

March 2004 — No. 329

Bulletin



THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

2004 Annual Meeting & Exhibition
 Hybrid Peonies – Rare Beauty Abounds
 New Features



APS Publications

As an educational service, APS makes available the following publications for sale:

- ☞ **THE AMERICAN HYBRID PEONY** — 130 herbaceous hybrids and 32 species photos in full color. All named with biographical data. Kessenich and Hollingsworth. Hardcover, 208 pages. \$25.00 postpaid.
- ☞ **THE AMERICAN TREE PEONY** — 63 full color photos, detailed history. Featuring the hybridizing efforts of Saunders, Gratwick, Daphnis, Reath, Domoto, Hollingsworth and Anderson. Kessenich with photos by Klehm and Reath. Softcover, 40 pages. \$25.00 postpaid.
- ☞ **THE BEST OF 75 YEARS; 1904–1979** — Culture, history, exhibitions, ratings, nomenclature and propagation techniques all excerpted from APS Bulletins since 1904. Historical articles by Saunders, Auten, Peyton, Wister and Gayle along with the contemporary writings of Krekler, Wild, Hollingsworth, Lienau, Karrels and many others. Kessenich. Softcover, 232 pages, 2nd printing. \$15.00 postpaid.
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Please type or clearly print your book order along with your name and mailing address. Send orders with check or money order (payable to APS) to:

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THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY'S QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

Bulletin

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DON HOLLINGSWORTH

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REINER JAKUBOWSKI

“Our future lies chiefly in our own hands.” – Paul Robeson

On the cover: KAMATA–FUJI (Japanese tree peony) in full bloom.

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MEMBERSHIP / BULLETIN

All interested persons are invited to join the American Peony Society and participate in the organization's activities. Dues are paid for January 1– December 31 of any year. The following memberships are offered for US and Canadian residents: Individual \$10.00 per year or \$25.00 for 3 years. Family memberships \$15.00 per year or \$35.00 for 3 years. Other annual memberships: Commercial or Contributing \$25.00, Sustaining \$50.00, Supporting \$100.00, Patron \$250.00. Lifetime memberships are available for \$300.00. All other countries: Annual \$20.00 or Triennial \$55.00. A Bulletin subscription is included with each membership. Your gardening friends will appreciate gift memberships. Upon request we will send a complimentary gift card in your name. Please note that an application for membership is available on page 49.

2004 DEADLINES FOR BULLETIN COPY & ADVERTISING

March issue – January 25 (release date, February 25)

June issue – April 25 (release date, May 25)

September issue – July 25 (release date, August 25)

December issue – October 25 (release date, November 25)

The Bulletin welcomes unsolicited contributions of proposals, manuscripts and photos from APS members.

THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY IS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION; INCORPORATED AS A NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK. SAID CORPORATION IS ORGANIZED EXCLUSIVELY FOR EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES, AS FOLLOWS: TO INCREASE THE GENERAL INTEREST IN THE CULTIVATION AND USE OF THE PEONY; TO IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE OF THE FLOWER; TO IMPROVE THE METHODS OF ITS CULTIVATION AND 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.

Administrative

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2004 EXHIBITION

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WEBSITE

www.americanpeonysociety.org; Peter Waltz, Webmaster.

2004 CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING RATES

\$.20 per word, minimum 20 words – anything set off by spaces is considered a word. Hyphens count as spaces. All classified ads in standard type.

2004 DISPLAY ADVERTISING RATES

New rates effective March 1, 2004.

1/4 page – each ad \$15.00

1/2 page – each ad \$25.00

Full page – each ad \$35.00

Deduct a 10% discount on prepaid standing ads running for four consecutive issues. See the June issue for color ad rates and specifications.

OPINIONS EXPRESSED BY CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS PUBLICATION ARE SOLELY THOSE OF THE INDIVIDUAL WRITERS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE OPINIONS OF THE EDITOR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS OR THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY (APS).

APS PUBLISHES PAID ADVERTISEMENTS AS A SERVICE TO ITS MEMBERS, BUT CANNOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE QUALITY OF MERCHANDISE OR SERVICES FROM THESE ADVERTISERS.

President's Message

It is the heart of winter here as I type these words, a brisk -13° F. Our new editor, Claudia Schroer, has been very patient of my slow-as-molasses-in-February ability to get this message to her. I must take this opportunity to thank her for all of her efforts in the relocation and new beginning, since the death in late November of Greta Kessenich. Please show your support of Claudia and the Society's 101st year, by sending your articles and photographs for publication within our *Bulletin*. Thank you!

My back will long remember the December removal of the decades of APS materials from Greta's home. It was quite a project, as you can imagine. All APS publications are now available from Tim Stanek. No doubt, the arrival of more than 80 cases of APS books on Tim's doorstep was an event at the Stanek home. Tim has also been very patient with me and I hope you will understand that any delay in the arrival of APS books to you, has now passed, thanks to Tim's efforts. Thank you, Tim!

A new APS Registrar has been appointed and will be confirmed at our board meeting in June. Art Hartman has generously agreed to head the newly formed APS Registration Group, no small task. Art's lifelong experience in growing peonies, coupled with his "common sense" approach to making peony registrations both precise and painless, made him the clear choice. If his enthusiasm and desire to improve APS registrations are any indication of his coming accomplishments, we shall witness great improvements. Please support Art by sending him your input and registrations. As Art was just recently appointed, more details will follow with the June *Bulletin*.

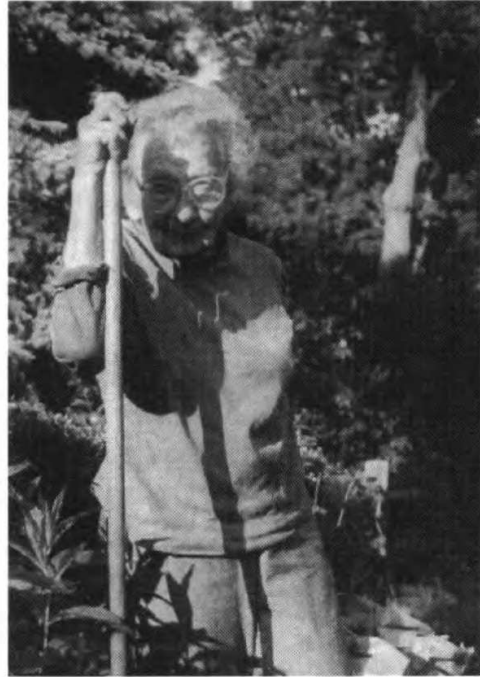
Thank you for helping make the Society and the *Bulletin* what it is intended to be—a reflection of our members and their love of peonies.

With warm thoughts of spring,

Steve Johnson
President, American Peony Society

Greta Macklin Kessenich

Greta Kessenich of Hopkins, Minnesota, passed away November 26, 2003. She was born in 1905 on a farm near Tobias, Nebraska. Her parents were Ulysses S. and Ada M. Macklin. She had three brothers, Erchie, Elton, and Vaughn, and one sister Lela H. Pflingston, all deceased. She graduated from Tobias High School and taught in a country school for a short time. She operated a quilt shop in Tobias and then in Beatrice, Nebraska. Later, she worked for the Singer Company, traveling extensively in the southwest, teaching sewing to



Native Americans and others in that part of the country. She also supervised the operations of Singer's southwest stores, as a regional manager. Through one of these stores in Utah, she met Alois (Al) M. Kessenich. They married and moved to Hopkins, Minnesota. Greta loved flowers, especially peonies, and the Kessenich' gardens became a showcase from early spring to late autumn.

For over 30 years, she was Secretary-Treasurer of the American Peony Society and the editor of the Bulletin. Greta was a scholar of peonies and wrote several books, under the auspices of the American Peony Society, regarding their care and nomenclature.

She is survived by two nieces, M. Sue Lund of Dublin, California and Kay E. Fischer of Circleville, Ohio, one nephew, Jack Macklin of Frostproof, Florida, and step-daughters Betty Dibble, Marjorie Garrison and Jean Ponty. In addition, she will be missed by her many friends around the world who knew her through her dedication to the American Peony Society.

