

Life x

JUNE 2002

NO. 322

The American Peony Society Bulletin



Ludovica

Saunders, 1941. Received Gold Medal in 1999.

Very large semi-double, rose-pink hybrid.

Announcing

The limited
publication of
a "TABLE TOP"
edition devoted
exclusively to

AMERICAN 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
and David Reath



63 BRILLIANT FULL COLOR PHOTOS

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

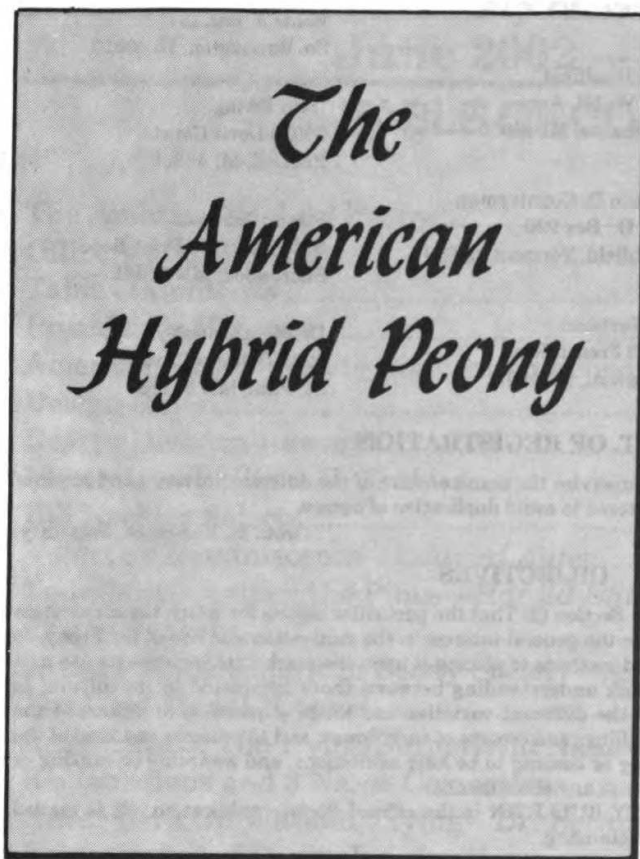
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Send check or money order to—

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY
250 Interlachen Road, Hopkins, MN 55343

**A VALUABLE PEONY
REFERENCE VOLUME HIGHLIGHTING**

HYBRID PEONIES



**Herbaceous
Peonies in
FULL
COLOR!**

- **Photos—
130 Herbaceous
Hybrids
32 Species**
- **All Named**
- **Biographical Data**
- **208 Pages**
- **6 5/8" x 9 1/4"**
- **Hard Cover —
Embossed in Gold**

*Devised and
Compiled by
Greta M. Kessenich,
Don Hollingsworth
Hybridizing and
Bibliography*

Ever since contemporary hybridizers unraveled the mysteries of cross pollinating peony species, hybrid crosses have received spellbound attention. This long-awaited effort adds to the excitement of growing peonies. Photos permit comparing your hybrids with those authenticated by the hybrid committee plus scores of sideline notes and general information. Be one of the first **\$25.00** to own this premiere edition, just Postpaid

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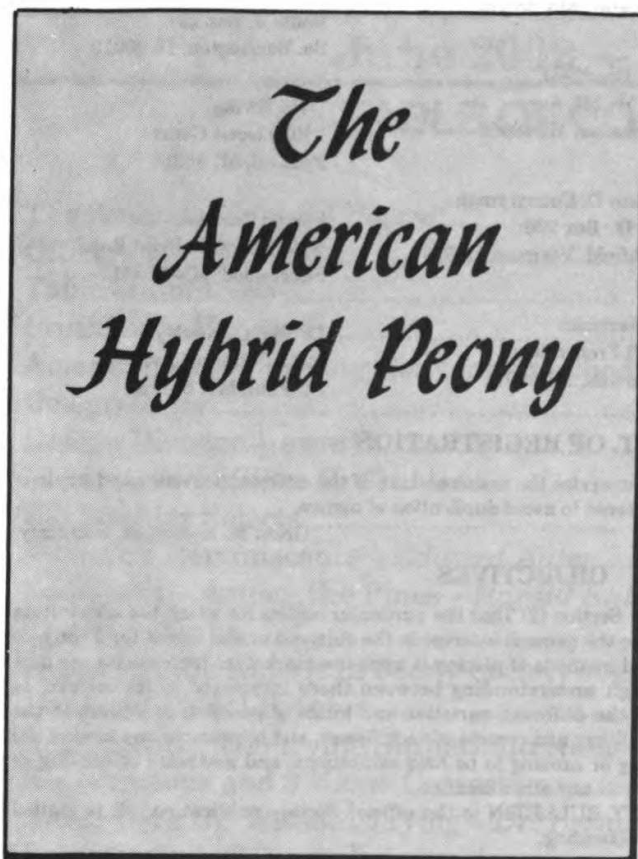
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250 Interlachen Road (612) 938-4706 Hopkins, MN 55343

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Vice President.....Steve Johnson

Bulletin Editor.....Greta M. Kessenich

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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 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	Family Triennial	27.50
Single Triennial	20.00	Life Membership	300.00
Family Annual	10.00	Commercial membership	25.00

Family membership, any two related members in same householdOne 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



June 2002 – No. 322

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

President's Message

Spring is here—or is it? Our peonies are coming up, but they probably didn't enjoy the four inches of wet snow we had on April 21, which followed temperatures of 91 on the 15th, 83 on the 16th and 87 on the 18th. We definitely live in an area of four seasons. Sometimes they all happen during the same week.

This is my last report as president of the American Peony Society, and I have enjoyed the experience. As a long-time member of the Society, and in recent years serving on the board, I feel it is time for me to step down, relax and concentrate on what I like to do best—growing and showing flowers.

If I were to recall the most memorable occasion during my years as a member, it would have to be the honor of having the grand champion flower at the show in Mansfield, Ohio in 1999. It was Moonstone, one of my favorite flowers. There is a great feeling of pride in receiving the top award for the flowers you have grown, cut, stored, transported and displayed successfully. It doesn't always happen that way. Unfavorable conditions at any point can alter the chances for having a prize winning flower at the show.

As the growing season progresses, we can only hope that conditions will be favorable at all stages so that we will have a good showing of flowers in Madison this year. Good luck, and I hope to see you there.

Floyd E. Kimball

SEED, SEED, SEED

The Society needs seeds from its members in order to have a successful seed exchange. Please send seeds this fall to Kent Crossley, 1245 Delaware Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55118. Label with as much information as you can provide about the parents or the type of peony that was the source of the seeds.

We are unable to provide information at this time about the seeds that will be available this fall. If you would like seeds, please write and indicate the type of seeds you would like (i.e. from tree peonies, lactiflora or hybrid crosses). Please enclose a check for \$2.00 if you are in the U.S. or Canada or \$4.00 if you live outside North America.



AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY CONVENTION & EXHIBITION JUNE 7, 8, 9, 2002

See page 36 for map and directions to Olbrich Botanical Gardens.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, June 8

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

8:00 a.m. — Registration in lobby.

11:30 a.m. — Judging begins.

Lunch on your own.

1:30-9:00 p.m. — Show open to the Public.

2:00-4:00 p.m. — Seminars at Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Open the the public.

John Elsley, Director of Horticulture for Klehm Nurseries

"Building Raised Buds for Peony Culture"

Renee Jeager, Sales Manager of Klehm & Song Sparrow Farm

"Lovely Tree Peonies of Unsurpassed Beauty"

William Seidl of Manitowoc WI

"Peony Hybridization" Slides—New Peonies

Roger Anderson, Callis Beaux Jardens in Fort Atkinson, WI

"The Wonderful World of Intersectional Peony Hybrids"

At the end of the session there will be a panel of peony experts to answer any peony garden questions. To be followed by a short presentation by Roy Klehm if time permits.

6:00-11:00 p.m. — Annual Banquet & Root auction.

If you are interested in learning more about the National Garden Clubs, Inc. in Wisconsin, please contact:

Carol Catlin
W5447 Mielke Road
Menasha, WI 53942
(920) 739-1983

In Madison, contact: Linda McCafferty
443 Woodview Drive
Sun Prairie, WI 53590
(608) 837-2675

DESIGN RULES

*by the Milwaukee Area Judge's Council and the
Madison District of the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation*

- 1) There will be four exhibits in each class. Only one entry per exhibitor in each class is allowed, but exhibitors may enter as many classes as desired.
- 2) Advance reservations for entries are required and must be received by the entries chair, Gerianne Holzman, (608) 241-6601, by May 25. Exhibitors unable to fill their reservation after that day must supply a substitute.
- 3) Designers are not required to grow the plant material used. Peonies will be available for designers to obtain on Friday, June 7, from the American Peony Society at no charge. Requests for number, color and type of peonies must be made by Wednesday June 5, to Pam Duszynski, (608) 271-4200. Exact orders *cannot* be guaranteed; similar types may be substituted.
- 4) Peonies must be featured in all designs. (If possible, please name varieties used on a 3 by 5 card.) All parts of the peony may be used, including buds, foliage and seedpods.
- 5) No artificial plant material may be used in any design. Fresh plant material may not be treated. If using fresh cut fruits and vegetables, however, these may be sealed in an inconspicuous manner. Dried materials may be treated. The use of endangered plant material is discouraged, but if used, must be home-grown and identified as such.
- 6) Designs may be placed on June 7 from 7-9 pm and on June 8 from 7-10 am. Judging will be conducted by NGC flower show judges, beginning June 8 promptly at 10:30 am.
- 7) Tabletop surfaces in Classes 1 through 4 will be covered in white by the committee. They may be further draped by the exhibitor as desired, but no additional backgrounds will be permitted other than those mentioned previously as provided by the committee.
- 8) While all reasonable care will be taken to safeguard exhibits, the show management cannot assume responsibility for any damage or loss. Exhibitors are requested to remove exhibits immediately following the close of show at 6 pm on June 9.

