

SEPTEMBER, 1983

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The American Peony Society Bulletin

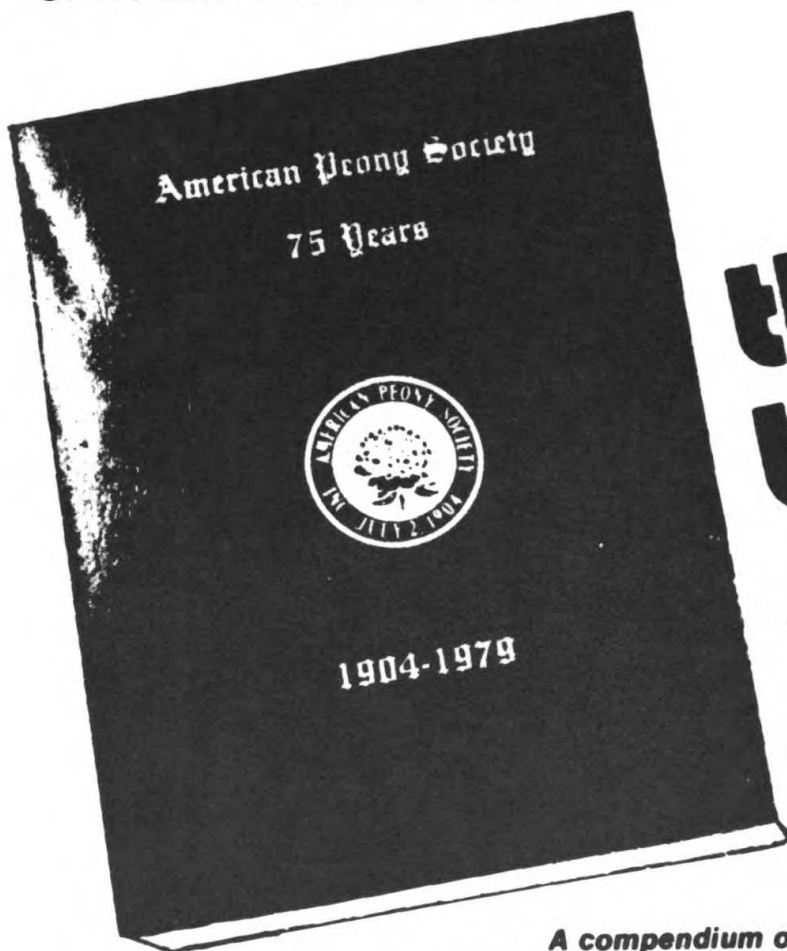
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DEPT. OF REGISTRATION

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

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

OBJECTIVES

The Articles of Incorporation state: Section (2) That the particular objects for which the corporation is to be formed are as follows: To increase the general interest in the cultivation and use of the Peony; to improve the methods of its cultivation and methods of placing it upon the market; to increase its use as a decorative flower; to bring about a more thorough understanding between those interested in its culture; to properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties and kinds of peonies; to stimulate the growing and introduction of improved seedlings and crosses of such flower; and to promote any kind of the general objects herein specified by holding or causing to be held exhibitions, and awarding or causing or procuring to be awarded, prizes therefor or in any other manner.

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

MEMBERSHIP

The By-Laws state: All reputable persons, professional or amateur, who are interested in the Peony; its propagation, culture, sale and development are eligible for membership. Dues are as follows:

Single Annual	\$ 7.50	Junior or member family	\$ 2.50
Single Triennial	20.00	Life	150.00
Family Annual	10.00	Commercial membership	25.00
Family Triennial	27.50		

Family membership, any two related members in same household One Bulletin
Junior membership, any age through completion of high school Separate Bulletin

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

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



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Sept. 1983 — No. 247

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

This is peony planting time.

If you have only grown the regular lactiflora peonies, plant a hybrid. The colors are exciting.

If you have grown only herbaceous peonies, plant a tree peony. The increase in bloom every year will give you much pleasure.

This is time to harvest your peony seed and label each package, with the name of the flower. Send to Chris Laning, 533 West F. Ave., Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007, for our seed exchange.

If you have not planted any peony seed, find a small, secluded place in your garden and plant a few. The results will be both interesting and surprising. A little fertilizer around each peony plant will reward you with larger blooms in June.

It was a great show in Milwaukee: many flowers, many people, good fellowship, and the weather cooperated.

Thanks to Marvin Karrels and Joe Glocka for making the show possible, and to the many exhibitors that displayed their flowers, and to all the people that came from far and near to see them.

Edward Lee Michau

BULLETIN COVER.

Tree Peonies — *Chinese Dragon*
Norma Volz

Savage Splendor
Cytherea

Photograph—Edward Lee Michau

— 3 —

**AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY
THE 80TH ANNUAL MEETING,
THE 78TH NATIONAL EXHIBITION,
AND THE 4TH INTERNATIONAL SHOW
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN — JUNE 17, 18, 19, 1983**

COURT OF HONOR

**Grand Champion and Best in the Show — Cytherea
Marvin Karrels, Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

Double lactiflora

White — Bowl of Cream — Carroll F. Spangler

Blush — Moon River — W. G. Sindt

Light pink — Dinner Plate — Carroll F. Spangler

Dark pink — Princess Margaret — Carroll F. Spangler

Red — Bonanza — W. G. Sindt

Bomb — Fairy's Petticoat — Clarence Lienau

Japanese — Gold Standard — Chuck Klehm

Single — Dawn Pink — W. G. Sindt

Hybrid or species

Double — Red Charm — Marvin Karrels

Semi-double — Grand Champion-CYTHEREA — Marvin Karrels

Single — Athena — Marvin Karrels

Japanese — Walter Mains — W. G. Sindt

Lutea tree peony — Chinese Dragon — Carroll F. Spangler

European tree peony — Souvenir De Maxime Cornu — William Allwardt

Japanese — Rocks — Bill Seidl

DIVISION I. OPEN TO ALL EXHIBITORS

**Class 101 — Twenty-five varieties, any color or type. One bloom each
in a separate container.**

1st won by W. G. Sindt, Afton, Minnesota.

**MOUNT EVEREST, ANNISQUAM, ANDREW MEUHLING,
DOUGLAS BRAND, CLARA LINDGREN, MYRTLE
TISCHLER, MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, MOON
RIVER, SYLVER, CORAL CHARM, DIANA PARKS, TERRY
GRUDEN, VANITY, DAWN PINK, HESPERUS, ALEX-
ANDER WOOLCOTT, ROMAN GOLD, KAY TISCHLER,
NADIA, BIG BEN, FLORENCE BRUSS, KANSAS, HONEY
GOLD, BEST MAN, GARDENIA.**

**2nd won by Chuck Klehm, 2 East Algonquin Road, Arlington
Road, Arlington Heights, Ill.**

**TOP BRASS, COMMANDO, SUPER 10, PILLOW TALK,
BEST MAN, BUCKEYE BELLE, BOWL OF CREAM, CORAL
CHARM, MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, MISS**

AMERICA, R. W. AUTEN, CONSTANCE SPRY, CHARLIE'S WHITE, BRIGHT KNIGHT, RAGGEDY ANN, BURMA RUBY, PAT VICTOR, DAINTY LASS, AGE OF GOLD, ANGELETTE, SPRING CARNIVAL, VESUVIAN, ALHAMBRA, MOON RIVER, BLACK PIRATE.

3rd won by Marvin C. Karrels, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

PINK HAWAIIAN CORAL, FIREBALL, KANSAS, GOLDEN GLOW, RED CHARM, BUTTER BOWL, WEST HILL, ARTEMUS, CORAL CHARM, COMMANDO, NORMA VOLZ, ANDREW MEUHLING, SPARKLING STAR, MARTHA MAINS, MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, CORAL SUPREME, ANNISQUAM, PRINCESS MARGARET, AGE OF GOLD, ATHENA, DIANA PARKS, HERITAGE, ROSELETTE, WHITE CAP, GOLDEN HIND.

H. M. won by C. F. Spangler, Ft. Atkinson, Wisconsin.

SPARKLING STAR, BU-TE, DIXIE, FIREBALL, CARINA, NORMA VOLZ, PRAIRIE MOON, BOWL OF CREAM, CYTHEREA, MOONSTONE, RED CHARM, RENOWN, SNOW MOUNTAIN, PICO, MIGHTY MO, WHITE CAP, PRINCESS MARGARET, DAWN PINK, DOG ROSE, CHINESE DRAGON, HENRY BOCKSTOCE, DANDY DAN, GARDENIA, SIR JOHN FRANKLIN, DRAGONS NEST.

Class 102 — Fifteen varieties, herbaceous only, any type or color.

1st won by Lienau Peony Gardens, Redford, Michigan.

SYLVER, HIGHLIGHT, MISS AMERICA, PRINCESS MARGARET, KARL ROSENFELD, KANSAS, BILL KREKLER, DOUGLAS BRAND, WHITE CHARM, WHITE CAP, JOSETTE, FAIRY'S PETTICOAT, CHARLIE'S WHITE, ENSIGN MORIARITY, MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

2nd won by Chuck Klehm, Arlington Heights, Ill.

MY PAL RUDY, DINNER PLATE, RED GRACE, POSTILION, CORAL CHARM, BURMA RUBY, ANGEL CHEEKS, MOONRISE, SUNBRIGHT, RASPBERRY SUNDAE, MISS AMERICA, BOWL OF CREAM, SWEET 16, CORAL SUNSET, MINNIE SHAYLOR.

3rd won by Joe Glocka, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

BUTTER BALL, MARIETTA SISSON, JAYHAWKER, MISS AMERICA, FAIR ELAINE, ROSE GLORY, HARI-AI-NIN, AVE MARIA, MONS. JULES ELIE, KANSAS, WESTERNER, HIGHLIGHT, TOP BRASS, RASPBERRY SUNDAE, MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

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

1st won by Marvin C. Karrels, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

CORAL SUPREME, RED CHARM, CORAL CHARM, BLACK

MONARCH, HERITAGE, PRAIRIE SUNSET, ETCHED SALMON, DIANA PARKS, PINK HAWAIIAN CORAL, COMMANDO.

2nd won by Lienau Peony Gardens, Redford, Michigan.

MARTHA MAINS, WHITE CHARM, CORAL CHARM, RED CHARM, BILL KREKLER, HENRY BOCKSTOCE, CYTHEREA, WALTER MAINS, CORAL CHARM, MOONRISE.

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

1st won by David Reath, Vulcan, Michigan.

AMBER MOON, HANNA DAUGIN, HIGH NOON, YAE SAKURA, CORONEL, GETSU SKIKI, KAMADA FUJI, ROCKS, SHIN KAGURA, GAUGUIN.

2nd won by Chuck Klehm, Arlington Heights, Illinois.

HARVEST, HOLIDAY, VESUVIAN, ALHAMBRA, BANQUET, BLACK PIRATE, GAUGUIN, ANGELETTE, CHINESE DRAGON, SAVAGE SPLENDOR.

3rd won by Marvin C. Karrels, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

GAUGUIN, CORONEL, GOLDEN ISLE, BLACK PIRATE, GOLDEN HIND, GUARDIAN OF THE MONASTERY, AGE OF GOLD, MARCHIONESS, ARTEMUS, GODAISHU.

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

1st won by Lienau Peony Gardens, Redford, Michigan.

GAY PAREE, WHITE CAP, BU-TE, POLAR STAR, WESTERNER.

2nd won by W. G. Sindt, Afton, Minnesota.

TERRY GRUDEN, WHITE CAP, KAY TISCHLER, GAY PAREE, JOHN GARDENER.

3rd won by Robert Schmidt, Brecksville, Ohio.

GLOWING CANDLES, NEON, TORO-NO-MAKI, NIPPON BRILLIANT, MRS. WILDER BANCROFT.

4th won by Joseph Glocka, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

BUTTER BALL, WHITE CAP, HARI-AI-NIN, FAIR ELAINE, DO-TELL.

Class 106 — Five varieties, single type, lactiflora only, any color.

1st won by W. G. Sindt, Afton, Minnesota.

KRINKLED WHITE, DAWN PINK, SPELLBINDER, FLORENCE BRUSS, SEASHELL.

