

Life SA

SEPTEMBER 1992

NO. 283

The American Peony Society Bulletin



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Pink Derby (Myron Bigger 1966)

Photographer—Eileen Swanson

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TREE
PEONIES**



Appended cultural notes cover:

- *Tree Peony history*
- *Planting and general culture*
- *Propagation by root grafting of scions*
- *Pruning, fertilization, winter protection, etc.*

Compiled and edited by
Greta M. Kessenich;
photos by Roy Klehm
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The
**AMERICAN
TREE
PEONY**

**63 BRILLIANT FULL
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True, tree peonies with their 1400 year history are not native to America. But a class of exceptional HYBRID tree peonies are. Efforts by seven world renowned American hybridizers* who successfully cross-pollinated *P. Lutea* with *P. Suffructicosa* are covered in this limited edition. Photos are razor sharp in detail and reflect all the brilliance and subtle hues of these native Americans, including the new generation of ITOH's.

* *A.P. Saunders, William Gratwick, Nassos Daphnis,
David Reath, Toichi Domoto,
Don Hollingsworth and Roger Anderson*

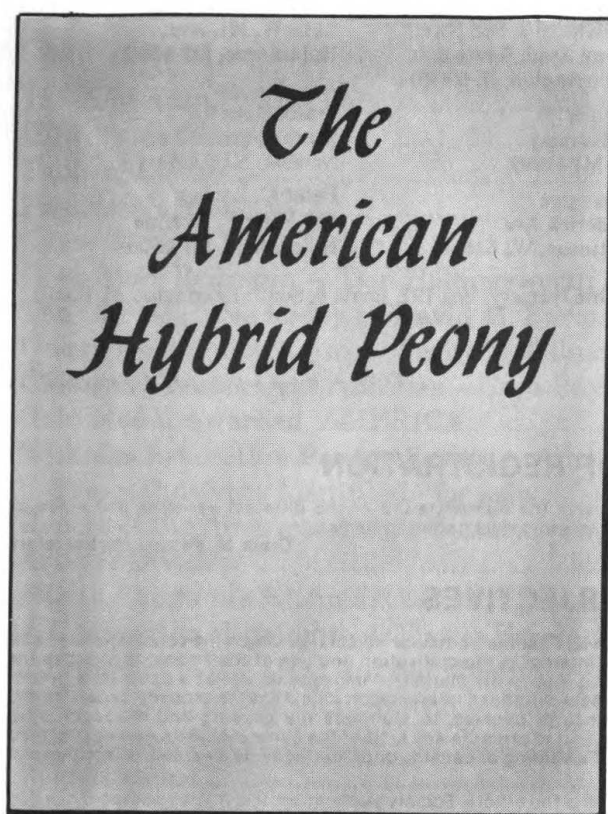
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*Devised and
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DEPT. OF REGISTRATION

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
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Family membership, any two related members in same household.....One Bulletin
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For those who wish to further support the Society, the following special memberships are available.

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



AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin

SEPTEMBER 1992 • No. 283

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The American Hybrid Peony	1
Officers and Directors	2
Table of Contents	3
President's Message	4
Cover Picture, Pink Derby	4
Once More Roundup — Don Hollingsworth	5-6
The Chinese Tree Peony — David M. Furman	6-7
Unexpected Snow Storm — Peggy M. Gilmore	8-9
Changes Creates Opportunities — Ned Bayley	9-10
Gold Medal Awarded, AMERICA	10
Nicholas Arboretum Peony Garden — Ann Arbor Michigan	
Peony Cultivars Identified - for sale	11-12
Report of the American Peony Society National Exhibition Winners	13-27
Artistic Division	28
Thank You to the Klehms	28
A Convention Highlight — Charlie Kroell	29
Impression of the 1992 Annual Meeting — Don Hollingsworth	30-31
Observations of Paeonia Brownii — Galen Burrell	32-33
Peonies and Nikko, Japan — Michael Denny	33-34
Registrations	34-35
Myron D. Bigger Selects Best 25 Peonies for 1992	36
Peony Seed for Distribution — Chris Laning	36
Minnesota Peony Exhibition	37-38
Wanted Old Peony Lovers — Scott Kunst	38
Two Types of Peonies on the Same Plant — Don Hollingsworth	39
Annual Meeting and Banquet	
Board of Directors Meeting	
Report of the Society - Financial Statement	40-43
Pretty Peony has Old Fashioned Charm — Carolyn Ulrich,	
Chicago Sun Times	44-45
Those Blooming Memories — Pamela Bockey	45, 46
Advertising	46-52

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The highlight of the Peony year is our APS Convention & Exhibition, this year held at the Friendship Park Conservatory in Des Plaines, Illinois, where we once again admired the quality and variety of the blooms displayed and the outstanding Court of Honor, and enjoyed being with old friends at the banquet Saturday night, and meeting some new friends from Holland and Japan.

This year, however, my highlight was even brighter because the weekend following the Convention we had the honor to represent the APS at the revival, after a lapse of 30 years, of the two-day Peony Festival at Van Wert, Ohio, a city of 13,000 near the Indiana border and 60 miles south of Toledo.

Peonies are an important part of the city's heritage because of the many important growers located there in the early 1900's, and I have never seen a city of any size which had such a high percentage of yards with peonies in bloom. We were treated with great warmth and kindness, and spent much time answering questions and giving information about growing peonies and the benefits of being a member of the Society.

After displaying a few peonies I brought, at the horticultural exhibition held at the County Fairgrounds, where the "modern" varieties we are so accustomed to seeing aroused great interest, we actually rode in a convertible, with your President's wife sitting on top in an honored position in the parade among the former Peony Festival Queens who had returned from all over the country for the event. It was quite a sight to see 8-10,000 men, women and children lining both sides of the street along the 1.6 mile parade route, especially when realizing that there are only 13,000 people in the whole town, and only 30,000 in the entire county. It was truly an example of total community involvement and support, and very heart-warming.

All in all it was one of the most memorable weekends we have ever spent, and one I hope to repeat, and to enjoy the hospitality in Van Wert many more times.

Robert F. Schmidt, President

★ ★ ★ ★

COVER PICTURE — PINK DERBY (Myron Bigger 1966)

Photographer—Eileen Swanson

Pink Derby is a long-lasting flower in the garden. The perfect rose-red guard petals are of heavy substance surrounding and holding a lighter pink to white large bomb.

The 32-inch strong stems hold the flower upright on the plant that has broad green foliage to the ground. This picture was taken after a wind and heavy rainstorm during the night. The plant is three years old. On the show table, it always receives the Blue Ribbon, and in 1988 it received the Grand Champion award.

—Greta Kessenich

ONCE MORE ON ROUNDUP

Don Hollingsworth, Kansas City, Missouri

The use of glyphosphate herbicide (Roundup, Kleenup) for weed control in peonies has received a caution in these pages (Neville Harrop, Tasmania, March 1992) and a strong endorsement (J. Franklin Styer, USA, June 1992). It is perhaps useful to share another report in which the results suggest a line of inquiry which may be of assistance in understanding the Harrop experience.

Carl E. Whitcomb, formerly faculty member and nursery practice researcher at Oklahoma State University reports two instances of killed tree crops associated with the density of particular weed species, specifically nutsedge and honeyvine milkweed (also known as climbing milkweed), both of which have copious underground storage organs. It was conjectured that after translocation of the glyphosphate to the root organs of the weeds, during decay of the weed residue, glyphosphate was released in sufficient quantity to damage the crop through root absorption. Whitcomb left the University shortly thereafter and I have seen no report on further study of this conjectured mode of action. The account is published in Whitcomb's book, *Landscape Plant Production, Establishment and Maintenance* (Stillwater, 1986, Lacebark Publications) pp. 247-8.

Briefly Whitcomb states that a stand of seven to eight foot pin oaks were partly infested by a dense population of honeyvine milkweed. Sprayed the first time at the lower recommended concentration there was little control, based on recovery the following season. Then the next October the planting was sprayed again using the highest recommended rate of Roundup, this time with surfactant added, using a tractor sprayer. The following Spring the trees leafed out normally (no distortions of margins, etc.). In June, however, leaf yellowing showed up in the trees where the dense stand of honeyvine had been killed and by July these trees were leafless, with twig dieback evident. The trees not surrounded by the honeyvine remained normal, although they had received the same treatment.

In Whitcomb's other reported instance of nursery crop damage, field-planted young shumard oaks were in part surrounded by a sod of nutsedge. In late September the nutsedge was spot-treated with Roundup at the highest recommended rate using a hand sprayer equipped with nozzle shield to help keep the spray off the trees. The nutsedge was killed within a week. No damage was seen on the trees prior to normal leaf drop a month later. The following Spring, trees in the Roundup treated areas had distorted leaves and made little growth. They did not leaf out the next Spring.

The fact that these things happened to oaks does not tell us how peonies will respond in similar scenarios. At least one U.S. grower account suggests that peonies accidentally sprayed with Roundup herbicide are not always killed, and that injured plants may regain normal growth after one or more seasons have elapsed (Laning). It is not too far fetched a connection to presume that what Harrop has

seen in his tree peony stock plants has a causal scenario in common with the damaged nursery drops accounts above—presumably root-absorption of the herbicide. Perhaps the practical differences are in degree of root absorption and in the inherent response pattern of the crop species to the herbicide.

This takes nothing away from the very useful Fall application strategy used so successfully in the Styer and other peony nurseries, including my own, for cool season weed control. However, it does suggest that when the targeted weeds growing within the peony's root run are ones which also have large underground storage organs, alternative strategies of weed control may be indicated.



THE CHINESE TREE PEONY—EXPRESSION OF GRANDEUR AND SENSUALITY

*by David M. Furman, Cricket Hill Garden, 670 Walnut Hill Road,
Thomaston, Connecticut 06787*

The way different civilizations view gardens, in use and design, may be a reflection of differences in artistic taste. In the Chinese garden the elements of rocks, water and plants must all be, to the Chinese eye, in a balance that mimics nature. Consequently flowers play a relatively minor role in this configuration. It is therefore surprising that so much attention is paid to one flower—the Chinese tree peony, *P. suffruticosa*. This flowering shrub has been intensively cultivated since the 7th century with admiration continuing to today. It is used as a design motif in ceramics and fabrics. It is used as a theme in painting and poetry. It is even used as a given name. The association is with female beauty, lushness and riches.

Vast acres of herbaceous peonies are grown in China as medicinal plants as well as for its flowers. However, by some sort of snobbery inherited from the past, herbaceous peonies are considered very much inferior to the tree peony.

The Chinese tree peony requires at least forty days of sub-freezing temperature, and is therefore suitable for many gardens in the United States. It is presently cultivated in regions close to the Yellow River in northern China. Impressive displays of tree peonies may be seen in the gardens of Beijing and at a special spring Peony Festival in the city of Luoyang, in He Nan province. In our Connecticut garden, it grows best where it has some shade. The flowers last longer and do not tend to fade as fast. However, full sun increases growth and vigor. Chinese tree peonies require well drained, rich soil. Standing water will kill them. The growers in China recommend feeding the plant immediately after flowering and again before Winter sets the terminal buds. Blooming time in Connecticut varies between the second to the fourth week of May, depending on Spring temperature.

Presently cultivars are seen as red, pink, purple, white, yellow, black (actually darkest maroon), green, blue (actually whitish), and bi-sected, multi-colored varieties. Petal arrangement varies from singles to what the Chinese call 'thousand petal,' with a strong preference for the latter. Many flowers are eight to ten inches in diameter, many of which are heavily fragrant. Chinese gardeners have selected these plants with an eye toward petal shape and arrangement, size and color. The petal texture is such that the flowers look as if they are made of silk. The leaves have a distinctive cut pattern with many turning shades of crimson in the Fall.

