nurseries will buy New Zealand hybrids.

PEONIES FOR PLEASURE

W. F. Christman — Bulletin #116

We have called the peony the "Floral Jewel of June" and feel that we are fully warranted in making this assertion. They prove most interesting from the time they peep through the ground until the plants are cut down by killing frosts or freezes in late fall.

Properly cared for they will last a lifetime, and even much longer, so an investment in peonies is a wise venture, as one cannot lose. They require so little and give so much pleasure and satisfaction in return. As a garden or border plant, they are indispensable and will add beauty throughout the year—in June, with their grand array of bloom, and the balance of the year with their diversified foliage in various shades of green and bronze. The stems of some when they first make their appearance, together with the foliage that shortly follows, are strikingly beautiful as they show a decided red or bronze tone that is most pleasing.

With the tree peony, species, hybrids and the well known herbaceous types, we have an extended period of bloom covering six weeks or more. The so called "Tree Peony" (which is not a tree but which eventually develops into an attractive and shapely bush), does not die down during the winter months, and is one of the earliest to bloom. Some of the specie peonies will bloom about the same time. A crossing of these specie peonies has produced the new hybrids that are proving a sensation wherever shown.

In all these various types we have the single, semi-double and full doubles that are appealing to the eye. The Japanese type is extremely popular due to the fact that they make wonderful arrangements that are exotic. We have merely touched on some of the various types, but

they all have a place to meet the varying demands of flower lovers.

There are a few fundamental principles that should be followed for real success with peonies. We will mention a few of the outstanding ones. Buy your stock from reliable growers in whom you have implicit faith and who are careful in their garden methods and catalog lists.

Cheap peonies, bargain lots, and the like, are very apt to prove they are just that when planted in your garden. Real cheap peonies many times prove to be diseased stock and have no place in your garden, as this disease will spread to other surrounding plants and prove very expensive to you. No reliable grower will disseminate diseased stock.

We recommend the purchase of standard size divisions, three to five eyes for best results, preferably cut from young, vigorous stock.

If at all possible, select a permanent location for your peonies. Choose a well drained, sunny position. Unless it is necessary to move them for building extension or other necessary reasons, let them remain undisturbed for years. If you desire to increase your stock, it would be better to let your plants develop for about three years before dividing them.

Dismiss the thought from your mind that the larger the plant the better results will be obtained. This is not a proven fact. Standard divisions have proven to be best.

In planting, avoid placing chemical fertilizers in direct contact with the roots. This is also true of manure, as it is apt to induce rot or disease of the roots so planted.

Failure to bloom can be often attributed to too deep planting. If the buds are placed two inches below the surface of the earth, they will be O.K. In the far south, slightly more shallow planting is recommended.

Select a position where peonies have not been previously planted.

Disbudding all lateral buds and leaving only the terminal bud is recommended where exhibition flowers or commercial bloom is desired. The flowers will also stand up better than if left to form clusters. On some of the single varieties it is better not to disbud as better results will be obtained. This also applies to some of the semi-doubles.

Do not remove foliage until after the first hard freezes in fall.

Peony roots obtain oxygen and nitrogen through the leaves, and if they are removed too closely when the flowers are cut, or too soon after they are through blooming, they lose this means of strengthening the root growth which will be reflected in the size of the plants. At least two sets of leaves should be left on each stem from which a bloom has been removed. Commercial growers leave at least two or three flowers on an established plant after final cutting is completed.

Newly planted peonies should be mulched with some covering the

first winter, at least. This is to prevent heaving and subsequent damage to the root.

The peony is so hardy that it should be planted in every home yard. It surely has our highest esteem for dependability and all around desirability. It has very few insect enemies to bother it and very few diseases, none of which cannot be controlled or entirely eradicated.

There are many other wonderful flowers which I greatly admire but there are very few with less faults than the peony. If you already have them you will verify my assertions—if you do not, it will not take long to convince you our contentions are well founded.

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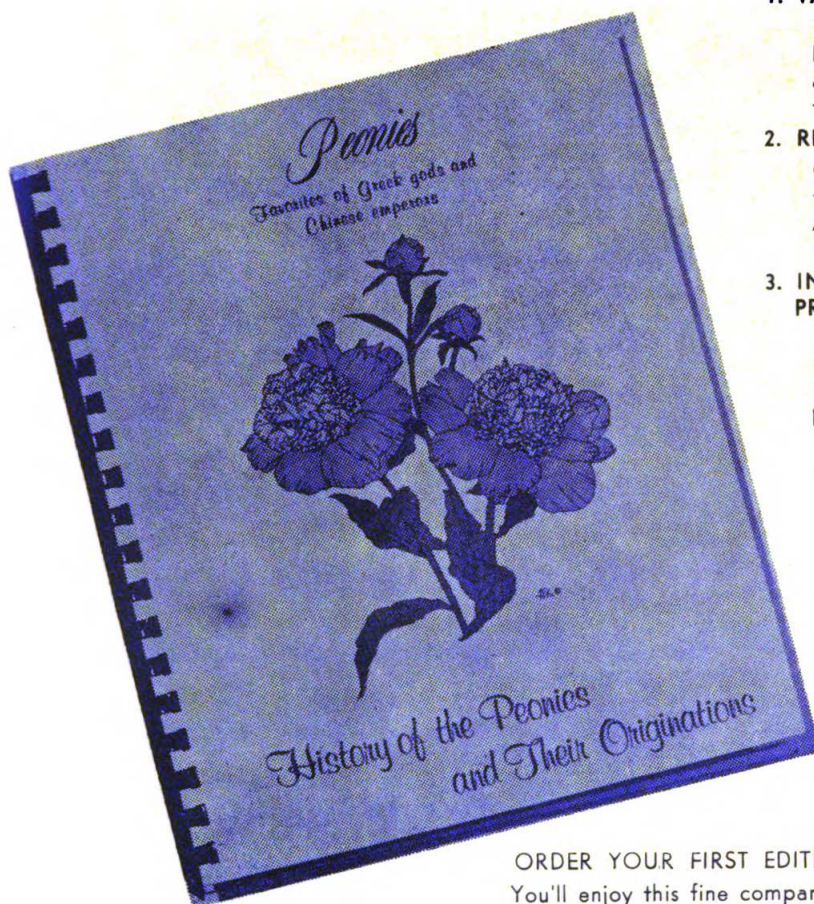
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