A private service was held in Tobias, Nebraska with interment in the Tobias Cemetery. Memorials to honor her life may be sent to: Greta Kessenich Endowment, American Peony Society, Attention: Lori Pallela, 197 West Penny Lane, South Barrington, IL 60010.☞

**American Peony Society Convention
101st Annual Meeting & 99th National Exhibition**

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

June 11, 12 & 13, 2004

Getting There—Mansfield is located on US Highway 30, approximately midway between Cleveland and Columbus, west of Interstate 71 Highway.

- To Kingwood Center, from US-30, about eight miles west of I-71 exit at Trimble Road, go south to Park Avenue, then east a short distance to the Kingwood Center entrance—there is a parking lot accessed from Trimble Road.
- Approaching from the south on I-71, exit at State Route 13 and continue northward to intersect Park Avenue in downtown Mansfield, then west about 1.5 miles to Kingwood Center.
- For unloading at Kingwood Center exhibition area, the service gate at the East Side Street is closest to the work area. Otherwise, use the Trimble Road parking lot.
- No air passenger schedules go directly to Mansfield—fly into Cleveland or Columbus, car rentals available.

Convention Hotel—Comfort Inn, 500 North Trimble Road, Mansfield, OH 44906, just south of the US-30 exit to Trimble Road. Phone (419) 529-1000 or (800) 919-9189. The APS convention rate for doubles (1-4 people) and kings (1-2 people) is \$65.95, plus tax (currently 13.2%). The room charge includes free deluxe breakfast buffet each morning. Each room has coffeemaker, ironing board and hair dryer. Other hotel amenities include indoor pool, sauna and spa. Mention the American Peony Society convention when placing reservations. A block of rooms will be held for us until the end of May, after which the rate holds, on as-available basis.

**American Peony Society Convention
101st Annual Meeting & 99th National Exhibition**

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

Friday, June 11

8:00 am

Kingwood Center opens.

1:00 pm

Exhibit Hall and Workshop area available for preparation. Exhibit containers and water service available, courtesy of Kingwood Center.

Saturday, June 12

7:00 — 11:30 am

Set up and enter exhibits, Meeting Hall.

8:00 am

Registration of members and visitors opens.

11:30 am

Meeting Hall closes for judging of entries; workers only until the judging is complete.

2:00 pm

Exhibition opens to the public.

2:30 pm

Educational seminar, Kingwood Hall, lower level meeting room.

6:00 — 6:45 pm

Banquet and meeting room open for dinner seating, beverage service available, Damon's Restaurant, adjacent to hotel.

8:00 pm

Program, business meeting and auction of donated items.

**American Peony Society Convention
101st Annual Meeting & 99th National Exhibition**

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

Sunday, June 13

7:30 am

Board of Directors meeting, Kingwood Center Gate House

10:00 am — 5:00 pm

Exhibition is open to the public.

Banquet & Meeting Room Location—Damon's Restaurant, Clubhouse Room, 490 Trimble Road, adjacent to the Comfort Inn.

Banquet Sign-up—Advance reservations must be made by Thursday, June 10th, to be sure of a seat. Tickets are \$29.00, each, which covers cost of meal, gratuity and miscellaneous program expenses. Late reservations may be paid at the Convention, on space available basis.

Specify choice of dinner entrees with your reservations—Damon's Barbecued Ribs, Prime Rib, Grilled Chicken Breast, Jumbo Breaded Shrimp or Ten-Ounce Sirloin, all choices served with coffee or soft drink and a chocolate cake dessert.

Make payment by check or money order (payable to Don Hollingsworth). Send reservations and payment to Don Hollingsworth, Chairman — 28747 290th Street, Maryville, MO 64468.

Questions: Phone (660) 562 3010; fax (660) 582 8688; e-mail hpeonies@asde.net.

Additional exhibition schedules are available by sending a self-addressed, stamped (37¢) #10 envelope to the editor. One schedule per envelope, please.

Hybrid Peonies

Harvey Buchite — Blaine, Minnesota

RARE BEAUTY ABOUNDS

My first love for the hybrid peonies started when I saw the species *Paeonia peregrina* at the botanical garden in Vienna, Austria. Its glossy chalice of vibrant red petals sparkled in the sun, the golden center making the sight all the more memorable. From this species the red hybrid peony gets its great depth and clarity of color. This richness of color can be found in hybrid peonies such as BRAVURA (Saunders, 1943) and ALEXANDER WOOLLCOTT (Saunders, 1941). From other species, such as *P. macrophylla* used to create early flowering hybrids, come the marvelous yet subtle watercolor washes of pink and pale yellow over the opaque white background, like that found in the beautiful DAWN GLOW (Saunders-Hollingsworth, 1986).

Of the more than 350 different kinds of peonies that I grow, 77 of them are hybrids. I also grow a number of the species peonies used as parents to make the hybrids. Each of these species has its own charm, like *P. veitchii* with its out-facing bloom of lavender rose and *P. tenuifolia* with its fine, ferny growth crowned with a vibrant red flower. Even *P. officinalis* with flowers of deep rose-lavender has interesting foliage and decorative seedpods.

Imagine your garden full of peony bloom two weeks earlier than any of your neighbors. Not only earlier blooms, but with vibrant true red, glowing coral pink, soft opaque salmon, cool lavender, creamy ivory and petals with contrasting flares, picotee edges and veining. Deep sparkling burgundy wine colored shoots are an added attraction as the hybrids emerge with large robust shoots in the early spring, most of them well ahead of the Chinese peony, *Paeonia Lactiflora*.

The best historical records of hybrids, between the familiar Chinese garden peony and one of the other 50 or so recognized peony species or subspecies from around the Mediterranean and Asian regions of distribution, were developed by Professor A. P. Saunders. Recognized for his extensive crossing experiments and exemplary record keeping, he produced 14,000 hybrid plants of which he selected and named some 165 plants he felt worthy of introduction. A few others were never registered and introduced but were used by peony hybridizers. A few of these were later named and introduced by others noting their origins from Dr. Saunders' work.

Eminently collectable, the Saunders' hybrids, as well as those developed by other peony hybridizers, offer many unique and rare beauties for northern gardens.

Few of these hybrids, now 70 years old, have gained wide distribution since their first introduction in the 1930s, 40s and 50s. Most were distributed among members of the American Peony Society as they are, in some cases, slower to increase than the common garden peony. Now a whole new generation of gardeners is falling in love with the charms of the richly rewarding peony.

Rare gems, like ALEXANDER WOOLLCOTT (Saunders, 1941), with its glowing, non-fading scarlet red blooms, draw garden visitors like a magnet. Only enhanced by the dark glossy green foliage, the plants are outstanding garden subjects. Unlike so many of the common garden peonies, which will tolerate potting prior to sale, the hybrids often have very large fleshy roots that are more difficult to divide. When trimmed to fit into even a two-gallon pot the plants often respond with very short growth—sometimes only six-inches tall the next spring. This is really surprising for once they are planted in the garden they are nothing short of robust growers. These small plants in pots do increase in size quickly the first full season after planting in the garden, thus rewarding

gardeners for their anxious waiting.

Professor Saunders recognized that different forms of the same species crossed to the same seed parent produced quite different results in their offspring. The common garden peony, *P. Lactiflora*, with its many good qualities was the parent of approximately 80% of the hybrid peonies he produced. When crossed with *P. officinalis*, the plant used extensively for centuries in monastic medicinal gardens, it produced an exciting race of dark red to pink flowers of outstanding clarity of color that lacked the maroon and purple overtones more common to the very popular French introductions of the Chinese peony, such as VICTOIRE DE LA MARNE (Dessert, 1915).