These plants are largely unbothered by insect attacks, but are slightly susceptible to that common garden fungus, botrytis. They are very long lived and said to last for several hundred years.

In the United States the Japanese version of *P. suffruticosa* is quite common. I have seen a tree peony in a Virginia garden that was about one hundred years old, was six feet high, six feet in diameter and had over 300 ten-inch blooms. Many of the Japanese varieties differ considerably from the Chinese in petal arrangement, shape and color. The Japanese have over the past thousand years, selected their cultivars with the aim of obtaining semi-double flowers. Nearly all that are presently seen are of this configuration. The Chinese prefer the very full, multi-petal varieties.

Propagation is not reliable by seed. Unlike the Japanese tree peony, many Chinese types may be propagated by stem division. This is done after four or five years of growth. Stems and their roots are cut apart from the larger clump. Another method is by grafting the terminal bud of the desired tree peony onto the root of a herbaceous peony. The success rate of this method must be very low judging from the extraordinary high price of some varieties.

We have seen two books that are sold to tourists in Luoyang on tree peonies. They show the scope or color, flower shape and petal variety available. (We are presently trying to obtain multiple copies for resale in the United States.) We feel that the Chinese tree peonies offer a large number of spectacular plants that are presently unknown in America. If the Chinese are condescending toward herbaceous peonies, we have found many gardens in this country closed to the idea that the Chinese tree peony offers a new and different peony experience. The Chinese tree peony is dismissed as too similar to the Japanese semi-double that are somewhat popular here. We feel that many Americans have missed the point that the Chinese regard this plant as one of the finest they grow, for well over a thousand years.

In the early part of this century, Professor Saunders hybridized the species *lutea* with Japanese varieties of *P. suffruticosa*. The results, as we all know, are a large number of unequally beautiful plants. Today we have an opportunity to parallel this work by using the Chinese variety of *P. suffruticosa*. I would expect that such crosses would also lead to many new and similarly astounding results.

Notes and credits: I wish to thank and offer credit to *Professor John Marney for his many translations that have appeared in the *American Peony Society Bulletin*—*To Don Hollingsworth for his knowledge and encouragement—*To the *Peonies of Luoyang* for its eye-opening and brain-stretching pictures—*And to the American Peony Society for its many descriptions and stories on the Chinese tree peony.

★ ★ ★ ★

UNEXPECTED SNOW STORM

Peggy M. Gilmore, Missouri Valley, IA

Easter Sunday was cloudy here but mild. The kitchen window was open and children were playing outside. Temperatures in the '60's and 70's made the early peonies grow very quickly and they were heavy with buds.

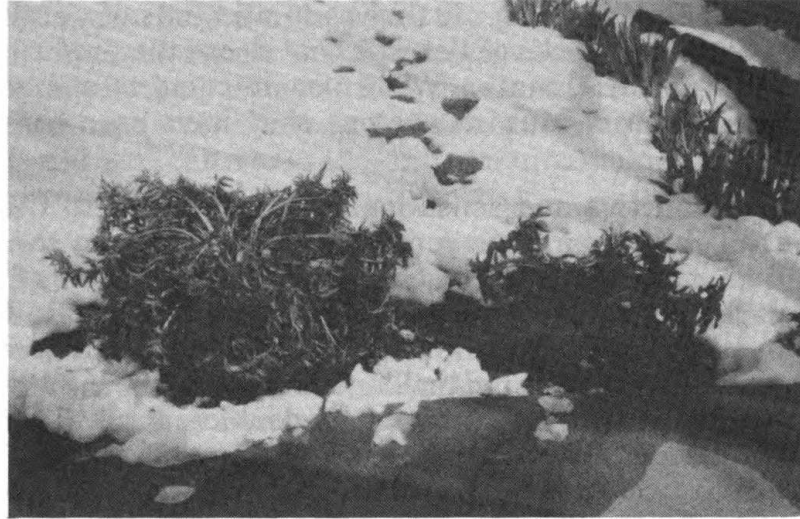
The next day (April 20th) temperatures dropped quite rapidly and we found ourselves in the middle of a blizzard which even caught the weatherman off-guard. We received sleet and 10 inches of wet, heavy snow that drifted due to strong winds. It was the most snow this area had received since 1907. Many of our peonies, along with tulips in full bloom, and irises, some in bud, were completely buried in drifts. We were advised to leave them covered due to the cold temperatures. And so we waited . . . and wondered.

On April 23rd, the sun came out and temperatures went up so I put on my boots and waded carefully through drifts, looking for my peonies. Starting at 11:00 a.m. I uncovered 15 peonies, all lying flat on the ground in snow and ice. They had been there since Monday with the temperature as low as 24 degrees. Four double and two single fern leaf peonies looked so bad that my first thought was to give them a decent burial. Two cut-leaf peonies, one red and one fuchsia, whose names I do not know, also looked pathetic. Even my beloved **Red Charm** looked bad, as did **Sea Shell**, **R. W. Auten**, **Do Tell**, **Paula Fay** and **Coral Fay** (which I always have to stake but it is so beautiful it is worth it). I bid them a silent, tearful farewell and went back in the house.

By 2:00 p.m. I glanced outside and noticed that some of them were perking up a little, and thus began their revival.

On April 28th, one single fern leaf had 15 blooms and the double fern leaf blossoms were opening fast in 88-90 degree temperatures. I couldn't help thinking how incredibly sturdy these fragile looking fern leaf peonies are. No wonder they survived the long trips by covered wagon when the pioneers brought them here to the Midwest. Now I understand why they planted them on graves and called them "Cemetery Peonies." They have the delicate appearance of an orchid but all of the endurance of violets—you can walk on them and flatten them to the ground for days and they will slowly but surely come

back up and bloom. Now that's determination! I understand it and respect it. Every single peony made it and many have put on the most fantastic show, including a new one by Tischler called appropriately: **Fantastic!** I have ordered a **Douglas Brand** and **Miss America** for Fall planting, with the knowledge that they will be well worth the wait to see them bloom.



Paula Fay and Do Tell almost back up, after being flattened by the heavy snow.

CHANGE CREATES OPPORTUNITIES

Ned Bayley, Silver Spring, Maryland

The necessity to sell land where I have been growing 170 varieties of peonies provided me with two rare opportunities: 1) to review my ten years of experience with the several varieties and select 50 of them to be retained in a special bed beside our long driveway; and 2) to share the remaining varieties with family and friends.

My criteria for selecting 50 varieties to be retained were: 1) they had demonstrated vigorous growth in our humid, central Maryland climate and therefore would provide an attractive hedge along the driveway; 2) they would bloom late-early to mid-season in our climate and give us a showy, mass planting display; and 3) they had provoked exclamations of oohs and aahs among customers walking through the plantings during the years I operated a "U pic—I cut" business of selling cut flowers.

The criterion for late-early to mid-season blooming eliminated beautiful, very early bloomers such as **Starlight** with its almost golden petals, the blazing red of **Early Scout**, the delightful perfume of **Nosegay**, and the delicate pastels of several others. They were sent to the garden of our niece and nephew in nearby Washington, D.C.

I won't try to list all 50 of the ones planted along our driveway last Fall, but there are some which so fully met the criteria that their

mention might be of guidance to other growers considering varieties for this area.

Among those retained, **Festima Maxima** has to be first and foremost. It originated more than 140 years ago, and probably is grown in more yards and gardens than any other variety—and for good reason. Its white, fully double blooms with traces of purple deep in the petals are huge and gorgeous. It thrives in all kinds of weather and resists the insidious attacks of *Botrytis* that doom the productivity of some varieties in our climate. When people come to our gardens, they pick out **Festima Maxima** as one they have seen before and love.

Another productive and sensational variety is **White Cap** with its centers so white that some remember it as "snow on the mountain." Still another is **Midnight Sun** that has a glimmer of brightness on a dark background. Among the late-earlies, **Prairie Moon's** pale, ivory-yellow is one of my favorites, and **Burma Ruby** with its sturdy stems and never failing, brilliant red blooms is one I wouldn't want to be without. Of the dark red, fully doubles, **Paul M Wild** and **Mt. Ste. Helens** are standouts. Both are strong growers with sturdy stems. **Cytheria**, even though it is a low bush, won a place in the front row of our hedge because of its shimmering beauty. While I am writing this in the first week of May, **Roselette** already is displaying its lovely, pink blooms. Finally, I must mention **Sparkling Star** and its huge, startling, deep-rose, single blooms.

What happened to the rest of the plantings? Two dozen went to relatives in Washington, D.C. Another two dozen went to our son in North Carolina, most of them mid-season, and they are already blooming. Two went to our son in Arkansas, two to our daughter in Virginia, and four to friends living in this area.

And the rest? They were shared with neighbors on our short, dead-end street of Overton Lane. Before, I was the only grower of peonies on the street; now ten others also have peonies in their gardens!

Because of the need to sell some land, the peony plantings that were started ten years ago will now gladden the hearts of relatives, friends in the area, and families on Overton Lane. And long after the inevitable consequences of time make it necessary for the Bayleys to seek smaller living quarters, those peonies will come up every Spring and produce their beautiful blooms.

GOLD MEDAL AWARDED TO PEONY AMERICA

This fire red hybrid stands straight and tall. It is 28-30 inches in height, with stems exceptionally strong, holding the large single bloom upright. It withstands wind and rain. This cup-shaped flower has broad, long petals of a vibrant brilliant red that glows in the sun. It is a beacon in the garden. **America** first bloomed in 1960, and has stood the test these thirty years, and is worthy of this prestigious award, The Gold Medal. It was introduced by Nathan Rudolph of Aurora, Illinois, in 1976.

NICHOLS ARBORETUM PEONY GARDEN

Located in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Nichols Arboretum of the University of Michigan is fortunate to possess a large garden of 789 peonies including about 230 cultivars. The Peony Garden dates to 1922, when the W. E. Upjohn family donated the original plants. Aubrey Tealdi, U of M Professor of Landscape Architecture and then Director of the Arboretum, laid out the plants in a formal arrangement of 27 beds, a design that has been maintained to the present. At its opening to the public in 1927, the Garden contained 280 different cultivars, and over the next 5 years, another 38 were added. Of these original 318 cultivars, 196 still remain, making the Arb a significant repository of old peony cultivars.

History of removals, additions, and maintenance in the Peony Garden between the years 1934, when Tealdi retired as Director, and 1970, is sketchy at best. During this period 4 cultivars were added, but 135 were removed or lost as maintenance declined until 1970 when the weeds that had overgrown the beds were removed. Since then, the Garden has been regularly tended and mulched with wood chips to enhance the appearance, and to keep the weeds at bay. Currently there are 229 verified and 10 unidentified cultivars that provide a spectacular show in June.

The Peony Garden is considered one of the Historical areas in the Arb and its primary goal is to replace any cultivar that previously existed here while removing all plants that cannot be identified.

A guide presents a list of all the cultivars, followed by maps of the 27 beds with cultivar numbers corresponding to the names on the list. The bed numbers appear below each bed on the map, and refer to the numbered posts in each corner of every bed. The beds are numbered starting at the end nearest the Washington Heights gate and proceeding in a northeast direction. For more information concerning any aspect of the Nichols Arboretum, contact the School of Natural Resources, Dana Building, 430 East University, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1115.

ANN ARBOR—The 70-year-old peony garden at Nichols Arboretum was one of five gardens featured in the Second Annual Garden Walk sponsored by Women's National Farm and Garden Association of Ann Arbor on June 6, 1992.