Scale of Points for all Designs

Conformance (to schedule requirements)	20
Design (elements and principles)	42
Artistic Concept (selection/organization)	12
Expression (interpretation of class)	10
Distinction (superiority in all respects)	16
	<hr/>
	100

"Enduring Beauty"

Design Division

- Class 1 "Singular Beauty"**
A design featuring single-flowered peonies. Staged on a tabletop, space allowed 32" wide by 30" deep. No additional background permitted.
- Class 2 "Eastern Beauty"**
A design created in the Oriental manner. Staged on a tabletop, against rice paper screens 36" high and 24" wide, space allowed 30" wide by 26" deep.
- Class 3 "Beauty Abounding"**
A traditional mass design. Staged on a tabletop, against a dark green background, space allowed 30" wide by 30" deep, maximum height 38".
- Class 4 "A Beauty Setting"**
An exhibition Type I table setting with floral design. Staged on a tabletop, space allowed 30" wide by 30" deep before a dark green fabric background 38" high. Freestanding frames, provided by exhibitor may be used, if desired.
- Class 5 "A Beauty Future"**
A creative design using peonies with other man-made or natural materials. Staged on a beige tile floor, space allowed 36" square. May be covered by exhibitor. Minimum height 45".

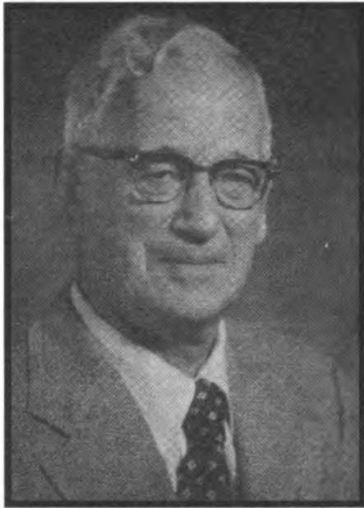
Awards

First Place	(Blue Ribbon)	90 points or more
Second Place	(Red Ribbon)	85 points or more
Third Place	(Yellow Ribbon)	80 points or more
Fourth Place	(White Ribbon)	75 points or more
Best of Show	(Blue Rosette)	90 points or more

Design Division Committee General - Dawn Mozgawa; Awards - Gerianne Holzman; Classification - Helen Surridge; Clerks - Madison District Garden Clubs; Entries - Gerianne Holzman; Hospitality - Linda McCafferty; Judges - Colleen Weiler; Schedule - Dawn Mozgawa; Staging - Madison District Garden Clubs.



Memorial



William H. Krekler
1900-2002
Retired, West Elkton, Ohio
Tucson, Arizona

We are saddened to report the passing of one of our peony greats, stalwart of our times, Bill Krekler. He left the peony world beautiful with great creations that will live on as a memory to him and in gardens with his peonies throughout the floral world. He gave us added information from his knowledge in various aspects in growing the peony from seed to maturity and with peonies used in landscape. He gathered his own seed, grew them on raised beds, covered them with very old saw dust, so he did not have a weed problem. He registered all his peonies with names of family, friends, relatives, towns, cities near and around his home in Ohio. He was awarded the American Peony Society Medal, which read:

"William H. Krekler, Hybridizer Supreme – Generous – Talented and Kind, Mr. Peony."

Peonies were always the hobby of Mr. Krekler and he began early collecting them from far and near—the Orient, Holland and any place that a good variety could be purchased. Many hundred varieties came from Professor Saunders, Mains, Thee, Auten, and Glasscock. He purchased the peony nurseries of H.L. Smith, Winslow and Claybaugh. His collection of peonies was considered one of the greatest ever assembled, consisting of over 2,000 varieties, and in addition he was growing acres of his own originations.

He shipped more peonies overseas than he sold in the U.S. Moscow University purchased hundreds of his peonies. Some were planted along the Kremlin wall and on the grave sites of notables. He is co-owner of a peony nursery in England and one in the mountains near Mexico City. He won the GOLD MEDAL for his peonies at Hamburg, Germany World's Fair a few years ago.

His life has been dedicated to the field of horticulture in many capacities after having studied landscape architecture at the University of Illinois. He was manager of the landscape department of Rosedale Nursery at Terry-on-Hudson, New York, after which he accepted a position with the famous Olmstead Brothers of Boston, helping draw plans for Long Island estates.

Mr. Krekler was on the Editorial Committee for the writing and assembling of material for the book, **The Peonies**, edited by Dr. John Wister. He was on the Board of Directors of the American Peony Society and he has written informative articles for the Bulletin of the American Peony Society.

He has given truck loads of peonies to arboretums and for public plantings. His hybridizing talents are recognized, giving to the peony world many beautiful varieties. He has registered over 200 varieties with the American Peony Society.

William "Bill" H. Krekler

1900-2002

With the passing of William Krekler on February 7th, 2002 the Peony world lost a true giant — a man of unbounded enthusiasm, talent and vision. Bill missed his 102 Birthday by a mere eleven days, barely missing a major personal objective of matching his great, great, great, great grandmother's longevity, who, at 80 years old, moved to a two room log cabin on the Virginia frontier. She lived there by herself before departing this world at the age of 102!

Some time ago, Bill informed me that he had personally hybridized and named 1001 paeony and daylily hybrids — a truly remarkable achievement, indicative of his love for garden flowers, his energy and technical prowess. Many of his creations are acclaimed world wide, including the peony "Cora Stubbs," named for his mother-in-law. Among the "top 10" most popular peonies this outstanding bi-colored flower exhibits pleasing combination of pinks, with each well formed bloom displayed above healthy deep green foliage on strong straight stems. This vigorous plant can truly be described as an American garden classic.

Bill's peony breeding technique was as practical and innovative as it was successful. He made full use of an enormous gene pool — collecting pollen from over 1200 varieties in a self-made and designed ceramic container. Stirring the collected pollen with his finger he then skillfully transferred pollen grains to the stigmas of selected mother plants with the aid of an artists brush. Few artists have achieved more beautiful, lasting creations!

His enduring legacy of beautiful flowers will be treasured and enjoyed by present and future generations of gardeners worldwide.

—Submitted by John Elsley and Roy Klehm
of Klehm's Song Sparrow Perennial Farm



I was fortunate when Bill Krekler sold all his peony stock and seedlings to me some twenty years ago. I did not realize at the time what an extensive gene pool of quality garden peonies this was. Bill's method of breeding certainly produced unusual and pleasing color combinations and blossom styles.

I credit Bill's work for two major break throughs for peonies. His extra short and sweet so called "Rock Garden" peonies are just now coming to the market place. Full, short plants in the 15-21" range with proportionate blooms and nicely reduced foliage texture certainly can be well placed into many gardens.

His unique, unusual and visually stimulating so called "Cactus Dahlia Flowering" peonies are welcome by flower designers and discerning gardeners looking for the special effect plants. These style blossoms have twisted, fluted, ruffled blooms with blotches and streaking often of pink or red.

Thank you Bill for these and your lovely peony hybrids; "Cora Stubbs," "Golly," "Pink Luau," "Green Lotus," "Bev," "Bessie," "Gerry," "Charles Burgess," "Peppermint Stick," "Jack Frost," "Elfin Beauty," "Lil Sweetie," "Thumbellina" and a wonderful host of others! Your work will be enjoyed for many decades by gardeners worldwide.

—Roy Klehm

Bill Krekler Selects

Soon after World War II, I acquired around two thousand of the best peony varieties, plus acres of seedlings. With Mr. George Peyton's help I tried to get all varieties that every dependable grower recommended, both here and overseas. After much testing in different locations I gradually eliminated all but a few hundred varieties. I did this by mowing off the tops of those I wished to keep, and having "Free-Digger-Days" to let many hundreds of the local gals dig those with tops. These women quickly proved that they were not a weak sex. By keeping only the best the bees could not badly mess up my crosses. Too, in late May something blooms that bees prefer so thereafter there are no bees in my fields to frighten the gushing ladies.

An ideal peony is one that is generally more dependable, and not just beautiful or suitable for a special use. A variety must be widely tested as most are not always exactly the same. This variance depends on weather, age, exposure, soil, nutrients, moisture, pests, diseases, elevation, sunshine, and in which section grown. Dependable old Festiva Maxima is preferable to a once-in-a-while showoff like LeCygne.

Resistance to disease (now of many kinds) yearly becomes much more important. A lovely peony flower that is lazy (weak stems) or whose pea-sized buds often freeze is undesirable. Peonies that extend the blooming season—(*flower for more days*, and bloom earlier and later) are now to be sought by breeders above all else. Substance, fragrance, generosity and those that are different are also desirables. For cutting let us develop longer stems above the bush, so there can be a full harvest without robbing the plant of foliage. We are woefully short of dwarfs, and also those with nice miniature flowers—(like Dutch Dwarf)—a big red cabbage is not everything.

Hybridizers should not be penalized and be discouraged by an unreasonably high fee for registering. No new variety pays the cost of the hundreds that must be plowed under. Registering does not signify a perfect peony but only that it is too good to be composted.

Following is the list of the better ones that I have ended up with to date — (not counting many yet unnamed seedlings.)

30 Preferred Hybrids

Deep Reds

A. Krekler
*Buckeye Belle
*Dad
Early Bird
Firebelle
Illini Warrior
Israel (Unregistered)
*Red Charm
Reward
Lighter Reds
Alexander Woolcott

Bravura Supreme
*Burma Ruby
Dutch Dwarf
Edward Steichen
Fairy Princess
Heritage
*Montezuma
Rose Marie
Pinks
Ellen Cowley
*Flame

Laura Magnuson
Ludovica
Roselette
Victoria Lincoln

Near-Whites

Champagna
Chalice
*Claire deLune
Garden Peace
Nosegay
*Rose Noble

40 Preferred Lactifolias

Reds

*Autens Red Sport
 Cincinnati
 Harry L. Smith
 Jessie
 Karen Gray
 Louis Joliet
 *Maestro
 *Miss Mary
 Orlando Roberts
 Ray Payton
 Tempest
 *West Elkton

Pinks

Bev
 *Cora Stubbs
 *Dawn Pink
 Florence Nicholls
 Gloriana
 Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt
 Peggy
 Queen of Sheba
 Ralph
 Schafe
 Splendens
 *Tom Eckhardt
 Wabash
 *Westerner

Near-Whites

Ann Cousins
 *Brides Dream
 Bu Te
 *Do Tell
 Eaton
 Evelyn Tibbits
 Gertrude Gibson
 *James Lewis
 Joseph Christie-
 Le Jour
 Martha Reed
 *Miss America
 Moonglow
 Myrtle Gentry

(*) shows the most desirable peonies.

Today, I, [William H. Krekler, of 8160 Edmaru Avenue, Whittier, California 90602], registered five new daylilies, which makes 1001 flowers that I have created, grown, named, and registered in my 87 years of life—(383 peonies and 618 daylilies). The Klehm Nursery of South Barrington, Illinois 60010, has purchased all of my flower creations for many years, from both my homes in California, and in Ohio.