Some of the early Saunders' hybrids of *P. Lactiflora* and *P. officinalis* such as EREBUS (Saunders, 1938), TANTRUMS (Saunders, 1942) and MARINER (Saunders, 1941) are unknown to today's gardeners. When *P. Lactiflora* was crossed with *P. officinalis* OTTO FROEBEL, two hybrids were produced, LOTUS BLOOM (Saunders, 1943) and VICTORIA LINCOLN ((Saunders, 1938), both still offered for sale. When Saunders used a plant call *Paeonia lobata*, which some believe to be a selection of the species *P. peregrina*, from Mr. Perry of Great Britain, it produced an even more spectacular group of hybrids with even greater brilliance of scarlet red color. Some of the best worth noting include: ALEXANDER WOOLLCOTT (Saunders, 1941), CARDINALS ROBE (Saunders, 1940) and EDWARD STEICHEN (Saunders, 1941). While most of these are single to semi-double they are no less spectacular in the garden and have the added benefit of extremely strong stems, holding the flowers upright in the garden without special staking or the use of hoops. In Rice Creek Gardens' growing and display fields, these plants are the center of attention as they begin our peony bloom season.

While many of the hybrids gained recognition for their brilliant red color ranging from cherry, fiery orange-red, scarlet,

mahogany, chestnut to nearly black, there exists pinks from creamy cameo through salmon, coral and vibrant shocking pink, as well as a whole series of whites that possess a solid opaque quality, including ivory and creamy yellows.

Now from more modern hybridizers who have introduced the intersectional hybrids between garden and tree peonies, true sunshine yellow has been achieved in such wonderful plants as GARDEN TREASURE (Hollingsworth, 1984), PRAIRIE CHARM (Hollingsworth, 1992), and the older intersectional hybrids YELLOW CROWN (Itoh–Smirnow, 1974) and YELLOW EMPEROR (Itoh–Smirnow, 1974). These are the most asked about peonies when in bloom. It's a joy to see a gardener running from row to row seeing hybrid peonies in bloom for the first time and funny when they ask, "What are these strange looking plants with poppy flowers on them?" Then I know we have another peony enthusiast on his way to adding one or more of these wonderful plants to his garden.

Dr. Saunders was not the only one to produce hybrids, but because he published his findings and results in popular magazines, the local press and the *APS Bulletin*, a greater awareness and focus was created. As *Bulletin* editor, Saunders had a platform in which to showcase his work to those who were most interested in peony culture advancements.

Lyman Glasscock of Illinois was the first to exhibit a hybrid peony named LEGIONAIRE (Glasscock, 1928) at the APS National Show in Des Moines, Iowa in 1924. Side-by-side comparison of hybrids produced by Saunders, Glasscock, Wissing, Cousins, Auten, Mains and Bockstoce readily show the high quality achieved by these hybridizers, too.

Continued work by modern hybridizers, such as Roy Klehm, Don Hollingsworth, Bill Kreckler, Roger Anderson, Dr. David Reath and his son, Scott, and wife, Elizabeth, are all producing some wonderful hybrid peonies. The process from seed-

ling to first bloom and selection for increase may take ten years or longer. After its first division, increasing stock may take five more years until first release—and then another four years to see a second release. So, “start to finish” it may take 15–20 years from first bloom for a new hybrid to gain a foothold in the popular circle of the peony fancier, and a few more years to reach the general gardening public.

Crosses between other species not involving *P. Lactiflora* have also produced some notably beautiful plants such as PICO-TEE (Saunders, 1949), which has white flowers with a wonderful pink edge to each petal. The plant with its large leaves is also quite distinctive. I first saw this hybrid blooming in Calgary, Canada while at a rock garden conference.

While the hybrids are noted for early season bloom and most are single to semi-double, you can find some of the best double reds with incredible large flowers and strong stems. Some of the best include: RED CHARM (Glasscock, 1944), DIANA PARKS (Bockstoce, 1942) and RED GRACE (Glasscock–R. Klehm, 1980). Some, such as CAROL (Bockstoce, 1955) and HENRY BOCKSTOCE (Bockstoce, 1955), have such beautiful, large, heavy flowers they are worth the added effort of staking. Recently there have even been some hybrid Japanese forms registered and introduced by Don Hollingsworth.

In warmer growing areas, the hybrids are known to go dormant earlier in the season, although this habit is not quite as strong here in Minnesota where our growing season is shorter. Perhaps our cool weather occurs earlier in the fall. Most have good foliage through the end of August or early September.

Reports from northern growers in Canada and Alaska have shown that after a severely cold winter without snow cover the hybrids have shown more winter injury compared to the Chinese peony, *P. Lactiflora*. Despite these reports, peony shows staged by the Minnesota Peony Society for at least the

past 40 years, show a good representation of many of the hybrids. Poor growth blamed on these and other plants often have other reasons, such as poor drainage, lack of nutrition, tree root competition or cutting the foliage down after bloom. Another reason for poor growth: inadequate watering during critical growing periods—while making roots in the late fall or during bloom season when there is a greater demand for water to open and support the blooms.

Of note is that at Rice Creek Gardens where we have grown these hybrids in a rich organic peat soil and a sandy soil, performance and root size on the sandy soil has been excellent. Sandy soil often is reported as being bad for peony growing, but the hybrids certainly show no decrease in vigor when grown in sandy soils. Roots have grown to over four-feet-long in two growing seasons! Almost all of the species growing in sandy soil perform well, although the species *P. veitchii* seems to grow better in fields with more organic matter.

SOME OF MY FAVORITE HYBRID PEONIES

SMOUTH (Smout–Malines, 1843) is the oldest hybrid I grow, predating the Saunders' hybrids. It is a hybrid from a cross between the fern leaf peony and *P. Lactiflora*. It is often confused with and sold as *Paeonia anomala* a similar looking species. SMOUTH's buds are smaller than peas and its bright red flowers open well before Chinese peonies.

Of the Saunders' hybrids I have always loved ALEXANDER WOOLLCOTT (Saunders, 1941) with its vibrant scarlet semi-double cupped flowers. BRAVURA (Saunders, 1943), a strong-growing, single-flowered red, is interesting with its white flare on the outside base of the petals and a touch of glowing orange undertones. CAMPAGNA (Saunders, 1941) is a single white with green undertones and no hint of pink. I have it growing next to CLAIRE DE LUNE (White–Wild, 1954), which makes CAMPAGNA's clear white look more startling and the CLAIRE DE LUNE more yellow. CORALIE (Saunders, 1940),

longtime a favorite with its large top-shaped buds opening to a glowing coral pink with crepe textured petals makes a strong statement in the garden. I searched a long time to find the fern leaf and *P. veitchii* WOODWARD hybrid EARLYBIRD (Saunders, 1951) with its petite habit and outfacing scarlet red blooms developing from petite pointed buds. It has a pride of place in my home garden in front of a weeping crabapple, which forms a cascade of pink blossoms at the same time the EARLYBIRD peony is in bloom. Robust and strong growing the semi-double red EDWARD STEICHEN (Saunders, 1941) has been outstanding and was added after seeing the blooms exhibited at a peony show. FIRELIGHT (Saunders, 1950), one of the quadruple hybrids involving four species in its background, is a single pink with darker flares. Not a fast increaser but a strong grower, I rarely see it offered even by the specialist peony growers.

Orville Fay of Illinois introduced five hybrids. I have grown four of them—all good growers. BLAZE (Faye, 1973) a red single, CORAL FAY (Fay, 1973) a coral pink with a pleasant fragrance and PAULA FAY (Fay, 1968) which is perhaps his most widely grown semi-double shocking pink hybrid with glossy foliage and strong stems bearing a picture perfect crop of flowers every year. His most famous creamy yellow hybrid PRAIRIE MOON (Fay, 1959) is in such high demand I end up selling all I have available leaving only tiny scraps to replant. This makes the wait for the next crop even longer for those wanting to add it to their collection.