Under cool gray skies the garden walk began at 10 a.m. with about 20% of the blooms open. By afternoon many more peony blossoms had opened as the temperature rose, and visitors increased. A unique feature of the Peony Garden Open House was the staffing by Michigan members of the American Peony Society.

Peter "Chris" Laning, of Kalamazoo, and James Langhammer, of Royal Oak, answered questions and shared their years of experience with growing and cultivating peonies. Mr. Laning provided "show and tell" by bringing some of his recently developed cultivars.

The Garden Walk was successful in spite of the unseasonable

weather stimulating increased visitors to the peony garden throughout its blooming season, which lasted throughout the month of June. Proceeds from this Women's National Farm and Garden event will benefit Nichols Arboretum restoration projects. Preliminary indications are that some \$7,000 was raised by this year's garden walk.

Visitors to the Peony Garden were able to inspect some 165 plants that will be divided and sold for \$10 per bag of two roots with at least three eyes per root at the September 11-13 Fall Sale of Friends of Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Mail orders (limited to 5 bags per order) will be accepted on first-come first-serve basis until September 1. Contact the American Peony Society for a list of the available cultivars or write to Peony Sale, Nichols Arboretum, Dana Building, School of Natural Resources, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1115.



PEONY CULTIVARS IDENTIFIED FOR SALE

Albiflora the Bride
 Augustin d Hour
 Aureolin
 Bayadere
 Blanche Turner
 Charles McKellip
 Cherry Hill
 Clairette
 Couronne d Or
 Duchess of Portland
 Ella Christiansen
 Eugenie Verdier
 Faribault
 Felix Crousse
 Festiva
 Grace Loomis
 Grover Cleveland
 Helen Robertson
 Katherine Havemeyer
 LaRosiere
 LaTendresse
 Lady Emily
 Livingstone
 Longfellow
 Lucy E. Hollis

Luetta Pfeiffer
 Marecha Vaillant
 Marguerite Gerard
 Marie Lemoine
 Marquis C. Lagergren
 Maud L. Richardson
 Miriam
 Mme. Camille Bancel
 Mme. Guyot
 Mme. Joanne Sallier
 Mme. Savreau
 Mons. Jules Elie
 Opal
 Nymphaea
 Pallas
 Pride of Essex
 Queen of the Belgians
 Rubra Superba
 Sarah Bernhardt
 Secretary Fewkes
 Simone Chevalier
 Splendida
 Welcome Guest
 Winnikenni

**AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY NATIONAL
EXHIBITION WINNERS
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WEST ALGONQUIN ROAD, DES PLAINES,
ILLINOIS**

GRAND CHAMPION

KAMADA NISHIKI—Japanese tree peony

Exhibited by Joe Glocka

COURT OF HONOR

Class 601—Double white—Walter E. Wipson—Don Hollingsworth

Class 602—Double blush—La Lorraine—Carl Klehm

Class 603—Double light pink—President Taft—Carl Klehm

Class 604—Double dark pink—Vivid Rose—Carl Klehm

Class 605—Double red—Jay Cee—Carl Klehm

Class 606—Bomb any color—Festiva Pixie—Carl Klehm

Class 607—Semi-double any color—Minnie Shaylor—Carl Klehm

Class 608—Japanese any color—Bride's Dream—Carl Klehm

Class 609—Single any color—Pink Princess—Carl Klehm

Class 610—Hybrid double any color—Summer Gold—Don Hollingsworth

Class 611—Hybrid semi-double any color—Coral Charm—D. S. Varner

Class 612—Hybrid single any color—Scarlet O'Hara—Carl Klehm

Class 613—Hybrid Japanese any color—Show Girl—Don Hollingsworth

Class 614—Lutea tree peony any color—Hephestos—Carl Klehm

Class 615—European tree peony any color—Souvenir de Prof. Maxine Cornu—Carl Klehm

Class 616—Japanese tree peony any color—Kamada Nishiki—Joe Glocka**

Class 617—Itoh hybrid any color—Garden Treasure—Don Hollingsworth

****Grand Champion**

DIVISION I — OPEN

Class 101 — 25 varieties, any color or type

First Place — Carl Klehm — 1. Tria 2. Nike 3. Shimani-Otono-Mai 4. Guardian of the Monastery 5. Souvenir de Prof. Maxine Cornu 6. Mrs. Fern Lough 7. Coral Charm 8. Gay Paree 9. Coral 'n' Gold 10. Whopper 11. Cuckoo's Nest 12. Charlie's White 13. Moon River 14. Bride's Dream 15. Crusader 16. Violet Dawson 17. Heritage 18. Pink Hawaiian Coral 19. Burma Midnight 20. Garden Peace 21. Bowl of Cream 22. Red Charm 23. Lake o' Silver 24. White Ivory 25. Vivid Rose

Class 102 — 15 varieties, herbaceous only, any color or type

First Place — Carl Klehm — 1. Charlie's White 2. Festiva Supreme 3. Gold Standard 4. Lois Kelsey 5. Moon River 6. President Taft 7. Pink Princess 8. Whopper 9. Lake o' Silver 10. Angel Cheeks 11. Best Man 12. Barrington Belle 13. Butch 14. Don Richardson 15. Karen Gray

Class 103 — 10 varieties, herbaceous hybrid only, any type or color

First Place — Joe Glocka — 1. Friendship 2. Roselette 3. Illinois Belle 4. Heritage 5. Firelight 6. Golden Glow 7. Athena 8. Edw. Steichen 9. Laddie 10. Salmon Chiffon

Second Place — Carl Klehm — 1. Red Charm 2. Scarlet O'Hara 3. Pink Hawaiian Coral 4. Coral Charm 5. Horizon 6. Etched Salmon 7. Garden Peace 8. Paula Fay 9. Salmon Chiffon 10. Moonrise

Third Place — Robert Schmidt — 1. America 2. Burma Midnight 3. Cytherea 4. Defender 5. Frances 6. Golden Glow 7. Grace Root 8. Illini Warrior 9. Lovely Rose 10. Red Charm

Class 104 — 10 varieties, tree peonies only, any type or color

First Place — Carl Klehm — 1. Tria 2. Teni 3. Mme. Andre de Villers 4. Yae Zakura 5. Roman Gold 6. Howki 7. Golden Mandarin 8. Suishi Haku 9. Horakumon 10. Souvenir de Prof. Maxine Cornu

Class 105 — 5 varieties, Japanese type lactiflora only, any color

First Place — Carl Klehm — 1. Doreen 2. Bride's Dream 3. Violet Dawson 4. Tom Eckhardt 5. Charm

Class 106 — 5 varieties, single type lactiflora only, any color

First Place — Carl Klehm — 1. Camden 2. Pink Princess 3. Sea Shell 4. Spellbinder 5. Snow Swan

**THREE BLOOMS, ONE VARIETY LACTIFLORA ONLY, IN
ONE CONTAINER**

Class 110 — Double white

1. Don Hollingsworth — **Amalia Olson**
 2. Don Hollingsworth — **Walter E. Wipson**
 3. Don Hollingsworth — **Mother's Choice**
- HM Carl Klehm — Festiva Supreme**

Class 111 — Double blush

1. Carl Klehm — **La Lorraine**
2. Carl Klehm — **Zenith**
3. Don Hollingsworth — **Norma Volz**

Class 112 — Double light pink

1. Don Hollingsworth — **President Taft**
 2. Don Hollingsworth — **Pink Crescendo**
 3. Carl Klehm — **Pillow Talk**
- HM Carl Klehm — Mrs. Fern Lough**

Class 113 — Double dark pink

1. Carl Klehm — **Vivid Rose**
2. Don Hollingsworth — **Prairie Princess**
- 3.

Class 114 — Double red

- 1.
 2. Carl Klehm — **Jay Cee**
 3. Don Hollingsworth — **Paul M. Wild**
- HM Carl Klehm — Felix Supreme**

Class 115 — Semi-double white or blush

- 1.
2. Carl Klehm — **Lois Kelsey**
3. Carl Klehm — **Miss America**

Class 116 — Semi-double pink

1. Carl Klehm — **Butch**
2. Carl Klehm — **Nice Gal**
- 3.

Class 117 — Semi-double red (no winners)

Class 118 — Bomb any color

1. Carl Klehm — **Angel Cheeks**
2. Carl Klehm — **Charlie's White (Petticoat Flounce)**

3. Carl Klehm — Whopper

HM Don Hollingsworth — Big Ben

Class 119 — Japanese white or blush

1. Carl Klehm — Violet Dawson

2.

3. Carl Klehm — Bride's Dream

Class 120 — Japanese pink

1. Carl Klehm — Gay Paree

2. Carl Klehm — Doreen

3. Carl Klehm — Alice Roberts

Class 121 — Japanese red

1. Carl Klehm — Tom Eckhardt

2. Don Hollingsworth — Sword Dance

3. Don Hollingsworth — Karen Gray

Class 122 — Single white or blush

1. Carl Klehm — Spellbinder

2. Carl Klehm — Krinkled White

3. Carl Klehm — Snow Swan

Class 123 — Single pink

1. Don Hollingsworth — Pink Princess

2. Carl Klehm — Pink Princess

3.

Class 124 — Single red (no winners)

ONE BLOOM, LACTIFLORA ONLY

Class 130 — Double white

1. Don Hollingsworth — Amalia Olson

2. Carl Klehm — White Ivory

3. Don Hollingsworth — Mother's Choice

HM Don Hollingsworth — Walter E. Wipson

Class 131 — Double blush

1. Carl Klehm — La Lorraine

2. Don Hollingsworth — Missie's Blush

3. Don Hollingsworth — Alice Harding

HM Don Hollingsworth — Norma Volz

Class 132 — Double light pink

1. Carl Klehm — Mrs. Fern Lough

2. Carl Klehm — **Pillow Talk**
3. Carl Klehm — **President Taft**
- HM Carl Klehm — President Taft**

Class 133 — Double dark pink

1. Don Hollingsworth — **Prairie Princess**
2. Carl Klehm — **Emma Klehm**
3. Carl Klehm — **Vivid Rose**

Class 134 — Double red

1. Carl Klehm — **Jay Cee**
2. D. S. Varner — **Avis Varner**
3. Carl Klehm — **Felix Supreme**

Class 135 — Semi-double white or blush

1. Carl Klehm — **Minnie Shaylor ***
2. Carl Klehm — **Ethel Mars**
3. Carl Klehm — **Lois Kelsey**

Class 136 — Semi-double pink (no winners)

Class 137 — Semi-double red (no winners)

Class 138 — Bomb white or blush

1. Carl Klehm — **Charlie's White**
2. Carl Klehm — **Charlie's White**
3. Carl Klehm — **Mr. Ed**

Class 139 — Bomb pink

1. Carl Klehm — **Sweet Sixteen**
2. Carl Klehm — **Whopper**
3. Carl Klehm — **Sweet Sixteen**

Class 140 — Bomb red

- 1.
2. Don Hollingsworth — **Big Ben**
- 3.

HM Carl Klehm — Raspberry Ice

Class 141 — Japanese white or blush

1. Carl Klehm — **Violet Dawson**
2. Carl Klehm — **Bride's Dream**
3. Carl Klehm — **Gold Rush**

HM Carl Klehm — Gold Standard

Class 142 — Japanese pink

1. Carl Klehm — **Do Tell (Gay Paree)**

2. Carl Klehm — **Alice Roberts**

3. Carl Klehm — **Doreen**

*** Put on Court of Honor**

Class 143 — Japanese red

1. Carl Klehm — **Barrington Belle**

2. Carl Klehm — **Barrington Belle**

3. D. S. Varner — **Gigi**

Class 144 — Single white or blush

1. Joe Glocka — **Athena**

2. Carl Klehm — **Krinkled White**

3.