THREE BLOOMS, ONE VARIETY LACTIFLORA ONLY, IN ONE CONTAINER

- Class 110**
Double white
1. Marvin Karrels — **Gardenia**
2. W. G. Sindt — **Gardenia**
3. Clarence Lienau — **Sylver**
- Class 111**
Double blush
1. W. G. Sindt — **Annisquam**
2. W. G. Sindt — **Annisquam**
3. Clarence Lienau — **Nancy Nicholls**
H. M. Marvin Karrels — **Norma Volz**
- Class 112**
Double light pink
1. Chuck Klehm — **Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt**
2. Roy Klehm — **Dinner Plate**
3. Roy Klehm — **Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt**
- Class 113**
Double dark pink
1. Clarence Lienau — **Bev**
2. C. W. Hubbard — **Souvenir de Louis Bigot**
3. W. G. Sindt — **Myrtle Tischler**
- Class 114**
Double red
1. W. G. Sindt — **Kansas**
2. Clarence Lienau — **Highlight**
3. C. W. Hubbard — **Kansas**
- Class 115**
Semi-double white or blush
1. Joseph Glocka — **Miss America**
2. Chuck Klehm — **Miss America**
3. Chuck Klehm — **Minnie Shaylor**
- Class 116**
No entries
- Class 117**
No entries
- Class 118**
Bomb any color
1. Chuck Klehm — **Raspberry Sundae**
2. Wm. J. Seidl — **Edulis Superba**
3. Joseph Glocka — **Raspberry Sundae**
- Class 119**
Japanese white or blush
1. Clarence Lienau — **Bu-te**
2. Marvin Karrels — **Lotus Queen**
3. Robert F. Schmidt — **Carrara**
- Class 120**
Japanese pink
1. G. F. Spangler — **Abbe**
2. Robert F. Schmidt — **Rashoomon**
3. Robert F. Schmidt — **Akashigata**
- Class 121**
Japanese red
1. C. W. Hubbard — **Mikado**
2. Clarence Lienau — **White Cap**
3. Robert Schmidt — **Mikado**
- Class 122**
Single white or blush
1. —
2. Marvin Karrels — **Spellbinder**
3. W. G. Sindt — **Pico**
H. M. Sindt — **Krinkled White**
- Class 123**
Single pink
1. Marvin Karrels — **Sparkling Star**
2. Clarence Lienau — **Josette**
3. —
- Class 124**
Single red
1. W. G. Sindt — **Florence Bruss**
2. Joseph Glocka — **Arcturus**
3. —

ONE BLOOM LACTIFLORA ONLY, IN ONE CONTAINER

- Class 130 No entries
- Class 131 1. W. G. Sindt — Norma Volz
2. W. G. Sindt — Annisquam
3. C. F. Spangler — Nick Shaylor
H. M. Marvin Karrels — Annisquam
- Class 132 1. C. W. Hubbard — Ella Christiansen
2. Roy Klehm — Raspberry Sundae
3. C. W. Hubbard — Moonstone
H. M. Chuck Klehm — My Pal Rudy
- Class 133 1. Robert Schmidt — Wilfred Johnson
2. Chuck Klehm — First Lady
3. Clarence Lienau — Princess Margaret
- Class 134 1. Chuck Klehm —
2. W. G. Sindt — Jay Cee
3. W. G. Sindt — Douglas Brand
H. M. Joseph Glocka — Kansas
- Class 135 1. Chuck Klehm — Minnie Shaylor
2. Clarence Lienau — Minie Shaylor
3. Chuck Klehm — Miss America
- Class 136 1. —
2. W. G. Sindt — Liebchen
3. Robert Schmidt — L'Etincelante
- Class 137 1. Carroll Spangler — Mighty Mo
2-3. —
- Class 138 1. Wm. Allwardt — Luxor
2. Joseph Glocka — Raspberry Sundae
- Class 139 1. Carroll Spangler Pink Lemonade
- Class 141 1. Carroll Spangler — Carrara
2. Robert Schmidt — Christine
3. Robert Schmidt — Fairbanks
- Class 142 1. Robert Schmidt — Akashigata
2. Robert Schmidt — Do Tell
3. Robert Schmidt — Westerner
- Class 143 1. Carmin La Rosa — Port Royal
2. Joseph Glocka — Hari-ai-nin
3. Robert Schmidt — Dignity
- Class 144 1. Carroll Spangler — Pico
2. W. G. Sindt — Pico
3. Chuck Klehm — Krinkled White
- Class 145 1. Carroll Spangler — Sparkling Star
2. W. G. Sindt — Dawn Pink
3. Robert Schmidt — Dawn Pink

- Class 146 1. —
 2. C. W. Hubbard — **President Lincoln**
 3. Joseph Glocka — **Arcturus**

THREE BLOOMS, ONE VARIETY HERBACEOUS HYBRIDS OR SPECIES IN ONE CONTAINER

- Class 150 1-2-3—
 Class 151 1. W. G. Sindt — **Carol Charm**
 2. Marvin Karrels — **Coral Charm**
 3. David Reath — **Coral Fay**
 Class 152 1. Marvin Karrels — **Cytherea**
 2. Carroll Spangler — **Lovely Rose**
 3. Robert Schmidt — **Constance Spry**
 Class 153 1. Marvin Karrels — **Diana Parks**
 2. Marvin Karrels — **Red Charm**
 3. Wm. Seidl — **Fayette**
 H. M. Carroll Spangler — **Dandy Dan**
 Class 154 1. —
 2. Chuck Klehm — **Dainty Lass**
 3. Chuck Klehm — **Rose Crystal**
 Class 155 No entry
 Class 156 1. David Reath — **Windflower**
 Class 157 No entry
 Class 158 1. Joseph Glocka — **Friendship**
 2. W. G. Sindt — **Friendship**
 3. Joseph Glocka — **Golden Glow**
 H. M. Chuck Klehm — **May Lilac**
 Class 159 1. Wm. Seidl — **Sparkling Windflower**
 2. Chuck Klehm — **Scarlet O'Hara**
 3. Chuck Klehm — **Bright Knight**
 H. M. Marvin Karrels — **Burma Ruby**
 Class 159A 1. Marvin Karrels — **Yellow Emperor**

ONE BLOOM HERBACEOUS HYBRID OR SPECIES

- Class 160 1. W. G. Sindt — **Claire de lune**
 Class 161 1. Wm. Seidl — **Camellia**
 Class 162 1. David Reath — **Coral Fay**
 2. Robt. Schmidt — **Cytherea**
 Class 163 1. Carroll Spangler — **Paula Fay**
 2. Carroll Spangler — **Cytherea**
 3. David Reath — **Coral Fay**
 Class 164 1. Robert Schmidt — **Fayette**
 2. Chuck Klehm — **Red Grace**
 3. Marvin Karrels — **Fireball**
 H. M. Marvin Karrels — **Red Charm**

- Class 165** 1. **Joseph Glocka — Walter Mains**
 2. **Chuck Klehm — Dainty Lass**
 3. **Chuck Klehm — Hybrid Japanese**
- Class 166** 1. **Robert Schmidt — Prairie Moon**
- Class 167** 1. **Robert Schmidt — White Innocence**
- Class 168** —
- Class 169** 1. **Chuck Klehm — Friendship**
 2. **C. W. Hubbard — Golden Glow**
 3. **Joseph Glocka — Friendship**
- Class 169A** 1. **Chuck Klehm — Bright Knight**
 2. **Chuck Klehm — Scarlet O'Hara**
 3. **Chuck Klehm — Golden Glow**
- Class 169B** 1. **Marvin Karrels — Yellow Emperor**
 2. **Chris Laning — Itoh Hybrid**
 3. **Clarence Lienau — Yellow Crown**

PEONY BLOOMS, ONE VARIETY, TREE PEONIES ONLY, IN ONE CONTAINER

- Class 170C** 1. **Chuck Klehm — Tsukasa**
- Class 173B** 2. **David Reath — Kamada**
- Class 175C** 3. **David Reath — Tria**
- Class 176A** 1. **Marvin Karrels — Artemis**
 2. **W. G. Sindt — Roman Gold**
- Class 176C** 1. **C. W. Hubbard — Alice**
 2. **Marvin Karrels — Age of Gold**
 3. **W. G. Sindt — Age of Gold**
 H. M. **Chuck Klehm — Angelet**
- Class 176B** 1. **Marvin Karrels — Golden Hinds**
 2. **Chuck Klehm — Alhambra**
- Class 177A** 1. **Chuck Klehm — Savage**
- Class 179A** 1. **David Reath — Thunderbolt**
- Class 180B** 1. **W. G. Sindt — Kronos**
 2. **David Reath — Kronos**
- Class 180C** 1. **Chuck Klehm — Vesuvian**
- Class 186B** 1. **David Reath — Shu Jahmin**
 2. **David Reath — Yae Zakura**
 3. **David Reath — Yacki Subaki**
 H. M. **David Reath — Captains Concubine**
- Class 186C** H. M. **David Reath — Shin Kagura**
- Class 187A** 1. **David Reath — Jitsu Nisiki**
- Class 187B** 2. **C. W. Hubbard — Kaow**
- Class 190A** 1. **David Reath — Persephone**
- Class 191A** 1. **Robert Schmidt — Silver Sails**
 2. **Chuck Klehm — Spring**
 3. **Chuck Klehm — Angelet**

- Class 191B** 1. Chuck Klehm — **Golden Hind**
 2. W. G. Sindt — **Age of Gold**
 3. Lienau Peony Gardens — **Age of Gold**
 H. M. David Reath — **High Noon**
- Class 192A** 1. Marvin Karrels — **Marchioness**
- Class 194B** 1. W. G. Sindt — **Chinese Dragon**
 2. Chuck Klehm — **Chinese Dragon**
 3. Chuck Klehm — **Banquet**
- Class 195A** 1. Chuck Klehm — **Black Pirate**
 2. Marvin Karrels — **Black Pirate**
- Class 195B** 1. W. G. Sindt — **Kronos**
 2. David Reath — **Kronos**
- Class 195C** 1. Chuck Klehm — **Vesuvian**

DIVISION II. AMATEUR

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

- Class 209** 1. Bill Allwardt — **Mr. Ed**
- Class 212** 1. Bill Allwardt — **Friendship**
- Class 223** 1. D. Steve Varner — **Vivid Rose**

DIVISION III. NOVICE

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

- Class 305** 1. Virginia Summers — **Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt**
 2. Virginia Summers — **Sarah Bernhardt**
- Class 315** 1-2-3 All to Virginia Summers for **Ava Maria**
- Class 316** 1-2-3 All to Virginia Summers for **Dinner Plate**
- Class 317** 1-2-3 All to Virginia Summers for **Red Charm**
- Class 318** 1. Virginia Summers — **Miss America**

DIVISION IV. SEEDLINGS AND NEW VARIETIES

- Class 401** Seedling # D-237 - Special award - David Reath
 Seedling # D-294 - Special award - David Reath

DIVISION V. SPECIAL ENTRIES

Class 503 — Multiple Bloom - Single stalk not disbudded. Must show at least three open.

1. Joseph Glocka — **White Innocence**
- Class 504 and 505** — North Dakota Memorial Award
- Class 504** 1. David Reath — **Rocks, Camellia, High Noon, Pageant**
- Class 505** 1. Clarence Lienau — **Minnie Shaylor, Imperial Red, White Cap, Ensign Moriarty**
 2. W. G. Sindt — **Dawn Pink, Miss America, Kay Tischler, Annisquam**

DIVISION VI. ARTISTIC DIVISION

Theme: Peony Passport to Enchanted Lands

June 18-19, 1983 — Mitchell Park Domes, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Class I - Caribbean Islands — Tropical Wave-swept Shores

1st - Ralinda Howard (best use of peonies with other flowers) — 18385 Lisbon Rd., Brookfield, WI 53005

2nd - Caroline Albrecht — 17701 W. Venus Dr., Milwaukee, WI 53151

3rd - Betty Carstensen — 900 N. Brookfield Rd., Brookfield, WI 53005

Honorable Mention — Kitty Larkin

Class II - Swiss Alps - A Countryside Garden

1st - Marjorie Wolf — 5513 S. 110th St., Hales Corners, WI 53130

2nd - Ralinda Howard

3rd - Phyllis Reimer — 5661 S. Forest Park Dr., Hales Corners, WI 53130

Honorable Mention — Betty Carstensen

Class III - England - A Countryside Garden

1st - Kitty Larkin (Reserve Champion)

W220 N5329 Townline Rd., Sussex, WI 53089

2nd - Ralinda Howard

3rd - Pat Dvorak — 2570 S. 64th St., Milwaukee, WI 53219

Honorable Mention — Kay Kolb

Class IV - Congo - Drama of the Jungle

1st - Pat Dvorak (Grand Champion)

2nd - Annette Kerlin — 1023 Carrington Ave. S., Milwaukee, WI 53127

3rd - Phyllis Reimer

Honorable Mention — Henrietta Erickson — 12105 W. Howard, Milwaukee, WI 53228

Class V - China - Elegant and Ageless

1st - Carolina Albrecht

2nd - Marjorie Schmitt — 1717 S. 82nd, West Allis, WI 53214

3rd - Annette Kerlin

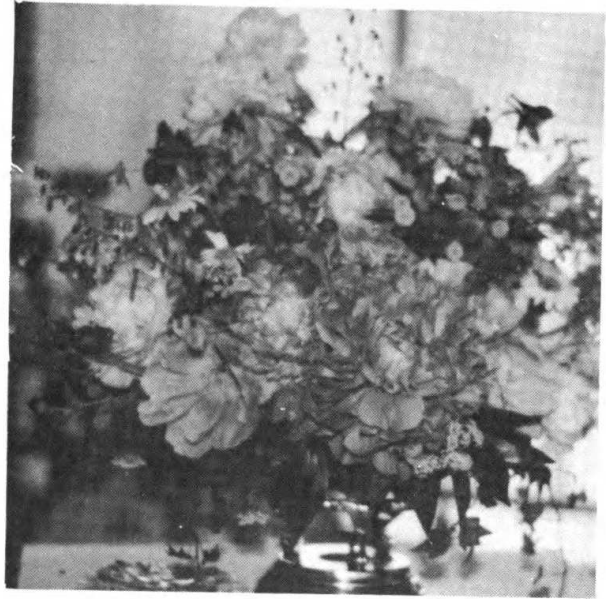
Honorable Mention — Betty Carstensen



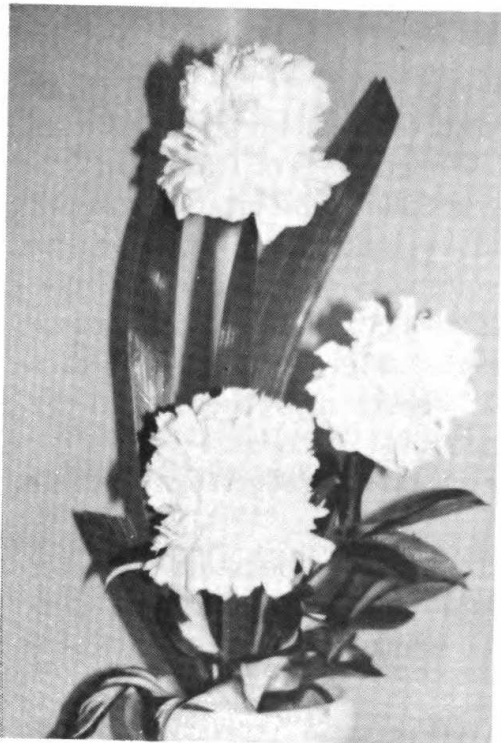
**If you cut a tree, plant a tree.
It is nature's replaceable energy.**



*Congo — Drama of the Jungle
Pat Duorak; Grand Champion*



*A Country side garden — England
Kitty Larkin*



*Swiss Alps
A Country side garden
Marjorie Wolf*



*England — A Country side garden
Kay Kolb*

Photographs—Edward Lee Michau



Photograph—Edward Lee Michau

Caribbean Islands — Tropical Wave-swept Shores.