Lyman Glasscock's hybrids are wonderful, strong plants. He introduced 76 hybrids, including BURMA RUBY (Glasscock, 1951), a single red. The wide semi-double chalice- formed bloom of CRUSADER (Glasscock, 1940) has a bright gold center for added contrast. It is really a fine, strong-growing plant. FLAME (Glasscock, 1939), a single with a combination of red and orange that blend to give it a glowing coral color, is very popular and a knockout in full bloom in display rows. The

plant in my home garden had over 30 blooms, four years after planting out a piece too small to sell. Different than most of his red hybrids is the delightful apple blossom pink FRIENDSHIP (Glasscock–Falk, 1955) with glossy foliage and perfect garden presentation. MAHOGANY (Glasscock, 1937) is a deep colored single with light green foliage. It is stunning when used in floral arrangements as it has little pollen to shed and spoil its bloom. Although a recent addition to my collection, I have admired ILLINI WARRIOR (Glasscock–Falk, 1955) since first seeing it in a friend's garden in Thunder Bay, Canada. RED GRACE (Glasscock–R. Klehm, 1980), a full double perfectly round, globe-like flower is stunning and a real performer. Nearly, if not slightly larger than, four-feet tall, the bright red SCARLET O'HARA (Glasscock–Falk, 1956) has stood tall in our driveway garden at home and was one of the first hybrid peonies I grew along with PAULA FAY (Fay, 1968). As its flower fades it becomes a pleasing pink. With a fair number of attempts, I have a few seeds from SCARLET O'HARA, which were pollinated by *P. peregrina*. Perhaps Mr. Glasscock's most famous hybrid is the double red bomb, RED CHARM (Glasscock, 1944), early blooming, beautifully formed, vibrant pure red.

CUT FLOWERS, COMPANIONS & ATTRACTIVE FOLIAGE

I have only a few of Walter Mains' hybrids. One of my favorites is the chestnut red, semi-double BUCKEYE BELLE (Mains, 1956). While a strong grower, it too is slow to increase, giving few but well budded divisions when it is divided. Used as a cut flower it looks great with brightly colored lupines to make a dramatic contrast to the dark blooms. His Japanese form namesake, WALTER MAINS (Mains, 1957), has impressive blooms.

Bill Kreckler has probably registered more peonies than anyone (381 all together) and lists a significant number as hybrids. Many have yet to reach the market and are distributed by Song Sparrow Farm. THUMBELINA (Krekler–Klehm,

1985) and TINKERBELLE (Krekler–Klehm, 1985) are two he released in what are called the Rock Garden Series. Both are very early blooming and quite small growing—charming plants with very attractive foliage.

Sam Wissing of Lombard, Illinois introduced the wonderful coral colored series of which CORAL CHARM (Wissing, 1964) is a huge favorite with its large, almost antique-rose form, semi-double coral blooms held on strong stems. As the flower ages it even takes on apricot tones and colors unknown in the peony world.

Lyman Cousins of Canada also introduced some wonderful plants. His TOPEKA CORAL (Cousins–Bigger, 1975) is an incredibly beautiful pink bomb with coral undertones. It is so large that it must be staked and supported when the blooms are fully open.

I have to mention a few others, such as the really lovely WINDCHIMES (Reath, 1984), which has that wonderfully rare lavender color that is so soft and peaceful looking. Only LAVENDER (Saunders, 1939) can compare.

To extend your bloom season and color palette, I hope you will give some of these lovely hybrid peonies a try in your garden.☺

"I love spring anywhere,
but if I could choose I
would always greet it in
the garden." – RUTH STOUT

Q & A

As a result of members' comments and suggestions, I would like to introduce a new feature in the *Bulletin*. Thank you to Ruud for sending in the first question. If you have an answer or would like to pose a new question, please reply to the editor (address and deadlines on page 5). Responses will be printed in subsequent issues of the *Bulletin*. I hope you will choose to participate in the dialogue. — Editor

This edition's featured question.....

Last summer I noticed leaf blotch in some cultivars I grow. However, the varieties had all something in common: they all had *officinalis*-blood in their veins. Varieties like CAROL, RED CHARM, BUCKEYE BELLE and *Paeonia tenuifolia* RUBRA PLENA all had brownish purple colouring of their leaves. It was getting worse during advancing of summer. I suspect it concerns a certain fungus that affects the leaves, causing an excessive anthocyanin production in the plant resulting in the leaf blotch. I don't expect any real reduction in growth; I've seen it before and no bad results then. This year it was very extreme, probably due to the very hot summer we experienced here in Holland. Does anybody know any specifics of this phenomenon, and why does this just occur in the hybrids with *officinalis* as one of the parents?

Cheers,

Ruud Warmerdam
The Netherlands



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Annual Meeting Benefit Auction

Don Hollingsworth, Convention Chairman
Maryville, Missouri

There will again be an auction of plants and peony related items in connection with the Saturday evening banquet and program of our annual meeting.

Gift plants may be in containers, which the lucky buyer can take with them, or plants to be shipped in autumn by the contributor (USA destinations). Any named peonies or species will be welcomed. It will be especially interesting to have new varieties and rare old kinds, as well as more widely available sorts. Commitments of plants will be accepted up to and including the hour of the auction.

Peony related non-plant items will be appreciated, as well. The proceeds of the auction will be used to help finance the annual budget of our Society.☞

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OF INTEREST ...

Peony Flower Show hosted by the Portland (OR) Classical Chinese Garden, at NW 3rd and Everett adjacent to Portland's Chinatown on June 4, 5 and 6, 2004. The flower show is free after Garden admission. This is not a competition, but a display for the public to see the wide variety of flower types and colors of the beautiful peony flower.

For more info: www.chinesegarden.org/primarypage.htm or (503) 228-8131.

APS Seed Distribution Program 2004

Harvey Buchite, Director — Blaine, Minnesota

Thank you to the 11 APS members who donated more than 80 different kinds of seed to the Seed Program this year. Some of the seed has already been sent to members throughout the United States and Europe. Seeds are packed and labeled with as much information as provided by the donors. Each pack will usually contain from 5–10 seeds, which is sufficient for most home gardeners. When we receive larger quantities of seed, we include a larger packet. What seeds we have to offer will of course change from year to year as we depend on donations from members.

HOW TO REQUEST SEED

Members can request up to three different packets of seed. We are unable to send a refund if a particular kind is no longer available. Because of this we ask you to please include a list of substitutes as some packs are in short supply and we may use your list to include a bonus pack as a thank you for supplying the substitute list.

US and Canadian members, please enclose a check or money order for \$2.00 with your request. Members from all other countries please send \$4.00. The funds are used to cover the cost of seed envelopes, padded mailing envelope and postage. Send payment (checks made out to Harvey Buchite) and requests (with substitute list) to Harvey Buchite, APS Seed Distribution Director, 813 Elm Street, Anoka, MN 55303.

If you would like more than three packets of seed, you can request additional packets for a nominal fee of \$1.00 per packet for named seed parent lactifloras and early hybrids. And, \$2.00 for tree peony, species and named seed parent hybrid seed. Be sure to include payment with your request and again a list of substitutes.☞

APS Seed Distribution Program 2004

The following seeds are available for distribution this year:

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LACTI SEMIDBL WHITE

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MARY BRAND
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ROOSEVELT
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BO PEEP
CHARM
COMANCHE
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TERRY GRUDEM

LACTI SINGLE RED

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TREE PEONIES

FENG DAN BAI
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BUTTERFLY
OFUJUNISHIKI
PHOENIX WHITE
SAHOHIME
Chinese tree peony
Joseph Rock hybrids
Mixed suffruticosa
Pastel tree peony
Single white tree peony
Tree peony and early
 hybrids mixed

Toichi Itoh's Four Original Intersectional Hybrid Peonies

James Langhammer - Royal Oak, Michigan

Harris Olson acquired the four Itoh intersectional peonies shortly after their introduction to the United States (refer to the *APS Bulletin* #184, March 1967). Since then, the plants have been grown both on the grounds of the Detroit Zoological Park and the Congregational Church of Birmingham (Michigan). So many people have off-handedly dismissed these four sibling peonies as identical that I felt it important to document the subtle differences as I see them before I reach a point when I will be unable to do so.