Class 145 — Single pink

1. Don Hollingsworth — **Pink Princess**

2. Carl Klehm — **Pink Princess**

3. Carl Klehm — **Abalone Pearl**

Class 146 — Single red

1. Carl Klehm — **Camden**

2. Carl Klehm — **Mr. Thim**

3. D. S. Varner — **Rivida**

Carl Klehm — **Gratis**

**THREE BLOOMS, ONE VARIETY, HERBACEOUS HYBRIDS
ONLY, IN ONE CONTAINER**

Class 150 — Double/semi-double white, blush or yellow

1. Don Hollingsworth — **Summer Glow**

2. Carl Klehm — **Col. Owen Cousins**

3. Don Hollingsworth — **Summer Glow**

Class 151 — Double/semi-double coral

1. Carl Klehm — **Pink Hawaiian Coral**

2. Carl Klehm — **Etched Salmon**

3. Carl Klehm — **Coral Charm**

Class 152 — Double/semi-double pink

1. Carl Klehm — **Glowing Raspberry Rose**

2. Carl Klehm — **Paula Fay**

3. Carl Klehm — **Paula Fay**

Class 153 — Double/semi-double red

1. Don Hollingsworth — **Many Happy Returns**

2. Carl Klehm — **Illini Belle**

3. Robert Schmidt — **Postillion**

HM Don Hollingsworth — Red Charm

Class 154 — Japanese any color

1. Don Hollingsworth — **Show Girl**

2. *

3. Carl Klehm — **Dainty Lass**

HM *

Class 155 — Single yellow

1. Carl Klehm — **Moonrise**

2. Carl Klehm — **Moonrise**

3. Joe Glocka — **Claire de Lune**

Class 156 — Single white or blush

1. Carl Klehm — **Garden Peace**

2. Carl Klehm — **Campagna**

3. Carl Klehm — **Serenade**

Class 157 — Single coral

1. Carl Klehm — **Coral 'n' Gold**

2. Carl Klehm — **Salmon Chiffon**

3.

4. **HM Carl Klehm — Salmon Chiffon**

Class 158 — Single pink

1. Robert Schmidt — **Gillian**

2. Carl Klehm — **Lady in Pink**

3.

Class 159 — Single red

1. Carl Klehm — **Montezuma**

2. Carl Klehm — **Fairy Princess**

3. Carl Klehm — **Illini Warrior**

HM Joe Glocka — Tenufolia simplex

Class 159a — Itoh hybrid, any color

1. Don Hollingsworth — **Garden Treasure**

2. Don Hollingsworth — **Viking Full Moon**

3. Don Hollingsworth — **Garden Treasure**

HM Don Hollingsworth — Viking Full Moon

*** Burma Midnight (2) and Cuckoo's Nest (HM) should have been in Class 159, not 154**

ONE BLOOM, HERBACEOUS HYBRIDS ONLY

Class 160 — Double/semi-double yellow

1. Don Hollingsworth — **Summer Glow**
2. Carl Klehm — **Goldilocks**
3. Carl Klehm — **Sunny Boy**

Class 161 — Double/semi-double white or blush

1. Carl Klehm — **Col. Owen Cousins**
2. Carl Klehm — **Col. Owen Cousins**
- 3.

Class 162 — Double/semi-double coral

1. Carl Klehm — **Coral Charm**
2. Carl Klehm — **Pink Hawaiian Coral**
3. Carl Klehm — **Etched Salmon**

Class 163 — Double/semi-double pink

1. Robert Schmidt — **Cytharea**
2. D. S. Varner — **Salmon Glory**
3. Carl Klehm — **Glowing Raspberry Rose**
HM Robert Schmidt — Ellen Cowley

Class 164 — Double/semi-double red

1. Robert Schmidt — **Postillion**
2. D. S. Varner — **Old Faithful**
3. Carl Klehm — **Dandy Dan**
HM Robert Schmidt — King's Ransom
Carl Klehm — Rosedale

Class 165 — Japanese hybrid, any color

1. Don Hollingsworth — **Show Girl ***
- 2.
3. Carl Klehm — **Dainty Lass**

Class 166 — Single yellow

1. Joe Glocka — **Claire de Lune**
2. Carl Klehm — **Moonrise**
3. Carl Klehm — **Roy's Best Yellow**
HM Carl Klehm — Roy's Best Yellow

Class 167 — Single white or blush

1. Carl Klehm — **Garden Peace**
2. Robert Schmidt — **Requiem**
- 3.

Class 168 — Single coral

1. Carl Klehm — **Coral 'n' Gold**
2. Carl Klehm — **Coral 'n' Gold**
3. Carl Klehm — **Salmon Chiffon**

Class 169 — Single pink

1. Robert Schmidt — **Frances**
2. Carl Klehm — **Lady in Pink**
- 3.

Class 169a — Single red

1. Carl Klehm — **Illini Warrior**
2. Carl Klehm — **Montezuma**
3. Robert Schmidt — **Israel**

Class 169b — Itoh hybrid, any color

1. Chris Laning — **Yellow Heaven**
2. Robert Schmidt — **Yellow Emperor**
3. Chris Laning — **Yellow Dream**

*** Put on Court of Honor**

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

Class 170a — Jap. Moutan, white single

- 1.
2. Carl Klehm — **Suishi Haku**
- 3.

Class 170b — Jap. Moutan, white semi-double

1. Robert Schmidt — **Gessekai**
- 2.
- 3.

Class 170c — Jap. Moutan, white double

1. Carl Klehm — **Haku Benyru**
- 2.
- 3.

Class 171a — Jap. Moutan, pink single

1. Carl Klehm — **Lilith**
- 2.
- 3.

Class 171b — Jap. Moutan, pink semi-double

1. Robert Schmidt — **Hiroshima**
2. Carl Klehm — **Shintenchi**

3. Carl Klehm — Yachiyo Tsubaki

Class 171c — Jap. Moutan, pink double (no winners)

Class 172a — Jap. Moutan, red single

1. Carl Klehm — **Red Rascal**

2.

3.

Class 172b — Jap. Moutan, red semi-double

1. Carl Klehm — **Taiyo**

2. Carl Klehm — **Howki**

3.

Class 172c — Jap. Moutan, red double (no winners)

Class 173a — Jap. Moutan, violet single (no winners)

Class 173b — Jap. Moutan, violet semi-double

1. Carl Klehm — **Kamada Nishiki**

2. Carl Klehm — **Kamada Nichiki**

3.

Class 173c — Jap. Moutan, violet double

1. Carl Klehm — **Kamada Fuji**

2.

3.

Class 174a — Jap. Moutan, maroon single (no winners)

Class 174b — Jap. Moutan, maroon semi-dbl. (no winners)

Class 174c — Jap. Moutan, maroon double (no winners)

Class 175a — Lutea hybrid, white single (no winners)

Class 175b — Lutea hybrid, white semi-dbl. (no winners)

Class 175c — Lutea hybrid, white double (no winners)

Class 176a — Lutea hybrid, yellow single

1. P. C. Laning — **Tria**

Carl Klehm — **Silver Sails**

2. Carl Klehm — **Tria**

3.

Class 176b — Lutea hybrid, yellow semi-double

1. Carl Klehm — **Golden Mandarin**

2.

3.

Class 176c — Lutea hybrid, yellow double

1. Carl Klehm — **Age of Gold**

2.

3.

Class 177a — Lutea hybrid, blend single

1. Carl Klehm — **Mystery**

2.

3.

Class 177b — Lutea hybrid, blend semi-dbl. (no winners)

Class 177c — Lutea hybrid, blend double (no winners)

Class 178a — Lutea hybrid, pink single (no winners)

Class 178b — Lutea hybrid, pink semi-double

1. Carl Klehm — **Leda**

2.

3.

Class 178c — Lutea hybrid, pink double (no winners)

Class 179a — Lutea hybrid, red single (no winners)

Class 179b — Lutea hybrid, red semi-dbl. (no winners)

Class 179c — Lutea hybrid, red double (no winners)

Class 180a — Lutea hybrid, dark red single (no winners)

Class 180b — Lutea hybrid, dark red semi-dbl. (no winners)

Class 180c — Lutea hybrid, dark red double

1. Carl Klehm — **Vesuvian**

2.

3.

Class 181c — European hybrid, any color

1. Carl Klehm — **Souvenir de Prof. Maxine Cornu**

2. Carl Klehm — **Souvenir de Prof. Maxine Cornu**

TREE PEONIES, ONE BLOOM

Class 185a — Jap. Moutan, white single

1.

2. Carl Klehm — **Joseph Rocks**

3.

Class 185b — Jap. Moutan, white semi-double

1. John Simkins — **Gessekai**

2. Carl Klehm — **Gessekai**

3. Robert Schmidt — **Gessekai**

Class 185c — Jap. Moutan, white double

1. Carl Klehm — **Haku Benyru**

2. John Simkins — **Simtamchi**

3. Carl Klehm — **Aphrodite**

Class 186a — Jap. Moutan, pink single

1. Carl Klehm — **Companion of Serenity**

2. Carl Klehm — **Gyoku Ryoku**

3.

Class 186b — Jap. Moutan, pink semi-double

1. Carl Klehm — **Shintenchi**

2. Carl Klehm — **Shintenchi**

3. Carl Klehm — **Hana Kiso**

Class 186c — Jap. Moutan, pink double

1. Carl Klehm — **Shimani-Otono-Mai**

2. Carl Klehm — **Shimani-Otono-Mai**

3.

Class 187a — Jap. Moutan, red single

1.

2. Carl Klehm — **Red Rascal**

3.

Class 187b — Jap. Moutan, red semi-double

1. Carl Klehm — **Taiyo**

2. Joe Glocka — **Kamada Nishiki**

3.

Class 187c — Jap. Moutan, red double

1. Carl Klehm — **Toichi Ruby**

2. Carl Klehm — **Iwato Kagura**

Class 188a — Jap. Moutan, violet single

1. Carl Klehm — **Guardian of the Monastery**

2. Carl Klehm — **Shimane Chojuraka**

3. Carl Klehm — **Shimane Chojuraka**

Class 188b — Jap. Moutan, violet semi-double

1. Carl Klehm — **Kamada Nishiki**

2. Carl Klehm — **Kamada Nishiki**

3.

Class 188c — Jap. Moutan, violet double

1. Carl Klehm — **Kamada Fuji**

2. John Simkins — **Purple Queen**

Carl Klehm — **Kamada Fuji**

3.

Class 189a — Jap. Moutan, maroon single (no winners)

Class 189b — Jap. Moutan, maroon semi-double

1.

2.

3. Carl Klehm — **Kokamon**

Class 189c — Jap. Moutan, maroon double (no winners)

Class 190a — Lutea hybrid, white to cream single (no winners)

Class 190b — Lutea hybrid, white to cream semi-dbl. (no winners)

Class 190c — Lutea hybrid, white to cream double (no winners)

Class 191a — Lutea hybrid, yellow single

1.

2. Carl Klehm — **Silver Sails**

3. Carl Klehm — **Tria**

Class 191b — Lutea hybrid, yellow semi-double

1. Carl Klehm — **Golden Mandarin**

2. Carl Klehm — **High Noon**

3. Robert Schmidt — **High Noon**

Class 191c — Lutea hybrid, yellow double

1. Don Hollingsworth — **Golden Hind**

2. Carl Klehm — **Age of Gold**

3. Carl Klehm — **Age of Gold**

Class 192a — Lutea hybrid, blend single

1.

2. Carl Klehm — **Nike**

3.

Class 192b — Lutea hybrid, blend semi-double

1. Carl Klehm — **Harvest**

2. Robert Schmidt — **Hesperus**

3.