Best use of peonies with other flowers.

Ralinda Howard

PRESENTATION OF A. P. SAUNDERS MEDAL TO DR. DAVID L. REATH

By Roy Klehm

The most ambitious hybridizing efforts ever undertaken with peonies were conducted by Professor A. P. Saunders of Hamilton College in Clinton, New York. He undertook to collect and interbreed all of the available peony species that could be induced to grow in the climate of his area. The accumulated results were of considerable bulk, for he assigned serial numbers in excess of 17,000 to plants raised or brought into the project during a period of approximately 30 years (Among his results was today's Grand Champion, *Cytherea* and the first runner-up, *Chinese Dragon*). His most intensive period of hybridization was carried on during the period between World Wars I and II.

Saunders was able to make extraordinary advancements in flower colors and size in early flowering peonies. From the species have come new flower colors and patterns in opaque whites, light yellows, warm pinks, lavender pinks, and sharp reds.

In light of this, it was first conceived in 1953 shortly after Dr. Saunder's passing, to establish an honorary medal to be awarded periodically to deserving people who have made "outstanding contributions to the peony." To this date, only **nine** such medals have been awarded.

The honoree this evening certainly has accomplished "outstanding contributions to the peony."

— 14 —

He, along with the constant help and encouragement of his wife, and I imagine the sometimes voluntary help of his children, almost singlehandedly revived the country's interest in good quality, true-to-name Tree Peonies. His painstaking work in procuring, and verifying, the Saunders Tree Peony hybrids saved many of them from extinction.

His self-developed grafting propagation techniques are now well accepted in the trade. His constant encouragement to other people on Tree Peony propagation, growing, and enjoyment, has been appreciated by many.

The honoree developed "root tip," propagative procedures on certain rare hybrid peonies to help speed up their distribution so that many more people could enjoy the newer fine hybrids.

Our special person also brought back into commerce the double fernleaf peony which was almost lost, but which is now enjoying a new resurgence in popularity.

The breeding and hybridizing work of our honoree in hybrid peonies and tree peonies is outstanding. He pioneered the colchicine treatment of diploid lactifloras into tetraploids and crossed the resultant progeny with the tetraploid lobata species to provide the hybridizers with fertile advanced generation hybrids. Of his newer introductions, one ticketed for high honors is **Salmon Dream**, a wonderful, smooth soft salmon early hybrid with clean, green foliage.

With all these accomplishments comes the highest business ethics for the growing and selling of his plants.

Without further comments, it is truly my pleasure to announce the presentation of the A. P. Saunders Memorial Medal to Doctor David L. Reath of Vulcan, Michigan.

ACCEPTANCE — DR. DAVID REATH

I feel very honored to receive the Saunders Memorial Medal.

Special thanks must go to Silvia Saunders for hybridizing information and many valuable plants she supplied for hybridizing. In 1965, an invitation to visit Silvia and the Saunders' peony nursery was accepted. We were introduced to some of the most fascinating creations to be seen in the plant world. It was at this nursery that more than seventy tree peony hybrids and over 165 herbaceous varieties gained recognition and were named. Among the 75 lutea tree peony hybrid varieties created by Professor Saunders are some of the most outstanding flowers. Many of these will never be surpassed.

It was through Brother Charles at Mission Gardens that I first saw herbaceous and tree peony hybrids. He allowed us to hybridize plants in his nursery. These crosses produced six advanced generation lutea hybrids which are fertile. These six plants, i.e. Reath A-196, A-197, A-198, A-199, A-201, and A-202 have been distributed to others who are also using them in peony hybridizing.

The late Mr. Edward Auten of Princeville, Ill. supplied peony

seeds and plants that were used in our colchicine experiments. He shared a wealth of information on peony hybridizing that he gained through years of experience.

Mr. Orville Fay supplied a collection of peony species. He also discussed in detail his method of inducing polyploidy in *Hemerocallis* which I modified to successfully induce polyploidy in peonies.

At last, I would like to thank my wife, Eleanor, daughter, Katharine, and sons, Robert, Scott and Mark, for continued encouragement and assistance in operating the nursery.

Again, may I say that I'm especially honored to receive the Saunders Medal.

DR. DAVID REATH AWARDED THE A. P. SAUNDERS MEMORIAL MEDAL

L. J. Dewey, Richmond, Virginia

One of the most important and moving events which takes place at the banquet during the Annual Meeting and Exhibition of the American Peony Society is the awarding of the A. P. Saunders Memorial Medal. Silvia Saunders reviewed (1) the purpose of this medal in her address to the 1981 banquet when she presented the awards to Louis Smirnow and Chris Laning. Despite its relatively short life (it was first awarded in 1968), the award has already attained a place of high honor in the hearts and minds of all peony devotees. The early history of the medal is discussed briefly in "The Best of 75 Years" (2).

At the recent banquet of the 80th Annual Meeting on June 18, 1983 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this prestigious and coveted award was presented by Mr. Roy Klehm, to Dr. David Reath, who thus became the tenth awardee. Most of David's family was present to share in the excitement of the presentation—his wife, Eleanor, whose devotion to the peony is well known, and his sons, also. His daughter, Jennifer, was unable to attend.

In his presentation address, Roy reviewed the many contributions David has made to the advancement of the peony, both commercially and genetically. On the commercial side, David has revived the public interest in tree peonies as well as in herbaceous peonies. His high ethics as a commercial supplier have endeared him to peony fanciers and especially to tree peony buffs who have experienced no end of trouble with mislabeled plants. Tree peony enthusiasts and hybridizers are also much indebted to him for propagating and maintaining collections of the Saunders and *Daphnis lutea* hybrids. Roy also credited David with rescuing the double fern leaf peony from obscurity and bringing it back into the market.

In the art of tree peony propagation, David is recognized as one of our leading experts. As befits his character, he willingly shares his knowledge and expertise and has fully described (3) his tree peony

grafting techniques for all to use. He has also been successful in the root tip propagation of some herbaceous peonies such as **PAULA FAY**, **CYTHEREA** and **CORAL CHARM**.

At the risk of overemphasizing David's work with tree peonies, we should take note of his valuable contribution in collaboration with Silvia Saunders (4) to the botanical identification of the Saunders lutea hybrids. For hybridizers and for anybody who wants to know their tree peonies on a first name basis, this is an important guide on those occasions when labels are lost or a plant has been mislabeled.

The large breeding program which David has undertaken at his nursery in Vulcan, Michigan, has produced a number of interesting creations. As Roy pointed out there have been several herbaceous introductions, which include **CREAM DELIGHT** (1971), **PINK FROST** (1980), **RED ALERT** (1980), and **ROYAL ROSE** (1980), and according to Roy we can expect the introduction of others like **SALMON DREAM** as time goes on. Several of David's advanced generation lutea hybrids are now in the hands of other breeders as numbered seedlings and should prove to be most valuable as the exciting work with the new generations of lutea hybrids goes on. The seedlings available so far (**A-197**, **A-198**, **A-201** and **A-202**) are all $F_1 \times F_2$ crosses. An important feature of these new plants, aside from their floral beauty, is the restoration of fertility in this new generation. As an added bonus, they may even be tetraploids.

Although the lobata form of the tetraploid *officinalis* crosses with the diploid *lactifloras*, the resulting triploid progeny is very sterile thus presenting formidable problems in proceeding to advanced generations. Near the close of his address, Roy described David's breakthrough on this breeding front. It should be noted that the lobatas are the source of a most desirable bright orange and bright red gene pool. One solution to this breeding problem would be the use of tetraploid *lactifloras* in the cross. For years, attempts had been made to induce tetraploidy in peonies with the use of chemicals to no avail. Finally in 1972, David reported (5) his successful induction of tetraploidy in peony seedlings using colchicine. Now when the tetraploid *lactiflora* seedlings reached blooming size, crosses could be made with the lobata form and the resulting hybrids should be tetraploid and fertile. With great expectations, we now look forward to the results of this new dimension in peony breeding.

Obviously, Roy took great pleasure in presenting the Saunders Medal to David, and the large audience showed their enthusiastic approval. The inscription on the medal read "Dr. David L. Reath - Creative scientific nurseryman, adapted colchicine treatment to induce polyploidy in peonies."

With his characteristic modesty, David accepted the Saunders Medal and shared his honor with several people who had assisted him along the way. There was Silvia Saunders, who supplied many articles

on the culture and breeding of peonies and who, of course, supplied the stock of her father's hybrids both tree peony and herbaceous. David has assembled a library of peony literature which contains the many articles written by Professor Saunders.

A number of years ago, David began his interest in plant breeding with irises. On a visit to Mission Gardens to see the iris growing there, Brother Charles diverted David's attention to tree peonies and supplied him with plants to start the breeding program which led to the advanced generation lutea hybrids. Brother Charles also shared his knowledge on the propagation of tree peonies by the grafting method.

Edward Auten, Jr. was credited with supplying many lactifloras as well as the large number of peony seeds which were needed for the colchicine experiments which in turn led to the production of tetraploid lactifloras.

Another man who had an obvious influence on David's progress with peonies was Orville Fay. Through the years, Fay had collected a large number of *Paeonia* species which he was willing to share. Furthermore, Fay had accumulated a thorough knowledge of the peony and was in contact with the noted English authority on the *Paeonia* genus, F. C. Stern, whose garden Fay had visited. Fay was also interested in daylilies and was producing tetraploids by treating daylily seedlings with colchicine. Fay taught his method of colchicine treatment to David and this served as a basis for David's subsequent development of a method for the colchicine induction of tetraploidy in peony seedlings.

Last, but not least, David's wife and family have provided much of the support and assistance David needed to push on with his peony projects.

In conclusion, it seems appropriate to remember here all the recipients of this prestigious Saunders Medal (cf., ref. 6). They are listed below along with the inscriptions on their medals:

Dr. John C. Wister, 1968, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

"Varied and distinguished contributions to the peony"

Mr. Edward Auten, Jr., 1968, Princeville, Illinois

"For his outstanding contributions to Garden Peonies and Hybrids"

Mr. L. W. Cousins, 1972, Ontario, Canada

"Hybrids achieved through a lifetime of highly complex hybridizing"

Mr. Toichi Itoh, 1972, Japan

"For mastering the cross, long considerable impossible, between herbaceous and tree peonies"

William Gratwick and Nassos Daphnis, 1973, Pavillion, New York

"William Gratwick and Nassos Daphnis, who first carried Tree Peony Hybrids to advanced generations"

- E. L. Pehrson, 1973, Lafayette, Minnesota
 “Dedicated friend and tireless helper to beginning hybridists”
- Silvia Saunders, 1974, Clinton, New York
 “Active Sponsor of the New Era in Peony Improvement”
- Mr. Louis Smirnow, 1981, Brookville, L. I., New York
 “Time-honored Importer and Promoter of Oriental Tree Peonies and Hybrids”
- Mr. Chris Laning, 1981, Kalamazoo, Michigan
 “Hybridist, Editor, Distributor of Plants, Seeds and Expertise”
- Dr. David L. Reath, 1983, Vulcan, Michigan
 “Creative scientific nurseryman, adapted colchicine treatment to induce polyploidy in peonies”

REFERENCES

- (1) Saunders, Silvia, A.P.S. Bulletin #239, pp 21-23 (Sept. 1981).
- (2) Kessenich, Greta, Ed., “The Best of 75 Years,” The American Peony Society, 1979, p 224.
- (3) Reath, David in “The Best of 75 Years,” Kessenich, G., Ed., The American Peony Society, 1979, pp 61-62.
- (4) Reath, David and Saunders, Silvia, *ibid*, pp 58-60.
- (5) Reath, David, *ibid*, pp 153-154.
- (6) Kessenich, Greta, Ed., “The Best of 75 Years,” The American Peony Society, 1979, pp 220-222.

SEEDLINGS EXHIBITED AT THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY CONVENTION

D. Steve Varner, Monticello, Illinois

Five breeders had entries on the seedling table. A very glowing deep pink with coral tints, a herbaceous seedling of **Chris Laning**—no name of the person entering it—it was an old bloom, but a delight.

Robert F. Schmidt, 5320 Oakes Rd., Brecksville, Ohio, had a nice white Jap and #12, a pink single with double layers of petals. His #25, a full white bomb with creamy pink guard petals, made an interesting display.

D. Steve Varner, R. 1, Box 5, Monticello, Ill., had two lactiflora seedlings. They were V4123, fully double deep rose red, and **Avis Varner** ('83), a large full double deep red. It was still holding well on Sunday, although it had bloomed outside seven days before being cut for the show.

Wm. Seidl, 732 S. 19th St., Manitowoc, Wis., had several mixed unmarked seedlings in a container, among which was a rose red single that held its cupped shape well, a double medium pink with stamens showing, three semi-double light pinks, a blush flesh double, and a blush creamy flesh semi-double. His TP #1 was a single semi-double with very wide petals. Two layers gave a semi-double look in smooth,

true light lavender wisteria, with a deeper innerglow radiating to near the outer tips of the petals. Deep wisteria - red flares complete this very classy entry. His AL13 (A197xD223) tree peony had very crinkly-ruffled two layer single petals for a semi-double effect in a soft bi-tone of lilac and wisteria, with the deeper color radiating halfway out on the petals from the burgundy flares. (I would like to see the ones he left at home)!

David Reath Nursery, Vulcan, Michigan, had multiple entries. "Fay Pink" ruffled two layer single mid-pink; herbaceous 79-1 smooth light medium pink semi-double self except for stamens and bright red stigmas.

Their 79-4 was my favorite of their herbaceous seedlings; looks hybrid, excellent cupped saucer-shaped charmingly held. Two petals layered single with a large center of bright gold-yellow stamens showed off bright red stigmas with base of light green carpels glowing mid red. This and their D294 will live in my memory bank as my choices of their many fine seedlings. This tree seedling has large green carpels in a tight circle, a half-inch wide ring of red around the carpels. Surrounding the flares, the pastel yellow and flesh blend petals had an infusion of light rose carmine overlaid on the outer 35% of the ruffled petals. The flower is flared almost wide open flat.