POSSIBLE METHODS TO DIFFERENTIATE THEM

For many years I have known of differences in the vegetation between the plants, but had not photographed or otherwise documented those distinctions. Therefore, I decided to attempt to do this during 2002 and the 2003 bloom season. All four plants were tracked daily at the Congregational Church of Birmingham where they are planted about three-feet apart in a straight line without any apparent micro-climatic differences. All are in full mid-day sun with shade from trees in early morning and late afternoon. The soil is a friable clay-loam. Moisture is primarily from natural rainfall and the church is in climatic zone 5/6.

The flowers are essentially all the same between the four cultivars. The flowers open a good yellow with pale red flares at the bases of the petals—within 24 hours the flares have paled almost to disappearing against the yellow petals. The pistils all seem to be uniform yellow-green. Otherwise:

Opinions & Observations & Opinions & Observations & Opinions & Observations & Opinions

YELLOW HEAVEN has small, elongated flower buds that are drawn out to a sharp point, but by anthesis the buds are almost round. The enveloping sepals are, for the most part, red in color. The plant habit is short, wide and open.

YELLOW EMPEROR has elongated flower buds drawn out to a sharp point right up to anthesis. The enveloping sepals are, for the most part, red in color. The plant habit is short, wide and open.

YELLOW CROWN has round and green flower buds; no red is apparent in the sepals and red shows only slightly on the stems. This cultivar has distinctive growth habit—it averages about six to ten inches taller than the others and the stems are stiffly upright to as much as 36 inches.

YELLOW DREAM has round flower buds. The enveloping sepals are, for the most part, red in color. The plant habit is short, wide and open.

Some people have speculated that **YELLOW EMPEROR** might have a higher number of carpels than the others. In 2003, I spent considerable time evaluating that factor. As I suspected, the carpel number has no significance if the count is done over many flowers of all sizes and positionings. All four named original Itohs typically have five to seven carpels in a normal flower. It is not uncommon, though, to see a carpel with two stigmas that has an incomplete division or has fully divided to the base, only to produce two undersized carpels. If you take into consideration these undersized carpels which I suspect are infertile, I found carpel counts to be as high as eight to ten in individual flowers—but never typical of an entire plant! The following summarizes those counts:

Opinions & Observations & Opinions & Observations & Opinions & Observations & Opinions

From the table below, it is apparent that I can find no real distinction between YELLOW HEAVEN and YELLOW EMPEROR. If I were to make a recommendation, it would be to grow one of either of these two and also YELLOW CROWN to get the full range of the physical phenotypes from this cross.☞

	TYPICAL CARPEL COUNTS	MAXIMUM CARPEL COUNTS
Yellow Heaven	5 - 7	8
Yellow Emperor	5 - 7	10
Yellow Crown	5 - 6	9
Yellow Dream	5	9

Opinions & Observations & Opinions & Observations & Opinions & Observations & Opinions

2004 DEADLINES FOR BULLETIN COPY & ADVERTISING

March issue – January 25 (release date, February 25)

June issue – April 25 (release date, May 25)

September issue – July 25 (release date, August 25)

December issue – October 25 (release date, November 25)

The Bulletin welcomes unsolicited contributions of proposals, manuscripts and photos from APS members. (Please see page 41 for more details.)

Have Peonies, Will Travel... to Mansfield

Don Hollingsworth, Exhibition Chairman
Maryville, Missouri

Enthusiasm is always high at the APS conventions. While the entire program of activities will support that enthusiasm, perhaps nothing is more eagerly anticipated than the flower exhibits. At recent past meetings, the tables of exhibits have been especially lush and colorful. Wonderful ranges of peony flower types in fabulous colors have crowded the tables.

It is the growers and gardeners in the nearby areas who have usually played a major role in rounding out the quantity of exhibits. Entries of amateur and novice exhibitors have been a big factor—Mansfield should be no exception. Let us all make a special effort to match those past performances this year. The more people involved in the process, the better will be the exhibition and the celebration!

Peonies are so versatile and well-adapted to refrigerator storage that many of them will readily hold for weeks and still make a suitable display. We hope to have a good representation of flowers from middle and more northerly peony growing latitudes. This should give as many different sorts as possible in an effort to round out the show. In my exhibiting experience, we have had respectable specimen entries by holding cut stems dry, in refrigeration, enclosed by plastic bags. Storage in water can work well, also, but this article is about how to make the most of limited refrigerator space. One can be quite surprised at how many stems can be stored flat on a single shelf.

SELECTING STEMS & CUTTING

The best flowers for exhibition will likely be found among those

from the strongest growing stems—all side buds having been removed while small. Look for the stems that are thickest immediately below the flower bud. As the flower buds mature make note of which ones you think will be the better prospects and try to capture them at a suitable stage of advancement. For short term storage and with more doubled forms, the guideline is to cut at “soft bud”. Test the buds using two fingers beneath and press at top center with the thumb. You are looking for the “fresh-marshmallow” feel.

Many-petalled full doubles will be partly opened before the center is sufficiently soft. That is where bagging comes in—this protects against fading colors, particularly important with the lighter pinks and especially those sorts that open one side first. Choose paper bags of a size that will hold the petals from unfurling completely. Put them in place before the petals commence to show at the spreading bud covers. Make a hole at the corner for ventilation and secure the bag beneath the bud to keep it on. Continue to feel the opening bud through the bag to judge the cutting stage. The most doubled forms (petals most tightly packed) are generally later flowering and will be held for a shorter time than earlier sorts. Thus, they can usually be cut at a more advanced stage and still be in favorable condition for the exhibit date.

Single, Japanese and Anemone class flowers will likely need to be cut tighter than full doubles, yet harder than soft bud. Earlier flowering sorts must be taken at a harder stage in order to keep through the longer storage period. We have cut the very early hybrid ROSELETTE (Saunders, 1950) when the bud covers were not quite showing a line of petal color (compared with slightly more advanced buds) and they were suitable for Memorial Day decoration four weeks later.

With the Bomb class flowers, the general rule is to cut them when the bud covers are loosening and an edge of the true color is showing. If you are cutting them closer to exhibition

time the bloom can be more advanced—up to almost fully open when the show coincides with bloom time in your garden.

Cut softer, any peony opens sooner; if harder it develops more slowly. The one extreme is that they can be cut so hard that they never open. The other is that they can be cut so advanced they expend their vase life while yet in storage. Try it—success improves with experience!

PREPARATION, STORAGE & TRANSPORT

Tag the stems as they are collected in the field or avoid gathering them in mixed bunches for tagging at the packaging area. All peony flowers to be entered for the exhibition should be tagged with the correct name, Novice Division excluded (see the show schedule rules). Figuring out the individual identities of buds or partly opened flowers after you return to the preparation area can be impossible. Use plastic or wood tags attached just below the flower—paper will deteriorate. Cut stems long enough that when they are re-cut to take up water at the exhibition site the stem length will meet the rule: approximately twelve inches.

For APS exhibitions and most other uses, remove all but the uppermost leaves, especially any fungus-spotted or damaged leaves. This reduces both bulk and the leaf area giving off moisture inside the package when stored. If the gray mold blight fungus (*botrytis*) is present, it will continue to develop in the cool, humid conditions of storage and destroy the usefulness of the flower.

It is good to immediately place stems in water as they are cut. Some people like to condition them for a couple hours in water before packaging. If a vase-life extender is used, it can be added during this pre-storage water soak.

For storing, package the buds in thin poly bags—polyethylene plastic permits gas exchange so that the needed oxygen is

available. We often use recycled Sunday newspaper bags and grocery plastic bags, too. Fasten tightly to guard against drying and tape any holes since a “frost free” refrigerator environment can be very harsh. Dr. Karen Gast, Kansas State University, doing research in storage and handling of peonies for florist use, found large size *Ziploc*TM bags, or equivalent, easy for packaging—choose a large enough size to accommodate the needed stem length.

We bunch a suitable quantity of buds to fit in the package and wrap them loosely with a single sheet of newsprint as protection from contact with the moisture which collects on the inside surface of the plastic. Wrapping them too tight can cause distortion of the petals as advancement proceeds. Bags on individual buds should remain.