Some of my better peony creations are: **Becky, Bessie, Bev, Brides Dream, Brucie, Camden, Cora Stubbs, Golly, James Lewis, John Whitis, Kevin, Renykins**, etc.

Some of my better daylily creations are: **Centerville, Dalton Battin, Earlham, Firestorm, Friend Roy, Greta, Great Guest (Spider), Illinois Pride, My Triumph, Orveda, Shin Low, Upper Crust**, etc.



Veteran's Reminiscences

Mr. Auten wrote about these peonies in 1973.

Mr. Edward Auten, Jr., one of the Deans of American hybridizing, is now 91 years of age and lives with his daughter at 2148 Horace Ave., Abington, Pa. 19001. On September 12 he fell and broke his hip and was hospitalized. However, he is now able to get around with the aid of a four-legged walker. A few cards of encouragement would surely be appreciated.

Mr. Auten has sent a list of varieties he considers some of the best of his 275 originations, with some interesting comments.

Early Scout—“Very hardy fine red single. A must have for first bloom. Three to six days ahead of any other hybrid. Parentage P. tenuifolia x Richard Carvel.” (In other notes he has indicated that the cross may have been P. wittmaniana x albiflora, but this seems unlikely in view of the cut leaf foliage.)

"A farmer in Princeville, Ind. has a plant that has increased by underground stolons to a bed about 30 inches wide and six feet long, and year after year gets around 90 blooms, one to a stalk. I would like to learn if anyone else has found that **Early Scout** has shown similar growth habit."

Other favorite hybrid varieties reported are **Dandy Dan**, awarded a Certificate of Merit by the English Horticultural Society, **Robert W. Auten** and **Queen of the Dawn**.

Early Scout (Auten, 1952) was selected for the Gold Medal Peony in 2001, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.



Tenuifolia—Among the Pines

June 2002

In the piney-wood, near the still waters of Lake Tapps, near the crystal deep waters reflects the image of species peony **Rubra Plena**. This single form, pine needle like foliated plant upright and strong, about 18" tall, is the great mother. And she begot **Double Fern Leaf** a hybrid peony, a beautiful red-head, with shiny hair and many blossoms. She is the crown jewel, the joy of her mother, envy of all her half sisters. There are rumors of full sisters, pink-**Rosea Plena**, white-**Alba Plena** and **Carnu Plena**. But who has seen these with pine needle foliage and gay demeanor? Do they truly exist, or are they but conceived in man's mind and live as spirits, not yet conceived in the pod? So we do have mother, daughter and three great spirits. All are wonderful to those who behold them. Each herald in the spring blooming season, and set our hearts afire, burning us with the color and warmth we need after the long winter. She is a sun-lover for location, and lives among the crown imperials and tulips. Beautiful, magnificent and colorful are the words spoken of her. From Europe she has spread across the lands. There she grows much taller, or is it that she has grown there much longer? All her colors are found growing, el natural, in the wilds of the Ukraine. Listed in American Peony literature as widely available, the question becomes where is widely available? Alas, who grows **Alba Plena**, **Carnu Plena** and **Rosea Plena**? Is it only Riviera of France?

Lotus Bloom-wondrous beauty brings to mind the huge, tall, sleek pink cupped lactiflora x Peregrina beauty, now available at A&D and Caprice Nurseries. Try one you'll like it!

Ludovica – dazzling beauty, short plant with a large cupped single flower. Probably named after the once famous call-girl of the late 1980's who entertained rich and famous men in Paris. She is shiny, lustrous looking. A true beauty and my favorite peony! She has now won many show honors. But she was my favorite long before then. Besides we are the same age. May she live long and prosper.

—Harold



Edulis Superba Lover

Our oldest peony, but one now over one hundred years old*, has the oddest of all peony names, but just why Lemon should have called it **Edulis Superba** must be a puzzle, unless he regarded its petals as food fit for the gods. **Edulis Superba**! How many countless gardens has it not graced with its presence during its long life of a century! What is the long, line of ancestry of your own particular plant, what ghosts of peony lovers of yesteryear may not revisit our gardens to enjoy anew the fragrant exhalations of this herald of spring glory? Through what scores of hands may it not have passed in the process of division and transplanting, making it a more frequent household guest than all others, with the possible exception of **Fragrans** and **Festiva Maxima**?

***Edulis Superba** (Lemon 1824).

The writer has a friend owning a rare collection of peonies and who, moreover, knows how to make them bud and bloom with a master-gardener's skill who dislikes to cut his flowers, but prefers to let them live, die, and wither on the stem, and who, when he does cut them for vases in the house, accords them the same homage that the priests may have done to votive offerings in some ancient temple of Flora or Ceres. To receive a long-stemmed bouquet of peonies from this gentleman is a true token of appreciation and regard. There are doubtless many others with the same reluctance to remove their flowers from the garden. This attitude is another form of sentiment that made the ancient Greeks refrain from stripping leaves or cutting twigs, or otherwise mutilating the trees and flowers of certain groves under the belief that they were dryads or wood nymphs transformed for the day, to resume their fairy form and hold their elfin revels on moonlight or starlight nights, a pretty superstition that had its counterpart in the stories of our pagan ancestors, that the circling fairy rings that clean-hearted children might see the moonlight on the meadows, became field flowers when the gambols were over.

Where imagination and romance do not play a leading part in the annual drama of the garden, a drama with its entrances and its exits, the gardener misses a large share of the pleasure that should be the gift of every garden. The peony lover, perhaps more than any other specialist, if one may use this term, by reason of the long-established tenure of his tenants, may enshrine them in his memory and visualize their coming again, and even if he lives but for and in the present, he may quote Emerson's *Rhodora*:

"If the sages ask thee why
This charm is wasted on the earth and sky,
Tell them, dear, that if eyes were made for seeing,
Then Beauty is its own excuse for being:
Why thou wert there, O rival of the rose!
I never thought to ask, I never knew;
But, in my simple ignorance, suppose
The self-same Power that brought me there brought you."



History of the American Peony Society

By A.P. Saunders, *Boyds Manual* 1928

Four noted American Peony men of the past.



JOHN RICHARDSON



H. A. TERRY



B. H. FARR



E. J. SHAYLOR

On June 26, 1902, Charles Willis Ward, then President of the Cottage Gardens Nursery Co., at Queens Long Island, sent out the following letter to growers of peonies in the United States.

My Dear Sir: Referring to the unsatisfactory condition in which the nomenclature of the peony now is, I write to ask you if you would cooperate in the formation of an association for the purpose of

advancing the public interest in the peony, and especially straightening out peony nomenclature. Under existing conditions, when one orders a peony under name, a useless mixture of sorts under various names is often received. During the past year, peonies purchased under name from six to eight reputable firms, with few exceptions, proved either mixtures or untrue when the roots came into flower. In several instances each name covered varieties of peonies ranging from pure white through the various shades of pink to the deepest purple and crimson; for instance, a variety described in the catalogue of the nurseryman selling it as a beautiful flesh-pink, contained several plants bearing snow-white flowers, others bearing deep rose-pink blooms, and others bright crimson of the shade of Rubra Triumphans, but few of the plants proving to be of the variety bought.

The nurserymen in Holland, recognizing the hopeless mixture into which their stock of peonies have been allowed to lapse, have undertaken annual peony exhibitions for the purpose of correcting the nomenclature. They hold exhibits at several points throughout Holland and, I am told, are making strenuous efforts to get matters in proper shape.

The newer varieties which have been introduced, when well grown and well exhibited to the public, will certainly attract great attention, and such exhibits will naturally result in a large increase in the sales of the same. The work done for the carnation by the American Carnation Society is a striking example of what can be done by concentrated effort. The annual exhibitions of carnations held by the Carnation Society have been a great stimulus to the carnation industry, which now is certainly ten times as important as it was when the Carnation Society was formed. There is no reason why some such advance cannot be made in the case of the peony. True, we cannot expect to accomplish as much in the way of increasing business in peonies as has been done with the carnation, but organized effort will accomplish something.

Such an association could be conducted upon economical lines, and the holding of peony exhibitions under the auspices of local clubs and state horticultural societies could be encouraged by the offer of suitable prizes. There have been accumulated during the past eight or nine years large stocks of peonies which at the present time remain unknown. It only requires the exhibition and advertisement of these stocks to work up public interest to a much greater extent than the peony now commands.

Would you be willing to join in the formation of such an association, in which the annual dues would not exceed \$3 to \$5? My impression is that we could get probably from twenty-five to fifty members as a starter, and that eventually the membership might be worked up to one hundred, and possibly considerably more.

Awaiting your esteemed reply, I remain,
Sincerely yours,
C.W. Ward

The response to this invitation was general. Twenty-four firms or individuals signified their willingness to cooperate in forming a society for the purpose which Mr. Ward had outlined. A preliminary meeting for organization was held in Brooklyn on February 18, 1903, at which, according to the records of the proceedings of the Society, the following officers were chosen:

President, Arthur H. Fewkes, Newton Highlands, Mass.; Vice-President, Guy A. Bryant, Princeton, Ill.; Secretary, Alex. Wallace, New York City; Treasurer, J. Howes Humphreys, Philadelphia, Pa.

It was understood that in case either Mr. Wallace or Mr. Fewkes should find themselves unable to accept the offices to which they were elected, either Mr. Charlton or Mr. C.W. Ward would serve until the election of permanent officers.

The first annual meeting was fixed to be held during the session of the American Association of Nurserymen, which was to be held in Detroit during June, 1903.

Mr. Wallace found it impossible to serve as Secretary, and Mr. Fewkes decided that it would be impossible for him to serve as President. However, an arrangement was made whereby Mr. Fewkes would fill the office of Secretary and Mr. Ward that of President, until the first annual meeting.

The offices of the Society being thus filled in a temporary way, the first annual meeting was held at Detroit on June 11 and 12, 1903. At that meeting Mr. Ward was elected President, Mr. Bryant, Vice-President, Mr. Fewkes, Secretary, and Mr. Humphreys, Treasurer.

The Secretary's book lists the following as charter members at the time of this meeting. Those mentioned in the first group joined the Society in 1902; those in the second became members in 1903.