Class 192c — Lutea hybrid, blend double (no winners)

Class 193a — Lutea hybrid, pink single (no winners)

Class 193b — Lutea hybrid, pink semi-double

1. Carl Klehm — **Leda**

2.

3.

Class 193c — Lutea Hybrid, pink double

1. Carl Klehm — **Rose Flame**

2.

3.

Class 194a — Lutea hybrid, red single

1. Carl Klehm — **Chinese Dragon**

2. Carl Klehm — **Dare Devil**

3. Carl Klehm — **Dare Devil**

Class 194b — Lutea hybrid, red semi-double (no winners)

Class 194c — Lutea hybrid, red double (no winners)

Class 195a — Lutea hybrid dk. red single

1. Carl Klehm — **Black Pirate**

2. Carl Klehm — **Black Pirate**

Carl Klehm — **Thunderbolt**

Class 195b — Lutea hybrid, dk. red semi-double

1. Carl Klehm — **Iphigenia**

2.

3.

Class 195c — Lutea hybrid, dk. red double

1. Carl Klehm — **Vesuvian**

2.

3.

Class 196c — European hybrid, any color

1. Carl Klehm — **Souvenir de Prof. Maxine Cornu**

Carl Klehm — **Mme. Andre de Villers**

DIVISION II. Amateur

Open to exhibitors chiefly for pleasure, sell plants or cut flowers only casually, and do not grow more than 200 plants

Class 229 — One hybrid, any type, color

1. Dorothy Spangler — **Red Charm**

DIVISION III. Novice

Open to all amateur gardeners, who exhibit peonies only at local shows

Class 309 — Three hybrids, any color

1. Lois Verta — **Pink Hawaiian Coral**

2. Lois Verta — **Flame**

Class 322 — One hybrid, any color

1. Lois Verta — **Pink Hawaiian Coral**

2. Alice Hacker — **Cytharea**

3. Dorothy Spangler — **Red Charm**

Class 323 — Tree peony, any color

1. Alice Hacker — **Leda**

DIVISION IV. Seedlings and New Varieties

Class 401 — Unnamed seedlings, three blooms

Award of Merit—Chris Laning—pink and yellow seedling

Award of Merit—Don Hollingsworth—#1859 seedling

Award of Merit—Pink palette seedling

Honorable Mention—Joe Glocka—seedling of Chris Laning
Quad F2

Honorable Mention—Don Hollingsworth—#1059

Class 502 — New varieties, named, 3 blooms

Honorable Mention—Don Hollingsworth—**Sweet Melody**

Award of Merit—John Simkins—#21—**Pink Palette**

DIVISION V. Special Entries

Class 503 — Multiple bloom

1. Carl Klehm — **June Rose**

2. Carl Klehm — **Fringed Ivory**

3. Carl Klehm — **Lake o' Silver**

Class 504 — North Dakota Memorial Award, 5 doubles, any color

1. Carl Klehm — (1) **Best Man** (2) **President Taft** (3) **Fer
tiva Supreme** (4) **La Lorraine** (5) **Mme. Emile
Debatene**

ARTISTIC DIVISION

Class 1 — Welcome to the land of Lincoln

Mrs. Ruth Callier — Blue

Class 2 — Michigan Shores

Mrs. Julia Peace — Reserve Champion

Class 3 — Happy Hunting Grounds

Mrs. Lenore Stevens — Blue

Class 4 — Chicago Distant Skyline

Mrs. Gerry Ford — Grand Champion

The entire display was one of flower art at its best.

The following entered the various classes, and the PEONY was truly QUEEN of the display:

Mrs. Terri Dals, Dundee, IL	Mrs. Pat Fautsch, Libertyville, IL
Mrs. Andree Hagnestad, Glenview, IL	Mrs. Gloria Green Mrs. Karen Cabanski, Mt. Prospect, IL
Mrs. Rosemarie Kachik, Palatine, IL	Mrs. Gloria Mather, Woodstock, IL
Mrs. Margaret Miller, Park Ridge, IL	Mrs. Janet Thelander, Arlington Heights, IL

★ ★ ★ ★

TO THE KLEHMS

We appreciate and express our thanks to the Klehms for the physical arrangements in having the Exhibition at the new and beautiful Friendly Park Conservatory, Arlington Heights, Des Plaines, Illinois.

Also, to each individual for the work done in assisting with the Exhibition and program, making it one of interest and beauty. Thank you, also, to Alice Hacker for the detailed arrangements in general, and banquet facilities.

It was a beautiful Exhibition.

★ ★ ★ ★

A CONVENTION HIGHLIGHT

by Charlie Kroell, Troy, Michigan

For me, one of the highlights of the APS Show/Convention in Des Plaines, IL this past June was the splendid illustrated lecture given by Roy Klehm. It's always a real treat to hear an articulate expert hold forth with unbridled enthusiasm about a subject in which one is especially interested; and this was certainly the case for a room full of rapt listeners at the Friendship Park Conservatory. Although introductory in nature, the content was broad in scope, offering something for everyone . . . peony basics for the newcomer, nuggets of nostalgia and history for the veteran, and some tidbits of personal philosophy for all.

An excellent assortment of slides illustrated the different forms of peony bloom, and many of the finest named varieties of both the herbaceous and tree types. Included were detailed closeups, views of mass plantings and people pictures of famous peony personalities (Professor Saunders, William Gratwick, Nassos Daphnis, William Krekler and others). An interesting account was given concerning the late Samuel Wissing, a chemist by profession, who performed chromatograms on his breeding material to study pigmentation while in pursuit of true coral colors—the hybridizing breakthrough which he eventually achieved. Some personal notes included Mr. Klehm's impression of newly emerging, maroon peony shoots artistically unfurling during their period of rapid growth in early Spring as "horticultural poetry." Another was his liking for some of the new unusual flower forms which have been introduced more recently, such as his own **Pink Parasol Surprise**, something he admitted that his father would have rogued out as grotesque. The grafting and planting of tree peonies was explained and illustrated, with tips such as that of vertically scoring the scion trunk above the graft with a sharp knife at ninety degree intervals to promote earlier root growth of the grafted stock.

For me, however, the most fascinating information presented was an account of the origin (i.e., for us as peony growers) of *P. suffruticosa*, Rock's variety, said by Mr. Klehm to be his favorite tree peony. The story went something like this: The explorer, Joseph F. Rock, while trekking in Tibet, happened upon a lamasery in front of which stood a large tree peony with breathtakingly beautiful white flowers accented by dark purple flares at the petal bases. Rock, struck with such a display of pulchritude, inquired of the monks concerning its natural habitat. He was told that it could be found growing wild in the distant countryside; and, forthwith, he set out to find this treasure. His search was fruitless; but, upon returning to the monastery some months later, he persuaded the reluctant lamas to provide him with seeds. He was given six in all, three of which were sent to Kew, in England, and three to the Arnold Arboretum in Massachusetts. According to the account, the day following his acquisition of the seeds, the lamasery was razed, the monks massacred, and the beauti-

ful plant destroyed by Mongol invaders. It is thus from the six seeds which Rock obtained from his ill-fated friends, literally in the nick of time, that all of our stock of *P. suffruticosa*, Rocks variety which is extant today, has derived.

Like I said, Mr. Klehm's lecture was informative, fascinating and absorbing and, indeed, a highlight of the convention.

★ ★ ★ ★

IMPRESSIONS OF THE 1992 ANNUAL MEETING

Don Hollingsworth, Kansas City, Missouri

The Friendship Park Conservatory in Des Plaines, Illinois provided an excellent setting for the 1992 national exhibition and meetings. The exhibit room was filled to overflowing with flowers, APS members, and guests for the entire show, May 29, 30, 31.

Although earlier than the traditional dates, the timing proved very opportune, for the representation of earlier flowering kinds was excellent—hybrids and tree peonies, especially. At the same time the classes for the Lactiflora peonies were well filled, although the dates were early for the more northerly located exhibitors and some commonly shown varieties were missing.

By early afternoon on Friday, the workroom was well filled with exhibitors and on-lookers for preparation of entries. This is a great time for visiting among peony-growing friends, for the work is routine at this state. Wrappings had to be removed, the stems re-cut and placed in water, labels checked, and the process of culling begun. It was a bit cool in the area and, as is always the case, one topic of conversation was speculation whether the best blossoms would be at the best stage of development for the judging next day.

In my own case there was immediate culling, for a refrigerator failure had frozen part of my flowers the previous weekend and some failures were obvious upon unwrapping. It was surprising, however, how well some of the varieties tolerated the freeze. ("I store them dry, not in water, which makes them more resistant to such accidents," says veteran grower, Myron Bigger.)

For the most part culling took place the next morning, from the other end of the spectrum—selecting the best blossoms for the show entries. This was going on at 7:00 a.m. and continued until the judging commenced shortly after 11:00. Even then there were more fine specimens still in the workroom which could have been exhibited if there was still time to place them.

After the judging, the show room was opened to the public and many were standing outside waiting to enter the instant the doors

were opened! There was good representation in all classes—moutans, lutea hybrid tree peonies, herbaceous hybrids, Itoh hybrids and lactifloras, including varieties not often seen. The Society members and the public were treated to an excellent exhibition.

During the show there was the usual sale of surplus blossoms from the workroom, so the visiting public may obtain flowers to take when they leave. This was organized by Lois Klehm with staffing help from APS members and members of the Klehm Nursery organization.

High in my own interest were the seedling and new variety classes—both my own exhibits and those being shown by my colleagues in peony breeding. The space was packed. Notably, Chris Laning was there with a fine representation of his early herbaceous hybrids, and Steve Varner with a wider spectrum of kinds. The quality of seedlings and the representation of new kinds, including Itoh hybrids, continues to advance. One new variety made it to the Court of Honor.

The APS banquet and membership meeting were held Saturday evening. A highlight of this event is the annual auction where rare varieties, new and old, as well as fine kinds in plentiful supply, are sometimes obtained for bargain prices. The list of contributors was substantial, as usual, most of whom were present.

However, the auction has traditionally been supported by both contributors and buyers who could not be present. The proceeds of the auction go to the Society in support of the annual budget.

Auctioneer duties were handled ably by John Simkins, supported by much commentary from the audience. Great fun was had by all!

Sunday was another visiting time for Society members and guests. Except for the Directors' business meeting, the schedule is relaxed and there is time to look over the flowers more thoroughly. The weather had been cool Friday and Saturday, but had warmed by Sunday. Of course, some of the exhibits that didn't get open to their best form for the judging on Saturday had come into their own by Sunday. If the judging were done again, what would the results be this time on the same exhibits? Always a good topic of conversation!

All good times come to an end and the end of the exhibition and meetings is no exception. But we hope that all who took part may be able to be back again next year, plus many who didn't get to attend this time.

EXHIBITION JUNE 4-5-6, 1993 KINGWOOD—MANSFIELD, OHIO

OBSERVATIONS OF PAEONIA BROWNII

Galen Burrell

In the Spring of 1992, I set out to find one of our two native peonies, *Paeonia brownii*. With the help of the map in Stern's *Genus Paeonia* and some very knowledgeable native plant enthusiasts, I found *P. brownii* in two locations. The first was in south-central Oregon, and the second was near Mt. Adams in south-central Washington. The following are my field notes from both locations:

April 28—

I followed Kathy Jean, a U.S. Forest Service botanist, to an area overlooking Upper Klamath Lake. There on a south-facing slope *Paeonia brownii* had just begun to bloom—and what a bloom—flower color is amazing with sepals and carpels green, stamens yellow, and petals red changing to a dark maroon at their base. What a strange but beautiful flower.

Flowers and buds nod over and face the ground. They are not upright like the photographs and drawings I have seen. It is easy to see why the flowers and buds are not upright as they are so heavy for such a succulent plant.