Handling options for transport depend on mode of travel, distance and convenience. For long distance auto transport, we place the packages unopened in picnic “coolers” large enough to alternate the packages with buds at both ends, the stems to the center. There will be space for one or more “blue ice” units or other cold source in center on top of the stems. By this method, one does not put the stems in water until arrival at the show location.

Schedule travel to arrive in the early afternoon the day before the judging. Using the exhibit entry bottles provided at the show site, unpack, re-cut the stem ends to fresh tissue and place in water to freshen and finish opening. By the following morning most will look great or, better yet, splendid for the exhibition. In this manner, a quantity of buds can be transported in an auto, substantially more in a minivan.

The flowers can also be “opened” at home, in which case it is not necessary to arrive so early at the show site, possibly delaying arrival until the morning of the show. Put the stems in water, allowing approximately the same amount of time for

them to freshen—travel time included. Do not remove the bags until arrival at the show site. Because opened specimens must be transported in water, they will take up more room per stem in your vehicle. It is best to keep them in the cooled interior of a car, rather than the trunk, except for very short distances.

For distant transport, air travel serves well. In my one air transport experience, some buds had been packed in a “carry on” size box to Hamilton, Ontario in Canada. No flower quality was lost. Some years later when the Society returned to Hamilton, we drove. It was a two-day trip, with the packaged buds in coolers. Upon opening the packages the flowers were found warm, some had deteriorated. The coolers had been in the air-conditioned interior, but setting directly on the highway-warmed floor and too close together for good circulation of the cooled air (now we put a salvaged warehouse pallet on the van floor, under the coolers). A few spoiled flowers aside, we were nonetheless able to stage a nice showing. One of the marvels of peony flowers is how well they hold up—under less than satisfactory conditions.

IT'S SHOW TIME!

Familiarize yourself with the exhibition schedule and specimen rules well before arrival at the show. Once there, the pressure and excitement builds—entries must be in place by 11:30 am. Inasmuch as some flowers are continuing to open, best choices for a particular class may change as the morning progresses. Bring a photocopy of the exhibition schedule included with this *Bulletin*. Come prepared with writing tools, spare stem tags for variety name and a quick way of putting your name and address on the entry tags—*e.g.*, stickers or a rubber stamp, if available.

Official tags will be furnished at the exhibition and extra schedules will be available. On your entry tags be careful to fill out the Division and Class information accurately. You

can expect that entries in the wrong class will be disqualified from consideration for awards by the judges. Winning awards is always gratifying. However, every respectable entry on the show tables receives the gratitude and appreciation of everyone who views the exhibition.

For another discussion of handling exhibition peonies look up the article on this subject in *APS' Handbook of the Peony*. (See information on inside front cover to order.)

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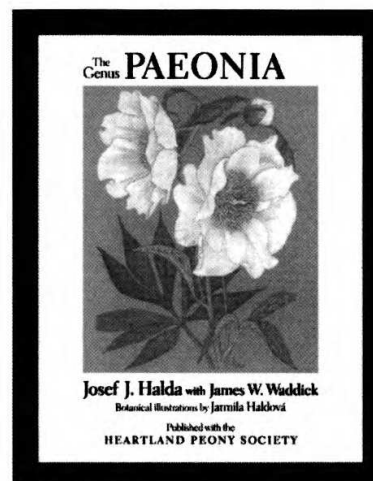
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The Genus *Paeonia*

Josef J. Halda
with James W. Waddick

Botanical illustrations

by Jarmila Haldová



Peonies, of the genus *Paeonia*, are among the most dramatic and beautiful flowers for gardens. Although species of *Paeonia* are found in the wild throughout the Northern Hemisphere, they are mainly associated with Asia and Asian gardens. Josef Halda is one of the few botanists who has traveled to see every known peony species and subspecies in the wild, often in extremely remote areas. He documents 25 species in these pages, including 40 subspecies and varieties.

Although this work carries the mantle of authority from Halda's work in taxonomy, it is also a helpful resource for everyday gardeners who wish to try even the rarest peonies in their gardens. James Waddick has teamed up with Josef Halda to provide valuable information on growing peony species, with a full account of cultivation requirements, hardiness, propagation, and diseases and pests. The text is graced with the stunning botanical paintings of Jarmila Haldová, Josef Halda's wife and one of Europe's leading book illustrators. Haldova has also contributed dozens of useful line drawings of peony characters to aid in identification. *The Genus Paeonia* is a rare work of beauty, science, and practical value.

Josef J. Halda was a botanist at the Botanical Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences prior to starting his renowned seed-collecting business. His wife, Jarmila Haldová, an accomplished illustrator of children's books, makes his plants accessible with her distinctively beautiful, botanically accurate drawings.

James W. Waddick lives and gardens in Kansas City, Missouri. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Kansas. He was an early member of the Species Peony International Network and a founder of the Heartland Peony Society. He is active in several plant societies, including the American Iris Society. He is the co-author of *Iris of China*.

Sponsored by the **Heartland Peony Society**, which helped fund its publication.

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LOCAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

CANADIAN PEONY SOCIETY

www.peony.ca email@peony.ca

Box 69507, 109 Thomas St., Oakville, ON

June 19. Annual General Meeting and Show — Rideau Hall in Ottawa. Open to the public, 2–6 pm, and June 20, 10 am–4 pm. There are speakers on peony topics planned for both days.

June 6. Ontario Regional Show — Royal Botanical Gardens, in Hamilton. Access for exhibitors on June 5 at 4 pm and June 6 at 8 am, entries to be placed by 10 am. Open to the public from noon–4 pm.

Early August. Tree Peony Grafting Seminar; venue to be announced.

HEARTLAND PEONY SOCIETY

www.peonies.org

April 28, May 1, 2 & 4. (tentative dates) Linda Hall Library Tree Peony Tour — Kansas City.

May 16. Tour of members' gardens. For more information on the May events contact Paul Crosby: (816) 779-0204 or rxman87@yahoo.com.

August 14. Fall Grafting Workshop — Kansas City, 9am–Noon. Course will teach you how to choose and prepare rootstock, select scions. Learn two different methods of grafting and make a complete graft. All materials and supplies will be furnished for a small fee. Info: lpesnell@grapevine.net.

October 2. Fall Potluck Dinner and Auction.

MAINE PEONY SOCIETY

June 19. Garden Tour — Bangor, ME, 10am–3 pm. For more information contact Ken Liberty: phone (207) 945-9726 or e-mail: keliberty@aol.com.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

MINNESOTA PEONY SOCIETY

For events information contact Harvey Buchite, Newsletter Editor: info@ricecreekgardens.com.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST PEONY SOCIETY

www.pnwpeony.org

March 13. Annual Meeting — Greenwood Inn, Beaverton, OR. The morning program will be for members and registration will include lunch. After lunch, a program open to the public with basic peony growing tips and a peony planting demonstration, followed by peony auction. Speaker: Tim McKergow of Janefield Paeonies, Dunedin, New Zealand; Growing Peonies for Cut Flowers. There will also be a no host dinner on the evening of March 12, at the Greenwood Inn. For more information contact Carol Adelman: phone (503) 393-6185, fax (503) 393-3457, e-mail carol@peonyparadise.com.

PRAIRIE PEONY SOCIETY

June 24, 25 & 26. Annual Show — Victoria Square Mall, Regina, Saskatchewan. Entries taken on the evening of June 24, and early morning of June 25. Some sections open to non-members. For more information phone (306) 586-9598.

PEONY SPROUTS – continued from page 45

Finally, an online peony group member reported from China, from Heze in Shandoung province, that some 20,000 tree peony plants were being forced for early bloom this Spring. In late January, the buds were beginning to swell. It seems that tree peonies in China are sold in much the same way that azaleas are sold in the U.S. Most of the Heze-raised peonies are destined for province government departments, with the general public able to buy these peonies during the spring festival period. What a nice tradition!🌸

The American Peony Society Bulletin: Cumulative Table of Contents

Reiner Jakubowski – Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

Over the last couple of years I have been working on creating a cumulative table of contents for the *Bulletin*. It is a project I had discussed with Greta a few years ago and she told me that this had been on her mind for a long time, but that the other work of the Society didn't allow her the time to do anything about it. She was very pleased when I wrote last year to tell her that I had been working on it as an APS Centennial project, even though I wasn't able to finish it in time for the celebrations.