1902

F.A. Blake, Rochdale, Mass.
Jackson & Perkins Co., Newark, NY
James Wheeler, Brookline, Mass.
E.J. Shaylor, Wellesley Hills, Mass.
H.A. Dreer, Philadelphia Pa.
Ellwanger & Barry, Rochester, NY
J.F. Rosenfield, West Point, Neb.
The Storrs & Harrison Co., Painesville, Ohio.
A.H. Fewkes, Newton Highlands, Mass.
Thomas Meehan & Sons, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.
George Hollis, South Weymouth, Mass.
T.C. Thurlow, West Newbury, Mass.
John Charlton & Sons, Rochester, NY
W. & T. Smith, Geneva, NY
William A. Peterson, Chicago, Ill.
William Warner Harper (J. Howes Humphreys), Chest Hill, Philadelphia, Pa.
Wild Bros., Sarcoxie, Mo.
Arthur Bryant & Son, Princeton, Ill.
Edwin A. Reeves, Cleveland, Ohio
F.S. Reisenberg, Walden, NY
C. S. Harrison, York, Neb.
C.W. Ward, Queens, NY
Alex Wallace, New York, NY

1903

Frank B. Lown, Poughkeepsie, NY
C. Betscher, Canal Dover, Ohio
J. Wilkenson Elliott, Springdale, Pa.
F. W. Meneray, Crescent, Iowa

Klehm's Nursery, Arlington Heights, Ill.
Julius Heurlin, South Braintree, Mass.
Prof. Robert T. Jackson, Cambridge, Mass.
P. Owerkerk, Jersey City, NJ
C. H. Joostin, New York, NY
E. Hawley & Sons, Fenville, Mich.
August Rolker & Sons, New York, NY
Philip Breitmeyer, Detroit, Mich.
James McKissock, West Newton, Mass.
J. Woodward Manning, Reading, Mass.

At the first annual meeting, in Detroit, in 1903, it was voted that the Society be incorporated under the laws of the State of New York. Mr. Frank B. Lown, one of the charter members of the Society, offered his services as attorney in the matter, and the Certificate of Incorporation was filed in Albany on July 2, 1904, New York County having been chosen by the Society as its legal home. The Certificate of Incorporation bears the names of Messrs. Ward, Fewkes, Humphreys, Harrison, Reeves, W.A. Peterson, and Bryant.

There seems to have been no exhibition in connection with the first meeting. The second meeting and the first exhibition were held in New York, June 8-9, 1904. I have not found among the papers of the Society any indications of a prize schedule for this exhibition, and I doubt that any prizes were given, especially as there are no entries for the payment of prize money in the report of the Treasurer at the following meeting. But there were blooms staged, as the following brief but significant note in the Secretary's report will indicate:

The exhibition held during the meeting at New York was a fairly good one, there being about seven exhibitors, who staged many fine flowers, but there was a great lack of names, thereby diminishing the value of the show.

But the main purpose for which the Society had been founded was neither to hold meetings nor to stage exhibitions. Its aim was to attack the difficult question of peony nomenclature and to bring order out of the confusion which then reigned among the named peonies in commerce.

The records of the Society show what with energy and intelligence these aims were being pursued. Through the solicitation of President Ward, M. Auguste Dessert, the famous French specialist, was induced to compile a descriptive list of varieties introduced by Belgian and French growers, basing his text on the catalogues of the originators. This document, known as the Dessert manuscript, is still in the possession of the Society. It bears the title:

Herbaceous Chinese Peonies. A List of Authentic Varieties
According to the Catalogues of Modeste Guérin, 1865; Verdier, 1868;
Méchin, 1860-1880; Calot, 1862-1873; Crousse, 1875-1900; Lemoine,
1889-1902; Dessert, 1880-1902.

and is inscribed:

To Mr. C. Ward, President of the American Peony Society. A. Dessert.
Chenonceaux, September 3, 1903.

M. Dessert states in a letter to Mr. Ward that he believes the list to contain every authentic variety of French or Belgian origin. It

includes 549 varieties. The construction of this list was no small task, and by so generously cooperating in the work that was being done here, M. Dessert has made us all his debtors.

Furthermore, Mr. Fewkes compiled a list of those American commercial varieties which had been originated by John Richardson, George Hollis, H. A. Terry, Ellwanger & Barry, and Mrs. Pleas; and from the catalogues of Kelway & Sons, in England, a list of 294 double varieties, covering introductions offered by them from 884 to 1904.

Finally, Mr. F. A. Blake furnished a list of Japanese varieties, with correct translations obtained through a Japanese friend who was a member of the Imperial Household. (This list dealt, for the most part, with tree peonies; there were very few herbaceous varieties in it.)

There were thus brought together descriptions of about a thousand varieties of herbaceous peonies, mostly doubles.

That covered the ground pretty thoroughly so far as printed descriptions were concerned. But the work which lay ahead was a much more arduous and ambitious task. This was nothing less than the assembling of an immense collection which should include, as far as possible, all varieties at that time in commerce for study and comparison, the purpose being, as outlined at the time of Prof. John Craig, of Cornell University, (1) the elimination of duplicates, (2) the establishing of a correct nomenclature, and (3) the writing of accurate descriptions of true varieties.

This collection had its home at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, where, through the courtesy of Professor Craig, land and care of the plants had been offered.

And appeal sent out in August, 1904, to all important growers, both here and abroad, met with most gratifying response. The Society was in no position to purchase roots at their market value, and had, therefore, to depend on the generosity of the growers to contribute examples from their stock free of cost. Within that same year, Professor Craig was able to report the receipt of no less than 1,470 varieties, and by the time the plantation was ready for study there were about 3,500 roots under observation, representing 19,933 varieties.

Here follows a list of those who contributed to the building up of this great collection, together with the number of varieties contributed by each. To these growers the thanks of all peony-lovers are forever due.



THE GOLD MEDAL PEONIES

by W. A. Alexander

For almost 50 years (since 1923) the American Peony Society has, from time to time, chosen certain varieties of peonies to receive the Society's Gold Medal for outstanding excellence and performance. During the first 20 years or so, the award was made by the Society's Seedling Committee, but since then by the Board of Directors. In Bulletin #123, December 1951, the then editor, the late George W. Peyton, published the list of winners.

The following is the list resulting from his search of records. Name of originator, year of introduction, and year of award are included.

MRS. A. M. BRAND (Brand, 1925), St. Paul, 1923
A. B. FRANKLIN (Franklin, 1928), Chicago, 1933
MRS. J. V. EDLUND (Edlund, 1929), Chicago, 1933
HARRY F. LITTLE (Nichols, 1933), St. Paul, 1934
NICK SHAYLOR (Allison, 1931), Syracuse, 1941
ELSA SASS (Sass, H. P., 1930), Minneapolis, 1943
HANSINA BRAND (Brand, 1925), Rockford, 1946
GOLDEN GLOW (Glasscock, 1935), Rockford, 1946
MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (Franklin, 1933), Guelph, 1948
DORIS COOPER (Cooper, 1946), Milwaukee, 1949

These ten varieties were the ones listed by Mr. Peyton up to the time of his search of records. Since then the following have been added to the list:

RED CHARM (Glasscock, 1944), Dixon, Illinois, 1956
MISS AMERICA (J. R. Mann-Van Steen, 1936), Dixon, Illinois, 1956
KANSAS (Bigger, 1940), Grand Forks, North Dakota, 1957
MOONSTONE (Murawska, 1943), Minneapolis, 1959
MISS AMERICA (J. R. Mann-Van Steen, 1936), Minneapolis, 1971
NICK SHAYLOR (Allison, 1931), Kingwood Center, Mansfield, OH, 1972
AGE OF GOLD T. P. (Saunders), Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1973
WALTER MAINS (Mains, 1957), Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, 1974
BU-TE (Wassenberg, 1954), Kingwood Center, Mansfield Ohio, 1975

Both **MISS AMERICA** and **NICK SHAYLOR** were awarded a second time because no one remembered they were already among the elite, which emphasizes their excellence.

—No Gold Medal awarded from 1975 until 1980.—

CYTHEREA (Saunders, 1953), Ithaca, New York, 1980
BOWL OF CREAM (Klehms, 1963), Kingwood Center, 1981
WESTERNER (Bigger, 1942), Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, 1982
CHINESE DRAGON (Saunders), Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1983
DOLORODELL (Lins, 1942), Kingwood Center, 1984
BURMA RUBY (GLasscock, 1951), Mahomet, Illinois, 1985
CORAL CHARM (Wissing, 1964), Minneapolis, 1986
NORMA VOLZ (A. L. Volz, 1968), Kingwood Center, 1987
PAULA FAY (Fay, 1962), Chicago Botanical Gardens, 1988
HIGH NOON (Saunders, 1952), Janesville, Wisconsin, 1989
SEA SHELL (Sass, 1937), Kingwood Center, 1990
WHITE CAP (Winchell 1966), Royal Botanical Gardens, 1991
AMERICA (Rudolph, 1956), Des Plains, Illinois, 1992
MOTHER'S CHOICE (Glasscock, 1950), Chicago, 1993
PILLOW TALK (Carl Klehm, 1968), Chicago, 1994
SHINTENCHI (Japan—Honorary), Chicago, 1994
SPARKLING STAR (Bigger, 1953), Kalamazoo, Michigan, 1995
GARDEN TREASURE (Hollingsworth, 1984), Kingwood Center, 1996

OLD FAITHFUL (Glasscock/Falk, 1964), Royal Botanical Gardens,
Canada, 1997
MYRA MACRAE (R. W. Tischler, 1967), Blaine, Minnesota, 1998
LUDOVICA (Saunders 1941) Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio, 1999
PINK HAWAIIAN CORAL (Roy G. Klehm, 1972) Milwaukee,
Wisconsin, 2000.
EARLY SCOUT (Auten, 1952) Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, 2001.

GRAND CHAMPION PEONIES—NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

1947 BLANCHE KING	1977 JAMES PILLOW
1948 YUKON	1978 PRINCESS MARGARET
1949 A. B. FRANKLIN	1979 Tree Peony Yachiyo Tsubaki (Eternal Camillia)
1950 KANSAS	1980 MISS AMERICA
1951 RED CHARM	1981 DOUGLAS BRAND
1952 NANCY COUSINS	1982 Tree Peony, Haku Raku Ten
1953 LE CYGNE	1983 CYTHEREA
1954 ANN COUSINS	1984 MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
1955 JAMES PILLOW	1985 HANSINA BRAND
1956 LE CYGNE	1986 MINNIE SHAYLOR
1957 NO SHOW	1987 HIGH NOON—Tree Peony
1958 DORIS COOPER	1988 PINK DERBY
1960 LE CYGNE	1989 ROBERT AUTEN
1961 FRANCES MAINS	1990 ETCHED SALMON
1962 LOVELY ROSE	1991 RUFFLED SUNSET —Tree Peony
1963 MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT	1992 KAMADA NISHIKI —Tree Peony
1964 HANSINA BRAND	1993 YELLOW EMPEROR
1965 RED CHARM	1994 BOWL OF CREAM
1966 ANNISQUAM	1995 KAMADA NISHIKI
1967 DORIS COOPER	1996 NANCY NICHOLAS
1968 CAROL	1997 LOIS ELAINE LANING T.P.
1969 NICK SHAYLOR	1998 COMMAND PERFORMANCE
1970 PRINCESS MARGARET	1999 MOONSTONE
1971 DOUGLAS BRAND	2000 LEMON CHIFFON
1972 SPELLBINDER	
1973 DINNER PLATE	
1974 PRINCESS MARGARET	
1975 ROBERT W. AUTEN	
1976 CAROL	
2001 GARDEN TREASURE.	