Their 83-2, pink Rocks semi-double, exhibited indoors gave a light orchid tint white effect with prominent purple red flares.

Their D237 tree is a two-layered single blush pink flesh with deep red flares with a purple tint.

Their A198 is a flat two layer single of pastel yellow with six bright deep red flares setting off the tight cluster of stamens.

E104 tree is a deep wisteria rose, two layer single with quite red flares.

D306 tree, redder slightly deeper than E104, four layer semi-double with very dark maroon flares.

This was a very promising preview of beauties to come later as new introductions.

HARVEST YOUR PEONY SEED

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

Peony seed, both herbaceous and tree, are in demand. This is the time to harvest them and send them to me for the American Peony Society seed pool. Peony seed are free to anyone that requests them. (\$1.50 is asked for packaging and mailing.)

We are also adding another service in order to save one or two years in the growing of seeds. We now have some one-year-old seedlings for you and offer a dozen for \$5.00, or if preferred, a dozen two-year-old seedlings for \$10.00.

Chris Laning

A PRE-CONVENTION TRIP AND THE CONVENTION: A HYBRIDIZER'S VIEWPOINT

Bill Seidl, Manitowoc, WI

In early June, Roger Anderson invited me to visit his garden about five miles south of Fort Atkinson, which, in turn, is about 60 miles WSW of Milwaukee. And so it was that on Thursday, June 9th, I began my trip, first stocking the car with some ice water, some pollen containers, and a pail of flowers from **ROCK'S VAR.** t.p., as my one plant of it, 5' high and 7' across, was in full bloom with about a hundred blossoms and buds.

Enroute, I stopped in Milwaukee and visited with Marvin Karrels for a half-hour. I gave him some flowers of **ROCK'S VAR.**, now wilting in my non-air-conditioned car on the hottest day of the year thus far, and collected pollen from various tree peonies still in bloom including a nice semi-double rose-pink and a dark purple so double that it seldom, if ever, opened without a little outside manual help, according to Marvin. I used these pollens on **ROCK'S VAR.** as I had no other tp's of my own that opened as early as **ROCK'S**. No bagging was required, as **ROCK'S** will not self-pollinate. Marvin showed me his tilling equipment and explained that his main peony planting was on some acreage in a western suburb. I also saw his pickup truck with an insulated air-conditioned compartment for transporting peonies to shows. It was gratifying to see a man of 80 years speak of spading up part of a grass walkway to get in an extra row of peonies. A week later, Marvin came through with a grand champ **CYTHEREA** at the National Show, but the real champ is Marvin himself for his good-natured and generous dedication to the peony, both the flower and the Society. An old gladiolus cataloguer, Elmer Gove, used to append his signature with the title "Apostle of Beauty" and this fittingly describes Marvin. Before I left, Marvin revealed to me his secret for growing prize-winning peonies.

It was approaching 3 p.m. and hot when I was on the last leg of my trip to Roger's place, relying heavily on a detailed map he had mailed earlier that week, and dipping frequently into the ice water to keep me cool. At least I was in better shape than my remaining **ROCK'S** flowers, now a drooping mess. The final miles were on a narrow road with some blind, right-angle turns, but after the last turn there was no mistaking my destination—a home on a hill overlooking 10 acres of land, with a well-groomed peony patch near the foot of the hill and a load of wood chips dumped nearby for mulching the grafting bed later in the year. Roger, whom I had last seen at a Fifth District show three years ago in Schaumburg, Ill., answered my knock at the door and I was surprised to find that he was surprised also, as his son, "Little" Roger, had failed to relay my telephone message of the previous day that I'd definitely be coming.

After placing my **ROCK'S** flowers in the shade, Roger showed me the immediate garden and then took me down the hill several hundred feet to the main planting. His tp's were almost finished, too late to make use of **ROCK'S** pollen, but I did get pollen from the last bloom on **SHINTENCHI**. Its heavy foliage (David Reath believes), may indicate a tetraploid condition. The herbaceous hybrid seedlings, in full bloom, and in pastel shades, were mostly derived from the quads including **PEHRSON'S BEST YELLOW**. The most notable was a very double cream, not a real big flower, but held up without staking. There were three good sized clumps of **GOLDILOCKS** in peak bloom displaying their light yellow flowers above intensely green foliage. Next to the Itoh Smirnow hybrids, this is the best yellow herbaceous peony I've seen. Roger says frequent division tends to produce flowers with functional carpels. His one small plant of **P. MLOKOSEWITSCHI** failed to bloom this year, as did mine. He said that Ben Gilbertson recommends liming the soil to promote better growth and flowering for this species. This is the species that Betty Halas claims is a tetraploid after many decades of being reported and accepted as a diploid. Plans to cross it with other known tetras had to be postponed for a year. I also saw a well-budded clump of one of Roy Pehrson's Itoh hybrids, supposedly dark colored but unbloomed as yet for Roger. I warned him that most of the dark colored Itohs from Roy have had deformed narrow-petaled flowers, sometimes no petals at all, just a mass of carpels. But a week later at the convention, Roger brought flowers and a photograph showing that this particular clump had indeed produced normal flowers, on the small side, single, and maroon in color. I have a similar plant from Roy, perhaps the same clone, but more disposed to produce somewhat deformed flowers.

We had toured almost the whole garden and still my main objective was not realized: **Had Roger Anderson accomplished Mission Impossible, an easy-to-make Itoh cross?** For a couple of years now, he has claimed to have had over 300 true Itoh hybrids in a single season from the combination **MARTHA WASHINGTON**, a garden-name lacti seedling X **REATH'S A199**, a lutea hybrid. Although words had not passed between us, Roger knew, and I knew he knew, what I was dying to see. Finally, he showed me a row of, not 300, but 19 genuine honest-to-goodness Itoh hybrids. The rest had been lost due to admitted cultural mismanagement and inexperience. He also showed me the only "false" hybrids, two pure lactis resulting from contamination, a far cry from the usual course of events, discovering a couple of true hybrids among dozens of "false" ones. There was no longer any doubt in my mind that Roger could recognize a true hybrid from the initial foliage, that his claim was not the daydream of a frustrated man seeking attention from his peers in the peony world. After the convention, Roger mailed some pollens, including some of "MW" for the reverse Itoh cross, but a heat wave had forced my last lateral buds of **A199** into bloom too fast to make the cross. Roger also had been experiment-

ing with grafting and although he's had little success, the best percentage of "takes" were on roots of "MW", raising the question of a possible connection between grafting and breeding compatibility.

When the garden tour was completed, Roger took me in his pickup truck and we dropped in on Carroll Spangler without warning. Carroll lives several miles away and originally influenced Roger to grow and hybridize peonies just when Roger had given up on gladiolus and was looking for some new garden activity. The only times I'd seen so many "bagged" peonies in the field had been in the breeder-gardens of Pehrson and Reath, so my first reaction to all the bagged peonies in Carroll's garden was that he would be harvesting seed by the quart. But no, he was instead preparing for the coming national show, being more interested in cut flowers and exhibiting them than hybridizing. Carroll is retired and clearly spends a lot of time caring for several large peony plots adjoining the house. His spacing on four-foot centers in rows five feet apart seemed just right for plant development and ease of cultivating and moving about. Having run out of refrigeration space, we returned to Roger's home with a couple of containers of Carroll's bagged blooms, where, to make room in the refrigerator, it was not my unpleasant task, joined by Roger and his wife, to drink up some of the beverages stored therein. Thus refreshed and rested, I began the return trip, stopping once only for gas, and arriving home at dusk.

I had taken along an opening flower of **CYTHEREA** and the next day bent the petals back hard to more easily remove the stamens. This usually ruins the flower but **CYTHEREA** regained its bowl-shaped form and I kept it for 3-4 days afterwards. Under the microscope, I observed a scattering of normal filled-out pollen grains indicating possible effectiveness in hybridizing and recalled Roger as quoting Don Hollingsworth in saying that we are losing a bet by not using **CYTHEREA** more frequently in hybridizing.

On Saturday, June 18th, I cut some flowers in the field for the show. **ROCK'S** was finished after one short, but glorious, week of bloom, June 7-15, but I had bagged and refrigerated some flowers of that and **CAMELLIA** earlier. The latter appears to be sterile both ways. Lilacs were still in bloom, though past their peak, and the peony season was similarly late. The only lactiflora I had open was **EDULIS SUPERBA**—one clump of it in the same place for about 50 years, and never failing to bloom.

Arriving at the Domes about 10:15, my first task was to get my entries on display, including about ten mixed herbaceous hybrid seedlings that I exhibited as a group, rather than individually, in class 403 since I had cut them too hurriedly to record their parentage or seedling number. I then scouted around the "rejects" for pollen, settling mostly for more **CYTHEREA** pollen and some from a couple of Roger Anderson's semi-double and double cream hybrids. Someone had earlier told me that Chris Laning was unable to attend the convention,

so when Ed Michau told me to check out the bouquet of hybrid seedlings Chris had in the seedling class—to get material for this article—I told him they were probably mine, and so they were. But I was flattered by Ed's assumption, knowing that Chris has many quality seedlings with varying degrees of doubleness with cream-peach-salmon colorings, which describes the predominant colors of my own hybrids. Chris did have some flowers at the show including a double rose-salmon seedling that caught the eye of several photographers and an Itoh-Smirnow hybrid. The only other Itohs were displayed by Lienau and Karrels; I was surprised there weren't more. I'm sure such hybrids as **YELLOW EMPEROR** will become the **FESTIVA MAXIMA** of the 21st century—long-lived and loved, healthy, in no need of staking, the first truly yellow herbaceous peony, and likely to be divided among backyard gardeners for generations to come.

I took only meager notes in response to Greta's request for this article but they include two numbered seedlings of David Reath's: **79-4** and **E-104**. The first was a heavy-substanced single herbaceous hybrid in peach-salmon tones and red-tipped stigmas, the second a tree peony of beautiful orchid-rose with darker flares and a crinkly silky substance. He also displayed a "Fay-pink" t.p., a luscious medium to light pink with darker rose flares. This I had seen and liked in his nursery last year. The plant seems to have a strong constitution; a necessity to survive the rigorous winters of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

The doubleness of the seedlings in my bouquet of mixed herb. hybrids derives from three seedlings: **Saunders 16350-F₂**, a double light pink, **H3**, a semi-double light pink, and **H12**, a double fragrant pink. The latter two were raised from Pehrson seed labeled "Quad F₃." The cross **16350-F₂ x H3** produced about 75% very double, fragrant seedlings. The fragrance was especially appreciated as so many hybrids have an unpleasant odor. **CREAM DELIGHT x H12** produced flowers in varying cream-salmon tones which look great when cut fresh and viewed indoors; a couple days of hot sun fades them all to the same cream shade. I also had on display a flower of **AL-13**, a lutea hybrid blooming for the first time this year, and it was a big surprise: a blue-lavender-rose, darker flares, derived from two light yellows, **Reath's A197 x Daphnis 223**. (The latter may not be true-to-number.) Roy Klehm suggested possible contamination and I had to admit **KAMATA FUJI** was growing alongside **A197** when I made the uncontrolled cross. However, the plant itself bears typical lutea hybrid foliage and the 10-12 petaled flower has no tendency to the abundant doubleness of **KF**. Also, I've noticed occasional light pink streaks in the petals of **A197**, **D223**, and also **A199**, which suggests the presence of genes for other colors. Also I recall, that in daylilies, certain light yellows and melons (e.g. **LADY CYNTHIA**) have produced "lavender" seedlings, so why not also in peonies? The plant is large, produced about eight blooms, and has been pollinated by **CHINESE DRAGON**. The stamens are without pollen, as is true of the seed parent **A197**.

The display area at the Domes is not air-conditioned, but luckily the day was cool and breezy with highs in the 60's, and the flowers were holding up well the last time I saw them which was late that Saturday afternoon. (I could not stay for the evening events or for the next day.) The general public, as usual, expressed surprise at seeing yellow peonies and I'm told several people were overheard saying "That must be one of those tree peonies!" when viewing **WHITE INNOCENCE** which Joe Glocka had cut and displayed with a very long stem. Some members pointed out a couple of older varieties, **DANDY DAN** and **ROSE GLORY**, and a newer one, **ETCHED SALMON**, that would look good in my garden. Roy Klehm mentioned that they had a difficult time deciding which of Krekler's many fine varieties to propagate. The need for a perfected tissue culture propagation technique was brought home by Tom Lanahan's story about a white **MONS. JULES ELIE** sport, discovered more than a generation ago, first becoming available now for distribution to the public. In lieu of tissue culture, I wonder if research along other lines could be investigated. What makes some hybrids produce adventitious growth buds? Could a "magic potion" be discovered which, when smeared on the cut ends of lactiflora roots, induce adventitious sprouting? In recent Daylily Journals, there has been news of a lanolin-BAP-IAA paste which, when applied to the cut stub of a daylily fan, stimulates the growth of 5-7 new plants with each application.

In the contest for Grand Champ, it seemed the final decision was between the eventual winner, Karrels' **CYTHEREA**, AND Carroll Spangler's near-perfect **CHINESE DRAGON**. Carroll also had an excellent **BOWL OF CREAM** on the Court of Honor, two others on the Court, and many other ribbons, so his extensive bagging and refrigerating efforts paid off. Over lunch that Carroll shared with me, I found out the story of "Martha Washington." It was a self-sown seedling that sprouted in Carroll's asparagus patch (Martha Washington strain). The probable parent was **MONS. JULES ELIE** growing nearby. The plant was divided and shared with Roger Anderson, Carroll's half producing mostly, or all, double flowers, Roger's half, single flowers of a non-descript pink color. And so the humble beginnings of what may prove to be a highly valued hybridizing tool.