Not to be outdone by the flowers are the succulent blue-green leaves; possibly the most beautiful in the genus *Paeonia*. The leaves look nearly like those of woody peonies, except for their blue-green color and rounded tips.

I had always heard that *Paeonia brownii* could be described as scraggly. These plants were not scraggly. Some plants were more than two feet in diameter with 20-30 buds, while all of the plants made compact (1 foot to 1 1/2 feet tall) mounds of blue-green foliage with nodding buds and flowers. I doubt that there is a peony more suited to the rock garden.

All of the plants were growing among big sagebrush (an indicator of deep soil), bitterbrush, bittercherry, lupine, and cheatgrass. A few plants were growing at the base of Ponderosa pine trees.

May 14—

I found the second stand of *Paeonia brownii* along the Willard Springs Trail in Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge. What a difference a few hundred miles can make in the appearance of a plant, or more likely good growing conditions versus not-so-good growing conditions. The leaves looked exactly like the plants from southern Oregon but none of the 100 or so plants I examined had more than 3-4 stems; most had one. A one-word description what be scraggly. (I have been told that this is commonly what *Paeonia brownii* looks like in the Blue Mountains of southwestern Washington.)

None of the plants were going to flower. The flower buds had stopped growing when only 1-2mm in diameter; probably the result of our prolonged drought.

The leaves were still beautiful but when not growing in the characteristic mound shape of a peony plant they would have been easy to miss and not nearly as striking.

Nearly all of the plants were growing under pine trees and among bitterbrush and lupine. The soil seemed shallow, which could be the reason for the differences in **Paeonia brownii** from the two locations.

I think that **Paeonia brownii** would make a beautiful garden or rock garden plant, particularly if the plants grew like those from the locations in southern Oregon. However, there is little cultural information available about **Paeonia brownii** or **P. californica**. If any APS members have tried to grow **Paeonia brownii**, I would be very interested in your success or failure. My address is P.O. Box 754, Ridgefield, Washington 98642.



PEONIES AND NIKKO, JAPAN

Michael Denny, 80 Chaplin Cres., Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5P 1A5

During September, 1991, my wife and I visited Japan. One of the places that we explored was Nikko. Nikko is about one-and-a-half hours by train from Tokyo, and should be on any APS tourist's list of places to visit. It is in the mountains and has some of the most spectacular shrines and temples in Japan. Not only are these in excellent condition, but the natural setting in the hills covered with magnificent evergreens, make these historical buildings spectacular.

Since it was September, there were no peonies in bloom but peonies were everywhere. In Nikko, the predominant handcraft is woodworking. The predominant motif was peonies on every type of wood carving imaginable. To be fair there were some lilies and iris, but peonies were on the majority of pieces. The quality ranged from quite low at the souvenir stands, to magnificent at the specialty craft stores. The prices ranged also but we felt that prices were reasonably given in that everything in Japan is expensive. It is unfortu-

nate, but this work is not available at the otherwise excellent craft stores in Kyoto and Tokyo. Given the magnificence of the temples in Nikko, the peonies should be viewed as an extra bonus that comes with your visit.

When touring the temples in Nikko and elsewhere in Japan, you will find peonies carved into gates and buildings and painted on the interior walls. Some of this work is wonderful, and you should look carefully for the many wonderful examples. Not all of us will have a chance to visit Japan but if you go, visit Nikko and the wonderful peony wood carvings. I would be pleased to hear from other APS members who have been to Japan, and had time to see Peonies.

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REGISTRATIONS

AIMEE'S PINK (Granville Hall, Gloucester, Virginia), May 30, 1992

Parentage: **Festiva Maxima** x **Kansas** pollen. First year bloomed 1988. This domed double lingerie pink has good substance; blooms are 6-7" in diameter, very nicely domed near-perfect form. The color is highly consistent throughout the bloom; does not fade easily. The special merit of this variety is its fragrance, strong and pure; lasts for several days in the vase. It has good stem strength, 34 inches in height, and blooms mid-late. Good green peony foliage.

RUTH OLSON (Harris Olson, Birmingham, Michigan), June 27, 1992

Parentage, open pollinated lactiflora, semi-double. First bloomed before 1990. Divided. The petals of this flower are rose pink with petaloides and stamenoides of champagne color. For a full description, there is a single row of rose pink guard petals underlying a collar of champagne colored petaloides. This ring underlies a second tier of rose pink petals, which surrounds a center of champagne colored narrower petaloides and stamenoides. Bright pink tips adorn small immature carpels. Fragrant, medium stem strength; mid-season bloom, 32-36" height.

COTTON CANDY (Roger F. Anderson, Ft. Atkinson, Wisconsin), July 2, 1992

Seedling #L13884. Double lactiflora. Parentage: **Martha W.** x **Rose Shaylor**. First year bloomed 1987. This double rose type, white guards, and pink center has long lasting blooms, reliable, excellent substance, fragrant. The strong stem is self supporting of this double flower, 30-34 inches in height, excellent foliage. Season of bloom, mid to late.

CHRISTMAS VELVET (Roger Anderson, Ft. Atkinson, Wisconsin), July 2, 1992

Seedling #H15184. Parentage **Mikado** x **Good Cheer**. First bloomed 1987. This velvet red hybrid double ball form has excellent stem strength which supports the flower—no blooms on the ground. Heavy amount of bloom, good foliage. Bloom is located nicely above the bush; vigorous 28-30 inches in height, mid-season bloom. Fragrant.

CLUMP OF COLOR (Roger Anderson, Ft. Atkinson, Wisconsin), July 2, 1992

Seedling #L14386. Japanese parentage **Mikado** x **Martha W.** First bloomed 1989. This red Japanese type has multi-blooms per stem which are strong and self supporting. Seeds, no pollen, 32-36 inches in height, extended bloom period.

MAGNIFIQUE (Roger F. Anderson, Ft. Atkinson, Wisconsin), July 2, 1992

Seedling #L12188. Parentage **Martha W.** x Seedling #L14482. First year bloomed 1985. This large pink double lactiflora has a ball form with pom pom-like blooms. Good strong self supporting stems, 30-36 inches in height. Barrel-shaped plant. No pollen, no seeds, fragrant. Mid to late season.

CANDY STRIPE (Roger F. Anderson, Ft. Atkinson, Wisconsin), July 2, 1992

Seedling #L878. Parentage **Minnie Shaylor** x Red single seedling. First bloomed 1981. Bi-color red and white double lactiflora. Long, fair amount of stem strength. Flower might need support, 30-36 inches in height. Stamens, pollen and seeds. Mild fragrance, mid-to-late bloomer. Might make a good cut flower rather than a garden plant.

WEDDING DAY (Roger F. Anderson, Ft. Atkinson, Wisconsin), July 2, 1992

Seedling #14286. Parentage **Martha W.** x **Rose Shaylor**. First bloomed 1989. Pure white, single lactiflora, has stamens, pollen and seeds. Good substance. Blooms opening all at once on top of self supporting stems with dark green foliage. 30-32 inch, blooms at midseason.

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***If you cut a tree, plant a tree.
It is nature's replaceable energy.***

MYRON D. BIGGER SELECTS THE BEST 25 PEONIES FOR 1992

Kansas	Pinnacle	Henry Bockstoce
Pink Derby	Cloud Cap	Sunny Side Up
Leading Lady	Jayhawker	Topeka Garnet
Red Charm	Shawnee Chief	Sparkling Star
Candy Heart	Myron D. Bigger	Rose Shaylor
Pink Wonder	Snow Mountain	Shawnee Rose
Mons Jules Elie	Lovely Rose	Luxor
Comanche	Aerie	Philippe Rivoire
Miss Dainty	Topeka Statue	

The peonies on my list were exceptionally good this year. **Leading Lady** was outstanding. I named more than 25, but who can stop at any one figure when we have a good year? Next year, the list will be different as more varieties take over the spotlight. **Pink Derby** is growing in many gardens. You can see the beauty of this peony on the cover of this issue of the *Bulletin*.

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PEONY SEED FOR DISTRIBUTION

Lactiflora: from red clones
white clones
mixed colors

Hybrids: Red - Red - from **Dad F2** and **Sable x Super "D"**
White - from **Serenade F2**

Cream or pale yellow: from Pehrsons' best yellow **F2**
Mloko x tenuifolia F4
tetraploid yellow singles

Pink - tetraploid mix

Suffruticosa - tree peony mix

December issue of the *Bulletin* will list seed varieties that other members contribute to seed distribution.

Write: Mr. Chris Laning, 553 West F. Ave., Kalamazoo, Michigan 49004.

There are many seed pods this year—soon it will be time to harvest the seed. Write the name of the pod parent on each seed package and send to Chris for the seed pool. Address above.

MINNESOTA PEONY EXHIBITION

June 12-13-14, 1992

Signal Hills Mall, St. Paul, Minnesota

COURT OF HONOR

Grand Champion and Best in Show—**Buckeye Belle** [semi-double hybrid]—Carl Klehm

Double white—**Elsa Sass**—Floyd Kimball

Double blush—**Moonstone**—Carl Klehm

Double lt. pink—**Mrs. Livingston Farrand**—Alvin Sevald

Double dk. pink—**Princess Margaret**—Joseph Glocka

Double red—**Edward Flynn**—Floyd Kimball

Semi-double—**Miss America**—Carl Klehm

Japanese—**Gold Standard**—Carl Klehm

Single—**Dawn Pink**—Carl Klehm

Hybrid—**Burma Ruby**—Carl Klehm

Tree—**Kamada Nishiki**—Carl Klehm

Leda—Carl Klehm

Bomb—**Raspberry Sundae**—Floyd Kimball

Itoh—**Yellow Dream**—Carl Klehm

First Award for 25 varieties, any color or type—Joseph Glocka

Total number entries, 806—total number of flowers exhibited, 1523.

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MINNESOTA EXHIBITION

June 12 - 13 - 14

Every year after the National Exhibition, the Minnesota Peony Society has their annual peony show. After a cold, wet Spring, the weather seemed to favor the dates and the doubles were open for this event. The tables were full to overflowing and more were set up to accommodate the flowers. Not only did the exhibitors of Minnesota show their flowers, but the Klehm Nursery of South Barrington, Illinois, brought an air-conditioned truckload of peonies, old and new varieties, peonies of every type and color; in addition, tables of fresh bloom of the tree peony.

Joe Glocka of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, brought a couple hundred or more of his prize-winning peonies. They are just that, as he took top honors at the National Show in Des Plaines, Illinois. Here he

won the first award for the best 25 varieties, as well as being on the Court of Honor. One of his peonies, **Norma Volz**, was the largest, [and perfect grown] one would ever see, measuring at least eight inches across. Not to be outdone, was Floyd Kimball's **Raspberry Sundae**. It was grown to perfection, proudly displaying the beautiful form and delicate color of this peony. Visitors were delighted with this variety and the name was written on many lists as a "must have." But the greatest peony of all [not for the size but the most perfect form] one will ever see in a peony, was exhibited by Chuck Klehm. A semi-double red hybrid, **Buckeye Belle**, was the Grand Champion. The petals looked as if they were perfectly carved and placed in an exact position, forming this flower. The natural light brought out the deep red color. Alvin Sevald brought many varieties of exceptional size as noted by the many awards he received, and Court of Honor flower.

Gus Sindt a veteran exhibitor, has flowers of character and beauty. This exhibit was put on by many exhibitors, all experienced in showing the peony.

The Artistic under the direction of Charlotte Sindt, was a table of arrangements that will long be remembered. The Gowen Nursery had an outstanding massive arrangement in a willow woven oblong, low basket with 70 of the large double white **Duluth** peony. This peony is one of the great double whites of the Franklin peonies. There were other varieties of peonies in large arrangements, all beautiful in their massive showing.