The table of contents, covering every issue of the *Bulletin* beginning with Number 1, and concluding with Number 328, is now almost complete. Thirty issues remain to be entered, and when complete there will be about 7,200 entries. Chances are very good that it will be finished by the time you receive this *Bulletin*.

Completion is a relative concept since more times than not, the title of articles don't begin to convey the detail of their content. Over the years, routinely recurring events have been reported under differing title formats. This makes simple sorting of the entries by title incapable of grouping together articles on the same event, let alone topic.

A number of strategies were employed in an attempt to overcome these shortcomings. Among them were renaming articles so that they conformed to a standardized format, adding dates to titles, and creating a "Topics" entry, which tries to apply a few words to define the major theme of the article.

Opinions & Observations & Opinions & Observations & Opinions & Observations & Opinions

The "Topics" key words were selected to reflect my interest at the time I was doing the work, and so they won't be adequate to every query. The fact must be emphasized that this is not an index. And so will never be complete to serve all needs.

BENEFITS OF A SEARCHABLE DATABASE

The table exists as a spreadsheet file with six columns (date, *Bulletin* number, page number, title, author and topic). There are four logical sort criteria: chronological, title, author or topic. It soon becomes a very big book and no matter how one sorts, one will lose the benefits of a searchable database which one has if it were available as a digital file. I believe the Society should consider adding this to their website in a form with search capabilities.

Of what use is this Table of Contents when very few members have a complete set of *Bulletins* at their disposal? Complete sets do exist. The Society should have one, as several members have at one time or other bequeathed their sets to the Society. Some sets exist in botanical gardens' libraries. There is a set at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, and probably one at Kingwood Centre, and other similar facilities. Knowing the references, you should be able to get someone to send photocopies of anything you're interested in.

This work would not exist had I not been able to do over 75% of it at home. It was the time involved in repeatedly doing manual searches through the *Bulletins* that suggested a cumulative table of contents would be less work in the long run. That I was in a position to be able to undertake this work I owe to fellow APS member, Fred Gentner of Kitchener, Ontario, and the estate of the late Wally Gilbert of Elora, Ontario. Fred and Wally's estates combined to provide me

with an almost complete set of *Bulletins* beginning with the June 1936 issue, up until my own membership began.

History is very important to us as a society and as individuals. It is through our history that we know how we fit in. The American Peony Society is no different. In the pages of the *Bulletin* we find the personalities, the peonies, and the events that shaped our Society. When we read these pages we find that their vision is now our vision, and that many of the problems they encountered are with us still. The path from then to now was not always straight and narrow, but we got here just the same. Through it all was the Bulletin and we owe much to the editors and contributors of the past for providing us with such an interesting record. ♪

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Submitting Items for Publication

CONTACT INFORMATION

The telephone number I provide is connected to a phone in my office and usually answered during business hours only. If I am unavailable, please use the voice mail feature and I will return the call as soon as possible. Claudia Schroer, Editor – APS Bulletin, 713 White Oak Lane, Gladstone, MO 64116-4607. Office phone (816) 459-9386; Fax (816) 459-7430. E-mail to: cjschroer@kc.rr.com.

MEMBERSHIP / BULLETIN

New feature in this area is concerning gift memberships. “Your gardening friends will appreciate gift memberships. Upon request we will send a complimentary gift card in your name.” Send a note with the membership application for this service.

2004 DEADLINES FOR BULLETIN COPY & ADVERTISING

March issue – January 25 (release date, February 25)

June issue – April 25 (release date, May 25)

September issue – July 25 (release date, August 25)

December issue – October 25 (release date, November 25)

Articles will be accepted in any format, including handwritten. When submitting pictures, slides and uncorrected digital photos (at least 300 dpi output size) are preferred. If you are submitting a long and/or complex article, you may want to contact the editor and discuss availability of space and other concerns.

2004 CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING RATES

\$.20 per word, minimum 20 words – anything set off by spaces is considered a word. Hyphens count as spaces. All classified ads in standard type. This is a new feature providing inexpensive advertising, available to all members.

2004 DISPLAY ADVERTISING RATES

New rates effective March 1, 2004.

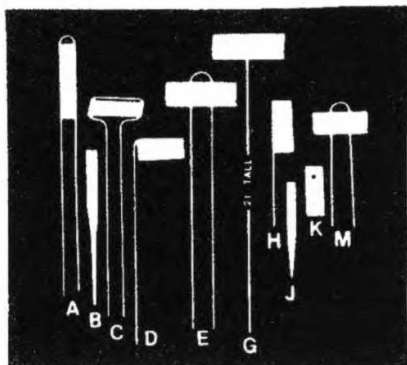
1/4 page – each ad \$15.00

1/2 page – each ad \$25.00

Full page – each ad \$35.00

Deduct a 10% discount on prepaid standing ads running for four consecutive issues. Ads must be mailed, postmarked on or before the published deadline and payment must be included. Courtesy layout is available. See the June issue for color ad rates and specifications. Current plans are to allocate space within the *Bulletin's* September issue to showcase new introductions at a nominal cost.

The Permanent Metal Label



A—Hairpin Style Markers	100 / \$30.40
B—Plant or Shrub Labels	100 / \$12.85
C—Cap Style Markers	100 / \$25.25
D—Swinging Style Markers	100 / \$23.45
E—Rose Markers	100 / \$29.35
F—Tall Display Markers	100 / \$36.25
G—Tall Single Staff Markers	100 / \$29.10
H—Flag Style Markers	100 / \$23.50
J—Small Plant Labels	100 / \$12.70
K—Tie-On Labels	100 / \$18.75
M—Miniature Markers	100 / \$23.10

INTRODUCTORY OFFER

1 EACH: A, B, C, D, E, H, J and K
With Waterproof Crayon, Only \$4.45

Paw Paw Everlast Label Company

P.O. BOX 93-AP

PAW PAW, MICHIGAN 49079-0093

QUANTITY PRICES AVAILABLE

PRICES INCLUDE PREPAID POSTAGE

Donations for the Greta Kessenich Memorial Endowment Fund are still being accepted. Plans are to use the Fund in efforts (soil, pots) to remove the peonies from Greta's lovely gardens, prior to the coming demolition of her home. We look forward to the possibility of offering Greta's plants to our Members at the 2005 APS Show. Thank you for your support of this effort. Those wishing to contribute may send a check, payable to the American Peony Society (APS), to:

**Attention: Lori Pallela
197 West Penny Road
South Barrington, IL 60010**

Mark Your Calendar — June 11, 12 & 13
Don Hollingsworth, Meeting Chairman
Maryville, Missouri

FOR PEONY CELEBRATION, APPRECIATION, ANTICIPATION

Plan now to take part in our annual meeting and exhibition in Mansfield, Ohio. Beautiful Kingwood Center is a great place for us to come together to celebrate our special interest in peonies. Bill Collins and his colleagues there have been gracious hosts for previous meetings there, and we look forward to the pleasure of being with them again. See lodging details on page 9 and schedule outline on pages 10 and 11. Educational activities will be detailed in the June Bulletin, or contact the convention chairman (contact information on page 11) directly, if desired before.

All attendees are invited to bring exhibits in order that we may have a well-rounded show. Let us make every effort to portray the broad appreciation of peony beauty that is available in this day. The dates have been chosen to be somewhat intermediate in the flowering season dates from south to more northern climates, so that it is possible to have the full range of flowers exhibited.

Originators are especially urged to exhibit new varieties and selected seedlings. Names have been published for numerous new peonies in the recent decade. However, we have seen all too few of these. Anticipation always runs high of what there is in new kinds for future introduction. Please bring exhibits of your best new kinds and seedlings. We also expect to have one or more speaker topics of special interest to peony breeding and advances in technology.