KOSHKONONG HAPPENINGS

(Indian name meaning, "Place where we live")

Carroll F. Spangler, Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin

In the fall of 1972, we started a new house and the following spring made the move a quarter mile up the road, from the beauty spot in the woods onto the bare prairie. However, a landscaping effort and 10 years have produced enough pleasing growth on shrubs and trees that one of these years I am going to have to go back to raking leaves again. A pair of morraine locusts, a panted elm, and a sugar maple from a nearby fence row were planted on the sight about 1960, and are now producing satisfying shade.

I am pleased with the native trees, oaks, hackberry, hickory, etc. in the area, and too, the fruit trees and ornamentals have added some of the more unusual, like corkscrew willow, Kentucky coffee tree, purple leaf autumn ash, ginko, Amur cork, Linden-Redmond and greenspire, shadblow, white fringe, green ash, blue beech, river birch, Bradford pear, as well as others, and recently, a yellow wood.

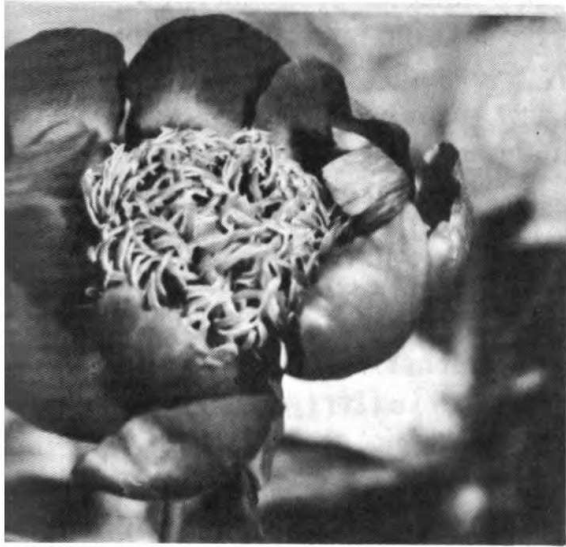
In 1976, we planted a windbreak of red pine, white and red spruce, now ranging in height from five to eleven feet. In their lea, I shall soon plant a tulip tree and a magnolia.

I have gone back again to raising lilies of numerous variety to add more interest after the close of the peony season. The peony, however, is of chief interest in time and attention. The peony is the greatest, with the height of bloom the last ten days of May and first two weeks of June, with some bloom beginning about May 10 or 12, and lasting almost until July. Lots of work, but great satisfaction.

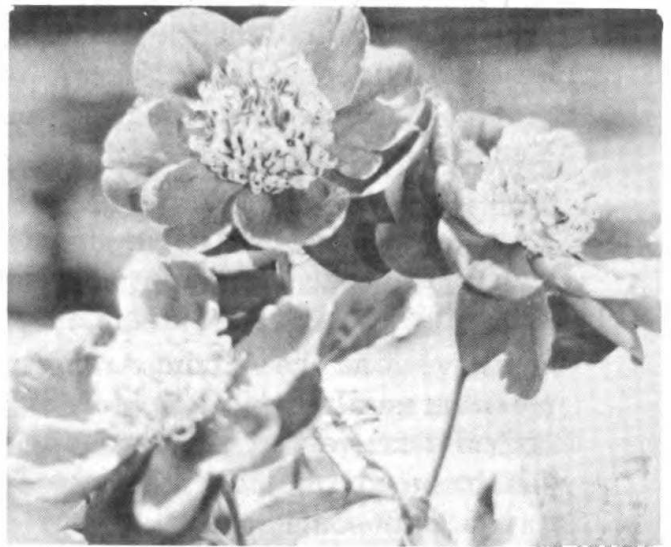
Sometimes peonies will come forth with strange performance, but the unusual makes for interest. Some years ago, I acquired a generous-sized root of *gay paree* so I decided to make two divisions of it, and recorded it so in my book. The following Spring, one division bloomed normally, but no bloom on the other. The next year, the second bloomed a full-double pink, very lovely, and likewise on the third year. I was perplexed by that performance—had I forgotten what had been planted in that spot—had I made a mistake in the record? But the fourth year brought assurance that all was normal with two nice plants of *gay paree*. The blooms are rather unusual in color and form, and add variety in a display, being especially attractively floated, one large or three small blooms, in a large, flat glass bowl. That strange garden performance does seem to indicate a doubleness characteristic in that variety which might be of value to some hybridizer.

About that same time, I found a chance seedling growing in the asparagus row, promptly dubbed it "*Martha Washington*" and moved it to a permanent location. Several years later, it too bloomed a double pink (it may very well be a daughter of *Mons. Jules Elie*), but in all subsequent years it has bloomed a very ordinary pink single. However, I later dug a chunk out of that plant (not at all a good practice if you value your parent plant), and made a couple of divisions to give a friend. One of those divisions has bloomed the past 6 or 7 years a single, like the parent, the other always a full-double. Genetics can produce strange results.

The 1972 move was quite satisfactory for most all of my plants except for a few which were lost, including *Alice Harding* and *Little Dorrith*. I have a lot of patience and also a lot of space, so just waited. Another variety did not come up the Spring of '73 nor in '74. In 1975, after having missed two growing seasons, it appeared and bloomed for the first time in my garden. I won't mention its variety name because I didn't like it, and so after several years I dug it up and gave it away.



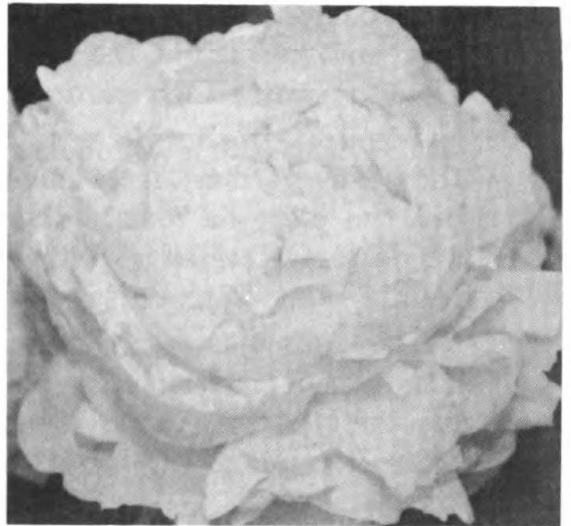
Walter Mains — *W. G. Sindt*



Mikado — *Clarence Hubbard*



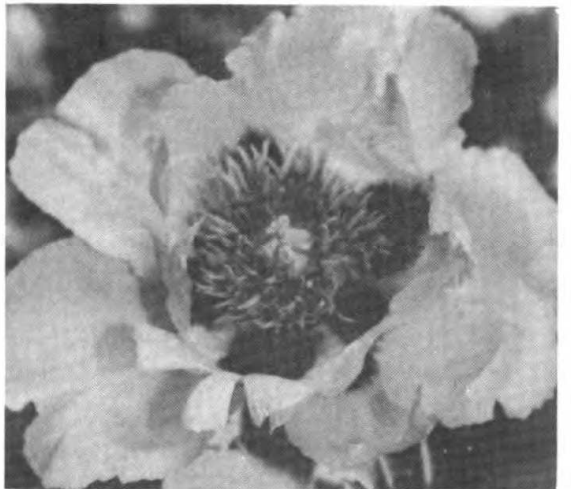
Lois Arleen — *C. F. Spangler*



Annisquam — *Marvin Karrels*



Rashomon — *Robert Schmidt*



Rocks Variety — *William Seidl*

DWARF PEONIES

By Leila Bradfield, 8110 W. ML Ave., Kalamazoo, Michigan 49009

The need for compact, small statured peonies, is increasing constantly. The reasons are due to our population trends and housing facilities in this modern age. As people live longer and maintain independent housing in the form of apartments or condominiums, space for gardening becomes a crucial variable in their lifestyle. I recall a delightful article by Donald Wyman, well-known emeritus horticulturalist at the Arnold Arboretum, and author of *Dwarf Shrubs*. When he and his wife retired to smaller living quarters with equally limited gardening space, the choice of plant material that would give them color and interest throughout the seasons became of prime importance. Dwarf, conifers, shrubs & alpines were accommodated in relatively small space. Since his wife was a flower arranger also, cut flowers, suitable for cutting, were also included. The resultant garden contained a wide variety of plant material in a relatively small space.

The call for dwarf peonies has come, not only from rock gardeners but, from people like the Wymans who have loved gardening and now have to confine their gardening to smaller areas.

In June of this year, I was at the Cornell plantations and visited the peony garden that was dedicated in 1980. The garden is thriving but the piece de resistance was "Dutch Dwarf," an 18" wine-pink single that Krekler introduced from the Netherlands. It is available from Klehm's Nursery and a beauty in its own rights.

Witness also the great interest in "*Peonia tenuifolia rubra plena*." This gem of the fern leaf peonies has year-round interest long after the blooming period. Under ideal conditions, it can reach 15", but more likely it is about 12" tall.

Of course, many species are naturally dwarfed plants. The remarkable Japanese peonia *obovata* is best of all. Alfred Evans of the Edinburgh Botanical Gardens describes it as "the peony with crystalline petals, glaucous leaves, with a sheen like that of a grape."

For a long time, the progress made in the peony world centered on features that enhanced the culture of peonies. Stronger stems and vibrant, unbelievable colors were an enormous asset. Underlying many hybridizers' efforts was also the premise that size was a measure of quality, hence the dinner plate size blooms.

Part of the problem may be the emphasis on size. The other side of the coin points to the difficulties hybridizers have had so far with dwarf plants. Mr. Don Hollingsworth wrote: "You are perhaps curious as to why I have made note of very few low-statured peonies which made acceptable rates of development to maturity. There have been plenty of weaklings. As I think of the ones which remain small but do not reach flowering maturity, the one very short-statured peony which comes to mind (of my seedlings) is #933 which is of Moonrise seed with *Cytherea* as the pollen parent. It has never made more than one flower-

ing stem thick, short but large, of both leaf and flowers height not over 12-15 inches . . .”

Other hybridizers like Chris Laning report strange phenomenon as 4” plants that don’t flower at all. They don’t have stems, just leaves.

Whenever hybridizers work with such large proportions of seedlings, it is inevitable that a few dwarfs will show up. So far, many regarded these dwarfs as “weaklings” and cast them off. I am curious as to how Prof. Saunders singled out his dwarf plants and later introduced them.

In general, it is fair to say that peony hybridizers have not paid much attention to the phenomenon of dwarfing, nor was it one of their goals in their work. The time has arrived for breeding for dwarfness, and perhaps introducing a class for them in exhibition.

The following list is a partial list of the dwarf peonies that have been introduced. If you know of others or new ones in the process of becoming, I would greatly appreciate hearing about them. Incidentally, a dwarf is usually defined as a plant useful for rock gardening and in general under 18” tall.

Peony Hybrids

Sunlight (Saunders 1950)—never catalogued but available from Busse Gardens

Picotee (Saunders 1949)—a single white

Palladin (Saunders 1950)—semi-double carmine red

Ludovica (Saunders 1941)—semi-double pink, albiflora x lobata

Winged Victory (Saunders)—tawny ivory, clear center (available from Reath)

Little Dorritt (Saunders 1949)—officinalis x lobata, single pink

Laddie (Glasscock 1941)—officinalis x tenifolia, 12” very early, single red, available in the trade

Early Scout (Auten 1952)—a tenifolia progeny, extra early, very dark red single, available in the trade

Dutch Dwarf (Krekler?)—see text, available Klehm

Early Bird (Saunders 1951)—tenifolia offspring, very early, red single

Little Buffalo (Kelsey 1939)—

Little Prince (Richmond)—miniature Japanese, a midseason dark pink

Little Sweetheart (Brand)—discarded variety!

Tiny Tim (Kelsey 1941)—lactiflora x tenifolia with xmas green leaves and semi-double pink bloom, available from Smirnow

Rosedale (Auten 1936)—an early semi-double red, officinalis x albi flora

Pink Derby (Bigger 1966)—radiant red x ?, 20-21 inches in height, a beautiful pink bomb with lighter pink at base

Rosalie (Auten 1927)—double red, dwarf medium red, small bloom

Last, but not least, we must include the wonderful yellow Itoh hybrids that are a cross between lutea (**Alice Harding**) x semi-double lactiflora. These dwarfs are compact, floriferous plants that are an envious asset in the garden.

LETTER FROM DR. PETER HUGHES

Kew, Victoria, Australia.

In May, I finished planting out all my peonies—those out of quarantine and those I obtained locally. I have over 700 by now (plants, not varieties), of which well over 600 are trees. Most of them are naturally very small plants. We have 250 acres right on the coast at almost the closest spot on the mainland to Tasmania. It is very mountainous and rises up to over 2000 feet just 200 years back from the ocean. It is also very wet—150 inches of rain per year—and very windy.

I hired a post-hole drill, one foot in diameter, and drilled holes side-by-side to give the holes 2'x1' and three feet for planting using about two acres of sheltered hillside. I did not have it rocked because of erosion and have six feet high windbreakers every thirty feet. Each weekend in May was spent planting, and just after we had finished we got 7 inches of rain in two days.

Last summer, brush fires wrecked havoc along the Victorian south coast and on the trip down from Melbourne (107 miles), we passed through about 35 miles of burned out forest where 2,000 homes were burned, and several lives lost. The fires were over 20 miles away from our property.

We went down again this weekend to see buds swelling, and some even breaking into leaf even though winter still has two months to go. It was very cold with hail and Melbourne temperature fell to 36° F. It snowed on the hills 20 miles out of the city (2000 feet high). On June 18th, it peaked 64° F, the warmest June day for 9 years. Some old tree peonies near here were seen to thrive. Plants are 6 ft. high, 8 feet in diameter and 100 + flowers. I think these date from last century. Most people here are unaware of peonies.

All the plants from David Reath flowered in quarantine, and were magnificent. Roy Klehms all have done very well, as well as those from Japan. Almost all of Smirnows plants survived. Dr. Landis wrote to me, but I could not get any from him because I had already used up a special double import quota. We are limited to a total of 250 plants per Quarantine house per year. I think that I am off to a good start and peonies replaced roses as my main interest. I hope to start hybridizing soon.