REGISTRATIONS

The Irvine/Sutherland Registrations:
(A) Parentages and (B) Name Duplications

Bill Seidl, 732 S 19th Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220

(A) Parentage

The APS Bulletin #318, June 2001, lists 264 registrations by Jane and Trevor Sutherland (Southern Charm Peonies, Timaru NZ) of varieties developed by Derek Irvine (see p. 7 of that Bulletin), also of Timaru, from seed annually purchased from me since 1986. This began as an outgrowth of my two years in charge of the APS seed program.

Most APS seed did not have parentage records, so in 1988 (Bul. 267, Sept.) I advertised "Pedigree Peony Seed" for sale, both herbaceous and t.p. (10/\$20 for hybrid t.p.), believing that most buyers would want to know the parentage and would maintain those records. This Mr. Irvine has done and so, using his key to seeds obtained from many sources, not just me, I am able to furnish that information for most of the Sutherland registrations.

However, to communicate the detailed ancestry of every cultivar is beyond the intent and scope of this article. That requires still more preparation on my part and, when finished, will consume fourteen pages, plus a few more to provide a key for my numbered seedlings that were used in making the crosses. After all, it won't make any sense to know **Cloth of Gold** is 33 x 91, or that **Afterglow** is 58 x Ref without such a key.

For now, I am far enough along to say that of the 264 t.p. registrations, 39 are suffruticosa cultivars, 224 are hybrids, and one (**Meridian**, #528-3) is an intersectional hybrid out of **Minnie Shaylor x REF** (**Rosalind Elsie Franklin**), but is nevertheless included in the list of tree peonies. Perhaps it behaves that way in Timaru's relatively warmer climate.

Out of 264 registrations, both parents are known in 191, one parent in 39, and neither in 34. "Neither" usually refers to crosses where hand-pollinated seeds resulted, but so few in a cross that I put them in a mixture of, say, 20 different crosses. This to simplify record keeping.

Of the 224 hybrids, half or more have **Zephyrus** in their family tree, mainly due to the fact that I relies heavily (79 selections) on a **Zephyrus** seedling, #158 or **REF**, as a pollen parent. From its very first bloom I valued it as a pollen parent, for its color, carriage, and earliness were more typical of a suffruticosa than a hybrid.

The most effective (high ratio of selections to seeds planted) cross seems to be #467 with **Afterglow** (467-6), **Asteroid** (467-10), **Nature's Bouquet** (467-15), and others all being siblings out of 58 x **REF**. (#58 is also a **Zephyrus** seedling.) The largest group of half-siblings is from Cross #548, which is many mixed parents x **REF**.

Progress is intergenerational. The ancestry of these hybrids is derived from the works of Lemoine (**Alice Harding**), Saunders (**Chinese Dragon**, **Age of Gold**), Daphnis (**Zephyrus**), and Reath (**Golden Era**,

Golden Experience). Prof. Saunders named about 77 varieties; yet I've used only two, so there are many more to exploit. Even so, the present genes are producing a full range of colors from white thru black-red.

The most effective suffruticosa cross has been #222: **Taiyo x Rock's Variety**. All 39 of the suffruticosa selections are derived from RV as a parent or grandparent.

I'm sure many consider 264 registrations at once to be excessive and many without the highest merit, but if only a quarter are the cream of the crop, that's an excellent array of new stuff available. Since I did not have the space, time, or energy to grow my own seed, I am gratified that others did so, including not only Derek Irvine but the McFarlanes (NZ), Bernard Chow (Aus.), and several others in NZ who have nursed along herbaceous hybrid selections.

(B) Name Duplications

The recent flurry of registrations arrived at the APS Central Office at a time of crisis in management. Volunteer staff barely had time to put out the Bulletin on schedule, and so published the registrations without researching the various check lists for name duplications.

On first reading of Bul. #318 I recognized only **High Noon** and **Unique** as duplications. Then about six more were called to my attention – plus a few more by the McFarlanes in Bul. #320. After a thorough search of all the check lists and recent Bulletins, a total of 36 were discovered.

To avoid duplicating a name before submitting a new registration, here are the places to research:

- (1) Source "M", the "Main" check list, titled Peonies, Favorites of Greek Gods and Chinese Emperors. An alternate title could have been "The 1976 Variety Check List." There are three parts. Part I lists the oldest cultivars and is where most of the duplications have occurred. Part II lists later registrations, thru 1976. don't overlook Part III, pp. 151, 152 which lists the 77 hybrid tp's named by Prof. Saunders, not otherwise found in the main alphabetical body. (They are also listed in the back pages of "A" and "B" below.)
- (2) Source "A", the ten-year update, 1976-1986.
- (3) Source "B", the next ten-year update, 1986-1996.
- (4) Bulletins after 1996. This is the most time consuming.

Listed below are the 36 duplications. I did not reject **Delightful**, **Gleaming gold**, and **Hopeful** despite similarity to the already registered **Delight** (M-20), **Gleam of Gold** (M-35), and **Hope** (M-41). A few others were rejected because of confusing similarities. **Gold Nugget** is acceptable because **Golden Nugget** (M-36, Pleas 1913) is marked "Discarded." Otherwise it would be in trouble.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Blushing Beauty, M-10 | 19 Geraldine, M-34 |
| 2 Blushing Bride, M-10 | 20 Glowing Embers, M-35 |
| 3 Bonfire, M-10 | 21 Golden Glow, M-36 |
| 4 Break of Day, M-11 | 22 Goodwill, M-36 |
| 5 Bridesmaid, M-11 | 23 Harmony, M-38 |
| 6 Bright Eyes, M-11 | 24 High Noon, M-151 |
| 7 Buttercup, M-11 | 25 Jubilee, M-46 |

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 8 Cardinal, M-12 | 26 Lady Kate, M-50 |
| 9 Dainty, M-18 | 27 Magnificent, -ence, M-57 |
| 10 Dazzler, M-19 | 28 Moonbeam, M-67 |
| 11 Evening Glow, M-28 | 29 Pink Pearl, M-79 |
| 12 Eventide, M-28 | 30 Ragged (Rag) Doll, M-118 |
| 13 Exquisite, M-29 | 31 Sunset Glory, M-96 |
| 14 Fairview, A-10 | 32 Tinkerbelle, A-26 |
| 15 Fascination, M-29 | 33 Triumph, A-27 |
| 16 Fireball, M-30 | 34 Unique, Bul. 310-27 |
| 17 Flare, M-31 | 35 White Caps (CAP), M-121 |
| 18 Flashlight, M-31 | 36 Wild Fire, M-105 |

The McFarlane duplications are **Flamingo** (M-30), **Glowing Embers** (M-35, Kelway 1936), and **Gold Nugget**, published for the Sutherlands two Bulletins earlier. I do not know the exact date the registrations were submitted, which could possibly reverse the priority status. **Glowing Embers** was claimed, wrongly, by both the Sutherlands and the McFarlanes.

The initial stimulus for the APS's founding in 1904 was to bring order out of the chaos in varietal nomenclature. Therefore the Society is duty bound to reject the duplicate registrations. Also, as the international authority for registering peonies, they cannot do otherwise. Of course registrants are free to still propagate and distribute these cultivars under the duplicate names, but the APS cannot permit itself to be used as a promotional vehicle for said varieties.

When Derek Irvine called me this past September, I brought up the subject of name duplication. (At that time I was aware of only a few.) He said he was responsible for the name selections, that he had trouble researching tree-peony names, and that no duplications were made knowingly. I believe he will make every effort to right the situation. Later, after finding so many duplications of herbaceous peony names, it occurred to me that perhaps he thought names for one type of peony could be re-used for one of a different type. The most notorious example is that "**Alice Harding**" names both a lactiflora and a hybrid t.p. Somehow this became fixed in the literature and is now accepted more by virtue of squatter's rights than for any legitimate reason. Of course you can use names from other genera; I find old daylily checklists a good source for appropriate peony names.

I assume names of peonies follow the rules of the ICNCP-1995 (International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants 1995). There are many rules; most are common sense ones designed to prevent using names so similar to existing ones that they might be confusing.

The most useful rule concerns the length of the name. Names may consist of any number of words so long as they do not exceed ten syllables and 30 letters or characters, the "10/30" rule. Thus "I AM NOT A CROOK" at 5/12 easily makes the grade. A daylily breeder recently registered "A MOOSE FISHING ON A POND ON MONDAY" (10/28). (It's in the year 2000 daylily check list, p. 29.) Does this give you enough latitude for new names!



REGISTRATIONS

ACE OF HEARTS (Don Hollingsworth) February 11, 2002. Seedling number 088. Parentage 0049 Cardinals Robe x 0038 Moon-ride. Herbaceous hybrid, single. First bloomed before 1980. Stamens, pollen, seeds. One bud per stem, reliable, excellent substance. Good stem strength, medium height 36". Early to mid-season bloom. Bold effect in landscape with heavy stems, large flower. No fragrance.

JUDITH EILEEN (Don Hollingsworth) February 11, 2002. Seedling number 2584. Parentage not recorded. Lactiflora bomb. First bloomed before 1992. Bright medium pink, stamens, no pollen, had seeds. Fragrant, very reliable. Ball form, 3-4 buds per stem, abundant amount of bloom. Strong stem, medium height 34", mid-late bloom, excellent vigor, healthy foliage. Good landscape value. Named for a family member.

KATHRYN ANN (Don Hollingsworth) February 11, 2002. Seedling number 1638, herbaceous hybrid, single parentage, 0007 pink bomb lacti x 0094 Good Cheer. First bloomed before 1983. Rich medium pink accented by the light yellow stamen cluster, cupped form, stamens, pollen, no seeds, little fragrance. Reliable, abundant bloom, one bud per stem excellent substance. Early to mid-season bloom. Excellent stem strength, height 30-32" foliage, medium green, excellent in early summer, fair in heat & drought. Named for a family member.