See you soon!☺

Peony Sprouts

Elizabeth Babb — Yarmouth, Maine

By the time these words appear, lovely purple shaving-brush peony sprouts will be rising from tender spring earth. Right now in late January, however, there is plenty of time to read a good peony book or bring up a website replete with gorgeous pictures of peonies. Many of the APS advertisers now have web sites. And of course, there is the long-lasting reference book for the general peony gardener, Peonies by Allan Rogers, soon to be republished as a paperback by Timber Press—Portland, Oregon.

Less well known is the mammoth web site assembled by the German peony fan, Dr. Carsten Burkhardt, truly an aid for dreaming bright peony visions. If you explore Dr. Burkhardt's site (he is actually trained as a dental surgeon), you will become aware that a lot of peony-related research exists. Dr. Burkhardt often translates articles written in other languages making them accessible to English speakers, as well. Topics range all the way from classifying peony species to preserving cut flowers to techniques for propagating peonies.

New ways to propagate peonies became a hot topic on the independent Internet peony group in January. Some 500 peony fans from many different countries drop in and out of the Yahoo peony group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/peony> to share their peony joys and aspirations. (Membership is free, but necessary to keep out the spammers.) Members have been speculating about how we individual peony growers could profit from ongoing and envisioned peony research.

In an earlier issue of the APS Bulletin, there was an article on micro-propagation from peony bud tissue. This has inspired some of the people in the Yahoo group to try tissue culture at

home. One participant recommended the website www.kitchenculturekit.com, which was written for non-technical experimenters. Another correspondent discussed the use of artificial seeds (embryos encapsulated in a hydrogel). Such a tool could be useful for getting progeny from intersectional hybrids. Still another pointed out the increase in mutations when such seeds are grown. The techniques are still being perfected. See the following websites for more information, including lay descriptions of artificial seeds:

- www.tribuneindia.com/2003/20030106/agro.htm#1
- www.sp.edu.sg/schools/cls/bioline_08.htm

These ongoing real-time exchanges are breathing new life and excitement onto the peony scene. Much as we love our grandmother's big double blossoms, we have come to value the new wonderful yellows as well. And there are dreams of the color blue, someday. Various web exchanges suggest that there are well-trained researchers out there, who might be able to sponsor university students to conduct peony research projects, especially those requiring several summers of activity to see results. A model for small research project funding can be seen on the website www.ascfg.org/research.asp, which is interested in specialty cut flower growing.

So many worthy ideas abound, along with qualified people to follow their ideas through. The creation of new peony cultivars and new tools and new knowledge surely will benefit all peony lovers. Look for the APS website (see page 6), which has photos and a review of some of the hybridizing research done by APS members. I also highly recommend [The Best of 75 Years](#), a book available from APS Publications. It represents the earlier equivalent of the web-based peony group, where our predecessors shared their peony wisdom. We can profit from their real-life experiences, still.

continued on page 37

NEW FEATURE

APS Popularity Poll

Name your top 10 favorite peonies as seen in your garden and/or other gardens, within your regional district, in 2004.

Please categorize each of the peonies as (H)erbaceous, (T)ree or (I)toh/Intersectional. Registered peonies only.

Individual annual and triennial paid memberships are entitled to one ballot.

Family annual and triennial, Commercial, Contributing, Sustaining, Supporting, Life and Patron paid memberships may cast 2 ballots.

Be sure to include your name and postal mailing address on each ballot. All ballots must be received by August 1, 2004.

Send your ballots by e-mail: cjschroer@kc.rr.com, or to APS – Bulletin, Popularity Poll, 713 White Oak Lane, Gladstone, MO 64116-4607.

Votes will be tallied overall and by the nine APS districts listed opposite.

Results will be reported in the September 2004 edition of the *Bulletin*.

* If your bloom season is at a time not covered by this poll, please write a short synopsis of your bloom season to be published in the *NEW Opinions & Observations* section.

NEW FEATURE

APS Nine Regional Districts

District 1. Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts,
Rhode Island & Connecticut.

District 2. New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania & Delaware.

District 3. Maryland, West Virginia, District of Columbia,
Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina,
South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama &
Mississippi.

District 4. Michigan, Ohio & Indiana.

District 5. Illinois & Wisconsin.

District 6. Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota,
Nebraska, Montana & Wyoming.

District 7. Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas,
Arkansas, Louisiana & New Mexico.

District 8. Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho,
Utah, Nevada & Arizona.

District 9. Canada, Alaska and all other areas not embraced
in other districts.

The Bulletin Board

Bulletin Editor's Wish List

Feedback.

Articles with supporting slides
and/or diagrams.

Member to compile and edit
local and regional events
feature for each issue.

Technical and scientific
proofreaders.

Coordinator for book
review feature.

Volunteers with suggestions for
new features.

Patience.



Bulletin Correction

December 2003, No. 328

Page 35 – 2nd paragraph under
Mr. Louis Smirnow.

*There is no YELLOW GEM; it
should be YELLOW DREAM.*

Thank you to Jim Langhammer
for bringing this to my attention
— Editor

Letter to the Editor

If you have an unused little space
somewhere, Claudia, either this
issue or next, would you please
put in an appeal for anyone
growing a peony under the name
'Queen Victoria' to let me know.
It seems to have disappeared
from North American offering
lists although before WWII it was
thought to have been one of the
most dependable and prevalent
sorts in cutflower production (ac-
cording to writers in the APS
Boyd Manual). My interest in this
peony is renewed by recent ex-
changes with Martin Page, who
is trying to trace the early Chi-
nese import first described as
'Whitleyi'. APS publications of
Harry Little's and George
Peyton's day say 'Queen
Victoria' is 'Whitleyi', possibly re-
named by Kelway. Many thanks,
Don Hollingsworth
28747 290 Street
Maryville MO 64468
hpeonies@asde.net



New Life Member:

James A. Weirich
Keswick, Virginia

American Peony Society

713 White Oak Lane — Gladstone, MO 64116-4607

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New or Renewal? (circle one)

Please check one of the following classes of membership:

US & CANADA

- Individual Annual \$10.00
- Family Annual \$15.00
- Individual Triennial \$25.00
- Family Triennial \$35.00
- Commercial \$25.00
- Contributing \$25.00
- Sustaining \$50.00
- Supporting \$100.00
- Patron \$250.00
- Life Membership \$300.00

ALL OTHER COUNTRIES

- Annual \$20.00
- Triennial \$55.00

Dues are paid for January 1 – December 31 of any year. We do not accept cash or credit cards. Your cancelled check or money order stub is your proof of membership.

Enclosed is \$ _____ for my dues.

name

address

city

state/region/province

zip + 4/postal code

country

e-mail address

website

This page is blank for your convenience. Please remove it and use to renew your membership. Feel free to make copies and share with your gardening friends.

APS Publications

As an educational service, APS makes available the following publications for sale:

- ✂ The Peonies — Every facet of peony culture from a history of herbaceous and tree peony culture to modern propagation and hybridizing techniques. Hundreds of listings for recommended varieties. Public and private peony gardens and APS history. John Wister, et al. Hardcover, 225 pages, 2nd edition. \$22.50 postpaid (*very short supply*).
- ✂ Peonies; History of Peonies and Their Originations — In 3 parts: Variety Checklist, Registered Peonies and Introductions. 5,000 individual entries. Kessenich, APS Nomenclature Committee, et al with artwork by J. Kuczek. Spiral bound, 161 pages, 1st edition. \$20.00 postpaid.
- ✂ Peonies 1976–1986 — 10-year update, registered peonies and tree peonies. Kessenich and APS Nomenclature Committee. Softcover, 106 pages. \$10.00 postpaid.
- ✂ Peonies 1986–1996 — 10-year update, registered peonies and tree peonies. Kessenich and APS Nomenclature Committee. Softcover, 131 pages. \$10.00 postpaid.

Please type or clearly print your book order along with your name and mailing address. Send orders with check or money order (payable to APS) to:

Tim Stanek
APS PUBLICATIONS
23329 Ellington Avenue
Glenwood, IA 51537