Chris Laning has been very kind and helpful and he sent me a complete set of 'Paeonia.' If any back copies of the Bulletin become available, please remember me.

In most plants pelargonidin predominates near and in the tropics, with increasing hydroxylation to cyanidin occurring in temperate regions and delphinidin occurring in adverse alpine and/or arid conditions. It seems Paeonia runs somewhat contrary to the rule with

pelargonidin occurring in *P. suffruticosa* while Mediterranean-type species like *lobata* and *officinalis* produce cyanidin or its methylnated derivative peonidin.

David is going to send me forms of *Lutea* and *Troilliodes* and *Sterns Tall Yellow* for breeding. I only wish that I had started years ago.

Thank you for all your help.

Sincerely, Peter Hughes

REGISTRATION

FERN B. (42-61) *Myron D. Bigger, Topeka, Kansas, July 8, 1983.*

Charm x unknown. Dark pink, double, almost cone shaped. Adequate stems are about 30 inches tall on the average. Foliage bright green and has always been clean. I find no stamens in the ones I examined.



MY SELECTED BEST FOR 1983

Myron D. Bigger, 201 North Rice Road, Topeka, Kansas 66616

This year I consider the following (alphabetically listed) twenty-five peonies the best for 1983:

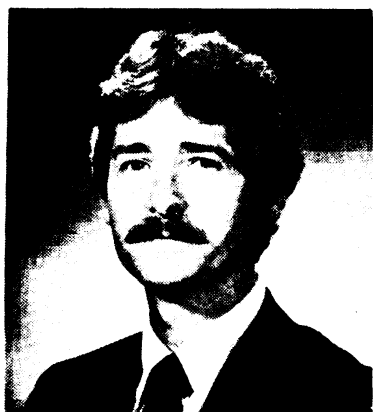
Adonis
Better Times
Cloud Cap
Comanche
Courage
Douglas Brand
Eastern Star
Jayhawker
Kansas

Leading Lady
Myron D. Bigger
Myra MacRae
Mons. Jules Elie
Orange Lace
Pinnacle
Pink Derby
Paul M. Wild

Red Charm
Shawnee Chief
Sparkling Star
Spellbinder
Truth
Topeka Garnet
Velvet Princess
Westerner



NEWS RELEASE



Jerry S. Stites has been appointed the Director of Kingwood Center in Mansfield, Ohio. Stites has been the Assistant Director at Kingwood since April, 1979. He succeeds Frederick E. Roberts, who resigned to become the Executive Director of the Worcester Horticultural Society in Worcester, Massachusetts. Stites has degrees from Cornell University and the University of Missouri-Columbia.

LELAND H. COLE AND PEONIES AT THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM

Ned Bayley, Silver Springs, Maryland

In 1955, when the American Peony Society was considering a test planting at Kingwood Center in Mansfield, Ohio, Leland Cole had an idea. Why not have more than one test planting? And why not have one in Washington, D.C., the Capital and tourist mecca of the nation?

He first approached the courtly, genial Dr. Henry T. Skinner, Director of the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. Dr. Skinner assured him that they had the space if someone would provide the peonies.

Leland Cole then talked with his longtime friend, George W. Peyton. Later, Mr. Peyton was to become Secretary-Treasurer of the American Peony Society. He owned Windy Hill near Rapidan, Virginia, raised peonies commercially, and was Mr. Cole's mentor on peony production. George Peyton made the proposal to the Society and the Board of Directors approved the idea.

Roots were obtained from Society members and the first plantings were made in the fall of 1956. Contributors included Gilbert H. Wild and Son, Sarcoxie, Missouri, R. J. Jones, Peru, Indiana, Floyd Bass, New Augusta, Ill., W. A. Alexander, Bowling Green, Ohio, Robert A. Thompson, McHenry, Ill., Myron D. Bigger, Topeka, Kansas, Winthrop Thurlow, West Newbury, Mass. (Cherry Hills Nurseries), Charles Klehm and Son Nursery, Arlington Heights, Ill., A. L. Murawska, River Grove, Ill., Wassenberg Gardens, Van Wert, Ohio, Eugene Lins, Cologne, Minnesota, H. L. Greenwood, Interstate Nursery, Hamburg, Iowa, Brands Peony Farms, Faribault, Minnesota, Elizabeth Falk, Plainview, Ill., and many others. The original planting contained 134 roots of about 125 varieties. Some of the varieties were: **Alice Harding, Gold Standard, Nick Shaylor, Pride of Langport, Rapture, Adolph Rousseau, Bowl of Cream, Margaret Clark, Bu Te and Carol.**



The peonies were put in a temporary bed near the greenhouses until 1960 when a permanent location was provided. In late May, tourists and other visitors to the Arboretum are enticed by the brilliant blooms of **Flame** near the roadsign to follow a narrow, curving lane to the peony plantings. On one side of the lane are 26 tree peonies, and, down the slope, in the light shade of stately trees and arranged in attractive

Leland H. Cole and the peony collection he helped start at the National Arboretum, Washington, D. C.

Photo by Joyce Bayley, May, 1983

circular and rectangular beds, are 136 herbaceous plants. What Leland Cole started, and the Society provided, is now a brilliant display of peony glory.

Leland Cole's idea for the plantings at the Arboretum grew out of frustration. In 1940, he bought a home in Silver Spring, Maryland. It contained a large brick house on a narrow, wooded, one-half acre lot that sloped steeply to the north. Between the front lot line and the tarvia road, the only place where there was any sunlight, the previous owner had started 15 peony plants of unknown varieties.

Leland Cole fell in love with those peonies. To learn how to care for them, he joined the Takoma Horticulture Club, the second oldest such society in the United States and composed, to a great extent, of U.S. Department of Agriculture experts in horticulture. No one knew anything about peonies. When George Peyton attended a club meeting, Leland Cole cultivated his acquaintance and drew from his well of knowledge. With Peyton's help and from books on classification, Mr. Cole was able to identify the varieties in his front yard. He showed blooms at the annual Takoma Rose and Peony Show, and won prizes, especially with the great red blooms of Karl Rosenfeld. Some of the others in his small collection were: **Georgiana Shaylor, Le Cygne, Therese, Walter Faxon, Reine Hortense and Mrs. Ed Harding.**

Mr. Cole was elected President of the Takoma club in 1951, a year in which they held six flower shows: four in the spring and two in the fall. The other members depended on him for information about peonies and he judged peonies in several local shows in the Washington area. Some members called him Dr. Cole, a title that he, a former professional actor and electrical engineer, accepted with amusement. His article, "Raising Peonies in the Washington, D.C. Area," is still used as a primary source of peony information by Brookside Gardens of the Wheaton Regional Park in Maryland.

Despite all these accomplishments, Leland Cole's love for peonies was thwarted by the small area on his lot where there was any appreciable amount of sunlight. He couldn't expand his planting beyond the fifteen original ones. He didn't want to cut down some of the twenty-one 100 foot oak trees on his lot and besides his wife, Mabel, was an ardent lover of azaleas and the shady areas were ideal for them.

Maybe, Leland Cole thought, he could get the peonies raised somewhere else and the idea of a collection at the National Arboretum was born. From 1960 to 1969, Mr. Cole cut blooms from the Arboretum plants and used them in educational exhibits at the Takoma Rose and Peony Show. He didn't enter the blooms in competition, but he had the satisfaction of showing the public the beauty of peonies. Thus, his dream of more peonies to exhibit, came true.

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

SOME Q. AND A. ON HYBRIDIZING TERMS

By Don Hollingsworth

The jargon and verbage used in talking about hybridizing peonies, no doubt, bothers some people. It does me, and I'm one of the offenders. The reason for the use of technical words is in an attempt to be precise without being excessively verbose. However, unless everyone who sees that the communication is fluent in the terms and concepts, there will be problems of misunderstanding. Accordingly, we usually make some compromises—a little wordy and a little technical, leaving the reader some of the responsibility for meanings.

Some of the questions which have come to me, and some of the uses of terms that bother me, are offered here, along with my interpretation of what is relevant about them.

What is a "true" hybrid? The answer is broad. The non-technical definition (concerning just the biological sense of the word) is: an offspring of two individuals of different races, breeds, botanical varieties, species or genera. A more technical expression of this definition will add the phrase, "from parents of different genotypes."

Genotype refers to the specific array of genes present in an individual. Both natural and man-made strains of plants vary widely in just how uniform the genotype is among the individuals which make up the strain (using strain here for the more technical term, population). Hybrid corn is made by first creating highly inbred strains, then intercrossing the strains. Inbreeding maximizes the uniformity of the genotype among the individual members of a strain. Conversely, outbreeding increases the variability among the members. In the inbred lines used for producing hybrid seed varieties of annual plants, the individuals are so uniform in genotype that the resulting hybrid plants are almost absolutely uniform in the qualities for which they are valued.

So, hybridity is a matter of degree. In a community of wild plants (a population), the member individuals may regularly and naturally carry a significant degree of hybridity. How much will depend on how much genetic variability is present in the interbreeding population. In order for the wild population to survive, the members are programmed genetically in such a way that favorable combinations of genetic material are maintained from generation to generation. If these survival adaptations have been preserved under a system which depends upon **cross pollination**, then a share of hybridity is perhaps critical to their survival.

On the other hand, in a **self pollinating** species, such as beans or wheat, each ancestral lineage will tend to deliver a uniform genotype to all of its progeny. **Self pollination** is the most intensive form of inbreeding. In the naturally self pollinating species, a flower form has evolved which tends to prevent **cross pollination**, therefore making

selfing obligatory. Thus, what nature has done with wheat, man has followed in making inbred lines of corn.

Corn and many other species, naturally, may be either self or cross pollinated. Some species tend to resist **self pollination**. Many flower gardeners have experimented with crossing irises and hemerocallis, some varieties of which seldom form seeds naturally, but will if pollinated by hand. Their anatomy may be poorly suited for selfing. If this habit was favorably selected in a natural population, we would predict that the utility of outcrossing is that a genetic advantage lies with variability. In peonies, **self pollination** is easily accomplished, but in peony seedlings the advantages of vigor seem to lie with those which are the result of **cross pollination**.

When normally outcrossing species are restricted to intense inbreeding (as in corn), there is a high probability of reduced vigor during successive generations, called inbreeding depression. In peony seeds grown from **self pollination**, I believe that I see a great deal of inbreeding depression. This is particularly true with tree peonies of the Japanese flower forms, which normally produce such copious amount of pollen that the flowers must be tended closely if one is to make a controlled **cross pollination** before the self pollen has fallen heavily on the stigmas. Not all tree peony seedlings from open uncertain pollination are weaklings, however, so I must assume that natural forces favoring **cross pollination** do function at times and/or that the inbreeding is not a problem with all clones. At any rate, it appears that seedling vigor of peonies is generally best under **cross pollination**.

So, what is a hybrid? As a practical matter, the definition is one that is made to cover the circumstances at hand. This Society has for many years followed the rule that a **hybrid is the result of mating individuals from two different species**. This has served well for show classification purposes and for describing the new and different forms which have resulted from hybridizing efforts.

In peonies there is apparently a good deal of variation among the individuals within what we have chosen to group together as a species (species definitions are also imprecise). To compound matters, the domestic forms, which have been selected for man's purposes over a period of many centuries, have a great deal more genetic variation than do the wild forms. At what point on the scale of variation is there a significantly greater difference between groups than there is among the members of the group? The answer to this question gives a clue as to a natural gap in genotype variation and, generally, serves as the basis for defining the species boundaries.

As time goes by and the descendants of hybrids become more prevalent among the registered varieties, we can expect the gradations of difference to be less sharp than it is among the hybrids we are now seeing on the show tables. As the need arises, we will, no doubt, be expanding the guidelines to accommodate the need.

When breeding from hybrid peonies, and we get two or three generations down the line, do we still have hybrids? As a practical matter, the usefulness of the distinction becomes inadequate once you stop outcrossing to something significantly different. Hybrids are principally of interest because they offer the opportunity to find new combinations of ornamental characters, new forms or new health, and to obtain hybrid vigor. Once desirable new traits are found, one logical breeding plan is to mate together the individuals that exhibit the desired traits, in order to concentrate and improve on these traits. This means moving away from hybridity and back toward uniformity in the genotype. Some of the hybrid vigor will be lost. Most importantly, a new type of peony may result. When this stage is reached, we need a name that serves the same purpose that species names (or the common names of the species) have served. We already have a very complex array of different types falling under the classification "hybrid;" some new sub-divisions may already be appropriate.

What is hybrid vigor? It is a phenomenon resulting from hybridization in which offspring display greater vigor, size, resistance, etc., than their parents. This is more technically known as heterosis. It appears that some of the very vigorous lactiflora peony varieties may be showing some of the effects of hybrid vigor. At the same time, some of the hybrids, especially multiple species hybrids, do not show much hybrid vigor, or are even quite weak. This may be the result of there being too much difference in the parental genotypes, resulting in a shortage of important genetic material, compared to the more typical hybrids.

What is a backcross? This is a breeding science term which refers to a cross where a hybrid offspring is mated back to one of the parents (or another individual having a genotype similar to the parent). In technical shorthand, the backcross is written "BC" and the first generation offspring is designated Backcross 1 (BC₁). When a BC₁ is crossed back to the original parental genotype, you get a BC₂, etc. The purpose of this breeding plan is to carry some desirable trait of the other parent species into progeny which are otherwise similar to the first parent species.

Many of the finest forms of hybrid peony have varieties of Chinese peony as one of the parents. When I use one of these hybrids in a backcross on a Chinese peony, the resulting progeny are often essentially Chinese peony in their general character. The interesting ones are equal to the Chinese parent type in quality and have an improvement in flower or color. Are these hybrids? How shall we characterize them for registration and for show classification? At this time, I am inclined to treat them as Chinese peonies for show and to specify "Chinese type, of hybrid origin" for registration description. From the standpoint of breeding, they behave as hybrids—reduced fertility,

greater genetic variability, etc. The description should provide clues to this.