PRAIRIE STAR (Don Hollingsworth) February 11, 2002. Seedling number 2124. Parentage 1574 seedling of Shaylor's Sunburst x unknown pollen, lactiflora Japanese/Anemone. First bloomed about 1990. Opaque white cupped guard petals, 2-3 hours around a medium sized yellow center of many thin stamenoides, strongly cupped. No stamens, no pollen, has seeds, fragrance, reliable 2-4 buds per stem, good substance. Abundant amount of bloom. Excellent stem strength, medium height 36". Dark green foliage, mid-season bloom. Vigorous. Medium sized flowers, graces in the landscape.

Registration Name Corrections, Bulletin #320

FIERY IMAGE (J and D McFarlane) Seedling #25 replacing Glowing Embers

PINK FLAMINGO (J and D McFarlane) Seedling #54 replacing Flamingo

TWENTY FOUR CARAT (J and D McFarlane) Seedling #34 replacing Gold Nugget



Never Give Up Without Trying

Dr. Bernard Chow — Melbourne, Australia

It is heartbreaking to see a good branch of your favorite tree peony broken and lies on the ground. You may stand there and feel upset. It is of no use. You should think of salvaging it by grafting even if you have never done that before. Grafting is not as hard as beginners would think. This may be a good opportunity for you to try out grafting even if you have never done that before. Grafting is not as hard as beginners would think. This may be a good opportunity for you to try out grafting anyway. There are many articles on grafting from the publications of this Society. Beginners may be frightened away by the complexity of the preparation of the grafting material and the procedure of grafting. It should be pointed out that these articles aim to help people to get to 100% success rate eventually. I do not suggest that one should feel complacent and ignore all the suggestions. However, if you are happy to salvage something out from a mishap, you should do as much as the situation allows you. It is much better than simply giving up. In a recent article (the Bulletin No. 314), Mr. Bill Seidl summarized the grafting information to five points. The grafting material may not be ideal, but you may still obtain some result by just following the three essential requirements of the grafting procedures:

1. Use sterilized tools, work under clean environment and avoid contamination.
2. Cut the graft surfaces flat and make sure that they have good contact.
3. Keep the graft at very warm temperature (around 80 degrees Fahrenheit) for more than two weeks.

The branch of your tree peony may have fallen for a couple of weeks. It may be all right if there is still moisture within it. I have obtained a success rate of 50% by using scions sent to me without refrigeration for two weeks. The rootstock has an amazingly long life. When I replant my previous year's grafts, I often spend some time to inspect the nearby unsuccessful grafts. Quite often I found that although the scion of a graft had died, yet its rootstock still produced fibre roots. Obviously this rootstock was alive. To make it living on, I grafted a new scion on this rootstock. I got many successful grafts from this sort of rootstocks too. Of course the result is not as good as using flesh scions and flesh rootstocks. However, keeping on trying I have repeatedly obtained reasonable results from two weeks old scions and one year old recycle rootstocks. My motto is: Never give up without trying.

If you have some broken branches, please retrieve all the scions and try your best to graft them. There is a good chance that you will see some pleasant surprise. This may be the beginning for you to learn propagation by grafting.



DON'T, DO THIS It seems incredible that it could be so, but we are nonetheless inclined to believe that a great many people thoughtlessly cut down the peony stems after blooming, often close to the ground, to make room for other flowering plants—perhaps annuals nearby. A peony root has actually more lives than the proverbial cat, but this often kills it outright, and if it does not, will at least, in every case, cripple the plant to the extent of its bearing the very poorest sort of flowers for several subsequent seasons. Foliage is necessary to the life of any plant: in other words, it breathes through, and lives by reason of, its leaves, and thus through the summer months the peony is growing below ground, storing up energy, and forming its eyes for the following season's bloom. It is plainly obvious too, that even in cutting blooms, too much stem should not be taken with the flower. *At least two sprays of leaves must be left growing on every stem from which you take a bloom.* This is almost as important as not cutting down the whole plant. By about the first of September, the root has finished its work and has become dormant. The tops may then be cut off, but we advise cutting not right down to the ground, but allowing a few inches of the stems to show, to the end that when the annual garden clean-up comes the following spring, you will know just where the peonies are, and therefore where to *avoid raking*.

KEEP A SHARP EYE for Mr. Cut-Worm. This personage, not content with mowing down corn, beans and things, will sometimes take a jaunt into the flower garden, and cut off a thick peony stem or two. Or, he may eat his way just half through it, causing the stem to look sick, and you to suspect that it is the stem disease with which you have to grapple. Observe the plant close to the ground before you send for the (horticultural) physician; and if you find Mr. Cut-Worm, step on him.

Many people seem to plan their peony plantings with a certain color effect in mind, or else for a definite succession of bloom. This is the one direction, to our minds, in which peonies sometimes disappoint. For "early," "mid-season," and "late," attached to the description of the varieties in the catalogs, are really very uncertain. Climate, soil, and the vagaries of the season all have an enormous influence on the blooming period as well as trying for a gradual effect in your rows from the dwarf to the tallest peony in your garden.

—From the Don't List.



Letter

How pleased was I, to see not only a photo of Fern Leaf Peonies in our last publication, but a response from another member who has had experience in dividing these beauties. Many thanks, Arlene. My Fern Leaf was sold as a Dwarf, it does develop seed pods each year, but whether they are fertile is unknown. I simply replanted the seeds in the same pot. This year I will try crossing with another variety. The blooms are a beautiful silky, shiny, double red. I started with three blooms, then five, then I placed all in the ground. Looking forward to others "input." —L. Sharp, Coupeville, WA

Lutea Hybrid Tree Peonies

Anthony De Blasi, Route 1, Box 99, West Newfield, Maine 04095

A full double peony with the color of a daffodil was once only a dream. Now it is given the name "**Alice Harding**," a landmark tree peony, among the first yellow peonies introduced. There are many other beautiful hybrids bearing various shades of yellow, starting with pale silvery tones and deepening to gold. The quest for yellow brought other colors as well, such as amber, red, and pink. The forms in this group vary from single to semi-double.

The peony world's **Midas touch** began with the discovery of *Paeonia lutea* by French Missionaries in southern China, a century ago. Hybridists like Victor and Emil Lemoine, Louis Henry, and A.P. Saunders crossed this shy, shrubby yellow peony with flowers like buttercups with Chinese and Japanese tree peonies (*P. suffruticosa*) to yield this new color in peonies.

The early European work was done with the "thousand-petaled" Chinese tree peonies. Combining *lutea*'s nodding habit with such full flowers resulted in many hybrids with blossoms that frequently hide in the foliage. In America, Saunders used the lighter, stiffer-stemmed *suffruticosa* tree peonies for his crosses. these hybrids are more successful in displaying their blooms above the foliage. The Saunders hybrids include crosses with the black-red *P. potanini*, similar to *P. lutea*.

In the Gratwick-Daphnis collaboration, second, third, and fourth-generation hybrids were worked over to reveal some of the deeper-seated genetic possibilities of the tree peony. The goal in this work has been to infuse the *lutea* hybrid with the beauty and superior habit of the *suffruticosa* peony.

Lutea hybrids bloom when lilacs and Japanese tree peonies fade, and roses and herbaceous peonies come on stage. They are not an intermission between acts, however, but a fine show in themselves. These unique shrubs that may exceed five feet in height and breadth should be situated where their individual beauty may be observed without distraction. They need not be isolated, however. Tree peonies spending the Summer flanking a stairway or associating with a piece of garden sculpture, are tree peonies put to good use. They furnish graceful contrast to bolder, darker plants, such as rhododendrons. They also serve in landscaping, where an element of informality is desired.

However they are used, leave plenty of room around them; avoid boxing them in among shrubbery; keep them forward—they are not "background" plants. An open location that is well drained and doesn't back in afternoon sun, is best. Unless they are container-grown, tree peonies should be planted in the Fall. Dig a large hole, as for a fruit tree, and return only good soil mixed with a generous supply of compost and/or peatmoss, plus two pounds of bonemeal per planting hole. The junction of root and stem should be four to five inches deep. Space the plants six feet apart. Don't pound the soil around the roots. Flood the soil around the roots with a couple of buckets of water. If wind is a

problem, set a heavy stake in the planting hole, centering the stake as nearly as possible, being careful not to injure the roots. As new stems develop and the plant becomes busy, the stems may be loosely tied to this stake. For permanence, choose a metal pipe. Wait until early Summer to tie the youngest stems, when they have stopped growing.

Apply a coarse mulch five to six inches thick over the roots the first winter, such as oak leaves, wood chips, or straw. Thereafter, a two-inch mulch of finer material, such as dried grass clippings, is beneficial.

One annual feeding of low-nitrogen fertilizer, right after blooming, is sufficient nourishment. I have used bonemeal—about a cup scratched into the soil around each plant—for years with excellent results. Like other peonies, these plants must not be pushed, just nudged a bit. Never prune them. A branch that juts out where you don't want it, or a dead branch, is all the wood that should be removed. [These cultural tips apply to other types of tree peonies as well as lutea hybrids.]



Selecting Peonies

W. G. Sindt, St. Paul, Minnesota

He has been a very active member in the Society, holding all positions. He was one of the main exhibitors [for over 30 years] of peonies at the National Shows, for all of these years. He was given a life-time appointment for judging seedlings. He has always written timely articles for the Bulletin, and is a strong advocate in selecting peonies while in bloom for Fall planting.)

The time to select new peonies for planting this Fall is now. May and June are the months when selection should be made, because it is the time when the plants are in bloom. Seeing the actual flower on a plant is by far the best means to help one make decisions on what varieties to obtain. If one cannot go to Nurseries or gardens where the peonies are growing, the next best choice is to attend shows where the blooms can be seen, and talk to the exhibitors to learn something about the characteristics of the plant. Failing either of these two methods, the method of peony catalogs can be pursued. The descriptions given are accurate, but words and pictures are never as good as seeing the real plant.

In making selections, one should keep in mind the ultimate use or purpose desired for the plant. If the peonies are being selected primarily for landscape, the appearance of the plant becomes very important. The blooms are open two weeks but the shrub is there for six months. There is a great difference in plant habit. Some are very tall, some have coarse leaves, some turn color in the Fall. By seeing the actual plant growing, a selection can be made of an attractive shrub with the flowers as a bonus. If the use is cut flowers for the home, one should look for the smaller-sized doubles, singles, and Japanese. For this purpose, hybrids are very popular because of their different and brilliant colors. For show or exhibit, one selects

for perfection of bloom only. It matters little if the plant is not attractive or if the stems are too long to support the huge blooms. The show floor is the place to select this type. Look to the Court of Honor and blue ribbons at shows, and talk to the successful exhibitors. Whatever the intended use, it is interesting to try a tree peony or two. Here one can get true yellow color which is not available in any of the other types yet.