The Klehms brought many knowledgeable people that knew the peonies. The classes and flowers went on the tables in record time. Joe Glocka, another veteran in this work, assisted by his daughter, Angelina from California, had his flowers in place in record time. Don Hollingsworth of Kansas City, Missouri, assisted with the judging. Dr. Kent Crossley arranged the banquet for Saturday evening.



WANTED: OLD-PEONY LOVERS

We've begun! Responding to my appeal in the last *Bulletin*, three members have joined me in launching the APS Pre-1940 Peonies Round Robin.

We will be writing and circulating letters among ourselves, concerning older peonies: the varieties we grow or know, what we've read in books or old catalogs, collections to visit, commercial and other sources, questions of identification, how to preserve the best old varieties from oblivion, and so on.

It cannot be true, however, that ONLY four APS members have an interest in pre-1940 varieties; and the robin would benefit from a few more members. If YOU would like to join us, know someone else who might, or just want to find out more about the robin—please call or write me: Scott Kunst, 536 Third St., Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

TWO TYPES OF FLOWERS ON THE SAME PLANT

Don Hollingsworth, Kansas City, Missouri

Visiting the Minnesota Peony Exhibition, I heard several questions about why so many peony varieties seemed to give feathering and changed flower forms this year. Then, visiting Bob Tischler on the way back through Faribault, I was shown a lactiflora peony stem in which the terminal bud had previously opened with Japanese-form flowers, typical of the variety, but now all the side buds were opened to bomb-form flowers. This is what the questions were about.

Among the early hybrid singles, it is not unusual to see one or more transformed stamens, often next to the center (feathering), which I have hoped reflect a tendency to doubling. (By "transformed" I mean it became a petal instead of the normal stamen.)

Further, it is common to see varieties that flower Japanese form as young plants, but form anemone petals or even bomb petals as the plant matures. Sometimes this seems correlated with state of growth. The more vigorous growing the plant, the more advanced the transformation of center-petal segments.

In the 1992 reports, however, the differences are on the same stem as well as the same plant. Obviously, something else is operating which results in the change. What is there different that has happened during flower development which may have led to the observed differences?

Talking to knowledgeable observers I find some consensus of opinion. (Opinion is the best we can do with the information that surfaced.)

The most striking seasonal difference this Spring has been the repetition and duration of unseasonable cold. Inasmuch as the formation of a flower emerges over some considerable passage of time, there is some point of cell division at which differentiation of stamen cells vs. staminode, petalode or petal cells must take place. If conditions conducive to such unusual change exist over a longer period of time in a particular season, then we would expect to see the change in greater frequency. For Minnesota growers this certainly was a year of greater frequency for these unusually changed flowers.

Whether or not we are correct that unusual duration of unseasonable cold is the answer, it appears to be the best speculation that has been offered! Are there any other thoughts on this question? If so, please share them with this *Bulletin* and we will pass them on in a future issue.

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ANNUAL MEETING AND BANQUET

The annual meeting was held at the Radisson Hotel dining room, Arlington Heights, Illinois. The banquet was served promptly at 7:30 p.m. Chris Laning was called to deliver the invocation. At nine o'clock, the business meeting was called to order by President Robert Schmidt. During the meeting, members were called upon to introduce themselves. We were honored to have Mr. and Mrs. Jan Leegwater of The Netherlands, and Mr. Ryoji Hashida of Tatebayasha City, Japan, attending this convention. Mr. Hashida is the President of the Japanese Peony Society, and is a professional photographer. He photographed the 306 tree peonies in the new photographic book recently published in Japan.

The financial report and state of the Society had been passed to all members. The Board of Directors having served their three-year term of office expired in June 1992, namely: Don Hollingsworth, Dr. Carl H. Klehm, Dr. David Reath, Marvin C. Karrels, Robert F. Schmidt, and Dr. Kent Crossley, all of which were placed in nomination for another three-year term. There was one vacancy to be filled—Leila Bradfield was nominated to fill the unexpired term of Mr. George Allen.

President Schmidt asked for any further nominations from the floor. There being none, a motion was made and seconded that all nominees be elected. The vote was unanimous. The financial report was accepted. The Court of Honor flowers and exhibitors were read.

At this time, President Schmidt asked if there was any old business, or new business. One member asked about a membership list. Since the Board of Directors are elected to conduct all business, this request was to be presented at the meeting the following morning.

Since there were no further requests, the meeting was adjourned.

Now it was time for the annual auction of peony roots. John Simkins was the auctioneer. He had a very busy session, and we thank you, John.

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

—from Charlie Kroell, Troy, Michigan, June 17, 1992

The peonies here are now finishing up, with **Sarah Bernhardt** and **Solange** just opening (with some difficulty, however). The season began with *tenuifolia* on 5/13, followed by **Nosegay** (one of my favorites) on 5/15. Then, except for a couple of cold spells during which nothing much happened, it's been a succession of bloom right up to the present. I never cease to be amazed at the range of fragrances offered by peonies. I could swear I detected hyacinth at times in **Campagna**, rose in **Moonstone**, **White Cap** and **Doris Cooper**, and even a hint of sweet fresh pipe tobacco in **Sylver**. Also, **Raspberry Sundae**, **Mother's Choice**, **Amalia Olson** and **Violet Dawson** (the latter two seen for the first time in Des Plaines) have their own superb scents . . . as do many others.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Schmidt at 8:00 a.m., May 31, 1992.

The Directors present were: Lois Klehm—Illinois, John Simkins—Canada, Don Hollingsworth—Missouri, Chuck Klehm—Illinois, Joseph Glocka—Wisconsin, Scott Reath—Michigan, Dr. Kent Crossley—Minnesota, Chris Laning—Michigan, Carroll Spangler—Wisconsin, Robert Schmidt—Ohio, and Greta Kessenich—Minnesota.

Before the business meeting, the secretary reported about the many peony articles that had been published in national magazines.

President Schmidt called the meeting to order. The Minutes of the last meeting in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada were read. A motion was made to accept them as written. Unanimous acceptance.

The *Bulletin* was discussed as to the size 6x9. This size which is a fraction larger than regulations does increase the postage to another level. This standard measurement is to remain the size of our *Bulletin*.

The next order of business was to elect officers for the following year. The current officers: Robert Schmidt, Scott Reath, and Greta Kessenich, are to continue in their present offices.

A discussion followed regarding the Convention site and Exhibition for 1993. Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio was selected for June. Mr. Schmidt was elected to check the physical surroundings and facility at Van Wert, Ohio, with the thought in mind of having the 1994 Convention and Exhibition there.

The membership list was voted to remain as in the past—no list will be published for several reasons. Many members have expressed their wishes in not having their name made public. Horticulture lists are sold to mail marketers resulting in more delivery of junk or unwanted mail, and, in addition, the cost of such a list, and the continual changes of addresses.

An ad in the *Bulletin* will reach the Membership for those wanting a list for advertising their business or commodity.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding video instructions on the peony. No decision was reached and the idea was tabled for the time.

Peony America was voted unanimously to be awarded the Gold Medal for 1992.

The schedule for the tree peony was discussed. Chuck Klehm will send changes to be made in the schedule.

Meeting adjourned.

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

REPORT

The hazards of the long Winter still linger in my mind, but in the adverse conditions of the deep snow and ice-covered roads, we managed to keep the mail going out regularly to you.

Mother Nature forgot the season of Spring here, and Winter drifted into Summer. The geese flying North with their loud chatter have already found their favorite lakes. The peonies are full of bud and look exceptionally good. Disbudding can begin at any time. The flowers of **Early Windflower** are nodding in the breeze. With indications of a good peony season, we look forward to continuing progress of the Society.

Four *Bulletins* were mailed, and in ample time that you should have received them on the first of the designated month. You have made it possible for extra work to be done on the *Bulletin* and the colored cover continuing, with your payment of dues. Again, postage rates have been increased for us, as the size of the *Bulletin* raised our rate another level. Do continue to keep us notified of any address change.

The Handbook of the Peony is a very popular book; the demand has been exceedingly good. It was necessary to have the book reprinted, making it our sixth edition. It was in 1977 when we first began to revise the book.

All of the peony publications have been well received, as is evidenced by the financial report. More applications for membership have been received, which indicates that more peonies are being grown and the tree peony very popular. The pages of the *Bulletins* try to address the wants of the members, especially new people who have never grown the peony, and so much information is really required.

You would be doing a great service if you would write about your peonies, your work with them, varieties and performance. There are problems, too, that go along with any garden. It takes patience and years of work to be a successful gardener. While the peony is so easy to grow, any help along the way in any phase of growing the peony would be gratefully accepted.

The financial report will tell you that the status of the Society is very good and it is my pleasure to present this Statement. All accounts are paid promptly. We do not have any outstanding bills.

Thank you for your cards, letters and phone calls. Your remarks and encouraging notes are so appreciated.

Sincerely, Greta M. Kessenich
Secretary/Treasurer

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

June 1, 1991 - June 1, 1992

Balance on Hand June 1, 1991.....\$65,268.24

Receipts:

Membership Dues8,159.97

Advertising531.76

A.P.S. Auction1,623.25

Contributions100.00

Nomenclature Registrations90.00

\$10,504.98

Publications:

Handbooks.....765.65

Bulletins46.31

"The Peonies"378.50

History of Peonies and Their Originations.....320.00

Book, A.P.S. "75 Years"240.00

American Tree Peony Book2,000.00

American Hybrid Peony Book2,247.00

\$6,357.46

Interest on Savings.....\$2,807.56

Total Receipts.....\$19,670.00

\$84,938.24

Disbursements:

Publications—Four Bulletins

(June, September, December, March)6,613.99

American Peony Society Postage2,696.64

Office Supplies748.08

Exhibitions467.67

Printing2,995.25

Miscellaneous239.63

Refund 30.50

Total Disbursements.....\$13,791.76

Balance on Hand June 1, 1992.....\$71,146.48

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary/Treasurer

PRETTY PEONY HAS OLD-FASHIONED CHARM CULTIVATED GARDENER

by Carolyn Ulrich, Chicago Sun Times

If Grandmother's house was located in the Midwest, chances are Grandmother's garden included peonies, dependably in bloom for Memorial Day. Close your eyes and picture it: the circa-1900 white frame house, a swing on the porch and, setting off those sweetly scented clusters of bloom, a white picket fence. Surprisingly, this made-in-the-U.S.A. vision comes courtesy of China. The peony is not a native plant.

It is an old one, however. Pliny, that astute Roman observer of the natural world, regarded it as the oldest of cultivated plants, presumably referring to the Mediterranean species *P. officinalis*. Look at ancient Chinese art and you're sure to come across others. One is the tree peony *P. suffruticosa*, really a shrub. Another is *P. lactiflora*, the herbaceous species whose introduction to the West in the 18th century spawned all the Victorian and Edwardian offspring that turned this uncommonly gorgeous star into the common garden workhorse of Grandmother's day.

A third type of peony, also herbaceous, is the 18-inch fern-leaf peony, *P. tenuifolia*. This one's a Balkans-to-the-Caucasus native that does quite nicely in Chicago, assuming you can find a nursery that sells it. The search is worth it. Rose-red single or double blossoms nestle in an airy-fairy cloud of finely cut leaves resembling less a fern than an asparagus plant, but either way it's a knockout. See one in the garden of complete strangers, and you'll find yourself ringing the bell to find out where they got it.