What is F₁, F₂, F₃, etc.? These are the technical shorthand for first filial generation, second filial generation, etc. Filial is from a Latin word for "children of." The concept has a precise technical meaning, plus another that is peculiar to present-day peony breeders.

Technically, the concept applies to the generations of a system of breeding in which the first filial generation progeny from a parent cross are interbred or selfed to form a second generation, the members of which are in turn selfed or interbred to form a third, etc. Throughout this process the progeny in each generation are selected against criteria of the breeding program, which is intended to lead to a superior new strain or inbred line for the production of hybrids.

In peony breeding, however, these symbols have sometimes been borrowed to help form the variety names for the descendants of a named hybrid or named strain of hybrids, e.g., **Silver Dawn F₂**, **Quad F₂**, etc. It gets into problems when **Silver Dawn F₂** raises several seedlings worth keeping, all of which become **Silver Dawn F₃**, although each is a distinct individual. The proliferation of **Quad F₂** and **F₃** clones is far more confusing. The technical problem is that the uninitiated breeding technician is misled about the pedigree. (For the most part these seedlings are the result of open pollination.)

The practical problem is that the F designations have become pseudo variety names of these plants for distribution purposes; not by design, but by default of having a more precise identity established. A lot of breeder plants have been distributed with this kind of designation. Some of them are extremely valuable plants and have already proved this value in some of the outstanding new seedlings which are being produced. I favor moving away from the blurred usage of these technical symbols by establishing registered names for the plants which are proving to be important.

What is open pollinated? This is the opposite of controlled pollination. To say "open pollination" implies "open to the forces of nature" and is the same as saying "unknown pollen source." It cannot be assumed that seeds from open pollination are from self pollen, even though it is available. On the other hand, it is quite appropriate to speculate that the results were due to selfing, or not, and such speculation may be productive, depending on the evidence being used. (When bees are active, depending on their presence and on their minimum temperature requirements being met, they work diligently and learn to part the petals and get into a flower very early as it is opening.) Remember, every seed in a pod can have a different pollen parent, insofar as any physical limitations are concerned. Therefore, seedlings of open pollination must remain in doubt as to their pollen parent. On the other hand, it is always possible to know the pedigree record for the pod parent side, and this is certainly useful information for planning

further matings.

What is self pollinated? In plants, it is physically possible for the same variety to be both pod parent and pollen parent. If the ovum is fertilized by a germ cell from the same variety the resulting seed is from self fertilization.

Is self pollination a useful technique in peony breeding? I believe that there will be problems with inbreeding depression, as mentioned above. This does not mean, however, that the technique is not useful. It simply means there may be a lot of seedlings lost and that you may be constrained to take more pains to keep the survivors alive during their first few years. The potential rewards are that you may achieve some improvements that will have a much better probability of showing up than they would under a system of outcrossing. What is happening under inbreeding is that you are eliminating some of the variability within the gene pool. Some of the genes that are being lost may be undesirable, some will be desirable. Different individual progeny can be expected to lose different genes than do others (a tenet of the Mendelian principle of segregation). If you raise enough individuals under close breeding (inbreeding) systems, you should sooner or later find out what may be obtained from the gene pool you started with. Something really unique, that is also good, may emerge.

(Other questions or comments that BULLETIN readers may have, should be sent to the Editor for discussion in future issues).

WHEN SHOULD WE PLANT PEONIES?

Undoubtedly the best time to plant them is in the fall, beginning with September in the North and October in the South, and ending when the ground freezes up for the winter. In the South, they should not be planted after active growth starts which is in January or early February. Spring planting is not advised for the South, even though the roots have been kept in cold storage. They begin to grow at once and have no connection, by feeder roots or otherwise, with the ground and, hence, often die from the heat and lack of nourishment.

Spring planting is somewhat more successful in the North provided it is done early.

Pot-grown plants may be planted at any time.

If absolutely necessary, they may be moved at any season of the year, even when in full leaf or bloom.

This practice is neither recommended nor encouraged. It always results in a serious set-back for the plant and may cause its death.



If you cut a tree, plant a tree.

It is nature's replaceable energy.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

Marc Plaza Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 18, 1983

The annual meeting of the American Peony Society was held the evening of June 18 at the Marc Plaza Hotel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. A bountiful banquet was served after which President Michau called the meeting to order at 8:30. The invocation was delivered by William Allwardt. A moment of silence was observed in memory of all deceased members of this past year.

Five directors were renominated by the nominating committee, namely: Don Hollingsworth, Dr. Carl H. Klehm, Clarence O. Lienau, Marvin C. Karrels and Dr. David Reath for the ensuing three years. They were unanimously elected. Mr. Marvin Karrels placed the name of Dr. Robert Smirnow of New York in nomination for the sixth director to serve three years. He was elected unanimously.

Mr. Karrels had audited the books of the Treasurer and was called on at this time to give his report. He stated that all monies were accounted for and duly recorded, and that the financial statement was correct. The financial report was unanimously accepted.

The Court of Honor flowers and their exhibitors were read to the members.

President Michau called for any old business that should be brought up at this time; also any new business. Since there was no response, Roy Klehm was called to the podium.

It had been pre-arranged that Dr. David Reath was to receive the A. P. Saunders Medal for his meritorious work in peony breeding. Roy presented the medal telling of the many accomplishments of Dr. Reath. He responded with gratitude and a brief study of his work.

Two additional awards were presented: the B. H. Farr Medal to Marvin Karrels for the Grand Champion of the show, Cytherea, and the North Dakota Memorial Award to W. G. Sindt for 1982.

Mr. Robert Schmidt gave a preview in colored slides of the Hamilton, Ontario exhibition, including the beautiful surroundings of the Laking Gardens.

It was now time for the annual auction which is always looked forward to with pleasure. Roy Klehm was the auctioneer. We thank you, Roy.

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

REPORTING 1983

By Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

As we end our 80th year, we do it with a grandiose flourish with our convention here in Milwaukee, and a beautiful flower show.

The peony is enjoyed for the beauty, color, type and individual characteristic of the variety. However, it is apparent, that over the years, the fragrance of the peony has been in the minority in recognition, in comparison to other flowers.

When we walk out in the peony garden on a clear beautiful morning, the air is filled with the pleasing aroma of the peony. The sweet smelling fragrance is there, everywhere, but to narrow it down to one specific or a number of the named varieties we just pass by, never taking time to "smell the flowers."

Over the years, we have received requests for the names of fragrant peonies. The older varieties of the lactifloras are easily identified, but we need the attention and a real concern of all members to identify the peonies that are in your garden that are fragrant. This quality of the peony has a definite place and it should be considered by the floriculture world as a flower of crowning beauty with a variety of fragrant scents.

Again, as is our policy, statements for your 1984 dues will be mailed in November. This is the opportune time to write on the back of your statement or letter and tell about your interest in peony growing, your activities in working with the peony, success or failure, and name the varieties in your garden that you know to be fragrant. Continue to find these varieties every year, and soon we will have an authentic list compiled.

It is so necessary that we keep your address accurate. Should there be a change in your route or box number, do notify us in advance of any Bulletin mailing, otherwise we must pay the post office for any address correction even though very minute. Only on rare occasions is the Bulletin sent on to you, after an address correction.

The peony season has been one of many problems because of the unsettled weather. The cold wet weather has been of great concern—the season of bloom unpredictable with a late bloom in many areas of the country.

However, with the very early to the very late varieties that span the weeks, the peony does not fail to give us flowers. What a rewarding plant; one that lives for years, given the soil and sun. Look around in old cemeteries and the peonies survive with little care—large old clumps, all exceptionally beautiful.

Peonies are still planted in cemeteries, and many of them too. One letter received from a great distance asked that we find someone near a particular cemetery in Iowa that would get several roots of **P. Karl Rosenfield** from a nearby nursery and plant them on three of their

family plots. This was done.

As we begin our 81st year of this Organization, I refer you to the Financial Report. The results will tell you more than I could possibly write. There has been an increase in departments outlined over the previous year.

This is my pleasure to present the facts and tell you that this has been a good year.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

June 1, 1982 — June 1, 1983

Balance on Hand June 1, 1982 \$26,372.14

Receipts:

Membership Dues	\$5,657.18
Advertising	430.00
Rent: Colored Slides	111.35
A.P.S. Auction	737.00
Registration, Nomenclature	10.00
Contributions	100.00
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	\$7,045.53

Publications:

Bulletins	\$ 83.04
Handbooks	158.66
“The Peonies”	342.54
History of Peonies and Their Originations	
	480.00
Book A.P.S. “75 Years”	632.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,696.24

Interest on Savings \$2,260.62

Total Receipts \$11,002.39

Disbursements:

Publications - Four Bulletins:

June, September, December, March	\$ 3,528.00
American Peony Society Postage	1,156.29
Office Supplies	507.36
Exhibitions	162.87
Bank Charges	24.70
Refund	4.95
Miscellaneous	52.50
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Total Disbursements \$ 5,436.67

Balance on Hand June 1, 1983 \$31,937.86

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary-Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Domes, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 19, 1983

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President, Edward Lee Michau (Kansas), at 9:00 a.m.

Directors in attendance were: Roy Klehm—Illinois, David Reath, —Michigan, Marvin Karrels— Wisconsin, Clarence Lienau—Michigan, W. G. Sindt—Minnesota, Joe Glocka—Wisconsin, and Greta Kessenich, Secretary—Minnesota.

The minutes of the 1982 meeting were read and accepted. The first order of business was the election of officers for the ensuing year. A motion was made and approved that the present officers be re-elected: Edward Lee Michau, President, Chris Laning, Vice President, and Greta Kessenich, Secretary and Treasurer.

The Gold Medal was awarded to tree peony **CHINESE DRAGON**. Peonies that are under consideration for this award in the future are: **Roselette, Burma, Ruby, Dolorodell, Moon River, Norma Volz, Hana Kisoi, Black Pirate, and High Noon.**

It was approved that the Handbook be revised and published. A colored cover, featuring both the herbaceous and the tree peony, was authorized.

Convention sites for the following years are:

1984 Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio—June 15-16-17

1985 Chicago, Illinois—June 14-15-16

The set of Educational colored slides, consisting of 100, was presented to the Board members. This set features the various stages in growth and use of the peony, planting, dividing, getting the bloom ready to exhibit, e.g. bagging & cutting, as well as showing the seed pods and seeds ready for harvest.

A discussion of other business followed with these conclusions:

1. The business meeting of the Board of Directors will meet once a year, at the time of the convention, the morning following the annual meeting. All business will be conducted at that time. There will be no change in the present policy.

2. Work is to begin on the establishment of names for hybrid peony groups.

3. Preparation should begin for recording information on work done in hybridizing. This material will be published in form of a Journal and will be accessible to all members of the Society.

4. The nomenclature of tree peonies imported directly from Japan, in most part, is incorrect. Imports have the colors listed under various names.

An expression of thanks and appreciation was given to Marvin

Karrels and Joe Glocka for their work in preparing, and the successful conclusion of the peony exhibition.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

THE PEONY WITH A WAR STORY

Submitted by Myron D. Bigger, Topeka, Kansas

The story of peony **ALICE HARDING**, originally named **Amitie Americaine**, as told me by Mr. Lemoine in his own garden in Nancy, France.

“Every year, both before and during the war, I planted peony seeds, and every summer during the blooming season, I spent some time observing and studying the blooms on the new seedlings. Early one summer morning in 1918 when the war was at its worst, I went into the seedling garden and I was surprised, and delighted, to find a peony blooming for the first time which had a flower more beautiful than any I had ever seen. As I was gazing upon its beauty, I heard the sound of martial music, and I felt the reverberations of the tread of marching men, and as I looked, I saw my first regiment of Americans coming to the aid of our war-worn French veterans.

“I was the father of three French soldiers, and instantly the hope came into my mind that, with the help of America, the war might be brought to a successful conclusion before I would lose all or perhaps even any of my three sons, and turning to my new-born peony I named it **AMITIE AMERICAINE**.”

He further said, “Mr. Bonnewitz, I think it is a beautiful name. Do not you also think it is a beautiful name?” And when he told me that **AMITIE AMERICAINE** meant “Love for America” or “Friendship for America,” I am sure you know that I agreed with him.

I immediately placed an order with him for one root of this new variety with the beautiful name, to be shipped as soon as I could get a permit from the United States government for its importation.

Before I departed he told me that, in exhibiting his new peony in the Paris show, it had won a prize offered by an American lady, and that she had reserved the right to name the peony which won her prize. He told me he hoped she would like the name **AMITIE AMERICAINE**, and he also told me that if she changed the name, he would write me, and that I should sell it under the name she selected.

I always use the new name in my catalogues and price lists, for the original name is interesting only in a garden story such as this one I have told you.

—From Mr. Bonnewitz’s 1935 peony catalogue
“*The Bonnewitz Gardens*,” Van Wert, Ohio

PEONIES — HE LOVES THEM!

By Joe Glocka

(Special to The Milwaukee Sentinel)

Whether you call them “pineys” or call them peonies, these spectacular plants with king-sized blooms have many fans.

I am one of them.

In Milwaukee, it seems about every fourth yard or side driveway bears a specimen or two of full-double pinks, reds or whites.

I became a peony grower by accident.

About 23 years ago, I moved to my present West Allis home, next to a peony field.

After a year or so, I came to know the grower, Marvin Karrels, very well. He showed me how to increase the number of peonies I had.

I became a peony devotee and eventually a member of the board of the American Peony Society. I served as its president in 1976 and 1977.

Now I have 188 varieties of peonies in a three-acre garden. Growing peonies is a hobby that gives me a great deal of pleasure. Some day, when I retire, it may become an income-producing hobby as well.

Fortunately, peonies are relatively easy to grow.

Since peonies are exceptionally hardy perennials, due to their origins in the upper regions of China and Mongolia, they require very little attention. A few simple gardening practices enable the peony to persist well up to 50 years in the same location.

Foliage and stems should have been removed last fall. However, they can be removed in spring by clipping the old stems close to the ground.