Any discussion on selection of peonies should include some varieties that have special merit. Any list of varieties, which always omit many excellent ones, is the author's favorites which have done well for him. The varieties presented here fall into that category, and while they are suggested for one of the three purposes mentioned before, they generally are acceptable in more than just one. **Vanity**, a blush Japanese, has very bright green shiny foliage and is a beautiful shrub during off-season. With **Wilford Johnson**, a full double deep pink, the top of the bush is covered with bloom, a beautiful shrub. Fern leaf (*P. tenuifolia*) has finely divided foliage that is unusual with very early bloom.

There is a single and double form of *P. tenuifolia*, with the double a very showy plant early in the season. Most of the singles, Japanese, and hybrids stand up well, and are very acceptable for landscape work. Used as cut flowers in the home or in artistic exhibits, the color of hybrids is outstanding. **Cytherea**, a semi-double shell pink hybrid; **Flame**, a bright red hybrid; **Camellia**, a blush-white hybrid formed like a camellia flower; **John Harvard**, a very dark red hybrid; **Krinkled White**, a white single; **Walter Faxon**, medium pink double; **Ruth Elizabeth**, a bright red medium-sized double; and **John Gardener**, a red Japanese with gold edges, are a few good choices for arrangers. Varieties selected for show should be large ones with good form that have the potential to be consistent winners. Some good varieties are: **Douglas Brand**, red double; **Red Charm**, full double red hybrid; **Princess Margaret**, dark pink double; **Pico**, white single; **Dinner Plate**, pink double; **Miss America**, semi-double white; **Frances Mains**, light pink double; **Kansas**, double light red; and many, many more. For a real stopper try a yellow tree peony such as **Age of Gold** or **Roman Gold**.

The preceding selection of varieties is very limited. The cost will be in the range of \$15.00 to \$25.00, with perhaps one exception. While this may seem high to some people, it compares very favorably with the cost of annual bedding plants. Packs of petunias now are about \$1.75 or perhaps \$2.00 for eight to ten plants. Several packs are needed and they must be replaced each year, while the peony lasts a lifetime.

When peonies are purchased, they should be obtained from a specialist, one who knows and grows hundreds of varieties. A peony plant lasts a lifetime, so select carefully!



Physiology of the Peony Patch

by J. Franklin Styer, PhD.

After eighty years of growing peonies, I may be able to help younger gardeners in some way. My father, Jacob Styer, sent the first cut peonies to the New York market in 1900; the dealers threw them out because there was a rule against outdoor-grown flowers in general, to protect the greenhouse people. When they bloomed the next year he sent them, free, to the Atlantic City hotels. That created a demand in New York retail stores—Styer's peonies have been sold in New York every year since.

I believe that the same history has grown in Chicago concerning the Klehm company.

The common peony, *Paeonia lactiflora*, was brought from Chinese gardens to France and England in the early 1800's; not from the wild. Nurseries there sowed seed and added much better cultivars to their lists by selection. The names of those generally indicate whether they came from France or England; they became common in the United States by 1900, the French becoming adapted best in a belt from Massachusetts to the Dakotas south to Virginia and Missouri, and the English in the northern part of that belt.

Styer's has a group of old cultivars with some grown from its own seedlings, totaling about forty. Its fields are in New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia (where the list is reduced as I will explain). To get a steady production of flowers over a long period, different locations and soils have been necessary and the operations have been often. But each planting has generally been in production ten years. One needs a basic knowledge of at least a hundred cultivars. There is also a nursery producing new stock of all cultivars.

The peony lives mainly underground, having two parts: a root system (extending up to ten feet), supporting a small crown of stem tissue, neither of which is woody. The crown expands horizontally by buds which form in late summer and which grow into upright annual stalks in the following year, during which the new buds form on them at or near the ground level. Each stalk bears a flower at the tip and lesser flowers in the axils of some upper leaves.

Leaves feed the plant, working in the day. The roots expand and store sugars and starches. But a more complicated chemistry also exists. A very unpalatable substance is formed, to the result that no peony is ever eaten by any animal. We are especially interested by another product, however, which affects growth. This is a sort of plant messenger which can stop growth; it is formed at night, moves through the plant, and is destroyed by day. This chemical, or plant hormone, begins after June 21 to accumulate, and does stop growth in a few weeks time. The result is called dormancy.

In the process the crown does produce the buds (or "eyes") for the next year's growth and the upper stem does produce seeds, but these features become dormant. Roots are not affected. The chemical functions of leaves continue also.

It is important to understand this, for it affects the handling of

nursery plants. The roots remain active. The crown produces eyes and they may slowly grow through warm weather but are retarded. The seed becomes a small plant lacking all roots but rudiments, and is highly dormant. The leaves continue to work, but may be removed any time after July 15, or thereabouts. At this point the plant may be dug and divided.

There is an interesting side issue. The stem tissues remain alive up to the dry level of the ground and often form the eyes at that point, not on the old crown. If peonies are covered with too much soil they will grow up through it by this reaction, creating a new crown level. Dormancy also contributes frost resistance to all tissues. I have never seen a peony winter-killed; the old stems are killed by the first freeze, just to the eyes. The crown and roots are able to resist cold down to far below minus 40 below F.

Dormancy is broken by a most interesting condition. The crown must be subjected to a temperature of 30 to 40 degrees F for 700 hours. This is variable, for various cultivars are found to differ from this average. If a cultivar was introduced from a location, it will almost certainly succeed where the winters are the same. But, on the other hand, a Minnesota cultivar may fail to break dormancy in Georgia.

For my Virginia fields I have tested all cultivars; for example, we have failed to produce flowers from **M. Jules Elie**. If you wish to test, set a refrigerator at 32F and put in four divisions (keep moist), removing at intervals and planting. I have been called by several people to explain why peonies planted in the Fall had come up from the ground at once; the reason for this was that the division had been stored in cold storage, and dormancy had been broken.

The peony has a weed problem. The species must have been few weeds in the Chinese mountains, and their roots cannot compete. Well, it has a long dormancy; the stalks may be cut to the ground in August, and after three days the land may be treated with herbicides which is completely ineffective underground. And this may be repeated when weeds become green, until the peony breaks ground in the Spring.

Certain methods of handling peonies may be suggested to the retail nurseryman. The bare division should be carried in a moist peat or shavings at a temperature above 40F and below 50F. If one desires to sell peonies in containers, I may say it is difficult; the root system is not dense. But one way is in use. The two or three-year plant is lifted in the Fall and all roots saved, then set immediately in a plastic pot of the right size in a very organic mix. Stems are removed to soil level. The plant is stored or kept outdoors to break dormancy, and sold even in bloom. The purchaser must be advised to set the pot in the appropriate hole and the plastic removed down to the bottom but left intact across the bottom.

The plant may be grown in a soil well fertilized with phosphorus so that it may not need addition for three years, and then fertilized the same as the rest of the garden. But the soil must not be acid. We have always been liberal with limestone; there is no limit to limestone.

The customer may well be reminded that the peony is there for forty years.

Spring In Manhattan

by Vernon Kidd

Spring followed winter without much differentiation, our winter seemed to occur in March; then 96 degrees in the middle of April, making it the hottest April here in memory. Last Saturday morning revealed the previous night's noisy overnight electrical storm moving out into the Atlantic. A tornado had been spotted in nearby New Jersey (accompanied by hail), and at the Island an earthquake was the wake up call! Centered near Plattsburg upstate New York, it measured 5.1 on the Richter scale, and was felt as far north as Quebec and south to Baltimore.

A two week vacation at the Island cottage was spent doing, repairs and painting for the coming season, and in the garden you could see the peonies stampede toward their "Spring Gala." Due to the lack of rain (I guess), some of the tree peonies are showing no buds (so far).

One Chinese tree peony (costing \$250) is putting out new growth after a transplant from a site where it never seemed to prosper, due I discovered to a neighbor's invasive trumpet vine which had sent a large root underneath the wooden fence as well as the tree peony's roots. Removing the trumpet vine root last Fall, I decided to try another location; now in a second choice area, with rich new soil, perhaps it will thrive. A second Chinese tree peony, planted last Fall, offers a couple of buds in its first season in the replaced soil of this sand dune garden.

Earlier I mentioned transplanting divisions of Chris Laning's yellow double, "Sunny Girl," to various locations around the garden's border. Their glossy light green leaves maintain interest throughout the summer after their very early bloom here. Particularly hearty in the garden, they promise more buds than ever this spring. The original division (my first yellow peony), had spent the winter in a pot on the sunny 41st floor terrace above Manhattan, having arrived after the Island cottage had been closed for the season. You advised me to plant and mulch it carefully in a good sized pot which could then be transferred to the Garden in the spring, where it has never faltered, coming into bloom just after the tree peonies.

Four pine trees were removed from the front and side of the cottage, following a severe blight affecting the black pine trees on both Long Island and Fire Island. With more sunlight in the once over shaded front garden, last Fall the tree peony "Yae Zakura" was introduced there along with herbaceous peonies, "Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt" and "Rozella," and a late double, dark pink, lovely bonus gift from Reath Nursery. All seem happy in their new home, showing healthy growth at least a week earlier than the backyard, and "Yae Zakura" sports three plump buds.

Like a cup of fire, one of my newer acquisitions, the tall, fiery beacon, "Mackinac Grand," shouts for attention. Introduced in 1999 by Dr. David Reath, the large brilliant red semi double blooms are held aloft by strong sturdy stems which display the rich golden ring of stamens centered by red petaloids, and two of the popular "Cythera," in different locations, are covered with buds, promising excitement with their hard to describe satin pink color, and the already full garden at the beach, somehow continues to make room for yet another

peony, and another dwarf apple tree, "Fuji" this spring, because they keep so well, and taste so juicy. Then each fall, at peony planting time, it is hard to resist ordering yet one more spring greeting to life.

I have been guilty, frequently, of rushing to acquire "the newest and latest," choosing whatever color caught my eye, and learned it is much wiser to balance choices and take into consideration perfection of form, early, mid-season and late varieties (a few at a time) of whatever the type. Not just color, but type of bloom (my first choice had been the large double bombs); then after attending the National Show for the first time, where the fragrance and stunning array of color rearranged my thinking.

Today's choices are fantastic, with most colors of the rainbow (except perhaps blue, although some are close) available in almost every form of blossom. Finally I came to realize the beauty of the Japanese single, (wild ancestry), the semi double and variations. When planning a new peony garden, it is well to remember the older varieties. They survive because of their very special qualities. A new division of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt was given a prominent place in the front yard so passersby could see this elegant peony and former Gold Medal winner.