Price and lack of availability make the fern-leaf peony a long shot. The tree peony offers a more likely path to garden glory. As a shrub it has a woody trunk and branches that remain visible throughout the Winter, unlike the herbaceous species that die to the ground after frost. March finds its red leaf buds beginning to swell, one of Spring's earliest signs of life. Flowers, dazzling in their opulence, follow in mid-May. Petals of tissue-paper delicacy shimmer and glow in shades of pink, red, yellow, gold and white.

As to culture, note that tree peonies are grafted onto herbaceous root stock, so plant with the graft *at least* 4 inches below the soil. This has worked well for me, but one expert recently recommended a depth of 6 to 12 inches. Also important: Amend the soil with one to two pounds of bonemeal per plant. Cover the young shrub with a bushel basket its first Winter, and mulch it well in subsequent ones. A little TLC goes a long way. I've read of a single 6-by-6 foot speci-

men producing 75 to 100 blooms, and my own 10-year-old, 3-foot-tall plant honored me with 25 last year. (Of course I go out and count.)

Planting depth also is crucial to success with our common garden peony. Here the red "eyes" at the tip of the crown should be placed 1 1/2 to 2 inches below the soil surface—no deeper, or there will be no bloom. Properly cared for, however, peonies will easily outlive you, lasting up to 100 years. They prefer soil a little on the alkaline side and absolutely require a period of cold temperature in order to bloom. No wonder they do well in the Midwest.

Given their general satisfaction with what we have to offer them, it's a shame peonies don't get more of an opportunity to show off. The big pom-pom doubles are glorious, but what about the single and Japanese varieties or the semi-doubles? What they lack in abundance they make up in pure elegant form, and they dazzle with fireworks of their own. Once you catch sight of specimens like "**Krinkled White**" or "**Prairie Moon**" and their hundreds of golden stamens like starbursts in a crown of satiny petals, you'll be hooked.

To see what I mean, spend some time with a good nursery catalog, such as the one put out by Klehm's at Route 5, 197 Penny Rd., South Barrington. The catalog costs \$4, which is deductible from the first order.



"THOSE BLOOMING MEMORIES"

by Pamela Bockey, Director of Van Wert Peony Festival

The long-awaited June 6 and 7 weekend has finally come and gone. The Van Wert, Ohio community, after a thirty-two year lapse, has once again renewed its love affair with the peony. As I have written once before, our community was once well-known for its beautiful commercial peony farms during the 1930's-1960. During the Fall of 1991, over 600 new peonies were planted along our main streets. I am happy to report that most all of them had a couple of blooms. The community got so excited when we put out our flowers that they cleaned, weeded and divided many old beds. The result was a beautiful surprise for the over-10,000 folks who came to the Peony Festival.

Our flowers bloomed just right for this new beginning. Even our historical society got their gazebo moved in place for the reviewing stand for our grand parade. We had so many bands and floats along with fresh peonies to be put on just about any item that wasn't tied down. The whole parade was wonderful. We even got your APS President and his wife to ride in a Corvette for the parade.

Visitors to the Jubilee Flower show were thrilled to see the new types of blooms that were brought from Brecksville. This community is like a sponge trying to soak up as much knowledge about peonies as possible. Marilu Diller was a delight with her sharing of peony bead making. So many folks found it very interesting.

The garden walks where folks could learn from others was a joyful experience. A person is never too old to pick up some new tips from other gardeners.

In keeping with the English Tudor style of our Marsh Foundation School we had an English Tea and style show among the trees. The clothes from the 1800's and 1900's were on loan from our Civic Theatre, and several vintage wedding gowns were also part of the show.

All in all, the event was a first-class one for all to enjoy. The Van Wert Peony Festival-Heritage Days Committee welcomes each of you to join us the first weekend of June next year, and hopefully for many more years in the future. Our blooming memories came back to life; I hope that a few of yours can, too.

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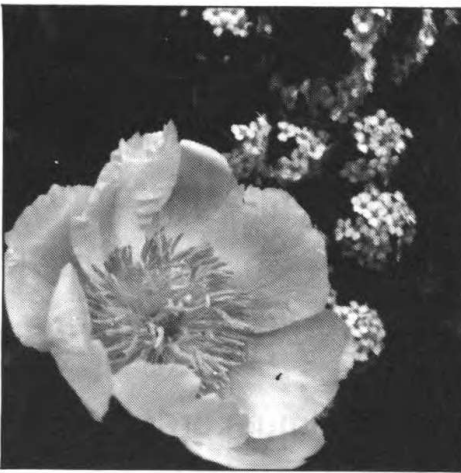
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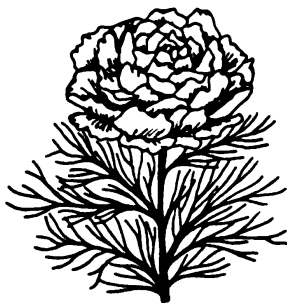
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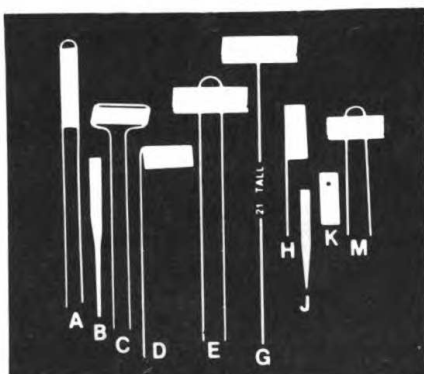
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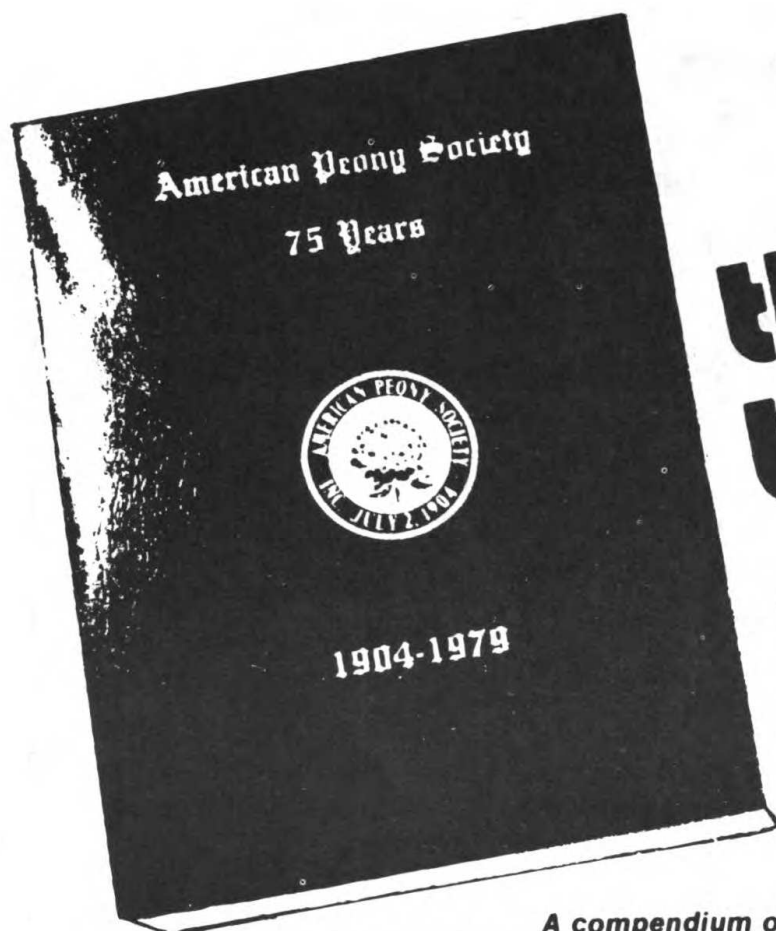
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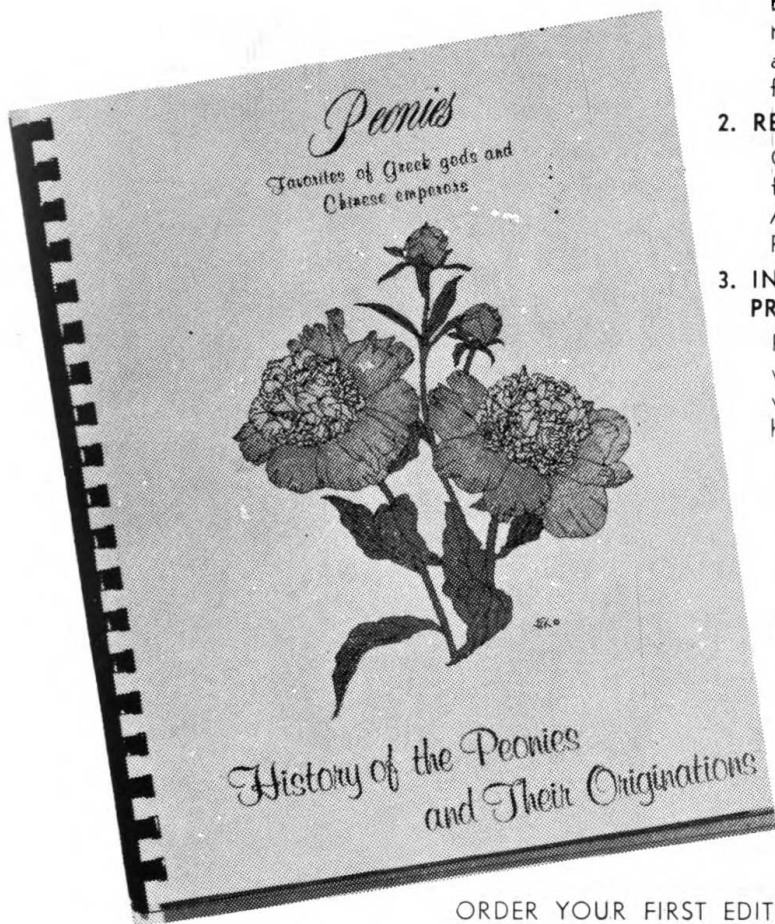
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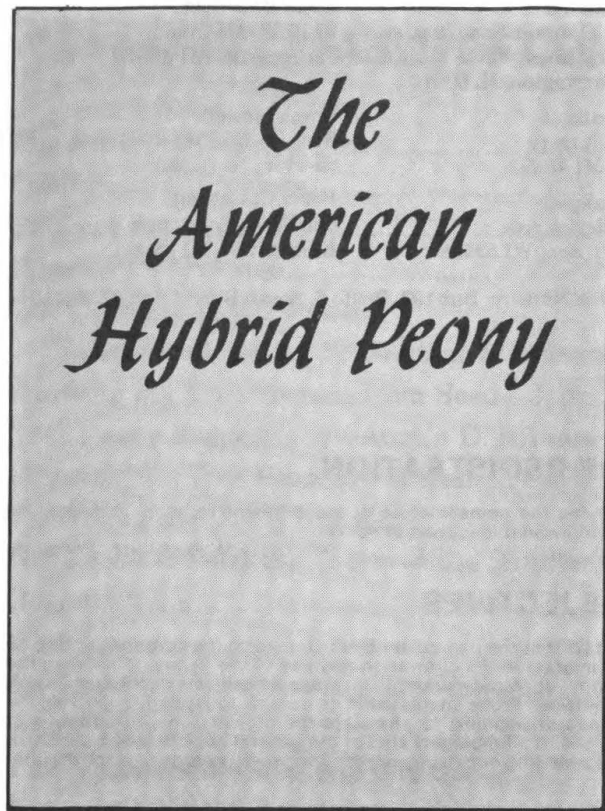
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The Articles of Incorporation state: Section (2) That the particular objects for which the corporation is to be formed are as follows: To increase the general interest in the cultivation and use of the Peony; to improve the methods of its cultivation 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.

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