The ground area surrounding the plant, about a 10-inch band, should be cultivated to a depth of three inches. A small handful of bonemeal sprinkled over the cultivated ground will provide ample nutrition for the peony throughout the summer.

The plant normally relies on its own sugars, collected and stored in its roots following last year’s blooming season. Periodic watering and removal of weeds throughout the summer completes the gardening program. Thereafter, peonies fend for themselves without too much attention.

An interesting sidelight to peony culture in the Milwaukee area is the overall similarity of peonies found in backyard gardens.

This is largely the result of root propagation of the same dozen or two varieties that have made their way here from Europe and Britain during the turn of the century and before World War I.

These do not, however, represent the entire range of varieties and hues that exist in nurseries and private collections around the country.

There have been 5,000 cataloged varieties of herbaceous peonies grown in temperate zones around the world since the Roman days. Peonies come with double flowers. But they also have other forms.

They come as singles with masses of yellow stamens showing. They come as semi-doubles with yellow stamens peeking through the petals.

They also come as bombs with petaloids tufting at the center. There are also the Japanese peonies, which are striking in their color contrasts of stamens and petals.

Within the past 60 years, a new generation of peonies has appeared. These are the hybrids with poppylike colors that have been developed by hybridizing experts A. P. Saunders, William Krekler and others.

These hybridizers have created a new line of plants with superb color shades that extend into salmon and coral tones uncommon to the peony. Hybrids also bloom much earlier than the average lactifloras, thereby extending the blooming periods of peonies.

A good way to examine and compare the various varieties is to inspect the plants at the Boerner Botanical Gardens in Whitnall Park from late May and to mid-June. Their varieties span a full, five-week blooming period during which tree peonies play a part.

An even greater opportunity to see a display of about 5,000 blooms representing approximately 250 to 300 named varieties, is to visit the National Peony Exhibition conducted by the American Peony Society in cooperation with Milwaukee County's park system.

The exhibition this year is national in scope and takes place in the Mitchell Park Domes on June 18 and 19. Exhibitors from Wisconsin and upper mid-central states will bring peony blooms.

The blooms are being refrigerated for two or three weeks to suspend their blooming periods. When exposed to normal room temperatures, these peonies will open to full bloom as they would on plants that have been kept outdoors.

(Permission given for reprint by *Milwaukee Sentinel*, Saturday, April 30, 1983.)

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PLANTING HERBACEOUS PEONIES

When planting the roots, dig each hole large enough to easily accommodate the root without crowding it. The eyes should be as near two inches below the normal surface as possible.

They like a sunny location, either in full sun or shaded only a small part of the day. They must have good drainage. They will not tolerate wet feet. Water should never stand over them.

They must not be crowded by other plants. They need plenty of room for good growth and free circulation of air. They must be far enough from trees and shrubs so that they will not be robbed of their nourishment by the roots of these plants.

GOOD OLD PEONY DESERVES MORE RESPECT

(Permission given for reprint by *The Milwaukee Journal*, Sunday, June 12, 1983)

By Gerald S. Van Ryzin
(*Journal Garden Reporter*)

Everyone knows about the peony.

It is a reliable, long-lived perennial plant that produces spectacular, large blooms for a few weeks each June in many Wisconsin yards.

After its white, pink or red petals drop or are beaten apart in a windy rain, you have an attractive, glossy-leaved bush until the fall frost. That's when the succulent stems die back to the ground without further concern by the gardener—the root winters over, safely tucked under the frozen earth.

As it does during a lifespan of 30 to 50 years, the peony root each spring dependably sends up new stems and reliably repeats its annual June show.

No fuss, no muss. A no-work plant. Beauty without bother.

This unconcerned acceptance of the common garden-variety peony plant is exactly what is wrong, according to Joseph R. Glocka of West Allis. He is exhibition co-chairman for the 78th annual National Peony Show, which will be held in Milwaukee next weekend.

Too many people are aware only of the old-fashioned peonies, the 10 or so classic varieties that pioneer newcomers planted around their homesteads in the heavy 19th century waves of settlement in the Midwest.

New varieties ignored

Largely ignored, Glock complains, are the many new peony varieties that have been introduced in recent years. Householders simply have taken their peonies for granted, the ones their grandmothers originally planted and the plants they have split in half in the fall and transplanted when bushes grew too big after several years. They haven't kept up with peony progress.

To dramatically show the profusion of new colors, new shapes and new sizes of peonies, there will be a special display in the lobby of the Mitchell Park Domes next weekend.

Glocka is a former president of the American Peony Society and the raiser of a large field of peonies as a dedicated hobbyist. He is planning to gather from his fields and from other national show exhibitors a one-table educational display of exactly 100 all-different peonies.

Glocka thinks that the profusion of bloom on one table, plus the displays of hundreds of peonies competing in the four major categories

at the national show, will stir new interest in peonies among showgoers.

Old but still new

Although the peony originated in Asia and southeastern Europe more than 2,000 years ago, "there's nothing old-fashioned about them now," Glocka insists.

Hybridization has created a profusion of peonies. In fact, one of the main tasks of the national society headquartered in Hopkins, Minn., is registering and recording all the introductions.

There are single buttercup-like flowers, many-petaled ball-shaped doubles, and semi-double variations of the two.

There are early-blooming varieties (some singles such as **Rushlight** and **Seraphim** appear as early as May 15 here in some warmer springs); there are late bloomers such as the light pink **Nick Shaylor** and the white **Victory** (both doubles that may add color to the 4th of July holiday in some years).

Flower forms include such different specimens as **Miss America**, a semi-double of snow-white blooms with a gold coronet, and **Strawberry Sundae**, a double bloom that looks like a scoop of vanilla ice cream covered with raspberry topping dripping from the petals.

Also a tree version

In addition to the most common herbaceous type and its hybrids, all with milk-filled stems, there is the tree peony. As its name implies, tree peonies are perennial shrubs that shed their leaves in fall. They have a woody stem that remains upright through the winter. The tree peonies grow from 3 to 6 feet tall and, when mature, form a distinctive mound of up to 100 upright blooms, many of them ruffled, crepe-like flowers.

The color range of peonies today goes far beyond the whites, pinks and reds. Colors include unusual pale lilacs, yellows and dark reds.

The full range of old-fashioned and modern peony specimens will be on display, with the blue-ribbon winners standing out, at the national show.

It will be open to the public at the Domes, 524 S. Layton Blvd., from 1:30 to 9 p.m. Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. next Sunday.

The American Peony Society will hold its 80th annual meeting and awards dinner at the Marc Plaza Hotel, 509 W. Wisconsin Ave., at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

The dinner will be followed at 10 p.m. by one of the national society's major fund-raising events, an auction of new and unusual peony roots donated by nurseries and hybridizers and from private collections.



If you cut a tree, plant a tree.

It is nature's replaceable energy.

THE FLOWERS THAT MADE FARIBAULT THE 'PEONY CAPITAL OF THE WORLD' LIVE ON

(Permission given for reprint by *Faribault Daily News*,
Wednesday, June 15, 1983)

Whatever happened to the peonies Faribault used to be so famous for? Well, they haven't gone forever — in fact, they're back. Robert Tischler, former owner of the Brand Peony Farm, has three patches of peonies planted on a farm owned by Edwin Friesen on Cedar Lake Goulevard.

"I don't have as many as I used to, but it's enough," Tischler said about his flowers. "So many people called me about the peonies I used to have that I decided to start my peonies up again."

Faribault was the "peony capital of the world" until Tischler sold his greenhouse and peony farm back in 1978. He bought it in 1956, and with the help of his brother maintained a thriving peony garden which was open to the public.

Whereas people could once also see cut peonies inside at his annual peony show, now Tischler doesn't have the same facilities. But the peonies he has planted will be in full bloom by the end of this week, and the public is invited to come and wander among the rows.

"The first of the peonies, the fern blooms and the tree peonies, have come and gone," he explained, "but the hybrid peonies and the many other varieties are coming into their height very soon."

He has crossed many types of peonies, creating his own, new flowers. Some of them he has been quite satisfied with and would like to sell on the market, yet there are others that he doesn't like and probably won't replant.

The seedlings for new plants are started from the seed itself, and a new variety takes 15 years to develop. There are many stages the seedlings must go through.

"Often I name my new plants for friends and relatives," Tischler said. "In fact, there's one now I'm going to name after my wife. In all these years I've never named one for her! I even named a new hybrid after my pet dog!"

The Douglas Brand peony is the best of its kind on the market.

The ideal weather for peonies is cool temperature and not a lot of wind. Tischler's crop this year has not been as good as in past years because of the great amount of rain and varying temperatures.

The Tischler Peony Farm has 150 varieties of flowers, ranging in color from beautiful, rich reds to snow white. Some of the flowers have an inside bloom which can be a different color, adding diversity to the breeds.

When all the peonies are in bloom, the three patches which once were areas of dirt should be a beautiful sight to see. They represent the

finished work of several years of hard work by Tischler.

He will be out at his peony gardens every day, almost all day long, but advised, "Even if I'm not here, I still want people to come and look at them."

From Faribault, the farm is reached by driving out Northwest Seventh Street, bearing left at the intersection of Roberds Lake Boulevard and Cedar Lake Boulevard (County Road 38), and driving west on the latter for two miles.

TREE PEONIES **—Planting and General Culture—**

Tree peonies may be planted bare root any time when the ground is not frozen from September through November. Containerized plants may be planted from April through November. Select a well-drained place with sunlight at least one half day.

The bloom will last longer if sunlight is filtered during the heat of the day, therefore, morning sun is preferred.

Dig a hole two feet wide and two feet deep. The soil should be loose and friable with high organic matter or humas content. During the growing season, a slow release high phosphorus fertilizer should be incorporated into the top inch of soil below the plant foliage.

A surface organic mulch is recommended to moderate soil temperature fluctuations and lessen the effects of hard rains on the soil structure.

Plant the tree peony deep. The union of the scion and the understock should be at least 5-6 inches below ground level. If the plant is small, arrange a hollow around the plant. Fill in as the plants grow. Give ample water.

It seems to be a hereditary trait that some varieties develop their own roots easier than others. When transplanting bare root tree peonies, plants not yet on their own roots should be encouraged to do so by:

- (a) Deep planting (5-6" depending on soil drainability)
- (b) Vertically scoring the underground basal stem of the scion area - and/or
- (c) Semi-restricting the flow of liquids from the herbaceous nurse-root portion of the tree peony above-ground portion. This gradual restriction can be accomplished by attaching below the graft union a loosely tied copper tree label wire or rather tightly wrapped plastic grafting tying tape.

As future new growth expands the herbaceous root, normal liquid flow becomes gradually restricted and the actual tree peony stem will develop its own more desirable substitute root system.

Plant a full four feet apart for permanent plants.

Deep planting permits roots to form quicker and more abundantly. Whenever weather is dry, supplemental watering is beneficial. This is especially true while they are in bloom.

Usually it is only necessary to remove dead or broken branches. They should be removed when growing season starts, so as to make sure there is no life in the branches.

In areas where tree peonies are prolific in growth, the center of the plant should be kept as open as possible to allow sunshine and air to circulate.

Steamed bone meal or a commercial fertilizer low in nitrogen but rather high in phosphorus and potash are recommended. Rotted manure, if not carefully used, may result in botrytis and diseased plants.

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COLOR SLIDE COLLECTION

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

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HANDBOOK OF THE PEONY

Official Handbook of the American Peony Society, recently edited and published. Designed to provide informational basics on all peony subjects. Simple step by step culture instructions made this work indispensable for the novice and a great "refresher" source for the professional.

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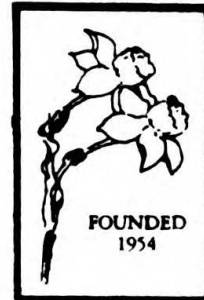
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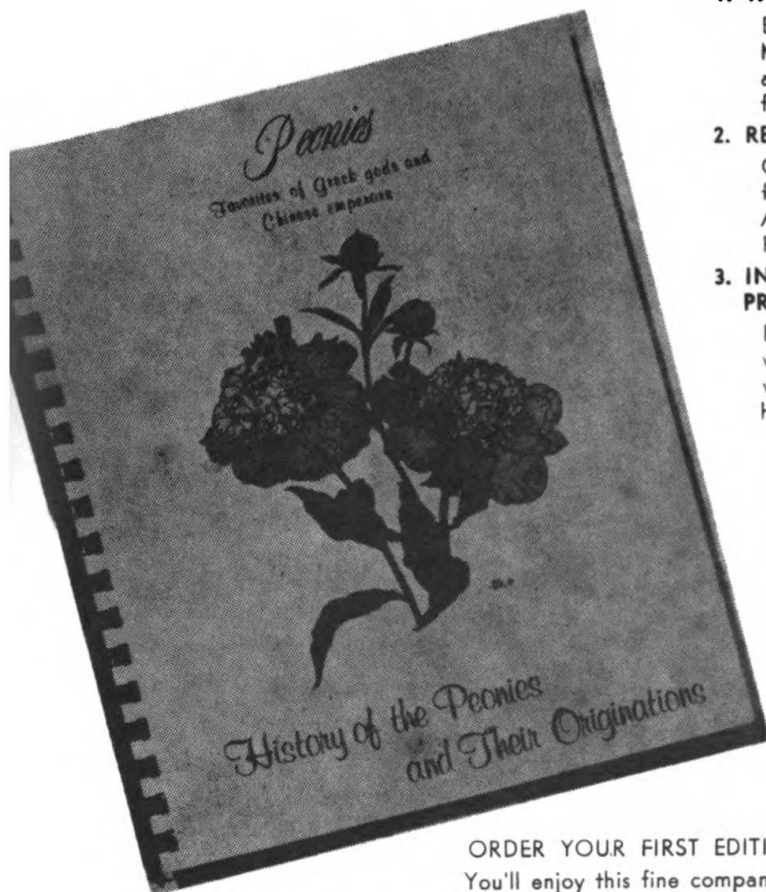
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