In the back garden, where I spend most of my time, "Red Grace," "Myra MacRae," "Pillow Talk," "Red Charm," "Cheddar Cheese," "Moonstone," "Ludovica," "Pink Jazz," "Raspberry Sundae," "Whopper," "Vivid Rose" and about 90 other beauties have made the spring and summer enchanting, starting about 30 years ago next season.

The cataclysmic life shift which affects the country since last September, is difficult to comprehend, signs of recovery are apparent here where so many vanished, yet life has changed in almost imperceptible ways. Emotional recovery affected literally everyone. Traffic, already congested due to construction before Sept. 11, remains daunting throughout the city, even with the recent reopening of the Brooklyn battery tunnel, providing access to the Westside Highway and past the fenced site of the former World Trade Center.

That same highway, congested with people on foot, dazed, covered with ash and dust, struggling away from the horror of that September 11 morning, stays embedded in the mind. Unbelievably just last week, additional bodies were located, and only yesterday it was confirmed that an acquaintance was among the vanished.



Dorothy J. Knapp

It is with sadness that we must report the letter received from Steven Knapp that his mother, Dorothy J. Knapp of Carmel, Indiana, died on April 28, 2002.

Dorothy J. grew up with peonies under the love and guidance of her father, Russell Jones. The great peony Dorothy J. was named after her. She belonged to the Peony Society for many years and was a life member. Her memorial will be in the September Bulletin.

—Steve Knapp, 13722 Smoky Ridge Overlook, Carmel, Indiana 46033-8512

Every Peony Grower Should Know

If you wish a clean, continue to cultivate [though it is not necessary for the benefit of the peony] after August 1. Do not go deeper than one inch. Water thoroughly every week or ten days if the ground is dry and if the plants show signs of wilting. A sprinkling does no good.

Do not be disturbed if OFFICINALIS and hybrids reach maturity at an early date. The fern leaf dies to the ground very early. Do not disturb it.

Begin your spray program in the spring, when you see the tips of the eyes. It is too late to spray for the disease of the leaves later in the season.

Do not cut your plants to the ground until late in the season, the last of September, October, and November.

Mulch your newly-planted peony roots in the fall. Peonies do not have the opportunity to anchor themselves, so when freezing and thawing comes in the very early spring, they are apt to be heaved out of the ground. This could occur to established plants as well. Mulch material ranges from marsh hay or any material that will hold the frost in the ground until the temperature gradually maintains normal degrees. If heaving takes place in your peony beds, replant the plants immediately.

Average garden soil, well drained, with a generous amount of humus suits the tree peony.

In the early spring, fertilize them lightly with a complete fertilizer.

A good mulch will conserve moisture. Spray early, just as the plants are starting to grow; also the ground around them, using a good fungicide.

Plant the tree peony in a permanent location. Do not move it unless it is absolutely necessary.

Peonies do not require ants to open the peony bud! They appear on the plants when the buds are growing and feed on the honey the buds exude. Beyond spreading disease, ants do no harm.

Probably the most serious menace to peonies is the damage caused by the small eel worms called nemas. They feed on the small feeding roots and make nodules on them similar to legume sacs. Sometimes these nodules look like a lot of peas on the ends of the roots when dug. They prevent the plant from getting its needed nourishments. They are found in every section of the country but are more prevalent in the south. Since four hundred or more of our common plants are host to them, they are hard to deal with. They are invisible to the naked eye. Roots planted in heavy soil are less subject to attack than those planted in other soils. Several chemicals are now available to kill these worms with no danger to the plant.





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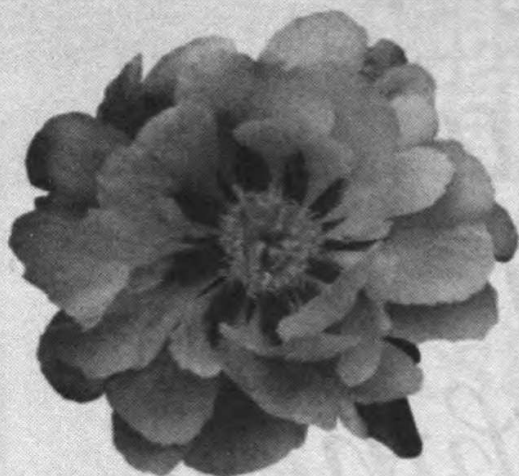
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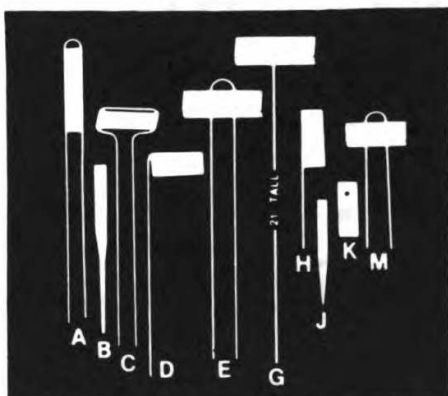
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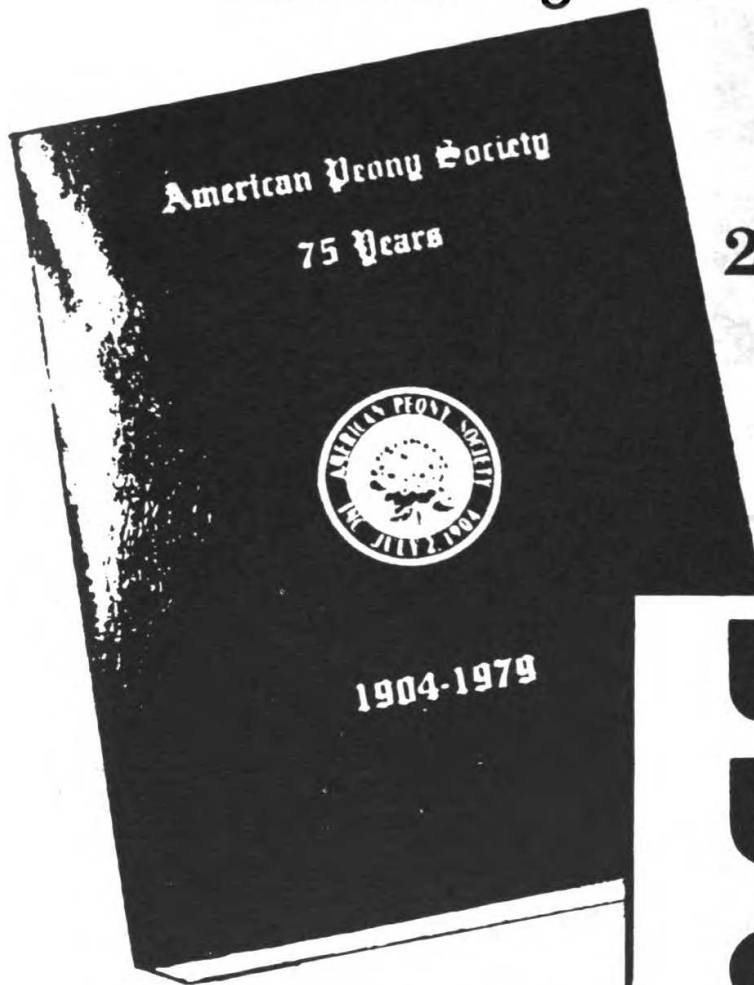
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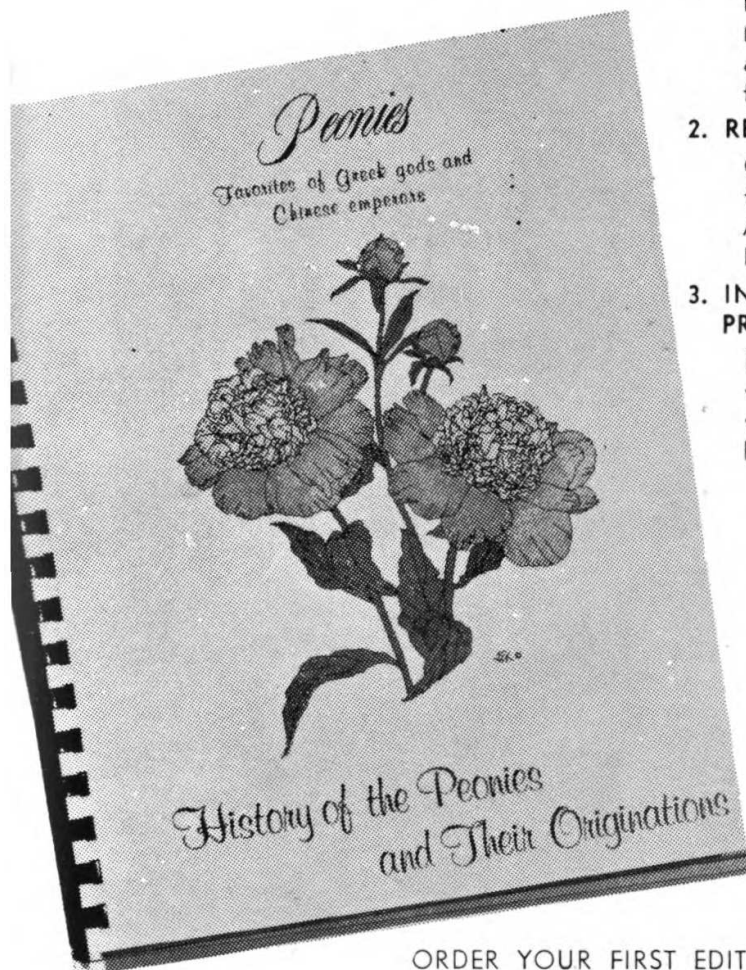
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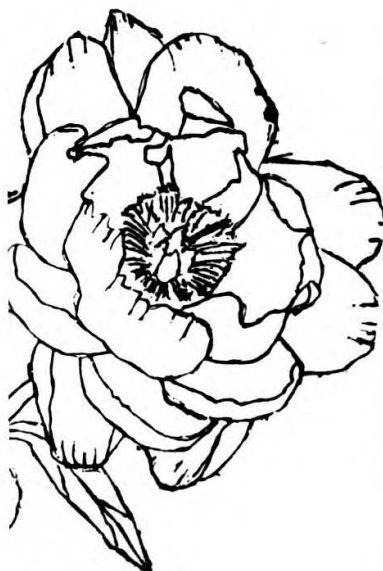
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